

Gate Burton Energy Park EN010131

Consultation Report
Document Reference: 4.1
January 2023

Regulation 5(2)(q)
Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009
Planning Act 2008 Section 37(3)(c)



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Acronyms

EIA Regulations	The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017
APFP Regulations	The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009
BDC	Bassetlaw District Council
BoR	Book of Reference
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government (now part of DLUHC)
DLUHC	Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
DCO	Development Consent Order
ES	Environmental Statement
LCC	Lincolnshire County Council
MHCLG	Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (now known as DLUHC)
MW	megawatts
NCC	Nottinghamshire County Council
NETS	National Electricity Transmission System
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
PA 2008	Planning Act 2008
PEI	Preliminary Environmental Information
PEIR NTS	Preliminary Environmental Information Report non-technical summary
PINS	Planning Inspectorate
PV	Photovoltaic
SoCC	Statement of Community Consultation
SoS	Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
WLDC	West Lindsey District Council

1. Executive Summary

1.1 Overview

- 1.1.1 This Consultation Report has been prepared by Gate Burton Energy Park Limited ('the Applicant') in relation to the Gate Burton Energy Park.
- 1.1.2 The Applicant is seeking development consent for the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of a solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generating facility and energy storage facility and export connection to the National Grid (the 'Scheme'). The land within the Order limits is located within the County Council areas of Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) and Lincolnshire County Council (LCC), within the districts of Bassetlaw (BDC) and West Lindsey (WLDC) (the 'Host Authorities').
- 1.1.3 This report forms part of the application ('the Application') for a Development Consent Order ('DCO'), to be submitted to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy ('the SoS'), under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 ('the PA 2008'). A DCO is required for the Scheme as it falls within the definition and thresholds for a 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project' ('NSIP') under Sections 14 and 15(2) of the PA 2008.
- 1.1.4 The major infrastructure planning regime under the PA 2008 has an emphasis on pre-application consultation and publicity. Government guidance explains this is designed to ensure a more transparent and efficient examination process. In this way the planning of major infrastructure is a 'front-loaded' process whereby the main features of a proposed development are established through statutory engagement and technical studies before making an application.
- 1.1.5 Prior to the submission of an application for a DCO, the promoter must carry out the consultation and publicity requirements prescribed by Sections 42, 46, 47 and 48 of the PA 2008. The Applicant must also comply with associated provisions of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 ('the EIA Regulations') and The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 ('the APFP Regulations') (as amended) and have regard to government guidance. This includes consulting with the local community; certain prescribed persons and bodies (prescribed by regulations, such as local authorities and technical consultees and affected and potentially affected land interests).
- 1.1.6 Section 37(3)(c) of the PA 2008 requires an application for a DCO to be accompanied by a 'consultation report' explaining how the promoter has complied with the statutory, regulatory and policy requirements. The report must also set out (in accordance with Section 49) how the Applicant has had regard to the responses received to the consultation. This document is the consultation report for the purposes of Section 37, providing details of the matters specified in Section 37(7).
- 1.1.7 This Consultation Report has been prepared in accordance with Section 37 of the PA 2008 and Government Guidance and the Planning Inspectorate's

advice and provides information on the ‘non-statutory’ consultation, ‘statutory’ consultation, and additional targeted statutory consultation. It also provides analysis of the responses and actions taken as a result.

1.2 The Applicant’s Consultation Process

- 1.2.1 Consultation on the Scheme took place in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic. In common with the rest of the UK and reflecting public health advice and guidance provided by the Government, the Applicant worked in a flexible and proactive way to deliver consultation which could accommodate the needs of different people from across the community and enable them to respond. This included voluntary activity over and above the consultation methods set out in the Applicant’s Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).
- 1.2.2 The Applicant took the decision to adopt a two-stage approach to its pre-application consultation. This consisted of an initial stage of non-statutory consultation which informed the development of the Scheme, followed by a second stage of consultation - statutory consultation - which was delivered in accordance with the requirements of the PA 2008. Non-statutory consultation commenced on 11 January 2022 and concluded on 18 February 2022. Statutory consultation commenced on 22 June 2022 and concluded on 05 August 2022.
- 1.2.3 The objective of the non-statutory consultation was to introduce the Scheme and initial proposals, including the broad route corridor options being considered, views on the wider potential local impacts and suggestions for the Applicant to deliver wider benefits to the community. The objective of the statutory consultation was to provide an update on and seek views on more developed proposals and the preliminary findings of the environmental assessment work. It also provided an opportunity to update the local community of the decisions made following the non-statutory consultation. The statutory consultation materials included a Preliminary Environmental Information (‘PEI’) assembled in relation to the Scheme.
- 1.2.4 The Applicant conducted a further statutory targeted consultation held between 3 November 2022 and 13 December 2022 in relation to proposed changes to the Order Limits.
- 1.2.5 Further information about each stage of consultation is provided below.

Initial ‘Non-Statutory’ Consultation And Engagement

- 1.2.6 The Applicant undertook initial early engagement with local authorities, statutory consultees, community representatives, elected members and near neighbours between October 2021 and January 2022. The purpose of this engagement was to explore the emerging plans and the discussion of the Applicant’s approach to consultation.

Stage 1 Non-Statutory Consultation

- 1.2.7 The Stage 1 non-statutory consultation took place between 11 January and 18 February 2022. It is covered in detail in **Chapter 4** of this report. The purpose of Stage 1 was to present the emerging proposals to the local community, seek their views on the Scheme and identify the wider community impacts and opportunities for enhancing community benefits of the Scheme.
- 1.2.8 The local community consultation was communicated through a Scheme website, with online feedback forms provided.
- 1.2.9 In-person community events were held to ensure those who wished to were able to meet the Applicant's team and discuss issues and concerns directly. Virtual events took place to enable those who could not attend in-person community events to participate fully in the process. Virtual events were also recorded and made available to view and download from the Scheme website. Enquiry channels, including a Freephone number and email were staffed by the project team to respond to enquiries and support in accessing information about the Development. Copies of the Stage 1 consultation materials can be found in **Appendix B**.
- 1.2.10 A digital first approach was undertaken to safeguard against further changes to Government guidance which may have prevented in-person events in its response to Covid-19.
- 1.2.11 Local political representatives, including District and County Councillors, Parish Councils, and the local Member of Parliament, were also consulted.
- 1.2.12 A summary of issues raised following the Stage 1 non-statutory consultation and the Applicant's response to them is set out in the Stage 1 Non-statutory Consultation Feedback Report (**Appendix B**).

The Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

- 1.2.13 Section 47 places a duty on applicants for a DCO to consult the 'local community', i.e., those people living within the vicinity of the land to which the application relates. Subsection (1) requires the Applicant to prepare a Statement of Community Consultation ('SoCC') setting out how it proposes to consult people living within the vicinity of the land to which the application relates.
- 1.2.14 Following the Stage 1 non-statutory consultation the Applicant used the experience and feedback from this Stage, combined with ongoing engagement with the host authorities and best practice guidance from the Planning Inspectorate to develop the SoCC (**Appendix D-1**) under Section 47 of PA 2008. The SoCC is a statutory document which is used to define the methods and processes to be undertaken in consulting the public, local authorities, and technical consultees for the 'Stage 2' statutory consultation. The Applicant's approach to developing and consulting upon the SoCC is set out in **Chapter 5** of this report.
- 1.2.15 The Host Authorities were initially consulted on the proposed consultations methods between March and April 2022, two months before the start of the Statutory Consultation. The Applicant then issued an initial draft of the SoCC

to the Host Authorities pursuant to Section 47 on 11 April 2022 and requested comments by 13 May 2022. Copies of the respective responses from each of the host authorities are included in **Appendix C-4**.

Stage 2 (Statutory) Consultation

1.2.16 The Stage 2 Consultation took place between 22 June and 05 August 2022. It is covered in **Chapters 6 to 9** of this report. Each strand (i.e., Section 42, Section 47, and Section 48) was carried out broadly in parallel but the specific dates are described under each subheading below along with a summary account of the activities carried out.

Section 42 'Duty To Consult' (Covered In Chapter 7 Of This Report)

1.2.17 Section 42 of the PA 2008 requires the Applicant to consult prescribed persons, relevant local authorities, and affected and potentially affected land ownership interests (the 'Section 42 Consultees'). The Section 42 consultation was carried out in parallel with the Section 47 consultation as part of the Stage 2 (statutory) consultation.

1.2.18 Section 42 Consultees were identified in accordance with the following legislative requirements and other key considerations:

- Section 42 of the PA 2008;
- Section 43 of the PA 2008 'Local authorities for the purposes of section 42(1)(b). To this list the Applicant added the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority; a non-prescribed consultation body identified by PINS in their Regulation 11 list (see **Appendix A-4**);
- Section 44 of the PA 2008 'Categories for the purposes of section 42(1)(d);
- Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations containing the 'Prescribed Consultees'; and
- Applying the relevance and circumstances tests, reviewing local authority boundaries, and identifying land ownership interests within and adjacent to the Order Limits.

1.2.19 The Applicant appointed land referencing agents to assist in identifying land ownership and other interests and to compile a **'Book of Reference' ('BoR') [EN010131/APP/6.6]**.

1.2.20 The Section 42 Consultees were sent correspondence by Royal Mail delivery on 16 to 17 June 2022. The letters explained why each consultee was being consulted, provided background information on the Scheme, summarised its main components and invited comments and feedback to be submitted until 11.59pm on 05 August 2022. Copies of the correspondence issued to Section 42 Consultees are included in **Appendix F-3**. The total period of consultation (49 days) exceeded the minimum period from the day after the day of receipt of the consultation documents) required pursuant to Section 45 of the PA 2008.

1.2.21 The letter also confirmed that these documents, alongside the PEI Report and its non-technical summary, were available electronically on a website maintained by the Applicant and the website address was provided. The Applicant enclosed with the letter information on the consultation events, including a copy of a consultation questionnaire.

1.2.22 The Applicant received a total of 142 responses between 22 June and 05 August 2022. This included 17 responses from s42(1)(a) consultees and eight responses from s42(1)(b) consultees. The Applicant's account of feedback in response to the statutory consultation is summarised in **Chapter 9**.

Section 46 'Duty To Notify Secretary Of State Of Proposed Application' (Covered In Chapter 7, Section 7.6 Of This Report)

1.2.23 Section 46 of the PA 2008 requires the Applicant to notify the SoS (through the Planning Inspectorate) of the Section 42 consultation (the Stage 2 Consultation). This must be done either before or at the same time as commencing the Section 42 consultation and the SoS must be provided with the same information that is to be provided to the Section 42 consultees.

1.2.24 In accordance with Section 46 of the PA 2008, the Applicant notified the Planning Inspectorate by email on the 16 June 2022. The covering letter attached to the email set out the background to the Scheme, the Applicant's intention to submit a DCO application, details of the documents included (the Project Information Booklet, location plans and the Project Feedback Form) and the fact they would be sent to consultees under s42 of the PA 2008, and a summary of the consultation process.

1.2.25 The Applicant received an acknowledgement of the receipt of its notification under s46 of the PA 2008 from the Planning Inspectorate on 22 June 2022. A copy of the letter sent to the Planning Inspectorate and its subsequent acknowledgement of receipt of that letter is provided in **Appendix A-3** alongside the accompanying consultation materials.

Section 47 'Duty To Consult Local Community' (Covered In Chapter 6 Of This Report)

1.2.26 The consultation was conducted in accordance with the SoCC through similar methods to those used for the Stage 1 Consultation, including a combination of in-person and online events. All community and technical materials were available online at the Applicant's website and at document inspection locations. The Scheme's website was optimised to enable stakeholders and communities to access information online and submit their views and feedback using intuitive web functions.

1.2.27 The consultation ran from 22 June to the 05 August 2022, therefore exceeding the statutory minimum time period of 28 days.

1.2.28 The Applicant identified a core consultation zone to help determine the areas where the consultation would take place. A total of 7,293 properties and local businesses were consulted within this zone and the Applicant further identified a range of relevant local interest groups, community organisations and gateway organisations representing the interests of seldom heard and underrepresented groups for inclusion at Stage 2 consultation.

1.2.29 The Applicant sent a Project Consultation Postcard (**Appendix E-7**) by direct mail to all addresses within the core consultation zone local interest groups and community organisations with potential interests in the vicinity of the proposed Scheme, as well as gateway organisations representing the interest of seldom heard and under-represented groups, and any project registrants

specifying they only wished to receive project updates by mail. The postcard invited the consultees to provide their feedback to the documents made available on the Applicant's website and provided details of consultation events. This information was also issued by email to consultees and project registrants.

- 1.2.30 At the launch of statutory consultation, the Applicant updated the Scheme website and made available electronic copies of the Project Consultation Postcard, a feedback form and Project Information Booklet to view and download from its document section. Printed copies of these documents were also made available at document inspection locations situated in publicly accessible venues in locality of the Scheme. The statutory consultation was also supported by several technical documents which were also published electronically on the Scheme website and made available at document inspection locations from consultation launch.
- 1.2.31 Public consultation events took place between 07 July to the 20 July 2022 which provided an opportunity for local people to meet the Gate Burton Energy Park project team, better understand the proposals and ask any questions. Two public consultation events were held online where the Applicant team gave a presentation and took questions from those in attendance. The five in-person events were held at selected key locations throughout the core consultation zone and a range of technical documents were provided to help people better understand the scheme. All of the materials and information on display and available to take away from in-person consultation events was available to view and download from the Scheme website (see **Table 6-5**). Details of the events that took place and attendance at them is set out in **Table 6-3**.
- 1.2.32 As with Stage 1 Consultation, emails were also sent to local political representatives including local councillors, parish councillors and relevant Members of Parliament.

Section 48 'Duty To Publicise' (Covered In Chapter 8 Of This Report)

- 1.2.33 As part of the Stage 2 Consultation (and timed to coincide with the start of the Section 47 and the Section 42 consultation) the Applicant also published a notice in accordance with Section 48 of the PA 2008 and Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations. This involved publishing a notice in:
- The Guardian (11 June 2022);
 - The London Gazette (15 June 2022);
 - The Lincolnshire Echo (9 June and 16 June 2022);
 - The Retford Times (9 June and 16 June 2022);
 - The Gainsborough Standard (9 June and 16 June 2022); and
 - The Market Rasen Mail (8 June and 15 June 2022).
- 1.2.34 The notice provided details of the Scheme and advised how the consultation documents could be accessed, as well as providing a deadline for receipt of comments, which was 05 August 2022. A copy of the Section 48 Notice is provided in **Appendix G**.

Targeted Consultation (Covered In Chapter 10 Of This Report)

- 1.2.35 A targeted consultation was carried out following Stage 2 Consultation, in accordance with Section 42 ‘Duty to Consult’ of the PA 2008. The consultation was carried out due to small changes to the Order Limits. The targeted consultation took place from 03 November to 13 December 2022.
- 1.2.36 The Section 42 targeted consultation involved the Applicant consulting the prescribed persons, relevant local authorities under Section 42 and landownership interests affected by the additional areas. Consistent with the Applicant’s objective to consult widely on the Scheme, a number of non-prescribed persons were also consulted. This included local communities in the vicinity of the localised changes and local elected officials.
- 1.2.37 The Section 42 consultees were sent correspondence by Royal Mail delivery on 2 November 2022. The letter explained why each consultee was being re-consulted and provided an overview of the localised changes being consulted on and invited comments to be submitted before 13 December 2022. The total period of consultation (41 days) exceeded the minimum period (28 days from the day after the day of receipt of the consultation documents) required pursuant to Section 45. Examples of these letters can be found in **Appendix I-9 to I-12, and Appendix I-14 to I-19**.
- 1.2.38 Additional material accompanying the letter included a plan showing the indicative Order Limits and additional areas indicated, a printed plan showing an individual’s land interest (section 42 (1)(d) consultees only), a feedback form and a Targeted Consultation Information Booklet. Examples of this material is also provided in **Appendix I-6 and I-7**.
- 1.2.39 **Table 10-5 and Table 10-6** provide a summary of the comments and issues raised in targeted consultation and how the Applicant has had regard to them.

Section 49 ‘Duty To Take Account Of Responses To Consultation And Publicity’ (Covered In Chapter 9 Of This Report)

- 1.2.40 Section 49 of the PA 2008 requires Applicants to have regard to any relevant responses received to the consultation and publicity carried out in accordance with Sections 42, 47 and 48 PA 2008. How the Applicant meets this requirement is covered in detail in **Chapter 9** of this report. A relevant response for the purposes of Section 49 is a response received by an Applicant before the deadlines set in relation to the Section 42, 47 and 48. The Applicant received one late response to statutory consultation. This was included in the feedback analysis and given equal weight to the feedback received by the deadline for targeted consultation (13 December 2022).
- 1.2.41 The issues raised by the local community covered a range of topics, with responses more specific and focused than those received during non-statutory consultation due to more detailed information provided by the Applicant at Stage 2. Among the topics raised included feedback on the impact on the local economy, the loss of agricultural land and the impact on food supply, alternatives sites and the impacts on local wildlife. **Table 9-4** of this report provides a summary of the comments and issues raised following the consultation under Section 47 and how the Applicant has had regard to them.

1.2.42 Issues raised by technical consultees, land ownership interests, statutory undertakers and local authorities following consultation under Section 42 of the PA 2008 covered topics relating to the design and technical aspects of the scheme including the Scheme's proximity to residential areas, battery technology, greenhouse gas emissions during construction and operation and impacts on the operations of statutory undertakers. A summary of the issues raised, along with details on the response and indication of changes made are detailed in **Table 9-3**.

Consultation Under Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations

1.2.43 There are specific consultation requirements under the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) and the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 14 sets out that any consultation as part of EIA is separate to that required under the PA 2008. The Applicant's approach to consultation under the EIA regulations is summarised in **Chapter 3** of this report.

1.2.44 The Applicant submitted its request for a Scoping Opinion under Regulation 10(1) of the EIA Regulations on 12 November 2021 to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) (on behalf of the Secretary of State). Subsequently an updated version of the Scoping Report was submitted to PINS on 16 November 2021 in regard to a minor amendment requested by PINS. A copy of the final Scoping Report is provided in **Appendix 1-A** of the **Environmental Statement [EN010131/APP/3.3]**.

1.2.45 A Scoping Opinion was adopted by the Secretary of State on 20 December 2021. A copy of the Scoping Opinion is available as **Appendix 1-B** of the **Environmental Statement [EN010131/APP/3.3]**. This included the formal responses received by the Planning Inspectorate from consultees. The Scoping Opinion comments from consultees are documented in **ES Volume 3: Appendix 1-C [EN010131/APP/3.3]** along with responses identifying how these comments have been responded to within the Application.

1.2.46 The Scoping Opinion was used to inform development of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report published for Stage 2 statutory consultation in June 2022. The Scoping Opinion also guided development of the Environmental Statement submitted with the Application.

1.2.47 During the Stage 1 non-statutory consultation, while not required by the EIA Regulations or the PA 2008, key environmental stakeholders were consulted.

1.2.48 As set out in **Chapter 3** of this report, the Applicant carried out statutory consultation at Stage 2 between 22 June and 05 August 2022. In accordance with Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations, a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) outlining how the Applicant would consult the local community was developed. When identifying Prescribed Consultees to receive consultation letters under Section 42(a) of the PA 2008, the Applicant included consultation bodies and all persons notified to the Applicant in accordance with Regulation 11 of the EIA Regulations. The list of consultation bodies was provided by PINS on 20 December 2021 and is provided in

Appendix A-4 of this report [EN010131/APP/4.2]. All consultation bodies were sent a copy of the Section 48 notice.

- 1.2.49 Following the statutory consultations, the Applicant's environmental consultants have continued to engage with the host local authorities and key technical consultees in respect of the preparation and finalisation of the Environmental Statement submitted as part of the Application.

Ongoing Engagement

- 1.2.50 The Applicant is committed to continued engagement with the local community, host local authorities, and other key stakeholders before, during and following the consultations outlined above.
- 1.2.51 The Applicant has continued to progress the preparation of Statements of Common Ground with the host authorities and statutory environmental bodies. The Applicant has also frequently engaged with other Solar PV NSIP promoters within the vicinity of the Scheme. Further detail of this is provided in **Chapter 11**.

Conclusion

- 1.2.52 **Chapter 12** concludes by detailing the relevant statutory requirements, guidance from MHCLG (now known as DLUHC) and Advice Notes from PINS and demonstrating the activities the Applicant has undertaken to comply with them.
- 1.2.53 The Applicant considers that it has complied with MHCLG guidance on the pre-application process (March 2015) and the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 14: Compiling the Consultation Report. Detailed information on compliance with this guidance is included in **Table 12-1** and **Table 12-2**.
- 1.2.54 The Applicant considers that it has met the statutory requirements of the pre-application process. As set out in **Chapter 2, Table 2-2**, the Applicant has undertaken non statutory and statutory consultation.
- 1.2.55 At each stage, the Applicant has considered and complied with relevant advice and guidance. The information included in **Appendices A-1** supports this through direct reference to guidance and advice provided by MHCLG and the Planning Inspectorate on the pre-application process.

2. Introduction

2.1 Overview Of Development

- 2.1.1 This Consultation Report has been prepared by the Gate Burton project team on behalf of Gate Burton Energy Park Ltd (the Applicant). It forms part of the application (the Application) for a DCO that has been submitted to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. The Application is required under section 31 of the PA 2008.
- 2.1.2 The Applicant is seeking development consent for the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of a solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generating facility and energy storage facility and export connection to the National Grid. A full description of development is provided in **Chapter 2 of the Environmental Statement: 'The Scheme' [EN010131/APP/3.1]**. The area subject to the Application comprises the Solar and Energy Storage Park and the Grid Connection Corridor, as shown on **Environmental Statement (ES) Volume 2: Figure 1-2 [EN010131/APP/3.2]**.
- 2.1.3 The Solar and Energy Storage Park comprises the electricity generation and storage area of the Scheme including the areas proposed for landscaping, access, biodiversity mitigation and drainage.
- 2.1.4 The Grid Connection Corridor includes the area from the Solar and Energy Storage Park to the grid connection point at Cottam and required infrastructure at the former power station. Together these two elements comprise the Scheme. The Scheme will be located within the 'Order limits', which is the land shown in the **Order Limits Plan [EN010131/APP/5.1]**.
- 2.1.5 The Scheme meets the criteria to be considered as an NSIP under the PA 2008. The Scheme is a 'generating station' NSIP under section 15(2) of the PA 2008 as it is an onshore generating station in England that does not generate electricity from wind and would have a total generating capacity that exceeds 50MW.

2.2 Purpose Of This Document

- 2.2.1 The Applicant recognises the importance of consulting on the Scheme from an early stage and the benefits this can bring in respect of delivering an improved scheme.
- 2.2.2 The NSIP regime under the PA 2008 places an emphasis on pre-application consultation and publicity. Guidance issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG – now part of DLUHC) in 2015 explains that front-loading consultation is designed to ensure a more transparent and efficient examination process. In this way the planning of major infrastructure is a 'front-loaded' process whereby the Applicant's proposals are the subject of statutory consultation and engagement before an application is submitted.

- 2.2.3 Prior to the submission of an application for a DCO, the promoter must carry out consultation and publicity activities prescribed by Sections 42, 46, 47 and 48 of the PA 2008, and associated provisions of the 'APFP Regulations' (as amended) and the EIA Regulations. Applicants should also have regard to the DCLG guidance mentioned above and the Planning Inspectorate's ('PINS') advice. These documents require that the Applicant consults with the local community and certain prescribed persons and bodies such as local authorities, technical consultees and affected and potentially affected land interests.
- 2.2.4 Section 37 of the PA 2008 requires an application for a DCO to be accompanied by a 'consultation report' explaining how the promoter has complied with the statutory, regulatory and policy requirements. The report must also set out (in accordance with Section 49) how the Applicant has had regard to the responses received to the consultation. This document is the consultation report for the purposes of Section 37.
- 2.2.5 The Applicant has followed DCLG guidance on the pre-application process. Particular note was given to paragraph 80, which sets out what a Consultation Report should do. **Table 2-1** lists the requirement of the Consultation Report and sets out where this information can be found in this document.

Table 2-1 Consultation Report requirements and where to find the information

Consultation Report requirements	Where information can be found in this document
Provide a general description of the consultation process undertaken which can helpfully include a timeline	A general description, along with a timeline of the consultation process can be found in this Chapter (2) and Table 2-2
Set out specifically what the Applicant has done in compliance with the requirements of the PA 2008, relevant secondary legislation, this guidance, and any relevant policies, guidance of advice published by Government or the Planning Inspectorate	An overview of how the Applicant has complied with the Act, secondary legislation and relevant guidance is available in Chapter 12
Set out how the Applicant has taken account of any response to consultation with local authorities on what should be in the Applicant's statement of community consultation	Details of the SoCC consultation with the relevant local authorities can be found in section 5.3 of Chapter 5
Set out a summary of relevant responses to consultation (but not a complete list of responses)	A summary of relevant responses to consultation can be found in Chapter 9, Table 9-3 and Table 9-4
Provide a description of how the application was informed and influenced by those responses, outlining any changes made as a result and showing how significant relevant responses will be addressed	A description of how the Applicant has had regard to and changed the proposed Scheme as a result of relevant responses is available in Chapter 9, Chapter 10 and Chapter 12
Provide an explanation as to why responses advising on major changes to a project were not followed, including advice from statutory consultees on impacts	Where the Applicant has not followed advice on changes to the proposed Scheme, the reasons for these are set out in Chapter 9
Where the Applicant has not followed the advice of the local authority or not complied with this guidance or any relevant Advice Note published by the Planning Inspectorate, provide an explanation for the action taken or not taken	All advice that West Lindsey District Council, Bassetlaw District Council, Lincolnshire County Council and Nottinghamshire County Council provided on the SoCC was followed by the Applicant. The engagement with host authorities regarding the development of the SoCC is set out in Chapter 5 of this report. The Applicant

	considers it has followed the appropriate guidance and Advice Notes
Be expressed in terms sufficient to enable the Secretary of State to understand fully how the consultation process has been undertaken and significant effects addressed. However, it need not include full technical explanations on these matters	The Applicant considers it has developed a Consultation Report that fully explains the consultation and how the Applicant has had regard to responses.

2.3 Consultation Context

- 2.3.1 The Scheme is located across two geographical county boundaries – Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire. Each of these counties operates a two-tier authority structure (County and District). The Scheme is located within the district local authority areas of West Lindsey District Council and Bassetlaw District Council and the respective County Council areas of Lincolnshire County Council and Nottinghamshire County Council.
- 2.3.2 The Order Limits cover an area of approximately 824 hectares. The context for the Scheme is predominantly rural. It would be located on agricultural land approximately four kilometres south of Gainsborough. The Solar and Energy Storage Park element of the Scheme comprises approximately 652 hectares in the West Lindsey district of Lincolnshire. The Solar and Energy Storage Park lies immediately to the east of the A156.
- 2.3.3 Electricity generated by the solar energy park would be exported into the national electricity transmission system (NETS) at National Grid’s 400kV Cottam Substation. Cottam substation is located approximately four kilometres to the southwest of the site for the Solar and Energy Storage Park in the Nottinghamshire district of Bassetlaw. The Grid Connection Corridor from the Solar and Energy Storage Park to Cottam substation crosses the A156 and the River Trent and is located across the districts of West Lindsey and Bassetlaw. The area of the Order Limits within this component of the Scheme is 172 hectares.
- 2.3.4 Parts of the Scheme are located in the Lincolnshire parishes of Knaith, Willingham by Stow, Gate Burton, Marton, and Brampton; and the Nottinghamshire parishes of Cottam, South Leverton, Treswell, and Rampton and Woodbeck.
- 2.3.5 According to recent estimates by the Office of National Statistics, of these Rampton and Woodbeck (population 1,139), Marton (combined with Gate Burton – population 745), Willingham-by-Stow (population 568), South Leverton (population 522), and Knaith (population 334) are the largest. With Rampton and Woodbeck being the only parish included in part of the Scheme with a population greater than 1,000.
- 2.3.6 The Applicant identified under-represented or seldom heard groups in the area as including:
- Geographically isolated communities
 - Economically inactive individuals and socially deprived communities
 - Young people aged between 11-19 years

- Older people aged over 65 years
- Ethnic minorities
- Time-poor, busy working people
- Disabled people and those with learning disabilities.

2.3.7 The statutory consultation period took place at a time when the government had removed domestic restrictions and social distancing in respect of Covid-19. However, consultation was carried out in a manner that considered certain groups of people potentially still having concerns and therefore maintaining social distancing protocols. Further detail is set out in **Chapter 6**.

2.4 Summary Of Consultation Activity

2.4.1 Pre-application consultation activity included five main elements of engagement: non-statutory consultation, developing the Statement of Community Consultation, statutory consultation, targeted statutory consultation and further ongoing engagement. **Table 2-2** provides a summary of activity undertaken over the course of pre-application consultation in each of these stages.

2.4.2 The activities set out in **Table 2-2** are explained in more detail throughout this report and the table is designed to provide a reference point for activity dates.

Table 2-2 Summary of pre-application consultation activity

Consultation activity	Date	Chapter of report
Non-statutory consultation		
Initial early engagement with local authorities, statutory consultees, community representatives and elected members, site near neighbours and regional media. (Chapter 4, section 4.2)	Oct 2021 to Jan 2022	
Stage One - non-statutory public consultation (Chapter 4, section 4.4)	11 Jan to 18 Feb 2022	Chapter 4
Ongoing stakeholder engagement (Chapter 4, section 4.5 and Chapter 11)	Feb – Jun 2022	
Developing the Statement of Community Consultation		
Informal engagement with host local authorities	Mar – Apr 2022	
Statutory consultation of host local authorities on the SoCC pursuant to Section 47(2) and (3) of the PA 2008	12 Apr – 13 May 2022	
Notice of availability of SoCC in the vicinity of the proposals as prescribed by Section 47(6) of the PA 2008	8 Jun 2022	Chapter 5
SoCC made available in vicinity of the proposal and online as prescribed by Section 47(6) of the PA 2008	8 Jun to 5 August 2022	
Statutory Consultation		

Proposed application publicised as prescribed by Section 48 of the PA 2008 (for Prescribed Consultees only) (Chapter 8, section 8.2)	8 Jun to 16 Jun 2022, and 13 Nov to 13 Dec 2022	Chapter 8
Notification of the Planning Inspectorate of proposed application as prescribed by Section 46 of the PA 2008 (Chapter 7.6)	16 Jun 2022	Chapter 7
Consultation in accordance with the SoCC as prescribed under Section 47(7) of the PA 2008	22 Jun – 5 Aug 2022	Chapter 6
Consultation as prescribed under Section 42 of the PA 2008	22 Jun – 5 Aug 2022	Chapter 7
Further engagement after Stage Two Statutory Consultation		
Targeted statutory consultation on changes to Order Limits	3 Nov – 13 Dec 2022	Chapter 10
Further engagement throughout preparation of the application		
Ongoing non-statutory engagement prior to submission of DCO application	Nov 2021-Jan 2023	Chapter 11

2.5 Covering Letter And Completed Section 55 Checklist

2.5.1 Section 55 of the PA 2008 sets out the criteria used by the Planning Inspectorate to decide if an application is of a satisfactory standard to be accepted for examination. The **Covering Letter and Section 55 Checklist [EN010131/APP/1.1]** provides evidence of compliance with the pre-application consultation requirements within the PA 2008, APFP Regulations, EIA Regulations, and Department for Communities and Local Government Guidance on pre-application consultation March 2015 (now the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities).

3. Consultation under EIA Regulations

3.1 Overview

- 3.1.1 Consultation is integral to the preparation of DCO applications and to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. The views of consultation bodies and the local community serve to focus the environmental studies and to identify specific issues that require further investigation, as well as to inform aspects of the design of the Scheme. Consultation is an ongoing process, which enables mitigation measures to be identified and, where appropriate, incorporated into the project design thereby limiting adverse effects. Consultation also provides a platform for exploring and where possible incorporating environmental enhancements and benefits.
- 3.1.2 There are specific consultation requirements under the EIA Regulations. PINS Advice Note Fourteen: Compiling the Consultation Report (Feb 2021) states that *‘Consultation undertaken as part of the EIA process is separate to that required under the PA 2008 e.g. statutory consultation on a Scoping Report following a Scoping Request to the Secretary of State. Applicants may wish to draw attention to consultation responses received under the EIA process, but any reference to that consultation should be addressed separately from the statutory consultation carried out under the provisions of the PA2008’*.
- 3.1.3 This section provides a brief summary of the EIA consultation that has taken place during the pre-application process. This is covered in more detail within the **Environmental Statement (ES) [EN010131/APP/3.1]**.

3.2 EIA Scoping

- 3.2.1 At an early stage the Applicant identified that the Scheme would be “EIA development” as defined by the EIA Regulations. The Scoping Report was accompanied by a letter providing formal notification under Regulation 8(1)(b) of the 2017 EIA Regulations of the Applicant’s intention to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment for the Scheme and to produce an ES documenting the findings.
- 3.2.2 On 12 November 2021 the Applicant submitted its request for a Scoping Opinion under Regulation 10(1) of the EIA Regulations 2017 to PINS (on behalf of the Secretary of State). Following submission, PINS contacted the Applicant to request that one correction be made by the Applicant to Figure 7-2 Non-Designated Heritage assets to include additional non-heritage assets. The Applicant therefore resubmitted an updated version of the Scoping Report on 16 November 2021. A copy of the Scoping Report is available as **Appendix 1-A** of the **ES [EN010131/APP/3.3]**.
- 3.2.3 A Scoping Opinion was adopted by the Secretary of State on 20 December 2021. A copy of the Scoping Opinion is available as **Appendix 1-B** of the **ES**

[EN010131/APP/3.3]. This included the formal responses received by the Planning Inspectorate from consultees. The Environmental Statement submitted as part of the application is based on the Scoping Opinion. The Scoping Opinion was also considered in the production of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEI Report) published during statutory consultation.

- 3.2.4 The Scoping Opinion comments from consultees are documented in **ES Volume 3: Appendix 1-C [EN010131/APP/3.3]** along with responses identifying how these comments have been responded to within the Application.

3.3 EIA Consultation

- 3.3.1 The Applicant carried out non-statutory consultation during January and February 2022, statutory consultation between June 2022 and August 2022 and further targeted statutory consultation between November and December 2022.

Non-Statutory Consultation

- 3.3.2 An initial round of non-statutory public consultation was held between 11 January and 18 February 2022. More detail on this process is provided in **Chapter 4** of this report. While not required by the EIA Regs or the PA 2008, key environmental stakeholders were consulted in this process. Comments from the non-statutory consultation influenced the ongoing evolution of the Scheme design. The iterative process of designing the Scheme, including the way that consultation feedback and EIA informed design, is set out in detail in **Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution** of the **ES [EN010131/APP/3.1]**, and the **Planning, Design and Access Statement [EN010131/APP/2.2]**.

Statutory Consultation

- 3.3.3 A round of statutory consultation was held between 16 June 2022 and 05 August 2022. More detail on this process is provided in **Chapter 6**.
- 3.3.4 In accordance with section 47(1) of the PA 2008 (Ref 3-2) for an NSIP, a SoCC was prepared in consultation with West Lindsey District Council, Lincolnshire County Council, Bassetlaw District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council, hereafter referred to as 'the Host Authorities'. This outlined how the Applicant would consult with the local community, including, in accordance with Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations (Ref 3-1), how it intended to publicise and consult on the PEI Report. More detail on the SoCC development process and publication is provided in **Chapter 5**.

Notification Of Consultation Bodies

- 3.3.5 When identifying Prescribed Consultees to receive consultation letters under Section 42(a) of the PA 2008, the Applicant included consultation bodies and all persons notified to the Applicant in accordance with Regulation 11(1)(c) of the 2017 EIA Regulations (see **Appendix A-4** of this report). All these parties

received a copy of the Section 42 letter contained in **Appendix F** and a hard copy of the consultation feedback form.

3.3.6 The APFP Regulations 4(2) set out the required information to be included in a Section 48 notice, which includes:

- (a) the name and address of the Applicant;
- (b) a statement that the Applicant intends to make an application for development consent to the Commission;
- (c) a statement as to whether the application is EIA development;
- (d) a summary of the main proposals, specifying the location or route of the proposed development;
- (e) a statement that the documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of the proposed development are available for inspection free of charge at the places (including at least one address in the vicinity of the proposed development) and times set out in the notice;
- (f) the latest date on which those documents, plans and maps will be available for inspection (being a date not earlier than the deadline in sub-paragraph (i));
- (g) whether a charge will be made for copies of any of the documents, plans or maps and the amount of any charge;
- (h) details of how to respond to the publicity; and
- (i) a deadline for receipt of those responses by the Applicant, being not less than 28 days following the date when the notice is last published.'

3.3.7 The consultation bodies were sent a copy of the Section 48 Notice. A copy of the Section 48 notice is provided in **Appendix G-1**.

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

3.3.8 The PEI Report was published in June 2022 prior to statutory consultation and included a description of the Scheme, a concept layout plan and conclusions on likely significant effects based on the assessment work undertaken at the time. The PEI Report was made available on the Scheme website, with a link provided to the website in the letters issued to Prescribed Consultees under Section 42(a) of the PA 2008, which included all consultation bodies. Physical copies of the PEI Report were also made available at Document Inspection Locations, the locations and opening times for which were detailed in the letters issued to Prescribed Consultees (see **Chapter 6**).

Targeted Consultation

3.3.9 A round of targeted consultation was carried out between 03 November and 13 December 2022.

3.3.10 The targeted statutory consultation invited comments on a number of minor increases that had been made to the Order Limits since statutory consultation, largely to facilitate accesses, accommodate a new water main and reflect accurate land parcel boundaries. These changes did not affect the outcome

of the EIA as set out in the PEI Report published during the statutory consultation. This was stated in the letters and documents issued at consultation.

- 3.3.11 The list of Prescribed Consultees used during statutory consultation was revisited for this exercise, including double checking consultees against the Regulation 11(c) list and any known updates to the names or contact details. The Applicant then wrote to all consultees under Section 42(1)(a) and Section 42(1)(b); the EIA consultation bodies and relevant land interests under Section 42(1)(d) of the PA 2008 to notify them of changes and invite comment between 03 November and 13 December – a total consultation period of 41 days which exceeded the statutory minimum 28-day period. Members of the local community located in the vicinity of the proposed changes were also consulted. Details of those parties written to and invited to comment, along with further information on this stage of targeted consultation is contained in **Chapter 10**.

3.4 Conclusion

- 3.4.1 This section provides a brief summary of the EIA consultation that has taken place during the pre-application process, including EIA Scoping, non-statutory consultation, statutory consultation, and targeted consultation. EIA consultation activities are covered in more detail within the **ES [EN010131/APP/3.1]**.

4. Non-statutory Consultation

4.1 Overview

4.1.1 **Chapter 4** summarises non-statutory consultation carried out by the Applicant in relation to the Scheme. This includes early engagement, how the approach to consultation was developed, a period of non-statutory consultation from 11 January to 18 February 2022, and engagement carried out by the Applicant following the non-statutory consultation and prior to statutory consultation. It should be read alongside the Stage 1 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report, which can be found in **Appendix B**.

4.1.2 Non-statutory consultation activities comprised:

- Pre-consultation engagement with political stakeholders and relevant local authorities. This engagement was designed to help inform the consultation process.
- Stage 1 Non-Statutory Consultation period involving:
 - Communities and stakeholder organisations in the vicinity of the Development who may be affected directly or indirectly
 - Wider communities and stakeholders
 - Local Councils and Parish Councils
 - Other relevant stakeholders
- Technical engagement with relevant stakeholders to inform the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process

4.1.3 The Stage 1 non-statutory consultation period commenced on 11 January 2022 and concluded on 18 February 2022.

4.2 Pre-Consultation Engagement

4.2.1 The Applicant identified key stakeholders potentially most impacted by the Scheme owing to their constituencies or areas represented falling within zone of likely effects (either permanent or temporary). Pre-consultation engagement was undertaken with key stakeholders to help inform the approach to consultation. This included:

- MPs who represent the immediate and neighbouring constituencies, wards and parishes to the site and cable route corridors
- Lead Officers, elected members and parish councils representing the immediate and neighbouring wards and parishes to the site and cable route corridors
- Parish councils in the immediate vicinity of the site and neighbouring areas

4.2.2 Letters were issued to Sir Edward Leigh MP (Gainsborough), Brendan Clarke-Smith MP (Bassetlaw) and Robert Jenrick MP (Newark) on 12 October 2021 to introduce the Scheme and offer to discuss the proposals further.

4.2.3 Letters and / or emails were also sent to officers and elected members at relevant local authorities, parish councils and other key stakeholders, offering

to discuss the proposals further. Please see **Appendix B** (particularly subsection **Notification and publicity**) for further information.

4.2.4 Following this communication, pre-consultation briefings were held with the following to explore the emerging plans and discuss the approach to consultation:

- West Lindsey District Council – 14 October 2021, 3 November 2021 (Press Office), 29 November 2021
- Lincolnshire County Council – 15 October 2021, 20 October 2021
- Nottinghamshire County Council – 15 October 2021, 7 January 2022
- Bassetlaw District Council – 15 October 2021
- Treswell with Cottam Parish Council – 15 November 2021
- Near Neighbour – 26 October 2021
- Marton and Gate Burton Parish Council – 6 December 2021
- South Leverton Parish Council – 8 December 2021
- Willingham by Stow Parish Council – 9 December 2021

4.3 Approach To Consultation

4.3.1 The Applicant's priority for the consultation was to be accessible to everyone who may have an interest in the Scheme.

4.3.2 This was enabled by a digital first approach, a clear and concise virtual information platform ([REDACTED]) and access to mechanisms for giving feedback online.

4.3.3 Virtual events were recorded and available on the Scheme website allowing those who could not attend in-person community events to participate fully in the process. Enquiry channels, including a Freephone number and email were staffed by the project team to respond to enquiries and support in accessing information about the Scheme.

4.3.4 The digital first approach also safeguarded against further Government guidance which may have prevented in-person events in its response to Covid-19.

4.3.5 Five in-person community events were held to ensure those who preferred to avoid an online approach were able to meet the team and discuss concerns and issues directly.

4.3.6 Hard copy feedback forms were available at community events and on request, which could be posted to a Freepost address.

4.3.7 The Applicant engaged with West Lindsey District Council at a meeting on 29 November 2021 to discuss the approach to consultation. The main elements of the Scheme, being the Solar and Energy Storage Park, are located in West Lindsey and at that point the grid connection was unknown so the focus was on consultation with West Lindsey District Council on the approach.

4.4 The Consultation

Purpose

- 4.4.1 The purpose of the Stage 1 non-statutory consultation was to introduce the Applicant, present the emerging proposals and give local and/or interested people and stakeholders the opportunity to provide their views.
- 4.4.2 The Applicant sought to identify any wider potential local impacts of the Scheme and any opportunities for supporting local schemes or projects to benefit communities closest to the Scheme.
- 4.4.3 The Applicant set out a clear intention that the feedback received would help refine the Development proposals.
- 4.4.4 Engagement was sought at this early non-statutory stage of consultation to inform people about the Applicant's proposals ahead of statutory consultation
- 4.4.5 During the Stage 1 non-statutory consultation, the Applicant presented information introducing Low Carbon, emerging proposals for the Scheme and its connection into the existing electricity transmission system, technology used in the Scheme, and indicative concept masterplan, initial plans for construction, and next steps in the development process. The Applicant asked for views and feedback on:
- What respondents considered to be the most important aspects of the development, such as ecology and wildlife or landscape and visual impact
 - Suggestions for initiatives the Applicant could explore to help facilitate or directly deliver wider benefits to the community and/or meet local needs
 - Views on the broad route corridor options identified
 - Views on the use of overhead or underground cables to facilitate the connection to Cottam power station
 - Overall comments on the proposals or any other issues people felt the Applicant needed to be aware of
 - General level of support for the proposals for Gate Burton Energy Park
- 4.4.6 The Applicant also collected the following data to help understand any issues raised in more detail and to aid analysis:
- Description of the respondent's interest in the proposals, such as being a local resident, business owner, statutory organisation, etc.
 - Address and postcode
 - Age range
 - Whether the respondent attended a consultation event
- 4.4.7 The Stage 1 non-statutory consultation ran for six weeks from 11 January to 18 February 2022, avoiding school holidays, including the Christmas break and half-term.

Notification And Publicity

- 4.4.8 Initial communications to introduce the Scheme were issued between 12-13 October 2021. This communication was actioned by the Applicant in response

to other solar developments in the region being launched for consultation. The Applicant considered it important that the Scheme should be known to stakeholders and communities alongside other schemes so cumulative impacts were understood and given appropriate focus from the outset. A press release was issued to regional media and a direct communication in the form of a letter/email, which set out the Applicant's intention and signposted to a simple project web page with the facility for interested parties to register interest and receive further information. This was sent to:

- MPs who represent the immediate and neighbouring communities
- Elected members who represent the immediate and neighbouring Wards and Parish Councils
- Near neighbour homes and businesses. The map identifying the consultation zone for near neighbours is available in **Appendix B**.

4.4.9 Communications were next issued on 16 December 2021. This communication was intended to further raise awareness of the Scheme, including details and dates of the intended consultation process and programme. This was issued as a letter/email to:

- MPs who represent the immediate and neighbouring communities
- Elected members who represent the immediate and neighbouring Wards and Parish Councils
- Stakeholders representing Section 42 Prescribed Consultees
- Near neighbours – addresses for homes and businesses within the agreed consultation zone. The map identifying the consultation zone for near neighbours is available in **Appendix B**
- Those who had previously registered an interest in the development on the Scheme website

4.4.10 The consultation was launched on 11 January 2022. Direct notification was using the following communications to promote the Stage 1 non-statutory consultation:

- Letter/email to MPs who represent the immediate and neighbouring communities
- Letter/email to elected members who represent the immediate and neighbouring Wards and Parish Councils
- Letter/email to stakeholders representing Section 42 Prescribed Consultees
- Direct mail to near neighbours – addresses for homes and businesses within the identified core consultation zone. This was a promotional postcard mailed to 7,235 households and commercial businesses identified as living in close proximity to the site and cable route corridors.
- Email to those who had previously registered an interest in the Scheme via its website
- All parties identified as having an interest in land (Section 44) and a range of other community and other non-statutory stakeholders.

4.4.11 MPs, Lead Officers, parish councils, web registrants were also written to on 09 February to encourage submission of consultation feedback before the consultation deadline.

4.4.12 The Stage 1 non-statutory consultation was further promoted as follows:

- Print adverts in regional newspapers that collectively extended beyond the identified core consultation zone:
 - Lincolnshire Echo (13 Jan/20 Jan 2022)
 - Retford Times (13 Jan/20 Jan 2022)
 - Gainsborough Standard (13 Jan/20 Jan 2022)
- Digital advertising campaign in Lincolnshire World for two weeks (13 Jan to 27 Jan)
- Print and digital campaign in Lincolnshire Life (26 Jan to 22 Feb 2022)
- Press releases issued to regional media:
 - 12 October – Low Carbon confirms plans to develop a new solar energy park in Lincolnshire
 - 21 December – Low Carbon set to consult on emerging proposals for Gate Burton Energy Park in the new year
 - 11 January – Low Carbon launches consultation on proposals for Gate Burton Energy Park
 - 8 February – Final call for local people to have their say on Gate Burton Energy Park
 - 21 February – Low Carbon considers responses to initial consultation on Gate Burton Energy Park

Making Information Available

4.4.13 The following consultation materials were available at in-person events and on the website [REDACTED]:

- Consultation information booklet
- Concept masterplan

4.4.14 Two online consultation events were held:

- 25 January 2022: 18.30-20.00 (15 attendees)
- 8 February 2022: 18.30-20.00 (13 attendees)

4.4.15 Five in-person consultation events were held at accessible community venues:

- 26 January 2022 – Knaith Park Village Hall DN21 5ET: 14.30 – 20.00 (52 attendees)
- 8 February 2022 – North Leverton Methodist Chapel DN22 0AB: 14.30 – 20.00 (17 attendees)
- 1 February 2022 – Treswell Village Hall DN22 0EG: 14.30 – 20.00 (24 attendees)
- 3 February 2022 – Willingham Village Hall DN21 5JZ: 14.30 – 20.00 (35 attendees)

- 5 February 2022 – Marton & Gate Burton Village Hall DN21 5AR: 14.30 – 20.00 (58 attendees)
- 4.4.16 The in-person consultation events made a range of information available, including large scale display panels, A2 copies of maps, consultation information booklets, feedback forms and an overview of Low Carbon.
- 4.4.17 A range of in-person briefings and home visits were undertaken in response to requests:
- 24 January 2022 – Knaith Parish Council briefing
 - 26 January 2022 – Near neighbour briefing
 - 1 February 2022 – Near neighbour briefing
 - 2 February 2022 – Near neighbour briefing
 - 7 February – North Leverton with Hablesthorpe Parish Council briefing
 - 7 February – Morton and Gate Burton Parish Council briefing
 - 7 February – Lincolnshire Community Foundation briefing
 - 7 February – Near neighbour briefing
- 4.4.18 The following response channels were set up and actively managed. These were widely publicised through promotional materials and appeared in consultation materials:
- Email: info@gateburtonenergypark.co.uk
 - Freephone: 0800 860 6259
 - Freepost for correspondence and return of Feedback Forms: FREEPOST GATE BURTON ENERGY PARK

4.5 Ongoing Technical Engagement

- 4.5.1 Technical engagement was undertaken with a range of stakeholders, principally regarding the Environmental Impact Assessment, particularly on Scoping. Please see **Chapter 3** for information about consultation under EIA regulations and **Chapter 11** for more information about ongoing consultation activities.

4.6 Account Of Outcomes Of Non-Statutory Consultation

- 4.6.1 The Applicant received 77 responses between 11 January and 18 February 2022. This included 68 from the local community and seven from Prescribed Consultees:
- 30 emails
 - 6 geo located comments provided through the interactive map online
 - 21 digital feedback forms
 - 20 hard copy feedback forms

- 4.6.2 Issues raised included:

- Environment, including cumulative impacts, wildlife habitats (including perimeter fencing), potential loss of agricultural land, flood risk, noise impacts, soil quality and erosion concerns and impact of cleaning solar panels.
- Traffic and access, including loss of pathways and byways, public rights of way, vehicle access, local road condition, construction traffic impacts, impact on local walkers and horse riders and impact of increased traffic.
- Heritage and archaeology, including impacts on local sensitive sites.
- Location of the site, including concerns regarding planning policy and local development plans, suitability of using farmland and alternative sites.
- Cable routing, including concerns regarding impact on local sensitive sites, fuel storage tanks, flood defences and undergrounding.
- Landscape and visual impact, including local views, impact on big skies and tourism jobs.
- Local community, including concerns regarding the scale of the Scheme, cumulative impact, property values and health and wellbeing of local communities.
- Technology, including efficiency of solar panels, size of batteries, safety, fire risk and alternative technologies.
- Consultation, including available information available at events, mapping detail and information suggested to be available at future events.
- Community benefits. A range of ideas were suggested and are detailed in the Stage 1 Non-statutory Consultation Feedback Report (See **Appendix B**).

4.6.3 The Stage 1 Non-statutory Consultation Feedback Report (See **Appendix B**) sets out a summary of the issues raised and the Applicant's response, as provided following non-statutory consultation. The section below summarises how the Scheme responded to consultation feedback and environmental design processes in the development of the Scheme location and layout.

4.6.4 Changes made to the Scheme:

- Inclusion of undeveloped buffers and offsets from:
 - Existing landscape features including ponds, hedgerows and woodland
 - Ancient woodland
 - Public Rights of Way
 - Listed buildings at Gate Burton and residential property
- Careful location of the larger built elements of the energy park including the battery energy storage system (BESS) and on-site substation in areas of reduced flooding, screened by existing woodland, with topography and existing vegetation screening wider views, while also avoiding best and most versatile agricultural land as far as possible
- New grassland and wildflower mixes under the panels to enrich the range of fauna, enhance biodiversity and provide resource for pollinators
- Adoption of skylark plots and lapwing fields
- New hedgerow, shrub and tree planting, as well as improvements to existing hedgerow, to limit the visual impact of the energy park from

different vantage points and also provide environmental areas, offsets and buffer zones

- Siting infrastructure to avoid below ground archaeological features wherever possible
- Screening and planting to minimise the impact on the setting of heritage assets
- No disturbance to Burton Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland
- Integration of the energy park with existing local green infrastructure to improve ecological connectivity across the site
- Selection of a preferred connection corridor approximately 7.5km long in which the electrical connection could be routed largely using underground cable, resulting in less impact on the landscape and views
- Collaboration with Island Green Power on cable connection corridor design to identify opportunities for a single shared grid connection area either side of the River Trent to minimise areas for disturbance and maximise opportunities for avoiding sensitive heritage and ecological receptors

4.6.5 The strategic environmental design was developed for the PEI Report published at statutory consultation to respond to the environmental opportunities and constraints of the Site and non-statutory consultation feedback, particularly in relation to scale, proximity to existing residential areas, visual impact, and ecological and heritage assets. This identified developable areas for solar PV, battery storage and suitable locations for associated infrastructure as well as environmental mitigation.

4.6.6 The proposed developable area for solar PV was approximately 429 ha, with substantial areas identified as for habitats, accesses, vegetation connectivity and associated infrastructure.

4.6.7 Changes made to the Grid Connection Corridor:

- Further refinement to the Grid Connection Corridor was undertaken, with a single route selected from the original four presented in the EIA Scoping Report. Further information on the routes considered and the reasons behind the route selection is provided in **Chapter 3** of the **ES [EN010131/APP/3.1]** and **ES Appendix 3-A [EN010131/APP/3.3]**.

4.7 Conclusion

4.7.1 In summary, the Applicant undertook extensive non-statutory consultation on the Scheme. Non-statutory consultation activities comprised:

- Pre-consultation engagement with political stakeholders and relevant local authorities. This engagement was designed to help inform the consultation process.
- Stage 1 Non-Statutory Consultation period (11 January 2022 to 18 February 2022) involving:

- Communities and stakeholder organisations in the vicinity of the Development who may be affected directly or indirectly
- Wider communities and stakeholders
- Local Councils and Parish Councils
- Other relevant stakeholders
 - Technical engagement with relevant stakeholders to inform the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process

5. Preparation For Statutory Consultation

5.1 Overview

5.1.1 This chapter details how the Applicant consulted the local community on the Scheme as required by Section 47 of the PA 2008.

5.1.2 Section 47 of the PA 2008 sets out an Applicant's duty to consult the local community. It states:

(1) 'The applicant must prepare a statement setting out how the applicant proposes to consult, about the proposed application, people living in the vicinity of the land'.

(2) 'Before preparing the statement, the applicant must consult each local authority that is within section 43(1) about what is to be in the statement'.

(3) 'The deadline for the receipt by the applicant of a local authority's response to consultation under subsection (2) is the end of the period of 28 days that begins with the day after the day on which the local authority receives the consultation documents'.

(4) 'In subsection (3) "the consultation documents" means the documents supplied to the local authority by the applicant for the purpose of consulting the local authority under subsection' (2).

(5) 'In preparing the statement, the applicant must have regard to any response to consultation under subsection (2) that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed by subsection' (3).

(6) 'Once the applicant has prepared the statement, the applicant must publish it —

- (a) in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the land, a notice stating where and when the statement can be inspected, and*
- (b) in such other manner as may be prescribed'.*

(7) 'The applicant must carry out consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the statement'.

5.1.3 As required by the PA 2008, the Applicant published a Section 47 Notice publicising the SoCC (see **Appendix D-2**) and made the SoCC available for the public to view at document inspection locations (see **Table 6-2**) and on the Scheme website. Consultation activities were carried out in line with the SoCC.

5.1.4 In developing the SoCC, regard was also had to the EIA Regulations and relevant guidance relating to pre-application procedure. Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations stipulates that the SoCC must set out whether the proposal

is EIA development and, if so, how the Applicant intends to publicise and consult on its PEI Report.

- 5.1.5 The PEI Report was published as part of the formal Section 42 consultation which took place in parallel with the Stage Two Section 47 community consultation between 22 June and 05 August 2022.
- 5.1.6 **Section 5.2** explains how the Applicant developed the SoCC; **section 5.3** sets out how consultation with the relevant local authorities on the SoCC was carried out; **section 5.4** confirms how the SoCC was publicised; and **Table 5-3** explains how the commitments outlined in the SoCC were adhered to.
- 5.1.7 **Chapter 6** explains how the Applicant carried out consultation activities, while **Chapter 9** details the responses received during the statutory consultation and how the Applicant has had regard to them.

5.2 Developing The Statement Of Community Consultation (SoCC)

- 5.2.1 The SoCC describes how a developer will conduct its statutory consultation with the local community. To help a developer take advantage of the Councils' local knowledge, Section 47(2) the PA 2008 states that the developer must consult each local authority that is within Section 43(1) about the content of the SoCC (the host authorities).
- 5.2.2 The Applicant developed a SoCC that described statutory consultation in a way that allowed interested parties (particularly members of the community who may not have a detailed knowledge of major infrastructure development of NSIP consultations) to easily understand the Scheme; the consultation activities being undertaken; and how to take part in the consultation.
- 5.2.3 As the consultation approach was developed to meet all requirements of the PA 2008, it was felt important that the SoCC also described the application process and how the Applicant was meeting the requirements of the PA 2008 and application process.

Identification Of Local Authorities Within Section 43(1) Of The PA 2008

- 5.2.4 The relevant 'host authorities' within Section 43(1) for the purposes of consultation on the SoCC under Section 47(2) of the PA 2008 were identified as:
- West Lindsey District Council
 - Lincolnshire County Council
 - Bassetlaw District Council
 - Nottinghamshire County Council

Preparation Of The SoCC

- 5.2.5 As prescribed by s47(1) of the PA 2008, the Applicant prepared a SoCC setting out how consultation would be undertaken with people living in vicinity of the land affected by the Scheme.

- 5.2.6 In preparing the draft SoCC, the Applicant considered best practice and guidance from PINS, early and ongoing engagement with host authorities, experience of, feedback to and lessons learned from its first stage of consultation (see **Chapter 4**) and its knowledge of the area of the proposed Scheme. The team also reviewed published SoCCs for other solar NSIPs as well as those of NSIPs more broadly. This included engaging with the developer of Cottam Solar Project and West Burton Solar Project which are located in close proximity to the Applicant's Scheme and were at the same stage of the pre-application process as the Applicant, with the statutory consultation period on all three schemes overlapping. Informal discussions with the developer of Cottam and West Burton Solar projects enabled the Applicant to design a proposed programme of consultation that made local communities potentially affected aware of these other proposals so they could consider the three projects in combination.
- 5.2.7 Before preparing the SoCC to reflect the requirements of Section 47 of the PA 2008, the Applicant consulted with each local authority within s43(1) of the PA 2008 on a draft SoCC as required by s47(2) of the PA 2008. A copy of the draft SoCC was supplied to local authorities from late March / early April 2022 ahead of formal s47(2) consultation with officers being invited to informally provide any comments on the content and detail set out for consideration by the Applicant in advance of formal consultation (see **section 5.3**). A copy of the draft SoCC supplied is provided in **Appendix C-1**.
- 5.2.8 Of those local authorities invited to informally comment on the draft SoCC, only Nottinghamshire County Council responded in writing to confirm that it regarded as appropriate those venues selected for in-person consultation events proposed as being held in Nottinghamshire (see **Appendix C-4.2**). The Applicant was also asked verbally by Bassetlaw District Council to additionally consider including:
- A map showing the location of Cottam and West Burton solar projects relative to the Scheme
 - A summary of how the Applicant will coordinate with the developer of Cottam and West Burton Solar Projects to limit the potential for confusion of these projects with the Scheme and consultation fatigue given consultation on the Scheme will overlap with consultation on the Cottam and West Burton solar projects
- 5.2.9 The Applicant updated the draft SoCC to include this information in the version issued to host authorities for consultation on 11 April 2022 (see **Appendix C-2**).

Content Of The Draft SoCC

- 5.2.10 The draft SoCC included the following information and proposals for consulting with the local community.
- An introduction
 - A timeline setting out key dates for Stage Two Statutory Consultation;
 - An overview of the Applicant;
 - A summary of the Scheme;

- An overview of the DCO application process and where to find out more, as well as a summary of the pre-application consultation process relating to the Scheme;
- Confirmation that Scheme was EIA development and the statutory requirements as set out in Section 47 and Section 42 of the PA 2008 in respect of consultation on PEI Report;
- The objectives of the consultation being undertaken in accordance with Section 47
- An overview of non-statutory consultation already carried out and key information relating to the Stage Two statutory consultation including the consultation period starting on 22 June 2022 and closing on 5 August 2022.
- Details of the scope of what is being consulted on including the proposed Scheme, the potential impacts of the Scheme during construction, operation and decommissioning and the PEI Report;
- A definition of consultees under Section 47 of the PA 2008, including the core consultation zone identifying consultees in vicinity of the Scheme, as well as wider consideration of consultation with people who have a potential interest in the Scheme who live outside the core consultation zone and/or approach to identifying under-represented or marginalised groups;
- Details of the methodology the Applicant proposed to engage with the local community including:
 - Publishing consultation information on the Scheme website
 - Sending a consultation postcard by direct mail to all addresses within the core consultation zone to confirm the consultation dates (including deadline for submissions), details on in-person and online consultation events taking place, how to find out more about what was being consulted on and take part;
 - Details of consultation overview and technical documents available and where they can be accessed
 - Details of in-person and online consultation events taking place including dates, times, venues, their format and project team members in attendance
 - List of document inspection locations in relation to public deposits
 - Publicising the consultation online and through local media
 - Scheme information services available including details of how the Scheme community relations team can be contacted to request information, ask questions, or request copies of materials in alternative formats;
 - Summary of regard has been had to other consultations taking place in developing the approach set out in the SoCC
- Overview of how the Applicant will have regard to comments received and how it will progress the DCO application following statutory consultation, including approach to how further targeted consultation will be carried out should it be deemed necessary.

5.2.11 A copy of the draft SoCC issued to host authorities for consultation is included in **Appendix C-2**.

5.3 Consultation With The Relevant Local Authorities On The SoCC

- 5.3.1 The Applicant wrote to the West Lindsey District Council, Bassetlaw District Council, Lincolnshire County Council and Nottinghamshire County Council on 11 April 2022 by email, attaching a copy of the draft SoCC and requesting comments by 13 May 2022. In accordance with s47(3) of the PA 2008, the local authorities identified as within s43(1) of the PA 2008 were provided with 32 days to respond to the draft SoCC.
- 5.3.2 A copy of the consultation email along with a copy of the draft SoCC sent to each host authority is included in **Appendix C-3**.
- 5.3.3 The Applicant received responses to the draft SoCC by the consultation deadline of 13 May from the host authorities as follows:
- Lincolnshire County Council – comments in a covering email
 - West Lindsey District Council – covering email with an attached letter with comments included
 - Bassetlaw District Council - covering email with an attached letter with comments included
- 5.3.4 Further to not having received a response to the SoCC consultation by the prescribed deadline, the Applicant contacted Nottinghamshire County Council who advised by email on 16 May that it had no further comment on the SoCC to those provided informally by email on 8 April 2022 (see section 5.2.8).
- 5.3.5 Copies of the responses received from each of the host authorities are included in **Appendix C-4**. Detail on how the Applicant had regard to those responses in developing the final SoCC are set out in **Appendix C-5**.
- 5.3.6 In summary, the Applicant made the following changes to the SoCC having regard to comments from the host authorities it consulted:
- The Applicant extended the core consultation zone to include the settlement of Sturton-by-Stow and used an Ordnance Survey data to produce an updated map showing the core consultation zone with features and settlements lying within it being labelled for clarity;
 - The Applicant acted on the recommendation to include the Market Rasen Mail in the list of regional news outlets where Section 47, Section 48 Notices and informal consultation advertisements were placed, and press releases issued;
 - The Applicant included an additional appendix setting out the names of those relevant gateway organisations and bodies representing the interests of identified seldom heard groups to whom information about the consultation was provided;
 - The Applicant included an additional appendix setting out details of local interest groups / organisations it had identified as being active within the core consultation to whom the consultation postcard was direct mailed;
 - The Applicant added text to confirm that elected representatives (district and county council members, parish councils, and Members of Parliament)

representing wards, parishes and constituencies that lay within the core consultation zone would be sent a copy of the consultation postcard;

- The Applicant provided clarification that all the venues at which in-person events would be held were selected on the basis of including disabled access and parking, with online events providing an alternative option for those with limited mobility or health issues either by taking part or watching recordings of the events via the Scheme website;
- The Applicant updated text to confirm that timings for events had been coordinated to ensure they were not restricted to taking place during typical working hours to maximise opportunities for engagement;
- The Applicant included an additional document inspection location at which printed copies of consultation documentation would be made available to view;
- The Applicant updated text to confirm that consultation posters will be sent to parish clerks for display on parish notice boards;
- The Applicant included text to confirm that the community helpline provided a messaging service enabling individuals calling out of office hours the option to leave a voicemail so a member of the community relations team could return their call;
- The Applicant produced an additional map depicting the geographical location of the Scheme relative to other solar NSIP projects in the immediate area;
- The Applicant revised and updated text in line with typographical errors identified and provided responses or clarifications to general questions raised in feedback.

5.3.7 The Applicant did not incorporate one change suggested by host authorities in their submissions to the draft SoCC consultation. A summary of the suggestion and the Applicant's reason for not making the change is summarised below:

- The Applicant did not include details of host authorities' feedback to the draft SoCC consultation in the final published SoCC. This is because, as well as having potential to cause confusion for members of the public, submissions to this consultation and how the Applicant had regard to them are set out in this **Consultation Report [EN010131/APP/4.1]**.

5.4 Publicity Under Section 47 Of The PA 2008

5.4.1 The SoCC was published on 8 June 2022. Printed copies of the document were lodged and available at document inspection locations (see **Table 6-2**), and a digital version was available on the Scheme website. A copy of the published SoCC can be found in **Appendix D-1**.

5.4.2 As prescribed by s47(6) of the PA 2008, the Applicant also publicised details of the locations where and when the SoCC could be viewed in newspapers circulated in the vicinity of the land. Details of the publication of the Section 47 Notice are included in **Table 5-1**. Copies of the final SoCC and notices as published (confirming the name of the publication and the date) are provided in **Appendix D-2**. A digital copy of the Section 47 Notice was also made available on the Scheme website.

Table 5-1 Section 47 Notice newspaper publication schedule

Date published	Newspaper
08 June 2022	Market Rasen Mail
09 June 2022	Lincolnshire Echo
09 June 2022	Retford Times
09 June 2022	Gainsborough Standard

5.4.3 On publishing the SoCC on 8 June 2022, the Applicant issued a copy of the final published SoCC to the host authorities, alongside a copy of the Section 47 Notice, and a table setting out all the issues raised by host authorities in response to the draft SoCC consultation and regard had to those responses by the Applicant in developing the final SoCC. Copies of the communications issued to host authorities are set out in **Appendix D-3**.

5.4.4 The Applicant also issued a copy of the final SoCC and Section 47 Notice on 8 June 2022 to the clerks of the parish councils set out in **Table 5-2**. Copies of the communications issued to parish council clerks are set out in **Appendix D-4**.

Table 5-2 List of parish councils issued with final SoCC and Section 47 Notice on 8 June 2022

Parish Council
Brampton Parish Council
Fenton Parish Council
Gainsborough Town Council
Kexby Parish Council
Knaith Parish Council
Lea Parish Council
Marton & Gate Burton Parish Council
North Leverton with Hablesthorpe Parish Council
Rampton & Woodbeck Parish Council
South Leverton Parish Council
Sturton by Stow Parish Council
Torksey Parish Council
Treswell with Cottam Parish Council
Upton Parish Council
Willingham by Stow Parish Council



5.5 Adherence To Contents Of The SoCC

5.5.1 **Table 5-3** below sets out the commitments the Applicant made for its statutory consultation with people living in vicinity of the land in accordance with S47 of the PSA 2008 and summarises how the Applicant fulfilled these commitments.

Table 5-3 Summary of commitments made in SoCC and how the Applicant fulfilled these

Page	SoCC Commitment	How Fulfilled
Section 1: Introduction		
4	A Preliminary Environmental Report (PEIR) will be prepared by Low Carbon and made available as part of Stage Two Consultation.	PEI Report, along with all technical documents available on Scheme website from consultation launch date (see Chapter 6, Section 6.3 and Appendix E-8) Hard copy of the PEI Report, along with all technical documents, available in the specified document inspection locations from consultation launch date (see Table 6-2)
4	8 June SoCC available to view in document inspection locations and on the Project website	SoCC and s.47 notice available on the Scheme website from 8 June 2022 (see Section 5.4) Hard copies of the SoCC available in the specified document inspection locations from 8 June 2022 (see Table 6-2)
4	From 9 June Section 48 Notices published in regional papers, national paper and the London Gazette and Section-42 consultation materials sent to statutory and prescribed persons.	The Section 48 Notice was published as follows: - Market Rasen Mail – 8 & 15 June 2022 - Lincolnshire Echo – 9 & 16 June 2022 - Retford Times – 9 & 16 June 2022 - Gainsborough Standard – 9 & 16 June 2022 - The Guardian – 11 June 2022 - London Gazette – 15 June 2022
4	20 June Postcard announcing consultation launch distributed to addresses within the core consultation outlined	The Section 48 Notice was issued to statutory and Prescribed Consultees The Applicant direct mailed the Project Consultation Postcard by Royal Mail 2 nd class to 7,293 addresses identified as lying within the core consultation zone using the latest Royal Mail address data (April 2022) from 20 June 2022 (see section 6.3.35)



<p>22 June-5 August</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory ‘Stage Two’ consultation period starts • Consultation materials available to view in document inspection locations and on the Project website • Public consultation events held at local venues and online (including two Saturday events). 	<p>The consultation opened on 22 June 2022 and closed on 5 August 2022.</p> <p>The dates of the consultation were made clear on consultation overview documents, the SoCC, on the Scheme website, in s.47 and s.48 notices, newspaper advertising, through editorial and social media, and communications issued to community stakeholders and representatives (see Chapter 6, Section 6.3)</p> <p>Consultation overview documents, PEI Report, and all technical documents available on Scheme website from consultation launch date and in specified document inspection locations from consultation launch date (see Table 6-2)</p> <p>The Applicant held five in-person consultation events, of which two took place on a Saturday (Saturday 9 and 16 July 2022) and hosted two online webinar events during the consultation period (see Table 6-3)</p>
<p>5 August</p> <p>Statutory ‘Stage Two’ consultation period closes at 23.59</p>	<p>The consultation closed at 23.59 on 5 August 2022</p> <p>The dates were made clear on consultation overview documents, the SoCC, on the Scheme website, in s.47 and s.48 notices, newspaper advertising, through editorial and social media, and communications issued to community stakeholders and representatives (see Chapter 6, Section 6.3)</p>
<p>Section 3: The application process</p>	
<p>3.18 Stage Two (statutory) consultation on the proposed application for the Project will start on 22 June 2022 and run for a period of six weeks and three days (45 days), closing on 5 August 2022.</p>	<p>The consultation opened on 22 June 2022 and closed on 5 August 2022.</p> <p>The dates were made clear on consultation overview documents, in the SoCC, on the Scheme website, in s.47 and s.48 notices, newspaper advertising, through editorial and social media and communications issued to community stakeholders and representatives (see Chapter 6, Section 6.3)</p>
<p>3.19 The Project team will record all the comments and feedback received during Stage Two consultation.</p>	<p>The Applicant recorded 152 individual submissions were made to the Stage Two consultation</p> <p>The DCO application includes this Consultation Report [EN010131/APP/4.1] which includes tables setting out all those issues raised by respondents and how the Applicant had regard to those responses received (see Table 9-3 and Table 9-4)</p>



10 3.20 When the Stage Two consultation period has closed, we will review all the feedback received and have regard to these representations in further developing our proposals for the Project and preparing the DCO for submission, having regard to technical, economic and environmental, and health and safety considerations, amongst others.

The DCO application includes this **Consultation Report [EN010131/APP/4.1]** which sets out the regard had to responses received (see **Table 9-3 and Table 9-4**)

10 3.21 A Consultation Report will be produced and submitted with the DCO application. This report will summarise the consultation carried out (in accordance with this SoCC), the comments received and how we have had regard to them. It will be available to view on the PINS website and the Project website when the application has been accepted by PINS for examination.

The DCO application includes this **Consultation Report [EN010131/APP/4.1]** which provides a summary of how Stage Two Statutory Consultation was carried, regard had to responses received and this table which sets out the commitments made in the SoCC and how the Applicant fulfilled these commitments. This will be uploaded to the Scheme website subject to being accepted by PINS for examination.

Section 4: Environmental information

11 4.4 A Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEI Report') and PEI Report Non-Technical Summary ('NTS') will be made available as part of the Stage Two consultation. This will provide initial information on the potential environmental effects of the Project and any proposed mitigation to help the local community understand the environmental effects and inform responses regarding the proposed development.

PEI Report, along with all technical documents available on Scheme website from consultation launch date (see **Chapter 6, Section 6.3 and Appendix E-8**)

Hard copy of the PEI Report, along with all technical documents, made available in the specified document inspection locations from consultation launch date (see **Table 6-2**)

The PEI Report set out the findings from all the environmental assessments carried out to inform the development of the proposals for the Scheme, its likely significant effects and the measures proposed to avoid or reduce those effects.

11 4.5 We will be asking for the views of individuals and organisations on the information set out in the PEI Report as part of the consultation described in this SoCC.

Availability of the PEI Report was publicised in the SoCC, in Consultation Overview Documents and on display panels at consultation events. It was referenced in the SoCC and s48 notices.

The DCO application includes this **Consultation Report [EN010131/APP/4.1]** which sets out the regard had to feedback received during consultation (see **Table 9-3 and Table 9-4**), and the **Environmental Statement [EN010131/APP/3.1]**.

Feedback received during consultation on the PEI Report will be considered before the application



	and EIA are finalised for submission. The final EIA will be set out in an Environmental Statement (ES) which will be submitted with the application for development consent.	
11	4.6 Before an application for development consent can be made, Gate Burton Energy Park Ltd is required to consult with those living in the vicinity of the land on which the proposed Project will be delivered. This follows the requirements set out in Section 47 of the PA 2008. We must also consult with local authorities, persons with an interest in land and prescribed statutory consultees as set out in Section 42 of the PA 2008. We are also required to publicise our proposed application nationally as set out in Section 48 of the PA 2008. The Stage Two consultation will meet these statutory requirements, including consultation on the PEI Report.	<p>The DCO application includes this Consultation Report [EN010131/APP/4.1] which sets out how consultation was undertaken to meet the statutory requirements of Section 47 and Section 42 of the PA 2008 (see Chapters 6 and 7)</p> <p>The Section 48 Notice was published as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Market Rasen Mail – 8 & 15 June 2022 - Lincolnshire Echo – 9 & 16 June 2022 - Retford Times – 9 & 16 June 2022 - Gainsborough Standard – 9 & 16 June 2022 - The Guardian – 11 June 2022 - London Gazette – 15 June 2022 <p>Copies of the Section 48 Notice as it appeared in the above publications is included in Appendix E-21.</p>
14	6.7 Stage Two 'statutory' consultation on the Project will take place for six weeks and three days (45 days) between 22 June 2022 and 5 August 2022 [...]The Stage Two consultation will take place in accordance with the requirements of the PA 2008.	<p>The consultation opened on 22 June 2022 and closed on 05 August 2022.</p> <p>The dates were made clear on consultation overview documents and in the SoCC</p> <p>The consultation period exceeded the minimum period of 28 days as required by the PA 2008</p> <p>The DCO application includes this Consultation Report [EN010131/APP/4.1] which sets out how Stage Two Consultation was undertaken to meet the statutory requirements of Section 47, Section 42 and Section 48 of the PA 2008 (see Chapters 6 and 7)</p>
14	6.8 The SoCC will be published on 8 June 2022 in advance of Stage Two consultation launching. As required by Section 47 (6) of the PA 2008, we will publish a Section 47 Notice in local newspapers for one week to advertise that the SoCC has been published.	<p>The SoCC was published on 8 June 2022 ahead of Stage Two consultation launching on 22 June 2022</p> <p>Hard copies of the SoCC available in the specified document inspection locations from 8 June 2022 (see Table 6-2)</p> <p>S47 Notice was published in local newspapers (see Table 5-1)</p> <p>SoCC and s47 Notice issued to officers at host authorities on 08 June 2022</p>

SoCC and s47 Notice issued to Parish Council clerks (see **Table 5-2**)

SoCC and s.47 Notice available on the Scheme website from 8 June 2022 (see **section 5.4**). The SoCC was viewed and downloaded twice over the consultation period

14	<p>6.9 Stage Two consultation will be publicised to local communities within a defined core consultation zone (see Section 8) as well as other stakeholders using a variety of communication methods (see Section 9). Consultation documents and materials will be made available to view at in-person public consultation events and at document inspection locations. They will also be available to view and download from the Project website</p> <p>Members of our Project team will attend consultation events and be available to answer questions about the proposals and provide information about the consultation.</p>	<p>The DCO application includes this Consultation Report [EN010131/APP/4.1], of which section 6.3 in Chapter 6 sets out how Stage Two consultation was publicised to local communities within a defined core consultation zone and other stakeholders using a range of communications methods; details of the consultation documents and materials produced and how they were made available at in-person consultation events and document inspection locations, and on the Scheme website; details of consultation events held and how members of the Project team supported their delivery</p>
14	<p>6.10 [...] the consultation period will run for 45 days (six weeks and three days) which will provide people with additional time to submit responses.</p>	<p>The consultation opened on 22 June 2022 and closed on 05 August 2022</p> <p>The consultation dates were made clear on consultation overview documents and in the SoCC, as well as Notices, advertisements and on the Scheme website</p> <p>The consultation period exceeded the minimum period of 28 days as required by the PA 2008</p>

SECTION 7: What we will consult on

15	<p>7.1 We will consult on the proposed DCO application for the Project and invite representations on the Project proposals. We will be inviting responses in relation to all elements of the proposed development, some of which featured in the earlier round of consultation and engagement.</p>	<p>The DCO application includes this Consultation Report [EN010131/APP/4.1] which sets out how Stage Two consultation was delivered to invite representations on the Scheme proposed, as well as a summary of an earlier non-statutory stage of consultation (see Chapter 4), and regard had to responses received during consultation (see Table 9-3 and Table 9-4).</p>
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15	<p>7.2 For consultation we will provide people with documentation on what we propose to build, where and how we propose to build it, including any refinements made in response to feedback submitted to Stage One consultation, and provide preliminary information on environmental impacts and proposed mitigation based on the findings from the published PEI Report.</p>	<p>The Applicant produced a document navigation booklet setting out all the consultation overview documents and technical documents that had been produced to support the consultation to provide information about the proposals being consulted on and where/how they could be accessed (see Appendix E-6)</p> <p>The Applicant produced a Project Information Booklet (see Appendix E-9) which included a summary of how feedback submitted to Stage One Consultation had been used to produce the updated proposals being presented at Statutory Consultation, as well as an overview of the findings from ongoing assessments to gauge the potential environmental impacts of the Scheme and measures proposed to reduce or avoid those impacts</p>
15	<p>7.3 We will welcome and consider feedback on all aspects of the Project and will specifically invite comments on the following: 7.3.1 The design of the solar energy park; 7.3.2 The route of the electrical connection from the solar energy park to Cottam sub-station; 7.3.3 The environmental effects of the Project (detailed in the PEI Report) and any mitigation that is required; 7.3.4 The timescales and next steps for the Project; and, 7.3.5 Anything else you think Gate Burton needs to consider</p>	<p>Information on topics the Applicant was seeking comments on was provided in the Project Information Booklet (see Appendix E-9) which included a schematic map of the Scheme and a summary of how it had evolved further having had regard to feedback received during non-statutory consultation. This document was available to view and download from the Scheme website; printed copies were available at document inspection locations (see Table 6-2) and in-person consultation events (see Table 6-5), with printed and digital copies also being made available on request</p> <p>The Project Consultation Postcard directed people to where they could find information about what the Applicant was consulting on and how to take part. This was mailed to all the addresses in the core consultation zone (see Appendix E-1)</p> <p>The feedback form was structured to encourage participants to provide feedback on these topics (see Appendix E-10)</p>
		<p>Availability of the PEI Report was publicised in the SoCC, the Scheme website, the Project Information Booklet, on the Feedback Form. It was also referenced in the s48 and s47 Notices.</p>
		<p>A document navigation booklet provided a summary of all the consultation overview documents and technical documents providing information about the proposals being consulted on that were available and where they could be accessed (see Appendix E-6)</p>
15	<p>7.4 We will publish and seek feedback on the PEI Report via Stage Two consultation as set out in this SoCC, and also in accordance with the Section 48 publicity and Section 42 statutory consultation.[...] A Non-Technical Summary (NTS) will accompany the PEI Report, to summarise the content of the</p>	<p>The Applicant made the PEI Report and the NTS, along with all technical documents, available on the Scheme website from consultation launch (see Appendix E-8)</p>



	detailed preliminary environmental assessments in a non-technical manner.	Hard copy of the PEI Report and the NTS, along with all the technical documents, available in the specified document inspection locations from launch date, with inspection copies also being made available at in-person consultation events (see Table 6-2 and Table 6-5)
15	7.5 Hard copies of the PEI Report and the NTS, as well as associated technical documents, maps and plans, and public consultation documents will be available to view at document inspection locations [...] and on the Project website: [REDACTED] in digital format to view and download.	The PEI Report and the NTS along with all technical documents, maps, plans and Consultation Overview Documents available to view and download on the Scheme website from consultation launch (see Appendix E-8) Hard copy of PEI Report and the NTS, along with all associated technical documents maps and plans and Consultation Overview Documents, available in specified Document Inspection Locations from launch date (see Table 6-2)
	7.6 Individuals, communities and consultees will be invited to comment on all or any part of our proposals for the Project.	The Applicant delivered a programme of proactive communications using a variety of different channels to raise awareness of consultation on proposals for the Project taking place and invite individuals, communities and consultees to provide views and comments on any aspect of the information provided. This is set out in section 6.3 of Chapter 6 The feedback form was structured to encourage participants to comment on any or all aspects of the Project (see Appendix E-10)

SECTION 8: Who we will consult

16	8.4 We will seek to engage the people who live in, or have an interest in, land within our consultation zone including residents, local businesses and community organisations (including parish councils), to raise awareness and encourage participation in the consultation through a selection of communication channels (see Section 9).	The Applicant identified a core consultation zone and developed an address database comprising all the addresses for property lying within that zone from latest Royal Mail mailing list data (April 2022), with a communication being issued direct to all those addresses to notify them of the consultation dates and provide information relating to the consultation process and where information about how to take part and what was being consulted on could be found using a range of communication methods (see Chapter 6, Section 6.3)
16	8.6 At the same time as consulting with the local community we will be carrying out consultation on the same information (including the PEI Report) with those bodies prescribed under Section 42 of the PA 2008: 8.6.1 Persons as prescribed under Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Application: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009 (as amended):	The Applicant wrote to all statutory bodies under s42 (1) (a) at the launch of consultation. Feedback was received from 18 of these organisations. The Applicant wrote to all statutory bodies under s42 (1) (b) and 43 at the launch of consultation. Feedback was received from five of these organisations. The Applicant wrote to all statutory bodies under s42 (1) and 44 at the launch of consultation. Feedback was received from 25 of the organisations:



	<p>8.6.2 Each local authority as defined under Section 43 of the PA 2008</p> <p>8.6.3 Each person who is within one or more of the categories as set out under Section 44 of the PA 2008.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - s42(a) - 17 submissions from 16 Prescribed Consultees - s42(b) – 8 submissions from 7 Prescribed Consultees
<p>18</p>	<p>8.7 We recognise that people who live and work beyond the core consultation zone we have identified who may also have an interest in our proposals and may have participated in the Stage One (non-statutory) consultation. To make sure these individuals and organisations are given the opportunity to participate we will raise awareness of the consultation in the following ways:</p> <p>8.7.1 Directly notify all those people who have registered their interest in the Project about consultation, including those who have expressed concern or opposition to our proposals</p> <p>8.7.2 Publish a Section 48 notice in the local and national press and London Gazette (see Table 9.4)</p> <p>8.7.3 Publicise the consultation by advertising in local media Table 9.5)</p> <p>8.7.4 Publish consultation materials online and make them available to view (see paragraph 9.4)</p>	<p>Communication was issued to all project registrants on consultation launch day to notify them of the consultation launch, signpost to information about the consultation, how they could take part and details of the proposals being consulted on (see Appendix E-4)</p> <p>Section 48 Notice published to advertise intention to submit a DCO application for the Scheme in local newspapers for two consecutive weeks, a national newspaper and the London Gazette for one week (see Table 6-9 and Appendix E-21)</p> <p>Advertisements were placed in local and regional media outlets to promote the consultation, consultation events and signpost to where information could be found (see Table 6-10 and Appendix E-22)</p> <p>Consultation materials published on the Scheme website to view and download from consultation launch (see section 6.2.52 and Appendix E-8)</p>
<p>18</p>	<p>8.8 We are committed to ensuring the consultation process and associated communications reach as many parts of the community as possible. We have identified a range of 'underrepresented' or 'seldom heard' groups and individuals within the consultation zone who may be less likely to participate in or respond to traditional consultation techniques. These groups and individuals that may find it harder to get involved in consultation and/or need additional support to access materials include:</p> <p>8.8.1 Geographically isolated communities</p>	<p>The Applicant developed a list of gateway organisations and bodies representing the interests of under-represented or seldom heard groups in Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire (see Appendix E-2)</p> <p>A list of these groups is set out in an appendix to the SoCC, a copy of which is included in Appendix D-1</p> <p>On 6 June 2022, the Applicant issued a communication to the gateway organisations and bodies identified to share details of the consultation (inc. dates), offer direct engagement and invite suggestions on alternative ways of engaging with the groups/interests they represented see section 6.3.103 and Appendix E-26).</p>



8.8.2 Economically inactive individuals and socially deprived communities	A communication was subsequently issued to the same organisations and bodies on 22 June 2022 to confirm the launch of consultation, details of how it was being publicised/promoted, how and where information was being made available including the programme of events taking place, as well as the different mechanisms for providing feedback and the deadline for submissions.
8.8.3 Young people	
8.8.4 Older people	
8.8.5 Disabled people and those with learning disabilities	No requests were received from the gateway organisations and bodies contacted for additional information and/or delivery of specific consultation activity to best meet the needs of the groups they represented.
8.8.6 Ethnic minorities	
8.8.7 Time poor, busy working people.	
8.9 Our consultation methodology (see Section 9) has been developed to accommodate communicating as effectively as possible with these groups so they can have their say. We will contact bodies and organisations representing these groups ahead of consultation starting to ensure our approach meets the specific needs of their members. Requests for specific consultation activity to cater for their members will be considered on a case-by-case basis and agreed and planned with the requesting organisations. We will continue to notify them of further consultation and engagement activities.	<p>The Scheme website is Level AA compliant ensuring that it is accessible to everyone, including users with impairments as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - vision - like severely sight impaired (blind), sight impaired (partially sighted) or colour blind people - hearing - like people who are deaf or hard of hearing - mobility - like those who find it difficult to use a mouse or keyboard <p>The design principles for the Gate Burton Energy Park website mean accessibility features include, among other features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - website navigation using a keyboard instead of a mouse - semantic layout and text with screen readers to 'read' (speak) content out loud in a coherent way - colour contrast and size of text chosen to meet visual accessibility requirements.
18 8.10 [...] Requests for consultation/Project information to meet specific requirements (such as large print or audio for those with visual impairments, or in an alternative language for those whom English is not their first language, to enable them to take part in the consultation) will be considered on a case-by-case basis so we can establish how best to provide the information required.	<p>The Applicant provided a variety of communications channels including the Scheme website, freephone number (0800 860 6259), freepost address (FREEPOST GATE BURTON ENERGY PARK), and email (info@gateburtonenergypark.co.uk) through which requests for consultation/information to be supplied in a format to meet specific requirements could be solicited.</p> <p>Details of communications channels were included in all consultation materials.</p> <p>The Applicant did not receive any requests for consultation documents / information to be provided in alternative formats over the course of the consultation.</p>

SECTION 9: How we will consult

19 9.1 During Stage Two consultation we will provide information about the consultation and the proposals being consulted utilising a range of methods we consider will ensure that people living and working within vicinity of the Project will be adequately consulted in accordance with Section 47 of the PA 2008.

The Applicant provided information about the consultation and the proposals being consulted on, using a range of communications methods to ensure that people living and working within vicinity of the Project were adequately consulted in accordance with Section 47 of the PA 2008 as set out in **Chapter 6, Section 6.3**

19 9.4 The Project website [REDACTED] will be updated to provide information about the consultation and proposals being consulted, as well as being a resource for all the Project materials which will be available to view and download. It will be possible to submit a response to the consultation via the website using a dedicated online feedback form during the consultation period. It will continue to provide facility for people to register their contact details with the Project so they can receive future updates directly.

The Applicant updated the Scheme Website as set out in section **6.3.52** and included in **Appendix E-8**, with the updated site going live from consultation launch to provide information about what was being consulted on, how to take part and a document library from which copies of all the Project materials produced to support and inform the consultation were available to view and download

The updated Scheme website included an online feedback form through which feedback could be submitted in response to the consultation

The facility to enable individuals to register their interest in the project to receive updates throughout the pre-application process remained in place throughout the consultation

Over the period of the consultation the Scheme website was accessed by 4,384 individuals, of whom 4,269 were new to the website.

A total of 38 submissions (plus geo-located comments on an online map) were made to the consultation using the online feedback form

19 9.6 A Project Consultation Postcard will be published prior to consultation events starting. This will be our main form of direct communication about the consultation with the public confirming the dates of the consultation (including the deadline by which feedback needs to be submitted), details of in-person and online consultation events taking place, plus details of where they can find information about what is being consulted on and how they can take part.

The Applicant produced a Project Consultation Postcard as included in **Appendix E-7**

<p>9.7 A copy of this postcard/leaflet will be direct mailed to approximately 7,290 addresses which lie within the core consultation zone at the start of the consultation period including:</p> <p>9.7.1 Local residents with postal addresses within the core consultation zone</p> <p>9.7.2 Local businesses with postal addresses within the core consultation zone</p> <p>9.7.3 Local interest groups/organisations which are active within the core consultation zone (see Appendix 3)</p> <p>9.7.4 Elected representatives (district and county council members, parish councils, Members of Parliament representing wards, parishes and constituencies that lie within the consultation zone boundaries.</p> <p>9.8 The postcard will also be mailed to individuals, businesses or organisations registering postal addresses that lie beyond the core consultation zone with the Project to receive updates.</p>	<p>The Applicant collated a mailing database comprising 7,293 addresses located within the identified core consultation zone using the latest Royal Mail address data (April 2022)</p> <p>The Applicant issued the Project Consultation Postcard (see Appendix E-7) by Royal Mail 2nd Class from 20 June 2022 to a total of 7,381 addresses as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- All 7,293 residential and business addresses lying within the defined core consultation zone- Local interest groups/organisations identified as active within the core consultation zone- Any additional addresses beyond the core consultation zone subject to the individuals, businesses and organisations registering their postal address with the Project to receive updates. <p>At consultation launch the Applicant issued communications to 100 individuals registering their details with the project for updates to confirm details of consultation and provide links to all the Consultation Overview Documents and Technical Documents available from launch on the Scheme website (see Appendix E-4.3)</p> <p>As set out in Section 6.3 at consultation launch the Applicant issued communications to confirm details of consultation and provide links to all the Consultation Overview Documents and Technical Documents available from launch on the Scheme website to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- All parish and town councils lying across/adjacent to the Scheme- Officers at host authorities for onward transmission to members- Gateway organisations and bodies representing identified seldom heard and under-represented groups- Individuals registering their details with the project to receive updates- MP's representing constituencies crossing the core consultation zone <p>(See Appendix E-4)</p>
<p>19 9.9 The postcard will be made available online, at in-person public consultation events (see Table 9.2) and document inspection locations (see Table 9.3). The postcard will also be made available at community venues such as libraries, shops and village halls located in communities lying within the core consultation zone for people to take away subject to the consent of venue managers.</p>	<p>The Applicant made printed copies of the Project Consultation Postcard available for people to take away at the five in-person consultation events held</p> <p>The Applicant made the Project Consultation Postcard available for people to at the five identified document inspection locations from launch</p> <p>The Applicant made the Project Consultation Postcard available as a PDF to view and download from the Scheme website from launch</p>



	<p>Over the course of the consultation the PDF of the Project Consultation Postcard was viewed and downloaded from the Scheme website six times.</p> <p>The Applicant provided quantities of the Project Consultation Postcard (between 25-100) to 24 community venues from consultation launch so they could be made available to the public (see Appendix E-24)</p>
20	<p>9.10 A Project Information Booklet will be published at the start of the statutory consultation. This will provide a summary of the proposals we are consulting on, details of how people can take part in the consultation, how feedback will be considered and used to influence the shape of our proposals, and how we will provide information on the outcome of this consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant produced a Project Information Booklet as included in Appendix E-9.</p>
20	<p>9.11 Printed copies of this document will be available to take away at all in-person public consultation events, and a digital version will be available to view and download from the Project website. Copies will also be made available on request in digital or hard copy format.</p> <p>Printed copies of the Project Information Booklet were made available at in-person consultation events held for people to take away</p> <p>Printed copies of the Project information Booklet were made at the five identified document inspection locations from launch for people to take away</p> <p>A digital version of the Project Information Booklet was available to view and download from the Scheme website from consultation launch</p> <p>Over the course of the consultation the digital version of the Project Information Booklet was viewed and downloaded from the Scheme website four times</p> <p>The Applicant provided copies of the Project Information Booklet in response to five requests made through the Project information services channels (two in hard copy, one in digital form via email, two on USBs)</p>
20	<p>9.12 A Project Feedback Form will be prepared to enable people to provide us with feedback on our proposed application. Specific questions will guide people on the particular issues we are seeking comment.</p> <p>The Applicant produced a Project Feedback Form as included in Appendix E-10</p> <p>The Applicant made printed copies of the Project Feedback Form available at in-person consultation events for people to take away</p>



<p>Hard copy forms will be available on request from the community relations team, and at public consultation events.</p>	<p>The Applicant provided copies of the Project Feedback Form in response to six requests made through the Project information services channels (three in hard copy, one in digital format by email, two in digital format on USBs)</p>
<p>An online version of the feedback form will also be available on the Project website so people can submit their feedback electronically.</p>	<p>The Scheme website incorporated an online feedback form. A total of 38 submissions were made to the consultation using the online feedback form</p>
<p>9.13 Throughout the consultation period people will also be welcome to submit written comments as feedback either by post to FREEPOST GATE BURTON ENERGY PARK or by email to the Project email address: info@gateburtonenergypark.co.uk.</p>	<p>A digital version of the printed feedback form was made available to view and download from the Scheme website.</p>
<p>20 If arranged by appointment with the Gate Burton Project team, it will be possible to make a representation over the Project enquiry line 0800 860 6259. Feedback provided will be transcribed and agreed verbally prior to submission. To make an appointment to provide verbal feedback please contact us using the freepost, email addresses or telephone number described above.</p>	<p>The Project email and FREEPOST channels were open throughout the consultation period with all incoming comments recorded and logged</p>
	<p>The Applicant received 93 emails through the project email address and three written feedback forms were submitted by post. (Note, the other eight written feedback forms were submitted at events)</p>
	<p>The Applicant did not receive any requests for representations to the consultation to be made over the Project enquiry line.</p>
<p>20 9.14 We will develop an FAQs document detailing the most frequently asked questions about our proposals and their corresponding answers. This will be available on the Project website and in hard copy at public consultation events.</p>	<p>The Applicant produced an FAQ included in Appendix E-11</p>
	<p>The Project FAQ was available to view on the Scheme website (see Appendix E-8), and printed copies were made available at in-person consultation events (see Table 6-5)</p>
<p>20 9.15 We will make available all the technical documents we have produced which explain and assess our project proposals which are the subject of consultation. These technical documents include:</p>	<p>The Applicant produced the technical documents listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PEI Report - PEI NTS - Maps and plans showing the proposed application at appropriate scales



9.15.1 The PEI Report, providing preliminary information on the likely significant environmental effects of the Project and how we propose to manage and mitigate them; 9.15.2 The NTS; and, 9.15.3 Maps and plans showing our proposed application at appropriate scales	<p>The Applicant made available copies of all technical documents on the Scheme website in digital format from consultation launch (see Appendix E-8)</p> <p>The Application lodged and made available printed reference copies of the technical documents at document reference locations from consultation launch as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Saxilby Library, St Andrews Centre, William Street, Saxilby, Lincolnshire LN1 2LP- Gainsborough Library, Cobden Street, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, DN21 2NG- Lincoln Central Library, Free School Lane, Lincolnshire, LN2 1EZ- West Lindsey District Council, Guildhall, Marshall's Yard Gainsborough DN21 2NA- Retford Library, Churchgate, Retford, Nottinghamshire, DN22 6PE <p>(see Appendix E-12)</p> <p>The Applicant made available reference copies of technical documents at in-person consultation events held over the course of the consultation as listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Marton & Gate Burton - Fri 8 Jul 2022 (14.00-20.00)- Rampton - Sat 9 Jul 2022 (10.00-14.00)- Willingham by Stow – Thu 14 Jul (14.00-20.00)- Knaith – Sat 16 Jul 2022 (10.00-14.00)- Treswell – Tue 19 Jul 2022 (14.00-20.00)
20 9.16 Printed reference copies of the technical documents will also be available to view at in-person public consultation events, and document inspection locations. They will also be available to view and download from the Project website.	<p>Printed copies of all the technical documents were made available for people to reference at the in-person consultation events held over the course of the consultation (see Table 6-5), and document inspection locations (see Table 6-2 and Appendix E-12) from consultation launch</p> <p>Digital copies of all the technical documents were made available to view and download from the Scheme website from consultation launch (see Appendix E-8)</p> <p>Over the course of the consultation the PDFs of the technical documents were viewed and downloaded from the website as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Figure 2-1a Constraints Plan – once- Figure 2-1b Constraints Plan – five times- Figure 3-1 EIA Scoping Site Boundary – four times
20 9.17 Requests for hard copies of the technical documents will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.	<p>Enquiries for technical documents were received and individuals advised of document availability online, provided by email or hard copies provided (where appropriate)</p>



		<p>Hard copy requests were provided free of charge</p> <p>The Applicant responded to requests for copies of technical documents and supplied as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PEI Report – three requests (one online, two USB) - PEI Report NTS – five requests (two hardcopy, two USB, one online) - Environmental scoping report (non-stat)- one request (one hardcopy)
20	<p>9.18 A document navigation booklet will be developed to assist the review of these technical documents.</p>	<p>The Applicant produced a Document Navigation Booklet as included in Appendix E-6</p>
22	<p>9.19 During the statutory consultation, we will hold public consultation events on days and times that enable the maximum number of people to attend, including two events on a Saturday.</p> <p>At events you will be able to find information about the Project and what we are consulting on. Members of the Project team will be present to discuss the proposals and answer questions.</p>	<p>The Applicant held five in-person consultation events of which two took place on a Saturday (Saturday 9 and 16 July 2022) and hosted two online webinar events during the consultation period (see Table 6-3)</p> <p>Events were held at a range of times to help people attend</p> <p>Members of the project team attended consultation events to provide information and answer questions about the project, taking part in the consultation and the development process, and signpost to materials available providing information.</p>
22	<p>9.20 The programme of consultation events comprises five in-person events and two online events:</p> <p>In-person consultation events: held at venues within the core consultation zone that are publicly accessible and accommodate the needs of individuals with limited mobility Information available to view at these consultation events will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Project display panels ii. Reference copies of technical documents, maps and plans published as part of the consultation (including the PEI Report) iii. Reference copy of the SoCC 	<p>The Applicant held five in-person events at community venues in proximity of the proposed Scheme as set out in Table 6-3</p> <p>Full details of the all the consultation events being held (inc. date, time, venue) were included in the Project Consultation Postcard, SoCC, Scheme website, newspaper adverts, posters and media releases (see Appendix E)</p> <p>All in-person events took place at the venues on the date and times advertised. A total of 126 people attended the in-person events held (see Appendix E-17)</p> <p>Attendance at each event is listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marton & Gate Burton - Fri 8 Jul 2022 (14.00-20.00): 30 attendees - Rampton - Sat 9 Jul 2022 (10.00-14.00): 16 attendees - Willingham by Stow – Thu 14 Jul (14.00-20.00): 31 attendees - Knaith – Sat 16 Jul 2022 (10.00-14.00): 42 attendees



iv. Copies of the printed Project Information Booklet, Feedback Form, Consultation Postcards, FAQ, and Document Navigation Booklet available for people to take away - Treswell – Tue 19 Jul 2022 (14.00-20.00): 7 attendees

Online consultation events: these will take the form of a webinar, the date and time of which will be promoted along with details for those in-person consultation events being held. Online events will be held on Zoom, and you will need to register in advance if you would like to attend. The format for these events will comprise:

- i. The presentation of information consistent with that made available at in-person events i.e. event display panels by representatives from the project team
- ii. Q&A whereby you will be invited to submit questions using the chat function so they can be collated and verbally responded to by the Project team at the end of the presentation.
- iii. The webinar will be recorded and uploaded to the Project website along with a copy of the presentation further to the webinar taking place.

At the five in-person consultation events the Applicant made available

- copies of all the of the printed Project Information Booklet, Feedback Form, Consultation Postcards, FAQ, and Document Navigation Booklet for people to take away
- copies of all the technical documents (PEI Report, PEI NTS), maps and plans for people to reference
- copies of the SoCC for people to reference
- Event display panels for people to view (see **Appendix E-16**)

Provision was made for feedback to be submitted at in-person events. A total of eight feedback forms were returned at the in-person events held as follows:

- Marton & Gate Burton – 3 feedback forms
- Rampton – 0 feedback forms. A request for a briefing with the parish council was noted by the team on a Feedback Form, but this is not included in our feedback analysis as not completed by a consultee, nor containing feedback.
- Willingham-by-Stow – 2 feedback forms
- Knaith – 2 feedback forms
- Treswell – 1 feedback form

All online webinars took place using on the date/time and in the Zoom format advertised. A total of 10 people attended the online webinars.

Attendance at each event is listed below:

- Thu 8 Jul 2022 (18.30-20.00): 9 attendees
- Wed 20 Jul 2022 (18.30-20.00): 1 attendees

The Applicant delivered a presentation comprising PowerPoint slides setting out information consistent with that provided on display panels at in-person events (see **Appendix E-13**)

Attendees at the webinars submitted questions which the project team answered in the webinar forum answered (see **Appendix E-14**)

The online webinars were recorded and made available on the Scheme website for people to view along with a copy of the presentation delivered, with an email notifying people these were available (see **Appendix E-15**)

	<p>9.21 Members of the Project team in attendance at online and in-person events will include specialists who can talk about key issues relating to the Project, which may include:</p>	<p>Representatives from the project team attended online and in-person events – with individuals present able to provide information and answers to questions on the topics identified. See Appendix E-17</p>
<p>22</p>	<p>9.21.1 The development and consenting process 9.21.2 Environmental assessments 9.21.3 Land 9.21.4 Construction and engineering 9.21.5 Consultation and community engagement</p>	
	<p>9.22 The timings for in-person and online events have been coordinated to ensure they are not restricted to taking place during typical working hours to maximise opportunities for engagement.</p>	<p>The Applicant coordinated event timings to ensure they were not restricted to typical working hours as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two in-person events took place on a Saturday - In-person events held on a weekday ran from 14.00-20.00 - In-person events held on Saturdays ran from 10.00-14.00 - Online events were held on weekdays and ran from 18.30-20.00
<p>24</p>	<p>9.23 Hard copies of the PEI Report and PEI Report NTS will be available to view at document inspection locations, while Stage Two consultation materials including; Document Navigation Booklet, Consultation Postcard, Project Information Booklet, and Feedback Form will be made available to view and takeaway.</p>	<p>The Applicant lodged reference copies of the PEI Report and PEI Report NTS (printed) at the document inspection locations listed in Table 6-2 from consultation launch so they were available to view</p> <p>The Applicant made copies of Stage Two consultation materials including; Document Navigation Booklet, Consultation Postcard, Project Information Booklet, and Feedback Form will be made available to view and takeaway at the document inspection locations listed in Table 6-2 from consultation launch</p>
<p>25</p>	<p>9.25 As required by Section 48 of the PA 2008, we will publish a Section 48 Notice advertising our intention to submit a DCO application in local newspapers for two consecutive weeks, and a national newspaper and the London Gazette for one week.</p>	<p>The Applicant published a Section 48 Notice as required by the PA 2008 as set out in Section 8.2 and included in Appendix E-21</p> <p>The Section 48 Notice appeared in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Market Rasen Mail – 8 & 15 June 2022 - Lincolnshire Echo – 9 & 16 June 2022 - Retford Times – 9 & 16 June 2022 - Gainsborough Standard – 9 & 16 June 2022



- The Guardian – 11 June 2022
- London Gazette – 15 June 2022
 (see **Appendix G**)

25	<p>9.27 To promote awareness of the Project and the consultation both within and beyond the consultation zone we will issue media releases:</p> <p>9.27.1 At the start of the consultation period to provide an overview of the proposed application, why we are consulting, details of how people can access information about the Project, dates and locations of public consultation events being held, as well as the deadline by which feedback needs to be submitted</p> <p>9.27.2 Two weeks before the end of the consultation period to encourage people to have their say before the consultation closes</p> <p>9.27.3 When the consultation deadline has passed to provide a summary of participation and details of what happens next in the planning process</p>	<p>The Applicant issued press releases to BBC Look North, BBC Radio Lincolnshire, BBC Radio Nottingham, The Gainsborough Standard, The Grantham Journal, The Lincolnite, Lincolnshire Echo, Lincolnshire Free Press, Lincolnshire in Focus, Lincolnshire Life, Lincolnshire Live, Lincolnshire Reporter, Lincolnshire Today, Lincolnshire World, Market Rasen Mail, Nottinghamshire in Focus, Nottinghamshire Live, Nottingham Local News, Nottingham Post. Copies of the press releases issued are set out in Appendix E-18</p> <p>The Applicant issued a press release on 22 June 2022 to announce the launch of consultation</p> <p>The Applicant issued a press release on 22 July 2022 to encourage people to submit their views to the consultation before it closed on 05 August 2022</p> <p>The Applicant issued a press release on 08 August 2022 to confirm consultation had closed provide an overview of the next steps in the pre-application process and encourage anyone interested to register their details to receive updates about the project as the development process progressed</p>
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Table 6-8 lists media coverage appearing, and **Appendix E-19** sets out media coverage achieved.

25	<p>9.28 In addition to publishing a formal Section 48 Notice in regional and national newspapers, we will place advertisements in the local and regional media to promote the consultation and public consultation events (online and in-person).</p>	<p>The Applicant placed advertisements for the consultation in local and regional media to promote the consultation as set out in Table 6-10 and included in Appendix E-21</p> <p>Consultation adverts appeared in the following outlets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Market Rasen Mail – 29 June - The Gainsborough Standard – 23 & 30 June 2022 - Lincolnshire Echo – 23 & 30 June 2022 - Retford Times – 23 & 30 June 2022 - Retford Life – June 2022 & July 2022 editions - Gainsborough Life – June 2022 & July 2022 editions - Lincolnshire Life – June 2022 & July 2022 editions - The Lincolnite – online banner advert ran for two consecutive weeks from 22 June to 06 July 2022
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<p>25 9.30 Posters publicising consultation information will be produced and provided to those venues where in-person consultation events will take place. They will also be provided to host parish council clerks for display on local parish notice boards, as well as other community venues such as libraries, shops and civic buildings within the core consultation zone.</p>	<p>The Applicant produced a Consultation Poster as included in Appendix E-23 The Applicant made a PDF of the poster available to view and download from the Scheme website from consultation launch Over the course of the consultation the PDF of the poster was viewed and downloaded from the Scheme website three times. The Applicant issued printed copies of the Consultation Poster to 20 community venues and the clerks of eight host parish councils for display on local parish notice boards and in parish venues. See 6.3.96 and Appendix E-24.</p>
<p>9.31 We will issue communications to key stakeholders including local political representatives (Councillors and Members of Parliament) and Parish Council clerks representing wards, constituencies, and parishes within the consultation zone to provide information about the proposals we are consulting on and invite them to take part in the consultation.</p>	<p>The Applicant produced and issued communications to key stakeholders as set out in Chapter 6 and included in Appendix E-3, E-4 and E-5. Also see Appendix F-3. Communications the Applicant issued to stakeholders provided details of the consultation dates, how to take part, how the consultation was being publicised and promoted, details of events taking place and where consultation materials and technical documents could be found in print and digital format(See Appendix E-4)</p>
<p>26. 9.32 Communications will direct key stakeholders to digital versions of consultation materials to enable them to advertise and promote the consultation through their own online channels (websites, community forums, social media), with requests for hard copies of materials being considered.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- In all communications issued to key stakeholders to provide information about the consultation the Applicant extended the offer to meet and brief interested parties on the Scheme and consultation in more detail. The Applicant received requests for and attended two briefings (see Section 6.3):- 06 Jun – Marton & Gate Burton Parish Council (also attended by Lincolnshire County Council and West Lindsey District Council ward members)- 11 Jul 2022 – Knaith Parish Council (also attended by West Lindsey District ward member)
<p>9.33 In addition to public consultation events to which Prescribed Consultees and other bodies will be invited to attend at the start of the consultation; we will consider invitations to, or requests for, meetings with local groups or special interest organisations on a case-by-case basis.</p>	



26	9.34 We extend the offer to each local authority to brief councillors on the proposed application and consultation.	The Applicant produced and issued communications to host authorities as set out in section 7.3 and included in Appendix E-4.1
26	9.35 Our Project community relations team will operate a dedicated Project freephone enquiry line 0800 860 6259 (9am-5pm Mon-Fri), email (info@gateburtonenergypark.co.uk) and freepost address (FREEPOST GATE BURTON ENERGY PARK).	The Applicant provided and operated a dedicated Project freephone enquiry line 0800 860 6259 (9am-5pm Mon-Fri), email (info@gateburtonenergypark.co.uk) and freepost address (FREEPOST GATE BURTON ENERGY PARK) throughout the consultation period. These details were included in all Consultation Overview Materials, on the Scheme website, in newspaper adverts and in all communications issued to key stakeholders, gateway organisations, and project registrants (see Appendix E)
26	9.36 Requests for consultation information to meet specific requirements (such as large print or audio for those with visual impairments, or an alternative language to for those for whom English is not their first language, to enable them to take part in the consultation) will be considered on a case-by-case basis so we can establish how best to provide the information required.	Details of how to request the materials in an alternative format were published on the Scheme website, the Project Information Booklet, Project Feedback Form (see Appendix E-8 to E-10) The Applicant did not receive any requests for information to be supplied in an alternative format to meet specific requirements.
26	9.40 The consultation materials we produce for Stage Two consultation for Gate Burton Energy Park will highlight that Island Green Power is carrying out consultation on its proposals for the West Burton and Cottam Solar projects, and signpost people to where they can find information about the projects and provide feedback specific to either of those projects.	The Applicant included information signposting to the consultation the developer of West Burton Solar Project and Cottam Solar project held in its Project Information Booklet, on the Scheme website, and on the display panels used at in-person consultation events. See Appendix E-16
27	10.2 When a respondent submits feedback to the consultation online an automated acknowledgement to confirm receipt will be issued direct. Acknowledgement of submissions made offline (in writing or by completing a printed feedback form) will be issued to respondents when the feedback has been received and processed.	Consultees completing an online feedback form or taking part by email received an automated acknowledgement confirming receipt (see section 9.2.10 and 9.2.11) Consultees providing hard copy feedback were issued with an acknowledgement by post (see section 9.2.12)

SECTION 10: Next steps and contact details

27	<p>10.3 When Stage Two consultation has closed we will review and finalise our proposed application having regard to the feedback received throughout. We will then produce a Consultation Report which will set out how the feedback from the pre-application consultation has shaped and influenced our proposed application.</p> <p>10.4 In the Consultation Report we will also make it clear where we have not altered our proposals to reflect comments received and explaining our reasoning. The Consultation Report will be submitted to the Secretary of State as part of the Development Consent Order application.</p>	<p>146 individual submissions were made to the Stage Two consultation</p> <p>Feedback was received in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Hard copy feedback form: 11- Online feedback form: 39- Email: 93- Event and other comments: 3 <p>The DCO application includes this Consultation Report [EN010131/APP/4.1] which sets out the regard had to responses received which sets out the regard had to feedback received during consultation (see Table 9-3 and Table 9-4)</p>
<hr/>		
27	<p>10.5 Any comments received could be made public but no personal information will be published. Any personal data received as part of the Consultation will be stored and protected in accordance with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation. The privacy notice for those visiting the project website is available at: [REDACTED]</p>	<p>All data was managed within General Data Protection Regulation guidelines</p>
<hr/>		
27	<p>10.7 If, as a result of feedback, our proposals for the Project change to the extent that it is necessary to carry out further targeted consultation, this will be undertaken in accordance with the principles and methods set out in the SoCC.</p>	<p>The Applicant carried out a further stage of targeted consultation to seek feedback on extensions to the indicative Order Limits shown in the PEI Report</p> <p>The methodology used to deliver the targeted consultation was aligned with the principles set out in the SOCC and is detailed in Chapter 10 of this report</p>

5.6 Conclusion

- 5.6.1 The Applicant considers that in developing the SoCC and publishing the Section 47 Notice publicising the SoCC it fully complied with the PA 2008 and the EIA Regulations and relevant guidance relating to pre-application procedure.
- 5.6.2 As set out in this chapter and the following **Chapter 6**, the Applicant published a Section 47 Notice publicising the SoCC (see **Appendix D-2**) and made the SoCC available for the public to view at document inspection locations (see **Table 6-2**) and on the Scheme website. Consultation activities were carried out in line with the SoCC, as set out in **Table 5-3** and **Chapter 6**.

6. Statutory Consultation Under Section 47 Of The PA 2008 (22 June to 5 August 2022)

6.1 Overview

- 6.1.1 This chapter of the Consultation Report sets out the consultation activities carried out by the Applicant with the people living in vicinity of the land ('the community') to which the Scheme relates under Section 47 of the PA 2008.
- 6.1.2 As required under Section 47(7) of the PA 2008, the Applicant carried out statutory consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the SoCC provided in **Appendix D-1**. A summary of how the Applicant adhered to Section 47(7) of the PA 2008 through commitments placed in the SoCC is set out in **Table 5-3**. This chapter sets out the Section 47 statutory consultation carried out in line with the commitments set out in the SoCC covering the period 22 June 2022 to 05 August 2022.

6.2 Summary Of Section 47 Statutory Consultation

- 6.2.1 Statutory consultation launched on Wednesday 22 June and closed on Friday 05 August 2022.
- 6.2.2 The purpose of this consultation was to seek the views of statutory consultees and the public on the Scheme; the potential environmental effects of the Scheme during construction, operation and decommissioning and proposed mitigation; and the PEI Report.
- 6.2.3 The Applicant consulted during a period when the majority of legal coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions had been lifted. However, in acknowledgement of the impact COVID-19 has had on the way people travel, and their working habits and patterns, as well as remaining health concerns among the elderly and 'high risk' groups, the Applicant sought to ensure that consultation was accessible to all even if they could not attend an in-person event.
- 6.2.4 To achieve this, a combination of in-person and online events were programmed to take place during the consultation period; all community and technical materials were available online and at document inspection locations; and a project enquiry line and email was open throughout the consultation. The Scheme website was optimised to enable stakeholders and communities to access information online and submit their views and feedback using intuitive web functions. Offers of update briefings to key stakeholders (MPs, local authority officers, elected representatives and parish councils) were extended.
- 6.2.5 During the defined statutory consultation period the Applicant carried out the following consultation activities as set out in the SoCC:

- Elected member briefings/meetings – the Applicant met with those parish councils and locally elected members who responded to the offer to meet with them, present information about the Scheme and consultation, answer key questions and receive feedback;
- Community meetings/site visits – the Applicant met with sensitive individuals/groups including local residents and near neighbours to discuss the Scheme and receive feedback;
- Consultation materials – the Applicant published and distributed a range of literature across the consultation zone and key stakeholders including: Project Consultation Postcards, Project Information Booklets, Project Feed Forms;
- Scheme website – updated to provide updated information about the Scheme, copies of all the consultation materials (including technical documents) and information as well as facility to provide feedback online;
- Document inspection locations – the Applicant put in place hard copies of all the consultation materials and technical documents to identified document inspection locations from the day of statutory consultation launch to make them available for members of the public to read or collect;
- Consultation events – the Applicant delivered a programme of seven public consultation events from Thursday 07 July to Wednesday 20 July 2022;
- Publicity – engagement with regional and local media, and placement of advertisements over the statutory consultation period to inform the wider area beyond the core consultation zone about the and the consultation.

6.3 Section 47 Consultation Activity

Section 47 Core Consultation Zone

- 6.3.1 Section 47(1) of the PA 2008 requires the Applicant to prepare a statement setting out how it proposes to consult on the proposed application with people living in ‘vicinity’ of the land to which the Scheme relates.
- 6.3.2 The Applicant identified a core consultation zone to help determine the areas where consultation would take place; taking into consideration where the Scheme may have a direct or indirect impact, either permanently or temporarily, as a result of construction, operation and maintenance or decommissioning.
- 6.3.3 The core consultation zone for the Scheme was identified by:
- Using a zone of theoretical visibility to access areas in ‘vicinity’ of the project boundary which may experience a degree of visual impact;
 - Using existing natural and human geographical boundaries, for example the railway line that serves West Burton as the most easterly point of the core consultation zone, and the A631 as the most northerly point;
 - Avoiding splitting communities;
 - Ensuring coverage of the host district council wards and parishes; and
 - Including areas where additional works to enable construction transport, equipment areas or road modifications were proposed as being carried out.

- 6.3.4 In response to feedback submitted in response to consultation on the draft SoCC, the Applicant updated the proposed core consultation zone to accommodate the request that the settlement of Sturton by Stow was included. The Applicant also used an Ordnance Survey base map to show the extent of the core consultation zone with features and settlements lying within it being labelled for clarity (see **Appendix C-5**).
- 6.3.5 A map illustrating the core consultation zone used at the statutory stage of consultation is available in **Appendix E-1**.
- 6.3.6 Consultation activity was broadly focused within the core consultation zone, which included 7,293 addresses. The following activities took place:
- Direct mail of the Project Consultation Postcard to all addresses lying within the area defined
 - Programme of public consultation events
 - Stakeholder communication updates
 - Posters distributed for display at community and parish venues
 - Ongoing near neighbour and stakeholder meetings
 - Making all consultation materials available to view and download from the Scheme website
- 6.3.7 Recognising that people who live and work beyond the core consultation zone may also have an interest in the Scheme or may have taken part in Stage One non-statutory consultation, the Applicant engaged with individuals and organisations outside the core area, including by keeping host authorities informed of the proposals as part of the Applicant's project updates.
- 6.3.8 In addition to consultation activity carried out in the core consultation zone the following activity took place to engage those outside the core area:
- Advertising publicising the consultation across regional media
 - Displaying all consultation material on the Scheme website
 - Section 48 Notice published in regional media
 - Directly notifying people who register(ed) their interest in receiving updates about the Scheme about the consultation
 - Engaging with regional media, as well as trade media, through press releases
 - Making hard copies of the consultation materials available at five document inspection locations
 - Using online and social media techniques; including the dedicated Scheme website, as well as dedicated Facebook, Instagram and YouTube pages.
- 6.3.9 In addition to the 7,293 properties and local businesses consulted within the core consultation zone, the Applicant identified a range of relevant local interest groups and community organisations in vicinity of the Scheme, as well as gateway organisations representing the interests of seldom heard and underrepresented groups identified. These consultees were identified through desktop research, suggestions made by local authorities and other stakeholders, and non-statutory consultation. A list of these organisations is included in **Appendix E-2**.

6.3.10 Specific information about how the Applicant shared consultation information with these groups is available later in this **section (Chapter 6, section 6.3, from paragraph 6.3.106)**, and the email issued to these groups on 06 June 2022 is available in **Appendix E-26**.

Elected Member Engagement And Meetings

Advance Notice Of Section 47 Consultation Dates

6.3.11 Ahead of the SoCC being published (on 8 June 2022), the Applicant recognised the opportunity to issue a communication to County and District Council elected members, and parish councils across the core consultation zone to notify them in advance of the dates for statutory consultation, provide a summary of how the consultation would be publicised and extend the offer to meet and brief stakeholders on the statutory consultation.

6.3.12 The Applicant issued the communication on 25 May 2022 in the form of a letter by Royal Mail 2nd Class, as well as an email from info@gateburtonenergypark.co.uk direct to the stakeholders listed below:

- West Lindsey District Council members
- Bassetlaw District Council elected members
- Lincolnshire County Council elected members
- Nottinghamshire County Council elected members
- Knaith Parish Council – Clerk
- Marton & Gate Burton Parish Council – Clerk
- North Leverton with Hablesthorpe Parish Council - Clerk
- Treswell & Cottam Parish Council - Clerk
- Rampton & Woodbeck Parish Council - Clerk
- South Leverton Parish Council - Clerk
- Lea Parish Council - Clerk
- Sturton-le-Steeple Parish Council - Clerk
- Gainsborough Town Council - Clerk
- Upton Parish Council - Clerk
- Kexby Parish Council – Clerk
- Willingham Parish Council - Clerk
- Sturton-by-Stow Parish Council – Clerk
- Torksey Parish Council – Clerk
- Fenton Parish Council – Clerk
- Brampton Parish Meeting – Clerk

6.3.13 In line with established protocol the Applicant issued the communications to district and county council elected members c/o lead officers for onward transmission to their respective members.

6.3.14 A copy of the letter and email communication issued on 25 May 2022 is set out in **Appendix E-3**.

6.3.15 Briefings to update elected members and parish councils were subsequently coordinated to take place as follows:

- 6 June 2022 – Marton & Gate Burton Parish Council members. Also in attendance:
 - Cllr Richard Butroid (CON – Gainsborough Rural South) host electoral division member Lincolnshire County Council
 - Cllr Jane Ellis (CON – Torksey) host ward member West Lindsey District Council

Section 47 Consultation Launch

- 6.3.16 The Applicant issued a communication to County and District Council elected members, and parish councils across the core consultation zone to notify them that Section 47 consultation had launched and including a summary of the following:
- How statutory consultation was being publicised
 - Documents and information available
 - Details of consultation events taking place – including times, dates and venues
 - Document inspection location addresses and opening times
 - Scheme website updates
 - How feedback could be submitted
 - Offer for project team representatives to meet and brief members or individuals to provide more detail
- 6.3.17 The Applicant issued the communication in the form of a letter by Royal Mail 2nd Class on Tuesday 21 June 2022, and as an email from info@gateburtonenergypark.co.uk on Wednesday 22 June 2022 when the consultation launched and the Scheme website was updated with all the consultation information and materials.
- 6.3.18 A copy of the letter and email communication issued to stakeholders to announce the launch of Section 47 consultation is set out in **Appendix E-4**.
- 6.3.19 Briefings to update elected members and parish councils were subsequently coordinated to take place as follows:
- 11 July 2022 – Knaith Parish Council members. Also in attendance:
 - Cllr Jessie Milne (CON – Lea) host ward member West Lindsey District Council
- 6.3.20 Further to Section 47 consultation closing on 05 August 2022, the Applicant issued a further email communication on 08 August 2022 to all those stakeholders as above to:
- Provide a summary of engagement over the course of the consultation period;
 - Provide a summary of issues raised in submissions to the consultation;
 - Advise on next steps in the ongoing development process and associated key milestones;

- Provide a link to the press release issued to regional media to confirm consultation had closed; and
- Extending the offer to meet and brief members and parish councils and provide a summary of consultation, issues raised and next steps in respect of the ongoing development process.

6.3.21 A copy of the email issued is set out in **Appendix E-5**.

MP Engagement

6.3.22 The Applicant engaged with MPs across the core consultation zone in respect of Section 47 consultation as follows:

- Issue of communications on 25 May 2022 to confirm in advance the dates of Section 47 Consultation in the form of a letter by Royal Mail 2nd Class, and an email from info@gateburtonenergypark.co.uk direct to Sir Edward Leigh MP (CON – Gainsborough), Mr Brendan Clarke-Smith MP (CON – Bassetlaw), Robert Jenrick MP (CON – Newark) (see **Appendix E-3**)
- Issue of communications to confirm launch of Section 47 consultation and provide information in the form of a letter by Royal Mail 2nd Class on Tuesday 21 June 2022, and an email from info@gateburtonenergypark.co.uk on Wednesday 22 June 2022 direct to Sir Edward Leigh MP (CON – Gainsborough), Mr Brendan Clarke-Smith MP (CON – Bassetlaw), Robert Jenrick MP (CON – Newark) (see **Appendix E-4**)
- Issue of email communication on 08 August 2022 to confirm Section 47 consultation had closed, provide a copy of the press release issued to regional media and advise on next steps to Sir Edward Leigh MP (CON – Gainsborough), Mr Brendan Clarke-Smith MP (CON – Bassetlaw), Robert Jenrick MP (CON – Newark) (see **Appendix E-5**)

6.3.23 In all the communications associated with Section 47 consultation which the Applicant issued to the three MPs representing Westminster constituencies across the core consultation area the offer to meet, brief and update them on the Scheme was extended. However, no meetings were arranged, neither was any feedback received by the Applicant from any of the MPs in response to this Section 47 consultation.

Near Neighbours

6.3.24 The Applicant commenced engagement with individuals living in vicinity of the Solar and Energy Storage Park element of the Scheme as part of ongoing community engagement.

6.3.25 **Table 6-1** provides details of meetings undertaken.

Table 6-1 Schedule of near neighbour site visits

Address	Meeting#1	Meeting#2
Willingham Road, Marton, Gainsborough	26 October 2021	9 August 2022
Station Road, Knaith Park, Gainsborough	26 Jan 2022	9 Aug 2022
Kexby Lane, Kexby, Gainsborough (Property 1)	1 Feb 2022	
Heynings Court, Knaith Park, Gainsborough	2 Feb 2022	9 August 2022
Cotgarth Lane, Willingham by Stow, Gainsborough	8 March 2022	
Clay Lane, Gate Burton, Gainsborough	12 July 2022	
Gainsborough Road, Gate Burton, Gainsborough	16 July 2022	
Marton Road, Willingham by Stow, Gainsborough	9 August 2022	
Gainsborough Road, Gate Burton, Gainsborough (Property 2)	9 August 2022	
Kexby Lane, Kexby, Gainsborough (Property 2)	9 August 2022	

Lackford Site Visit – 14 June 2022

6.3.26 In advance of Section 47 consultation starting, in direct response to expressions of interest solicited from near neighbours, parish councils and ward members the Applicant coordinated a stakeholder site visit to one of its operating solar parks (Lackford Estate Solar Park, Suffolk).

6.3.27 The site visit took place on Tuesday 14 June 2022, where stakeholders were given a tour of the operational solar park, before asking questions that centred on the solar technology. The Applicant hosted the following stakeholders:

- Near neighbours – x2 residents (Willingham Road, Marton, Gainsborough)
- Knaith Parish Council – x1 Cllr
- Marton with Gate Burton Parish Council – x1 Cllr
- Willingham Parish Council – x1 Cllr



Pictured above – attendees at Lackford stakeholder site visit on 14 June 2022

Project Registrants

- 6.3.28 The Applicant issued email notification to 97 individuals and organisations registering their details to receive updates about the Scheme as new/additional information became available on the Scheme website; with the emails clearly signposting them to where on the website that information was available.
- 6.3.29 The Applicant issued communications to project registrants as follows to notify them about the statutory consultation:
- 25 May 2022: the Applicant issued an email to 80 project registrants to provide them with advance notice of the dates for Section 47 Consultation and direct them to the corresponding news update posted on the Scheme website
 - 22 June 2022: The Applicant issued an email to 100 project registrants to confirm the launch of Section 47 consultation and direct them to information on the Scheme's website and to invite comments on the updated concept masterplan, visual impact considerations and the connection to the national grid at Cottam substation.
 - 08 August 2022: the Applicant issued an email to 128 project registrants to confirm Section 47 consultation had closed and advise them on next steps.
- 6.3.30 A copy of the email notifications issued to project registrants can be found in **Appendix E-3, E-4 and E-5.**
- 6.3.31 The consultation and publicity materials encouraged interested parties to register details with the project to receive updates. The register for updates page was located on the Scheme website and from 25 May 2022 to 08 August 2022 there was an increase of 48 project registrants.

Consultation Materials

- 6.3.32 At the launch of statutory consultation, the Applicant published a Project Consultation Postcard, a feedback form and Project Information Booklet and updated the Scheme website. The statutory consultation was also supported by several technical documents, reference copies of which were made available at document inspection locations across the project area from consultation launch (see **Table 6-2**). Details of these documents is provided below.
- 6.3.33 In recognition of the fact that people might need some help in understanding the nature of the content and information available in the different materials published at consultation launch, the Applicant produced a Document Navigation Booklet. This listed out all the documents and materials available to explain the proposed Scheme being consulted on and help people provide their feedback; provided a summary of the information in each, and where they could be accessed.
- 6.3.34 A copy of the Document Navigation Booklet can be found in **Appendix E-6**.

Project Consultation Postcard

- 6.3.35 From 20 June 2022, the Applicant direct mailed a Project Consultation Postcard by Royal Mail 2nd Class to the 7,293 addresses identified as lying within the defined core consultation zone (see **Appendix E-1**) using the latest Royal Mail address data (April 2022).
- 6.3.36 In addition to the addresses lying within the core consultation zone, the postcard was also direct mailed to local interest groups and community organisations with potential interests in the vicinity of the proposed Scheme, as well as gateway organisations representing the interest of seldom heard and under-represented groups, and any project registrants specifying they only wished to receive project updates by mail.
- 6.3.37 The postcard was mailed to a total of 7,381 addresses. A copy of the postcard can be found in **Appendix E-7**.
- 6.3.38 Recipient addresses were printed directly on the postcard rather than it being issued in envelopes. This ensured the project branding, name and information that the communication related to a public consultation was immediately visible – the aim being to encourage people to read further rather than think it was 'junk mail'.
- 6.3.39 The Project Consultation Postcard was an important part of informing people about, and inviting them to take part, in the Stage Two consultation. Making clear that the proposals being consulted on had been updated further to a first stage of consultation taking place earlier in the year, details of consultation events taking place, and how they could access more detailed information. Contact details for the community relations team were available so members of the public could request further information if needed.

Project Information Booklet

- 6.3.40 The Applicant produced a Project Information Booklet providing an overview of the Scheme, the purpose of the consultation and a summary of those areas on which feedback was being sought, as well as details of how people could take part in the consultation and what happens further to it closing.
- 6.3.41 The Project Information Booklet provided a high-level overview of all aspects of the Scheme while making it clear where greater detail could be found (i.e. relevant technical documents). It also included schematic maps setting out:
- the proposed Order limits for the Scheme (referred to as ‘the DCO site’) including the preferred route corridor for the grid connection;
 - an indicative concept map for the solar energy park to denote the approximate areas where technology would be located on the site along with associated mitigation; and,
 - a map indicating the outcome of work with Island Green Power to identify a shared Grid Connection Corridor.
- 6.3.42 Printed copies of the Project information Booklet were made available for people to take away from in-person consultation events (see **Table 6-5**) and a digital version was available to download from the Scheme website. Printed and digital copies were also made available on request. Copies were also made available at Document Inspection Locations (see **Table 6-2**).
- 6.3.43 A copy of the Project Information Booklet can be found in **Appendix E-9**.

Project Feedback Form

- 6.3.44 The Project Feedback Form was developed to provide an easy way for consultees to provide feedback to the Applicant and respond to the consultation. Formatted as an eight-page document, it presented ten questions that were written to encourage consultees to comment on key aspects of the Scheme the Applicant was seeking feedback on, while also giving them the opportunity to provide any general views. A final question invited any other comments they may have about the Scheme. This structured approach helped the Applicant in its feedback analysis (see **Chapter 9**).
- 6.3.45 The feedback form included a brief overview of the project, information on where to find more information, directing consultees to the Scheme website, the Project Information Booklet and the technical materials.
- 6.3.46 The Project Feedback Form was available in hard copy and in digital format to view and download from the Scheme website. Hard copy versions were made freely available at in-person consultation events for people to take away, and on request. Copies were also made available at Document Inspection Locations (see **Table 6-2**).
- 6.3.47 A copy of the Project Feedback Form can be found in **Appendix E-10**.

6.3.48 The Scheme website featured an online feedback form including the same questions and requests for information as the formatted feedback which enabled consultees to directly submit their feedback via the website.

Frequently Asked Questions

6.3.49 To address some of the issues and questions most frequently raised about the proposed Scheme and the development process, the Applicant produced a list of 'Frequently Asked Questions' and the related answers. These were provided on a dedicated page of the website (see **Appendix E-8**) and made available in hard copy at consultation events (see **Appendix E-11**).

Technical Documents, Maps, Plans And Non-Technical Summary (NTS)

6.3.50 The Applicant published technical documents to support the consultation at consultation launch. These provided additional detail to the information contained in the Project Information Booklet.

6.3.51 These were as follows:

- Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEI Report) - Volume 1: Main Report
- Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEI Report) - Volume 2: Figures
- Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEI Report) - Volume 3: Appendices
- Non-Technical Summary (NTS) providing an overview of the information and findings set out in the PEI Report

Scheme Website

6.3.52 The Scheme website – [REDACTED] – was updated on the first day of statutory consultation (22 June 2022). Providing information about the statutory consultation and what was being consulted on and the development process, the updated website provided people with access to all the consultation overview and technical documents produced to inform the consultation, an online feedback form and access to register to attend the online consultation events.

6.3.53 The website address was publicised across all the consultation and publicity materials, and public notices that were produced to support the statutory consultation. Copies of these materials are set out in **Appendix E**.

6.3.54 Screenshots of the updated website can be found in **Appendix E-8**.

6.3.55 The website was visited consistently throughout the statutory consultation period; with a peak in visitors during within the first days of the consultation launching when information communicating details of where information could be found went live and the Project Consultation Postcard was delivered. Site

traffic levelled off through consultation period, peaking again towards the end when the communications reminding people of the closing date for submissions were issued.

6.3.56 Over the statutory consultation period the website was viewed a total of 10,739 times, with 33,584 clicks made through to links / pages by 4,384 individual users, of whom 4,269 were new visitors to the site during the defined consultation period. Visitor numbers to, and users of, the Scheme website over the period of statutory consultation can be seen in the graphics below.

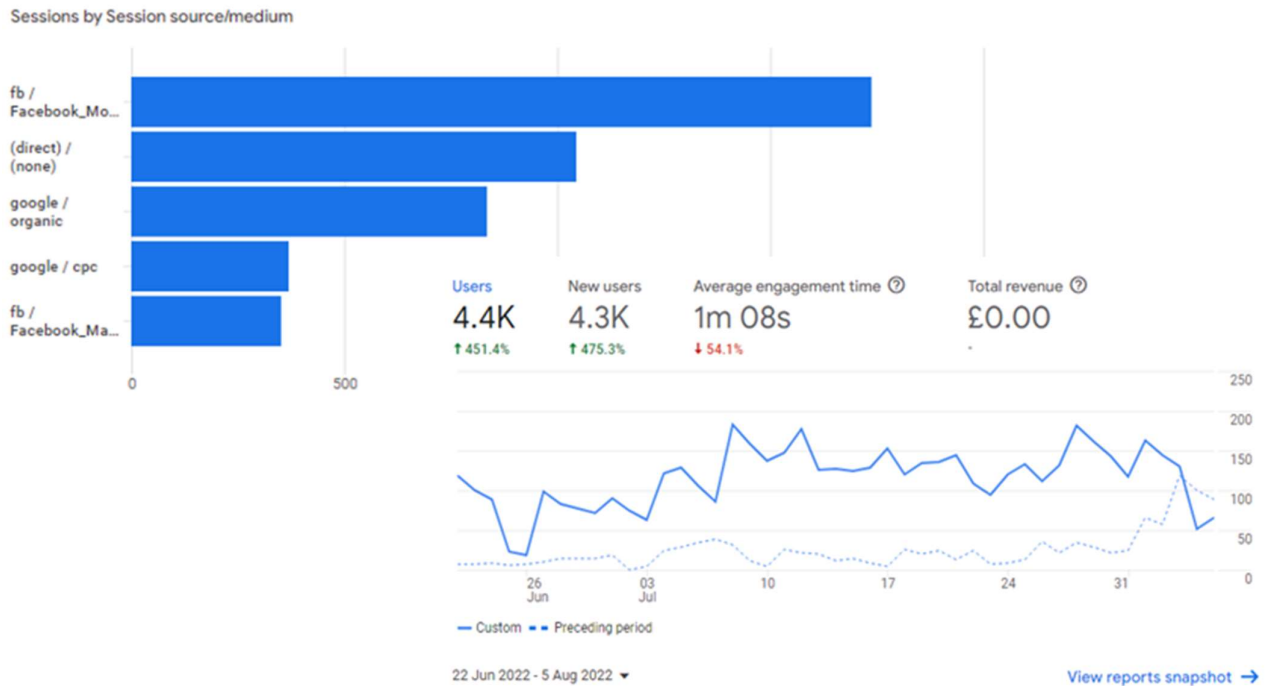


Figure 6-1: Above: website user traffic during the statutory consultation period (22 Jun - 05 Aug 2022)

6.3.57 Of these users, 2,088 accessed the website from Facebook, 1,877 from a direct or Google search, 368 from Google advertising campaigns, and 51 were unattributed to a platform (data supplied by Google Analytics).

Collection Of Responses

6.3.58 Consultees were able to respond to the statutory consultation using a number of methods:

- Submitting comments online via the Scheme website by providing comments in response to any/all of the 10 questions, or using an interactive map to affix any comments to a specific geographic location

- Completing as many sections of the formatted Project Feedback Form (**Appendix E-10**) in either digital or printed format and returning it by email to info@gateburtonenergypark.co.uk or sending it by post to FREEPOST GATE BURTON ENERGY PARK.
- The Applicant also accepted written responses by email and by letter sent to the project email (info@gateburtonenergypark.co.uk) or the FREEPOST GATE BURTON ENERGY PARK

Document Inspection Locations

- 6.3.59 In line with the Government’s confirmation that placing materials on a website maintained by or on behalf of the Applicant meets the requirement to make information publicly accessible, all Consultation Materials were made available online at the Scheme website from launch of statutory consultation on 22 June 2022 for the duration of the consultation period.
- 6.3.60 In addition, hard copies of all the technical documents including the full PEI Report and NTS produced were made available to view at five document inspection locations (see **Table 6-2** below). Copies of the Project Postcard, Project Information Booklet, Project Feedback Form, FAQ and Document Navigation Booklet were also made available at the document inspection locations from consultation launch in sufficient quantities for people to take copies away if they wished. To ensure there was sufficient stock available throughout the consultation period, regular contact was maintained with venue managers to check whether stock needed replenishing.
- 6.3.61 The Applicant lodged copies of the SoCC in the five document inspection locations when it was published on 08 June 2022 in advance of statutory consultation launching on 22 June 2022. Photographs of the materials in the Document Inspection Locations are available in **Appendix E-12**.
- 6.3.62 The five document inspection locations chosen were selected on the basis of being easily accessible and spread across the wider consultation zone. Consultation materials were available at these locations for the full length of the statutory consultation period.
- 6.3.63 Placing reference copies of consultation documents in the five public locations allowed people to view hardcopy versions of the technical information which could be difficult to access for those without internet or poor internet connections or, simply, if people preferred to read materials in hard copy format.

Table 6-2 Document inspection locations

Venue	Address	Opening hours
Lincolnshire		
Saxilby Library	St Andrews Centre William Street Saxilby Lincolnshire, LN1 2LP	Tue – 10.30-15.30 We– 10.30 to 15.30 Fri – 10.30 to 13.00 Closed: Mon, Thurs, Sat & Sun

Gainsborough Library	Cobden Street Gainsborough Lincolnshire, DN21 2NG	Mon – 09.00-17.00 Tue – 09.00-17.00 Wed – 09.00-17.00 Thu – 09.00-18.00 Fri – 09.00-17.00 Sat – 09.00-13.00 Closed: Sun
Lincoln Central Library	Free School Lane Lincolnshire LN2 1EZ	Mon – 09.00-17.00 Tue – 09.00-17.00 Wed – 09.00-17.00 Thu – 09.00-18.00 Fri – 09.00-17.00 Sat – 09.00-16.00 Closed: Sun
West Lindsey District Council	Guildhall, Marshall's Yard Gainsborough DN21 2NA	Mon – 09.00-17.00 Tue – 09.00-17.00 Wed – 09.00-17.00 Thu – 09.00-17.00 Fri – 09.00-17.00 Closed: Sat & Sun

Nottinghamshire

Retford Library	Churchgate, Retford Nottinghamshire DN22 6PE	Mon – 09.00-18.00 Tue – 09.00-18.00 Wed – 09.00-18.00 Thu – 09.00-18.00 Fri – 09.00-18.00 Sat – 09.00-15.00 Closed: Sun
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Public Consultation Events

- 6.3.64 Stage Two statutory consultation started on 22 June 2022 with a response deadline of 05 August 2022.
- 6.3.65 In compliance with the SoCC, seven public consultation events took place between Thursday 7 July and Wednesday 20 July 2022 as detailed in **Table 6-3** to give local people the opportunity to meet the Gate Burton Energy Park project team, better understand the proposals and ask any questions they may have.
- 6.3.66 Details of these public consultation events were included in the SoCC, the Scheme website, the Project Consultation Postcard, press advertising and press releases issued to regional media.

6.3.67 Two public consultation events were held online using Zoom, and five in-person events were held at selected key locations throughout the core consultation zone. In total 136 people attended the events.

Table 6-3 Attendance at Stage Two statutory consultation public consultation events

Event time / date	Location	Venue	Attendees
18.30-20.00 Thurs 7 Jul 2022	Online event	Zoom	9
14.00-20.00 Fr 8 Jul 2022	Marton & Gate Burton	Marton & Gate Burton Village Hall, Trent Port Road, Marton, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire DN21 5AR	30
10.00-14.00 Sat 9 Jul 2022	Rampton	Rampton Village Hall, Manor Grounds, Rampton, Retford, Nottinghamshire DN22 0JU	16
14.00-20.00 Thu 14 Jul 2022	Willingham by Stow	Willingham Village Hall, High Street, Willingham-by-Stow, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire DN21 5JZ	31
10.00-20.00 Sat 16 Jul 2022	Knaith	Knaith Park Village Hall, Willingham Road, Knaith Park, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire DN21 5ET	42
14.00-20.00 Tue 19 Jul	Treswell	Treswell Village Hall, Town Street, Treswell, Nottinghamshire DN22 0EG	7
18.30-20.00 Wed 20 July 2022	Online event	Zoom	1
TOTAL ATTENDEES			136

Online Public Consultation Events

6.3.68 The Applicant scheduled two online consultation events (webinars) to take place on different days of the week, and published recordings of the webinars on the Scheme website to account for different consultees' availability.

6.3.69 The webinars were the first and last public consultation events to take place in the programme of events held over the consultation period; taking place on Thursday 07 July 2022 and Wednesday 20 July 2022.

6.3.70 Individuals wishing to attend were able to register in advance via the Scheme website, with this information being included in all the materials providing details of the events being held.

6.3.71 Each of the webinars included a presentation by the Applicant and the project team covering a variety of topics, followed by a question-and-answer session. A copy of the presentation slide deck can be found in **Appendix E-13**, and a list of the questions submitted by attendees and verbally responded to by the project team at each webinar can be found in **Appendix E-14**.

6.3.72 Recordings of the webinars were uploaded to the website following each event. As soon as the recordings were available an email notification was sent

to all project registrants and anyone who registered and/or attended the online event to advise them the recordings were available to view and listen to. A copy of the notifications issued after each online event can be found in **Appendix E-15**.

Table 6-4 Online consultation events (webinars)

Time / date of webinar	Number of registrants	Number attending	Notification of recording on website (date)	Individuals notified (number)
18.30-20.00 Thurs 7 July 2022	14	12	12 July 2022	99
18.30-20.00 Wed 20 July 2022	10	1	21 July 2022	129

6.3.73 Subsequent to being made available on the website, over the period of statutory consultation the webinar recordings were played a total 77 times as follows:

- 07 July 2022 webinar recording – played 45 times
- 20 July 2022 webinar recording - played 32 times.

In-Person Public Consultation Events

6.3.74 The Applicant held five in-person consultation events at community venues located within the core consultation zone and familiar to people living in proximity to the Scheme, at a variety of times to give people a greater chance of being able to attend. Venues were selected on the basis of being well-known to local communities and had easy access (including disabled access).

6.3.75 Consultation overview and technical documents were available at events, along with a selection of large-scale maps and plans to help people better understand the proposed Scheme. Display panels providing a high-level summary and introduction to what was being consulted on and how to take part were also used at events (see **Appendix E-16**). **Table 6-5** lists all the project collateral presented at each in-person consultation event and its availability to individuals.

6.3.76 All of the materials and information on display and available to take away from in-person consultation events was available to view and download from the Scheme website.

Table 6-5 Project collateral available at in-person consultation events

Collateral	Availability at in-person events
Consultation Overview Documents	

Document Navigation
 Booklet (**Appendix E-6**)

Consultation Postcard (**Appendix E-7**) Quantities of printed copies displayed for people to take away

Project Information
 Booklet (**Appendix E-9**) Available to view and download from Scheme website

Project Feedback Form (**Appendix E-10**)

Project FAQ (**Appendix E-11**)

Display panels (**Appendix E-16**)

- Reference copies only – for display at in-person events
- Available to view and download from Scheme website

SoCC (**Appendix D-1**)

- Printed reference copy
- Printed copies available to take away on request
- Available to view and download from Scheme website

Technical Documents

PEI Report:

- PEIR Vol 1: Main Report
- PEIR Vol 2: Figures
- PEIR Vol 3: Appendices

- Printed reference copy only
- Maps and plans printed in A2 format for display and reference
- Available to view and download from Scheme website

PEI Report Non-technical Summary (NTS)

- Printed reference copy
- Printed copies available to take away on request
- Available to view and download from Scheme website

6.3.77 The Applicant’s project team including specialists from key environmental disciplines, land specialists, construction and community relations, were on hand to explain the proposed Scheme and answer any questions.

6.3.78 In-person consultation events were held at the community venues in locations as set out in **Table 6-6**. In total 126 people attended the in-person events that were held.

Table 6-6 In-person community events

Venue	Date	Attendance
Marton & Gate Burton Martin & Gate Burton Village Hall Trent Port Road Marton Lincs DN21 5AR	Fri 8 Jul 2022 (14.00-20.00):	30 attendees
Rampton Village Hall Manor Grounds Rampton Notts DN22 0JU	Sat 9 Jul 2022 (10.00-14.00)	16 attendees

Willingham Village Hall High Street Willingham by Stow Lincs DN21 5JZ	Thu 14 Jul (14.00-20.00)	31 attendees
Knaith Park Village Hall 76 Willingham Road Knaith Park Lincs DN21 5ET	Sat 16 Jul 2022 (10.00-14.00)	42 attendees
Treswell Village Hall Town Street Treswell Notts DN22 0EG	Tue 19 Jul 2022 (14.00-20.00)	7 attendees

6.3.79 A report summarising each in-person event and the key topics and issues raised by those attending can be found in **Appendix E-17**.

6.4 Publicising The Section 47 Consultation

Press Releases

- 6.4.1 Press releases were issued to the local and regional media outlets to publicise the Section 47 consultation at the start of consultation on 22 June 2022, as well as trade media outlets. A further press release was issued two weeks before the close of consultation on 22 July 2022 to remind people of the pending deadline for submission of comments.
- 6.4.2 In addition to what was set out in the SoCC, the Applicant recognised the opportunity of issuing a press release to regional and local media outlets in advance of consultation launching on 25 May 2022 to publicise the dates and encourage anyone interested in receiving information to register their details to receive information about the consultation when it became available.
- 6.4.3 A further press release was issued immediately following the close of statutory consultation on 08 August 2022 to provide a summary of the consultation and invite people to register their details if they wished to be kept updated as the development process progressed.
- 6.4.4 **Table 6-7** below lists those local, regional and trade media outlets to whom press releases were issued. Copies of the press releases issued are set out in **Appendix E-18**

Table 6-7 List of media outlets to which press releases were issued

Lincolnshire media outlets	Nottinghamshire media outlets	Trade media outlets
BBC Look North	BBC Radio Nottingham	Business Green
BBC Radio Lincolnshire	Nottinghamshire in Focus	Solar Power Portal

Gainsborough Life	Nottinghamshire Live	Energy Storage News
The Gainsborough Standard	Nottingham Local News	Renewable Energy Technology
The Grantham Journal	Nottingham Post	Environment Journal
The Lincolnite		Energy Now
Lincolnshire Echo		Energy Manager Magazine
Lincolnshire Free Press		Energy Procurement
Lincolnshire In Focus		Energy Policy
Lincolnshire Life		World of Renewables
Lincolnshire Live		Renewables Investor
Lincolnshire Reporter		Renewable Energy Focus
Lincolnshire Today		Platform Oil, Gas & Renewable
Lincolnshire World		Technology Review
Market Rasen Mail		ReNews
Retford Life		Energy Monitor
Retford Times		Energy Focus
		The Energyst
		Energy Live News
		Argus Media
		EnergyWorld.com
		Renewables Now
		Renewables Now
		Planning Resource
		Insider Media Limited

6.4.5 The press releases issued generated editorial coverage, and the Scheme itself also attracted media coverage separately before and during consultation. **Table 6-8** below itemises coverage which the Applicant was aware of relating to the Scheme further to information about the Section 47 consultation being made available to the media.

Table 6-8 Media coverage regarding Section 47 consultation

Title	Media Outlet	Date
Regional media outlets		
Updated plans on Gainsborough solar farm to go before public	Lincolnshire Live	26 May 2022
Solar farm plans 'overcome issues' but council environment boss still opposed	The Lincolnite	26 May 2022
The Lincolnshire solar farm debate - Is the county getting too many?	Lincolnshire Live	01 June 2022
Plans for 50MW solar farm near Horncastle move forward	The Lincolnite	10 June 2022
Plan for huge solar farm set to power 21,000 homes a year gathers pace	Lincolnshire Live	13 June 2022
Consultation is open for a nationally significant solar project in West Lindsey	West Lindsey	22 June 2022

Second consultation launches for Solar and Energy Storage Park	Insider Media	23 June 2022
Low Carbon launches second stage of consultation on updated proposals for new Lincolnshire Solar and Energy Storage Park	Lincolnshire Today	24 June 2022
Low Carbon launches second stage of consultation on updated proposals for new Lincolnshire Solar and Energy Storage Park	Business Link	24 June 2022
Lincolnshire councillor's concerns amid rise in solar farm applications	Lincolnshire Live	27 June 2022
Call to stop Lincolnshire farmland being lost to houses or solar farms	The Lincolnite	27 June 2022
People offered final say on huge Lincolnshire solar farm that would power 160,000 homes	Lincolnshire Live	28 June 2022
Solar farm plans on Lincolnshire farmland are 'madness'	The Lincolnite	5 July 2022
Window on Gate Burton Energy Park consultation is about to close	Business Link	23 July 2022
Low Carbon considers responses to consultation on proposals for Gate Burton Energy Park	West Lindsey	8 August 2022
Gate Burton energy park consultation draws more than 120 responses	Business Link	9 August 2022
Feedback from consultation on new solar energy park near Gainsborough will be used to update plans	Lincolnshire World	11 August 2022

Trade media outlets

Low Carbon launches second 500MW PV consultation	ReNews	22 June 2022
Britain's biggest solar PV farm seeks more comments from Lincolnshire neighbours	The Energyst	22 June 2022
Low Carbon Launches Second 500MW PV Consultation	Norbida	23 June 2022
Low Carbon launches second consultation for 500MW Gate Burton solar and storage site	Solar Power Portal	23 June
Consultation opens for 500MW solar park in Lincolnshire	Energy Live News	27 June 2022

6.4.6 Copies of all the media coverage can be found in **Appendix E-19**.

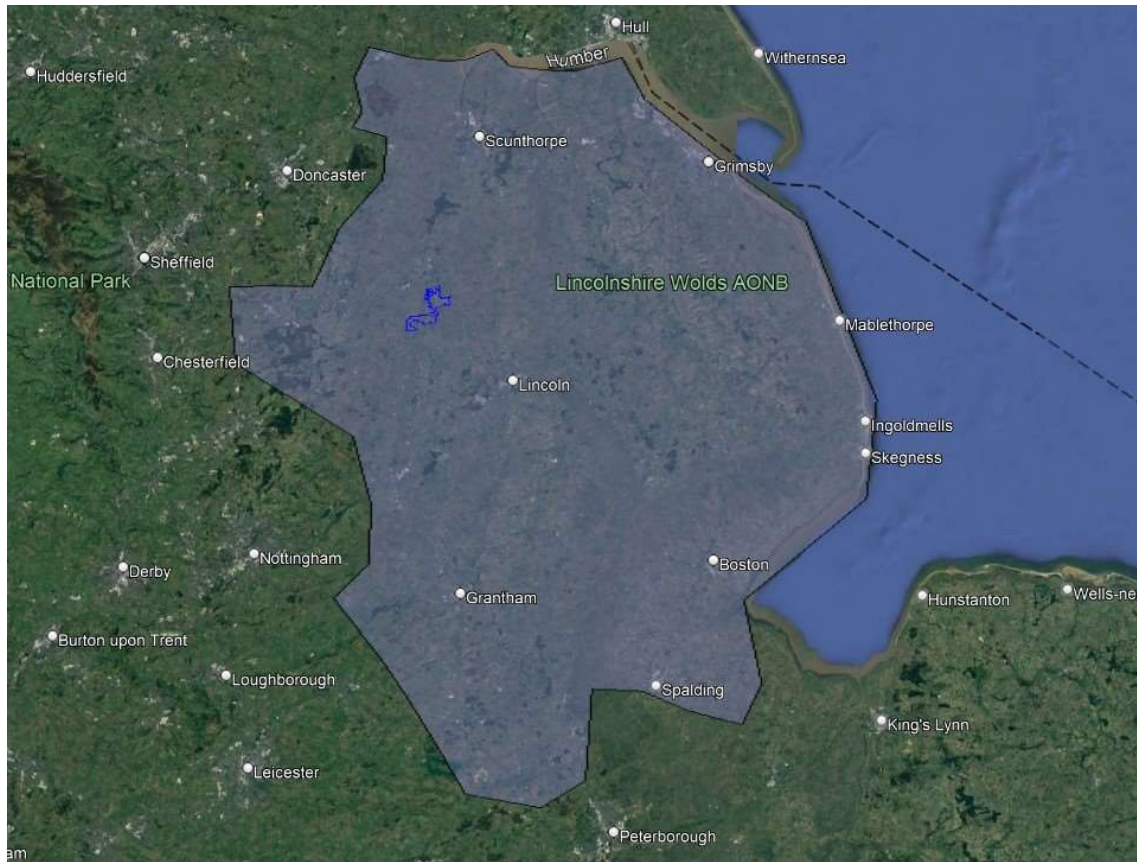


Figure 6-2: Indicative image showing the geographic coverage area of regional newspapers alongside the project's preliminary order limits (data from Roxhill).

- 6.4.7 The coverage area for publications with whom media releases were shared and advertisements placed and exceeded the defined core consultation zone within which Project Consultation Postcards were issued, reaching towns such as Scunthorpe, Retford, Grantham and Boston. See **Figure-1**.
- 6.4.8 **Figure-2** displays the geographic coverage area of regional newspapers with the inclusion of the core consultation zone and preliminary order limits.

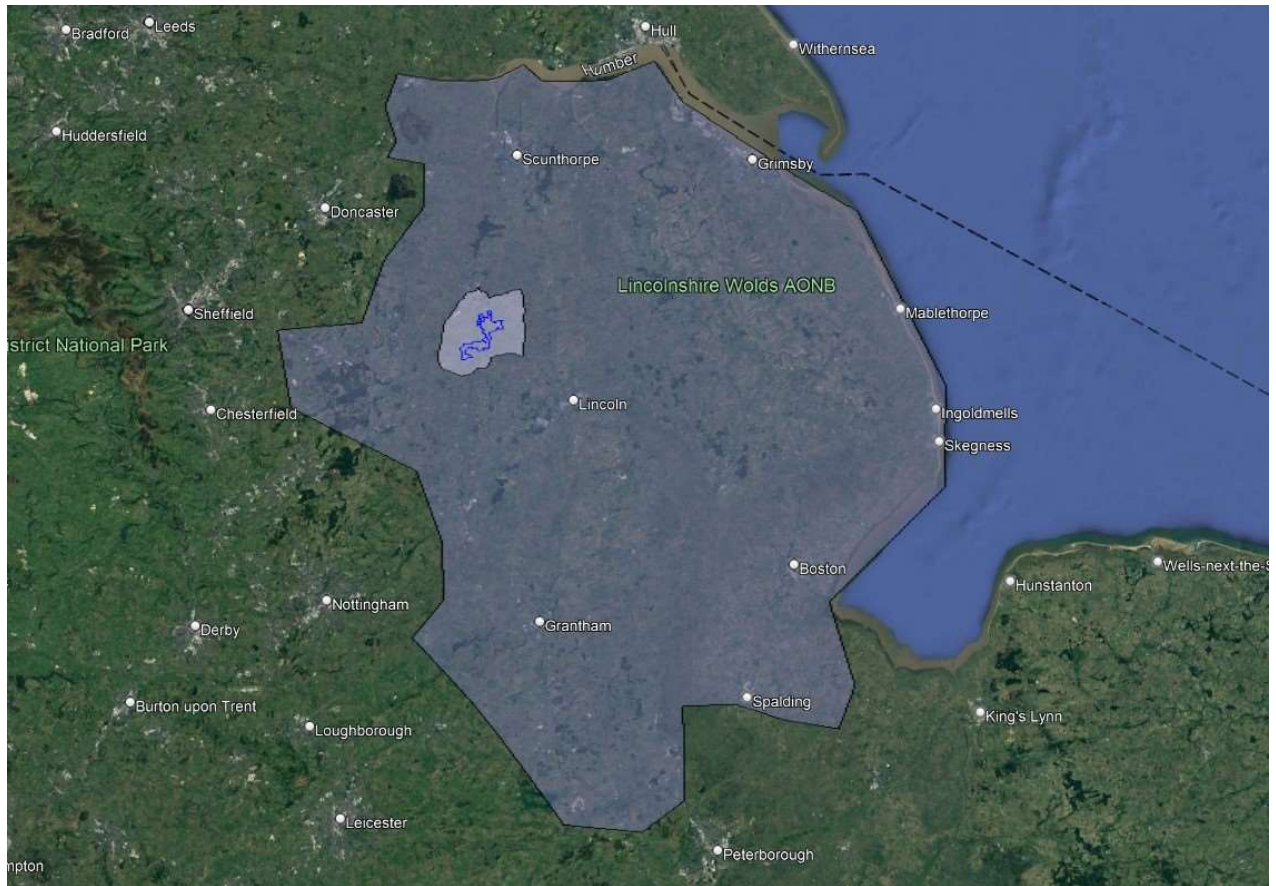


Figure 6-3: The geographic coverage area of regional newspapers with the inclusion of the core consultation zone and preliminary order limits.

Public Notices

6.4.9 The Applicant publicised the consultation and the Scheme as required by the PA 2008. The Section 47 Notice appeared in the local newspapers for one week to give notice that the SoCC had been published on 08 June 2022:

- 08 June 2022 Market Rasen Mail
- 09 June 2022 Lincolnshire Echo
- 09 June 2022 Retford Times
- 09 June 2022 Gainsborough Standard

6.4.10 The consultation details were also publicised in the Section 48 Notices published in local newspapers for two consecutive weeks, and a national newspaper and the London Gazette for one week as set out in **Table 6-9** below.

Table 6-9 Section 48 Notice schedule

Newspaper outlet	1 st Publication date	2 nd Publication date
------------------	----------------------------------	----------------------------------

Market Rasen Mail	08 June 2022	15 June 2022
Lincolnshire Echo	09 June 2022	16 June 2022
Retford Times	09 June 2022	16 June 2022
Gainsborough Standard	09 June 2022	16 June 2022
The Guardian	11 June 2022	N/A
London Gazette	15 June 2022	N/A

6.4.11 Copies of the Section 47 and Section 48 notices as they appeared in the required publications are set out in **Appendices E-20** and **E-21** respectively.

Media Advertising

6.4.12 In addition to publishing a formal Section 48 Notice in regional and national newspapers, the Applicant also placed adverts across regional media outlets to publicise the consultation and programme of public consultation events as set out in **Table 6-10** below.

Table 6-10 Media advertising schedule

Newspaper outlet	1st Publication date	2nd Publication date
Gainsborough Life	June 2022 edition	July 2022 edition
Lincolnshire Life	June 2022 edition	
Retford Life	June 2022 edition	July 2022 edition
Market Rasen Mail	29 June 2022	
Lincolnshire Echo	23 June 2022	30 June 2022
Retford Times	23 June 2022	30 June 2022

Gainsborough Standard

23 June 2022

30 June 2022

The Lincolnite (online)

Online banner advert ran from 22 June to 06 July 2022

- 6.4.13 The advertisements were designed to provide a simple visual guide to the highlight the dates of the statutory consultation period and events taking place along with clear signposts to where / how people could access information.
- 6.4.14 Online advertisements ran in the Lincolnshire Life and the Lincolnite websites; promoting the dates of the consultation period and including a link to the Scheme website.
- 6.4.15 The advert in the Lincolnshire Life ran prior to the launch of consultation. Therefore, this directed people to register their interest online to be kept informed about the consultation.
- 6.4.16 Copies of the adverts can be found in **Appendix E-22**

Consultation Poster And Postcard Distribution

- 6.4.17 At consultation launch the Applicant issued posters publicising the consultation to venues where in-person consultation events took place, as well as host parish council clerks for display on local parish notice boards. The poster was designed to provide a simple guide to when events were taking place and where more information could be found. A copy of the poster can be found in **Appendix E-23**.

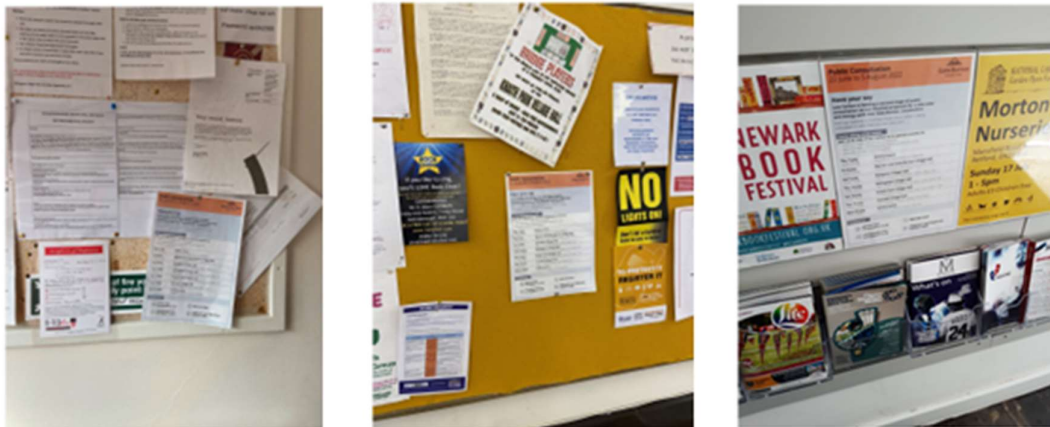


Figure6-4: Posters in-situ at Willingham Village Hall, Knaith Park Village Hall and Retford Library

- 6.4.18 The Applicant also identified community and/or public venues including libraries, shops and civic buildings within the core consultation zone to whom posters were also issued.

- 6.4.19 These locations were chosen to target both local residents and businesses and visitors to the areas. Subject to having first confirmed the consent of the venue manager that they were happy to put posters up, copies were issued by Royal Mail. A number of venues were also supplied with a quantity of the Project Postcard (see **Appendix E-7**) to put out on counters for people to pick up and take away.
- 6.4.20 Digital versions of the Consultation poster, postcard and advert were also issued by email to officers at host local authorities for printing and display in council venues.
- 6.4.21 A list of the venues to which posters and postcards were issued, and communications to host authority officers to provide digital versions of the same can be found in **Appendix E-24**.

Social Media

- 6.4.22 In the lead up to consultation launch and throughout the consultation period, posts and videos were issued via dedicated Gate Burton Energy Park Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and Instagram accounts.
- 6.4.23 Advertising campaigns also ran on Google and Meta platforms. These publicised consultation events, encouraged feedback, and shared a link to the Scheme website.
- 6.4.24 During the consultation period social media posts were shared on:
- Facebook: 10 Facebook posts shared from the 22 June and 3 November 2022 (see **Appendix E.25.1**)
 - Instagram: nine Instagram posts shared from the 22 June to 29 June (see **Appendix E-25.2**)
 - YouTube: six videos posted from 8 July to 15 July (see **Appendix E25.3**)
- 6.4.25 The posts shared information about the Scheme, the benefits of solar energy and on ways to give feedback, directing people to the Scheme website [REDACTED] to find out more.
- 6.4.26 When comments were posted on Facebook and Instagram, a response was issued, directing people to the community relations contact information, 'Thank you for your comments. If you have any questions or require more information about our Gate Burton Energy Park project, please do get in touch using our email, info@gateburtonenergypark.co.uk or by phone, 0800 860 6259.'
- 6.4.27 Online advertising campaigns ran on Google and Meta platforms, this comprised of:
- Two meta-advertising campaigns. Receiving 381,371 impressions with 1,941 link clicks, and 255,789 impressions with 1,757 link clicks. Three Google ad video campaigns.
 - From 8 July, 168,450 impressions with 9,872 engagements

- From 15 July, 88,067 impressions, 4,962 engagements
- From 15 July, 33,830 impressions, 3,621 engagements
- Three Google Search campaigns ran targeting search terms, receiving 64 clicks in total
- One campaign targeted local postcodes receiving 85 clicks.

Seldom Heard Groups

6.4.28 In addition to the properties and local businesses consulted with through the core consultation mailing zone, the Applicant identified additional seldom heard groups. These consultees were identified by desk-based research and through discussions with Local Authorities.

6.4.29 These groups and individuals were identified as less likely to participate in or respond to traditional consultation techniques. The groups and individuals that may find it harder to get involved in consultation and/or need additional support to access materials include:

- Geographically isolated communities
- Economically inactive individuals and socially deprived communities
- Young people
- Older people
- Disabled people and those with learning disabilities
- Ethnic minorities
- Time poor, busy working people.

6.4.30 These consultees are listed in **Appendix E-26.1**

6.4.31 The Applicant issued communications to seldom heard groups to notify them about the statutory consultation:

- 06 June 2022: the Applicant issued an email to identified organisations (**Appendix E-26**) to provide them with advance notice of the dates for Section 47 Consultation and to encourage them to circulate the enclosed information and register for updates.
- Seldom heard groups were also included in the Applicant's mailings on 22 June 2022 and 08 August 2022. This included a notification on the launch and close of statutory consultation.

Requests For Documents In Alternative Formats

6.4.32 Consultation documents in large-scale or alternative formats were available on request by contacting the Applicant's community relations team. Hard-copy versions of documents were also available by request.

6.4.33 The Preliminary Environmental Information Report and other technical documents were reviewed on a case-by-case basis. To cover printing costs a reasonable copying charge of £350 was applied to one full suite of materials.

6.5 Conclusion

6.5.1 In summary, the Applicant considers that it fully complied with Section 47 of the PA 2008. As set out in Chapter 5 and this chapter (Chapter 6), the consultation was compliant with its published SoCC and met all statutory requirements under the PA 2008 as well as Government guidance and PINS advice notes.

- The Applicant prepared the SoCC under Section 47(1);
- The Applicant consulted on the SoCC with all relevant host authorities as defined within Section 43(1) of the PA 2008, giving each at least 28 days to respond (in accordance with section 47(2) and (3) (see **Appendix C-5**);
- In preparing the SoCC, the Applicant had regard to any responses received from the relevant host authorities during consultation on the draft SoCC under Section 47(5);
- The Applicant advertised the SoCC in the publications listed in **Table 5-1**;
- The Applicant published the SoCC on 8 June 2022. In accordance with Section 47 (6) from 8 June 2022 printed copies of the SoCC were lodged and made available for inspection at the document inspection locations set out in **Table 6-2**, and a digital version was made available on the Scheme website.
- The Applicant commenced statutory consultation with the community on 22 June 2022 in accordance with the SoCC further to publishing the SoCC on 08 June 2022 (see **Table 5-3**);
- The Applicant offered and coordinated briefings to update elected members and parish councils;
- The Applicant consulted with the community – i.e. those persons defined under Section 47 of the PA as living in vicinity of the land where the Scheme is – over a core and wider consultation area;
- The Applicant met with individuals living in vicinity of the Solar and Energy Storage Park element of the Scheme as part of ongoing community engagement.
- The Applicant held a series of public consultation events (two online and five in-person) over the 45-day period of statutory consultation and welcomed 136 people;
- The Applicant purposely ran Stage Two statutory consultation in parallel to Section 42 consultation to invite responses from the community to the PEI Report and PEIR NTS; and,
- A total response period of 45-days was provided for Section 47 consultation, going beyond the 28-day statutory requirement.

7. Statutory Consultation Under Section 42 Of The PA 2008

7.1 Overview

7.1.1 Section 42 of the PA 2008 states that the applicant must consult the following 'Section 42 Consultees' about a proposed application for a DCO:

- Section 42(a) – such persons as may be prescribed.
- Section 42 (aa) – the Marine Management Organisation, in any case where the project would affect, or would be likely to affect, any of the areas specific in subsection 2 of Section 42 of the PA 2008 (e.g., tidal, or offshore areas).
- Section 42(b) – each local authority that is within Section 43.
- Section 42(c) – the Greater London Authority if the land is in Greater London. This is not relevant to the Scheme and is therefore not considered further in this section.
- Section 42(d) – each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in Section 44.

7.2 Identification Of Consultees Under S42(1)(a) And (aa)

7.2.1 'Such persons as may be prescribed' (hereafter referred to as 'Prescribed Consultees') were identified by reference to Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations (as amended), which lists all Prescribed Consultees and the circumstances when they must be consulted about a proposed application for a DCO. **Appendix F-1** sets out each consultee prescribed in Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations, whether they were included in the consultation and justification for that inclusion.

7.2.2 In addition, the Applicant had regard to PINS' Advice Note 3 'EIA consultation and notification' (August 2017), which provides advice and guidance on the identification of Prescribed Consultees. In identifying those to consult, the Applicant applied the 'Circumstances Test' set out in Annex 1 of Advice Note 3. Where there was uncertainty or doubt as whether or not to include a consultee, the Applicant erred on the side of caution and included that consultee on the list of those to be consulted.

7.2.3 In identifying Prescribed Consultees, the Applicant also reviewed the list provided by PINS under EIA Regulation 11(1)(c) to identify any additional parties.

7.2.4 The Applicant also consulted the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), thereby fulfilling S42(aa). The MMO was included because the Order limits include a section of the River Trent.

7.3 Identification Of Consultees Under S42(1)(b)

7.3.1 S42(1)(b) of the PA 2008 requires that the Applicant consults with the local authorities identified in s43 of the PA 2008, which sets out four categories of authority:

- A is a neighbouring local authority (s43(2)) that shares a boundary with a unitary council or lower-tier district 'B' council within whose area development is situated;
- B is either a unitary council or a lower-tier district council in which the development is situated – a host local authority;
- C is an upper-tier county council in which the development is situated – a host local authority; and,
- D is either a unitary council or an upper tier county council which shares a boundary with a host 'C' authority – a neighbouring local authority (s43(2A)).

7.3.2 Details of the identification of relevant local authorities, including whether they are an A, B, C or D authority, and the criteria for their identification, are included in **Table 7-1**. The relationship between the A and B authorities is illustrated in **Figure-4** below, and the relationship between the C and D authorities is illustrated in **Figure-5**.

Table 7-1 Identification of consultees under s42(1)(b)

Name	Category	Criteria for identification
West Lindsey District Council	B	West Lindsey District Council is a lower tier district authority in which part of the scheme is located.
Bassetlaw District Council	B	Bassetlaw District Council is a lower tier district authority in which part of the scheme is located.
Nottinghamshire County Council	C	Nottinghamshire County Council is an upper tier county authority which part of the Scheme is located.
Lincolnshire County Council	C	Lincolnshire County Council is an upper tier county authority which part of the Scheme is located.
North Kesteven District Council	A	North Kesteven District Council is a lower tier district authority which shares a boundary with a B authority, West Lindsey District Council.
Lincoln City Council	A	Lincoln City Council is a lower tier district authority which shares a boundary with a B authority, West Lindsey District Council.
Newark and Sherwood District Council	A	Newark and Sherwood District Council is a lower tier district authority which shares a boundary with two B authorities, Bassetlaw District Council and West Lindsey District Council.
Mansfield District Council	A	Mansfield District Council is a lower tier district authority which shares a boundary with a B authority, Bassetlaw District Council.
Bolsover District Council	A	Bolsover District Council is a lower tier district authority which shares a boundary with a B authority, Bassetlaw District Council.
East Lindsey District Council	A	East Lindsey District Council is a lower tier district authority which shares a boundary with a B authority, West Lindsey District Council.
North East Lincolnshire Council	A and D	North East Lincolnshire Council is a unitary authority which shares a boundary with a B authority, West Lindsey District Council and a C authority, Lincolnshire County Council.
North Lincolnshire Council	A and D	North Lincolnshire Council is a unitary authority which shares a boundary with a B authority, West Lindsey District Council and C authority, Lincolnshire County Council.

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	A	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council is a lower tier district authority which shares a boundary with a B authority, Bassetlaw District Council.
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council	A and D	Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council is a lower tier district authority which shares a boundary with a B authority, Bassetlaw District Council and a C authority, Nottinghamshire County Council.
Rutland County Council	D	Rutland County Council is a unitary authority which shares a boundary with a C authority, Lincolnshire County Council.
North Northamptonshire Council	D	North Northamptonshire Council is a unitary authority which shares a boundary with a C authority, Lincolnshire County Council.
Nottingham City Council	D	Nottingham City Council is a unitary authority which shares a boundary with a C authority, Nottinghamshire County Council.
Peterborough City Council	D	Peterborough City Council is a unitary authority which shares a boundary with a C authority, Lincolnshire County Council.
Cambridgeshire County Council	D	Cambridgeshire County Council is an upper tier county authority which shares a boundary with a C authority, Lincolnshire County Council.
Norfolk County Council	D	Norfolk County Council is an upper tier county authority which shares a boundary with a C authority, Lincolnshire County Council.
Derbyshire County Council	D	Derbyshire County Council is an upper tier county authority which shares a boundary with a C authority, Nottinghamshire County Council.
Leicestershire County Council	D	Leicestershire County Council is an upper tier county authority which shares a boundary with two C authorities, Nottingham County Council and Lincolnshire County Council.
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority	D	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority is a combined authority which shares a boundary with a C authority, Lincolnshire County Council.
South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority	D	South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority is a combined authority which shares a boundary with a C authority, Nottinghamshire County Council.

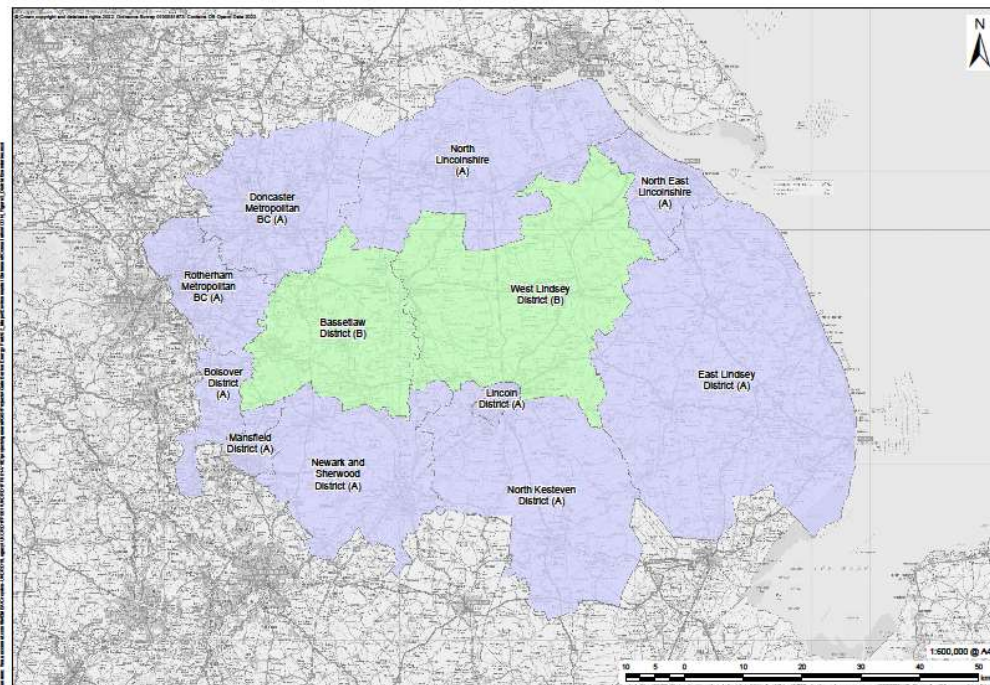


Figure7-1: – The relationship between A and B Authorities

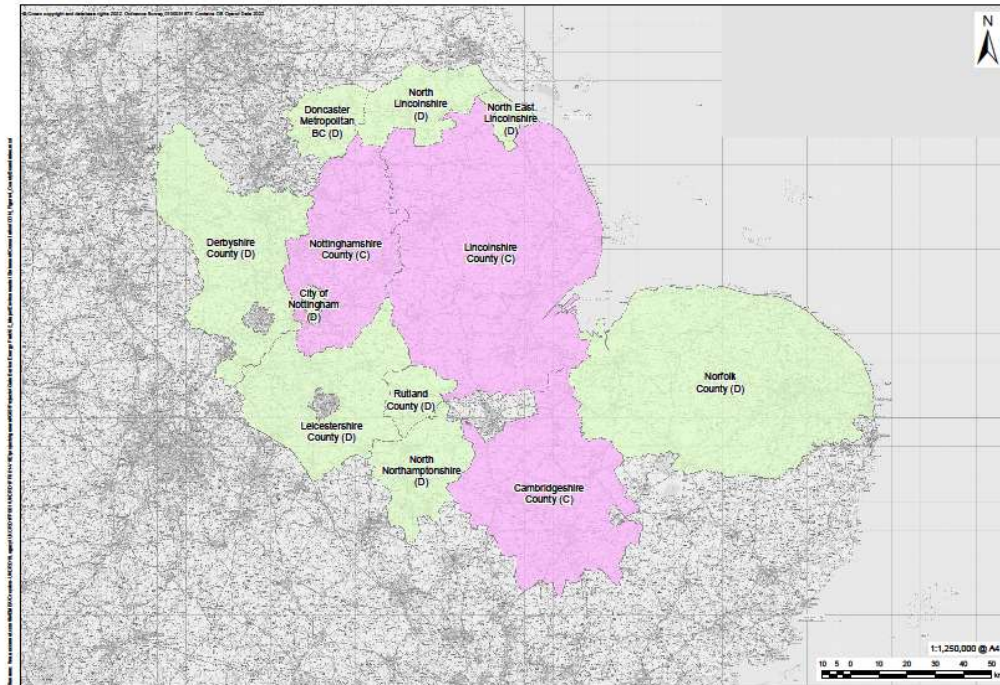


Figure7-2: – The relationship between C and D Authorities

7.4 Identification Of Consultees Under S42(1)(c)

- 7.4.1 S42(1)(c) of the PA 2008 is not relevant as no land element of the Scheme is within Greater London.

7.5 Identification Of Consultees Under S42(1)(d)

- 7.5.1 S42(1)(d) of the PA 2008 requires the Applicant to consult each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in s44 of the PA 2008. This requires the Applicant to consult with landowners, lessees, tenants or occupiers (Category 1 persons, as per s44(1)); those with an interest in the land or have a power to sell and convey the land or release the land (Category 2 persons, s44(2)); and those who the Applicant thinks would or might be entitled to make a relevant claim under s44(4) (Category 3 persons). Persons identified are included within the **Book of Reference [EN010131/APP/6.6]**.
- 7.5.2 The Category 1 interests were identified via a diligent inquiry process covering six research methods: title information, land interest questionnaire, environmental impact assessment information, host and Companies House searches, site investigations, and internet-based research.

- 7.5.3 Once the proposed Order limits were established Land Registry data was used to create land ownership parcels and obtain title information. All land within the identified limits was parcelled and each parcel was given a unique reference number. This was also supplemented by desktop referencing and the use of publicly available information. Details for registered companies were checked through the use of company registers such as Companies House.
- 7.5.4 Title information was verified using 'land interest questionnaires.' These were issued to all land interests within the Order limits and asked landowners to confirm the information taken from the Land Registry and to obtain any additional information from those not identified through the Land Registry.
- 7.5.5 Where land interest questionnaires were not returned, direct contact was sought with the owner or occupier of the property, this included phone calls, an email and a follow-up site visit.
- 7.5.6 Where land interests could not be identified, site notices were erected on the land to request ownership information and to signpost to contact details for the project team. These were left in place and monitored for a minimum of six weeks unless the land interest was confirmed. A total of four site notices were erected.
- 7.5.7 The Category 2 interests were identified using the same methodology via: title information, requests for information, site visits, and collaboration with the wider project team to identify any interests not identified through the land referencing process.
- 7.5.8 As part of the diligent inquiry process, Land Registry data was refreshed at regular intervals to identify new interests. Where new interests were found, land interest questionnaires were issued and the process outlined above was followed to verify their details.
- 7.5.9 Through diligent inquiry, the Applicant considers that there are persons who might be entitled to make a relevant claim as a Category 3 interest pursuant to Part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1973. Part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1973 relates to people who live outside of the Order limits but whose property may be sufficiently close to be depreciated in value due to noise, vibration, smells, smoke or light emissions caused by the use of the Scheme once it is in operation.
- 7.5.10 The Applicant has taken a conservative approach to identifying interests who may be impacted by noise – based on the outcome of noise assessments carried out as part of the Environmental Statement for the Application, the Applicant has included a number of Category 3 land interests in part 2 of the **Book of Reference [EN010131/APP/6.6]**. Further information on these noise assessments is provided in **Chapter 11** of the **Environmental Statement: Noise and Vibration [EN010131/APP/3.1]**.
- 7.5.11 The Applicant considers that there are no interests that have a relevant claim under Part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1973 in relation to each of the following factors:

- Vibration – the results of an assessment of vibration carried out as part of the Environmental Statement for the Application is included in **Chapter 11 of the Environmental Statement: Noise and Vibration [EN010131/APP/3.1]**;
 - Fumes – the results of an assessment of the proposed Scheme’s impact on air quality and the emission of fumes is included in **Chapter 15 of the Environmental Statement: Other Environmental Topics [EN010131/APP/3.1]**;
 - Smoke – the results of an assessment of the proposed Scheme’s impact on air quality and the emission of smoke are included in **Chapter 15 of the Environmental Statement: Other Environmental Topics [EN010131/APP/3.1]**; and
 - Light emissions – the results of an assessment of the proposed Scheme’s impact on visual amenity, are included in **Chapter 10 of the Environmental Statement: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010131/APP/3.1]**.
- 7.5.12 All relevant interests with the potential to make a claim under Section 10 (s10) of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 because they are in benefit of a restrictive right or covenant over land within the Order limits, have been included within the **Book of Reference [EN010131/ APP/6.6]**.
- 7.5.13 All relevant interests with the potential to make a claim under Section 152(3) of the PA 2008 because they are in benefit of a restrictive right or covenant over land within the Order limits, have been included within the **Book of Reference [EN010131/ APP/6.6]**.
- 7.5.14 A list of land interests consulted (noting their interest in the land) during the statutory consultation phase is provided in **Appendix F-2**. Where land interests have been removed through design evolution and refinement of the Order limits a clarification has been provided in **Appendix F-2** that they are not included in the Book of Reference **[EN010131/ APP/6.6]** despite having been consulted.
- 7.5.15 As a result of ongoing due diligence following completion of statutory consultation activities, Emma Ruth Hill has been identified as having an interest in plot 12/9 and 12/8. This Affected Person has now been included in the **Book of Reference [EN010131/ APP/6.6]** but will not appear in **Appendix F-2**. The Applicant understands the Affected Person is aware of the Scheme and confirms the Affected Person will be formally notified as part of the acceptance process under S56 of the PA 2008
- 7.5.16 Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board have been consulted as a prescribed consultee under s42(1)(a) of the PA 2008 as can be seen in **Appendix F1.1**. Their interest in land in respect of a drain in the Order land has now been confirmed and as such included in the **Book of Reference [EN010131/ APP/6.6]** in relation to plot 7/2. They will continue to be engaged as part of the acceptance process under S56 of the PA 2008.
- 7.5.17 **Appendix F-2** also identifies statutory and utility undertakers who were consulted under section 42(1)(d) as it was considered they had the potential to hold an interest in the Order land. Where the Applicant has subsequently

confirmed those undertakers do not have an interest in the Order land, they no longer appear in the **Book of Reference [EN010131/ APP/6.6]** and this has been noted in the relevant entry in **Appendix F-2**.

7.6 Duty To Notify The Secretary Of State Of The Proposed Application Under Section 46

7.6.1 Pursuant to s46 of the PA 2008, the Applicant must send PINS (on behalf of the Secretary of State) the s42 consultation documents on or before commencing the s42 consultation. The Applicant electronically wrote to PINS on 16 June 2022 setting out the background to the Scheme, the Applicant's intention to submit a DCO application, details of the documents to be sent in advance of statutory consultation and a summary of the consultation process.

7.6.2 This letter was then followed by a set of emails on 21 June 2022 providing PINS with copies of the following statutory consultation documents:

- Consultation Feedback form
- Project Information Booklet
- Section 48 Notice
- Template Section 42 letters (a, b and d)
- Preliminary Environmental Information Report

7.6.3 On 22 June 2022 a letter was received from PINS confirming that all documentation had been received and stating that: *'I acknowledged that you have notified the Planning Inspectorate of the proposed application for an order granting development consent for the purposes of section 46 of the PA2008 and supplied the information for consultation under section 41'*. Copies of the letter issued on 16 June 2022, an example e-mail sending documentation and the letter from PINS received on 22 June 2022 are provided in **Appendix A-3**. The Consultation started on 22 June 2022.

7.7 Undertaking Consultation S42 Of The PA 2008

7.7.1 The Applicant wrote formally to all consultees identified under s42 of the PA 2008 to notify them of the consultation.

7.7.2 The Applicant wrote by Royal Mail delivery to consultees under s42(1)(a), s42(1)(aa) and s42(1)(b) of the PA 2008 on 16 June 2022, setting out the background to the Scheme, the Applicant's intention to submit a DCO application, the fact that the Applicant had identified them as a consultee under for the purposes of the PA 2008, the documents being provided as part of the consultation, how to respond to the consultation, and when the consultation period started and ended (giving a response period of 45 days) and cross referencing to s45 of the PA 2008. An email was also issued to all consultees ensuring they also had digital versions of the materials.

7.7.3 The Applicant enclosed with the letter a copy of a consultation feedback form and included a plan showing the proposed Order limits. The letter also confirmed that these documents, a copy of the Project Information Booklet

consultation booklet providing more information about the Scheme, alongside the PEI Report and its non-technical summary, were available electronically on a website maintained by the Applicant, and the website address was provided.

- 7.7.4 The Applicant wrote by recorded delivery to consultees under s42(1)(d) of the PA 2008 on 17 June 2022 setting out the background to the Scheme, the Applicant's intention to submit a DCO application, the fact that the Applicant had identified them as a consultee under s42(1)(d) of the PA 2008, the documents being provided as part of the consultation, how to respond to the consultation, and when the consultation period started and ended (giving a response period of 45 days) and cross referencing to s45 of the PA 2008.
- 7.7.5 The letter also confirmed that a Project Information Booklet, consultation questionnaire, the PEI Report and its non-technical summary were available electronically on a website maintained by the Applicant, and the website address was provided.
- 7.7.6 Copies of the letters sent to consultees under s42 of the PA 2008 are included in **Appendix F-3**. Consultation materials sent to consultees under s42 of the PA 2008 are available to view in **Appendices E-6 to E-11**.
- 7.7.7 A number of new land interests were identified during the statutory consultation period through ongoing diligent inquiry. The Applicant wrote to these consultees by recorded delivery setting out the background to the Scheme, the Applicant's intention to submit a DCO application, the fact that the Applicant had identified them as a consultee under s42(1)(d) of the PA 2008, the documents being provided as part of the consultation and how to respond to the consultation. In line with s45 of the PA 2008, these land interests were each provided with a date by which they must respond which was more than the required minimum of 28 days. Details of these land interests are included in **Appendix F-2**.
- 7.7.8 The total number of responses received from each group of s42 consultees is available in **Table 9-2**. **Chapter 9** also includes a summary of responses received, issues raised, and changes made, with **Table 9-3** detailing s42 consultee issues raised and Applicant response.

7.8 Conclusion

- 7.8.1 In summary, the Applicant considers that it fully complied with Section 42 of the PA 2008. As set out in this chapter (**Chapter 7**), the consultation met all statutory requirements under the PA 2008 as well as Government guidance and PINS advice notes. All prescribed bodies relevant to the proposed development were consulted under s42 of the PA 2008:
- Section 42(a) as identified by reference to Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations (as amended), included in **Appendix F-1**;
 - Section 42 (aa) – including the Marine Management Organisation because the Order limits includes a section of the River Trent;
 - Section 42(b) – each local authority that is within Section 43, outlined in **Figure-4** and **Figure-5**;

- Section 42(c) – not relevant to the Scheme;
- Section 42(d) – each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in Section 44, with persons identified included within the **Book of Reference [EN010131/APP/6.6]**.

8. Publicity Under Section 48 Of The PA 2008

8.1 Overview

- 8.1.1 Section 48 of the PA 2008 imposes a duty on the Applicant to publish a notice of the proposed application in accordance with Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations.
- 8.1.2 Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations sets out what the publicity under Section 48 of the PA 2008 should entail, which requires the publication of a notice in given publications, with requirements on the contents of such notice. Specifically, Regulation 4 requires an applicant to publish the notice for at least two successive weeks in one or more local newspapers and once in a national newspaper. The Applicant placed notices in the London Gazette and The Guardian in addition to local publications.

8.2 Section 48 Notice

- 8.2.1 **Table 8-1** includes details of the newspapers used to publicise the proposed application. The notice published under s48 of the PA 2008 gave the deadline of 05 August 2022 for responses (more than 28 clear days from the date when the last notice was published).

Table 8-1 – Section 48 Notice schedule

Name	Week 1	Week 2 (local only)
National Newspaper		
The Guardian	11 June	-
The London Gazette	15 June	-
Local Newspaper		
The Lincolnshire Echo	09 June	16 June
The Retford Times	09 June	16 June

The Gainsborough Standard	09 June	16 June
<hr/>		
The Market Rasen Mail	08 June	15 June

- 8.2.2 Copies of the newspaper notices as noted in **Table 8-1** are provided within **Appendix G**.
- 8.2.3 In accordance with DCLG guidance, the Applicant aligned the publication of the Section 48 notice and Section 47 notice, reflecting s48 consultation was held in parallel with s42 and s47 consultation. More information about the Section 47 publication schedule can be found in **Table 5-1**.
- 8.2.4 The EIA consultation bodies (as defined in the EIA Regulations) were sent a copy of the Section 48 notice.

8.3 Feedback In Response To Publicity Under Section 48

- 8.3.1 The Applicant did not receive any feedback that could be identified as being specifically submitted as a result of the publicity it carried out as required by s48 of the PA 2008. This is not unusual given that the Section 48 notices were issued in parallel with the activities undertaken under Section 42 and Section 47 of the PA 2008 and all information in the Section 48 notices was also included in Section 42 letters.

8.4 Conclusion

- 8.4.1 The Applicant published its s48 notice as set out in the PA 2008 and the APFP Regulations. The notice contained the required information including a deadline for comments on the proposals which coincided with other statutory dates given s48 consultation was held in parallel with s42 and s47 consultation.

9. Account Of Feedback And The Applicant's Response To The Statutory Consultation

9.1 Overview

- 9.1.1 This chapter explains the process the Applicant undertook to analyse the feedback received to the statutory consultation under s42 and s47 of the PA 2008. The Applicant did not receive any feedback that could be identified as being specifically submitted as a result of the publicity carried out as required by s48.
- 9.1.2 It provides a breakdown of the feedback received, summarises the content of this feedback and how this feedback has been taken into account. This demonstrates how the Applicant fulfilled its statutory duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity, pursuant to s49 of the PA 2008.
- 9.1.3 A definition of who the Applicant consulted, how the Applicant identified these groups and how it consulted with these groups at the statutory stage of consultation can be found in **Chapter 6** (s47) and **Chapter 7** (s42). **Chapter 8** sets out the Applicant's approach to publicise the consultation under s48.
- 9.1.4 In compliance with the DCLG Guidance on the pre-application process (March 2015), the Applicant received no responses which advised major changes to the Scheme. As detailed in **Table 9-3** and **9-4** below, the Applicant has addressed responses where changes have been proposed or objections made and has provided responses to how they have had regard to them.

9.2 Feedback Analysis Methodology

- 9.2.1 This section sets out the approach taken to receiving and recording feedback at the statutory stage of consultation. Consultation feedback was received through a range of channels:
- Hard copy Feedback Forms – available on request and at community events
 - Online Feedback Forms: available at [REDACTED]
 - Email: promoted on all consultation promotion and materials info@gateburtonenergypark.co.uk
 - Post – received via the Development Freepost address: FREEPOST GATE BURTON ENERGY PARK, which was promoted on all consultation promotion and materials
- 9.2.2 Feedback received through these channels was logged and securely recorded by the project team.
- 9.2.3 Details of how feedback could be submitted were included in the community consultation materials and on the proposed Scheme website.

9.2.4 Feedback was received through the following channels:

Table 9-1 – Methods of response during the statutory consultation

Type	Number of responses
Online Feedback Form	39
Hard copy Feedback Form	11
Email	93
Event and other comments	3
Letter	0

9.2.5 All respondents were assigned a unique ID number and their feedback received logged against this number.

9.2.6 All hard copy Feedback Forms and letters were scanned and recorded against the respondent's unique ID number.

9.2.7 When a response was received, the Applicant identified who had submitted it and whether that response has been submitted by an individual or organisation under s42 or s47.

9.2.8 The total number of responses from each group were:

Table 9-2 – Responses received in respect of the Planning Act 2008

Category in respect of the PA 2008	Number of responses
Prescribed bodies (s42(1)(a))	17
Local Authorities (s42(1)(b) and s42)	8
Local community (s47)	121

9.2.9 The Applicant received feedback from the following prescribed bodies (s42) and local authorities:

- Bassetlaw District Council
- Canal and River Trust
- Gate Burton Parish on the Marton and Gate Burton Parish Council
- Environment Agency
- Health and Safety Executive
- Historic England
- Lincolnshire County Council
- Marton and Gate Burton Parish Council
- Ministry of Defence
- National Grid- UK Land and Property
- Natural England
- Network Rail
- Nottinghamshire County Council
- The Coal Authority
- West Lindsey District Council
- Western Power Distribution
- Rampton and Woodbeck Parish Council
- Severn Trent Water Limited

- The Coal Authority
- Trent Valley Board - Water Management Consortium
- UK Health Security Agency
- West Lindsey District Council
- Western Power Distribution
- Willingham By Stow Parish Council
- Willingham Parish Council

9.2.10 Respondents who submitted feedback online received an automated acknowledgement confirming receipt on screen as below:

Your feedback has been successfully submitted

What happens next?

Thank you for completing this feedback form. Your views are important to us.

When this consultation closes, we will review our proposals for the project in light of all the feedback received along with the findings from our ongoing assessments to finalise our plans for Gate Burton Energy Park and submit our application for development consent to the Planning Inspectorate.

We anticipate submitting our application towards the end of 2022. The Planning Inspectorate will then examine our proposals and prepare a report for the Secretary of State for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy, who will make the final decision on our application.

Further opportunities to contribute

This second stage of consultation is likely be the last time we consult on our proposals for Gate Burton Energy Park before we submit our DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate.

Further to our application being accepted you will be able to register your interest in our proposals directly with the Planning Inspectorate, who will then inform you about the progress of our application during the examination process, and let you know about further opportunities you will have to inform and contribute to the planning process.

By registering your contact details with us to receive project updates we will notify you when the Planning Inspectorate has accepted our application.

[Back home](#)

9.2.11 Anyone submitting an email response received a standard acknowledgement:

Subject: Gate Burton Energy Park

Thank you for contacting Gate Burton Energy Park.

If your email is about the consultation programme, details of our events, availability of materials and wider information or advice on how to submit a response, a member of the Community Relations Team will be in touch with you shortly.

If your email is a submission of feedback to the Stage Two Statutory Consultation on our proposals for Gate Burton Energy Park, your comments will be recorded and

included in our consultation feedback report. Please note, the deadline for submission of feedback to this consultation is 11.59pm on 5 August 2022.

While all comments submitted to this consultation will be recorded and acknowledged, we are not able to respond individually to every question asked during the consultation period.

We will address all the themes and issues raised in your comments in our Consultation Report which will be submitted as part of our application for development consent. This will provide a summary of the responses submitted to this consultation along with an explanation of how we've taken your views into account in developing our final proposals. Our Consultation Report will be published on the Planning Inspectorate's website if and when our application has been accepted.

If you would like to be notified directly when the Planning Inspectorate accepts our application, please register your details with us.

For more information, please visit our website at [REDACTED]
Alternatively, please do get in touch via freephone on 0800 860 6259.

Kind regards

The Community Relations Team
Gate Burton Energy Park

9.2.12 Anyone submitting a feedback in writing / hard copy received a standard acknowledgement letter by post as below:



[date] 2022

Dear [name]

Gate Burton Energy Park – acknowledgement of receipt of consultation feedback

Thank you for submitting your feedback to the Gate Burton Energy Park consultation. Further to this consultation closing, we will review our proposals in light of all the feedback we receive along with the findings from our ongoing assessments to finalise our detailed proposals for the project.

When we are happy that our proposals are ready, we will then submit our application for development consent to the Planning Inspectorate.

While we will record and acknowledge all the feedback submitted to this consultation, we will be unable to respond to you individually.

We will address all the issues and themes raised in your feedback and explain how we've taken your views into account in developing our final proposals, in our Consultation Report. Our Consultation Report will be submitted as part of our application to the Planning Inspectorate.

After receiving our application, the Planning Inspectorate has 28 days to accept it and decide if it can proceed to examination stage. Further to accepting our application the Planning Inspectorate will publish our Consultation Report, along with all our other application documents, on its website.

Further opportunities to contribute

As someone who has submitted feedback to the consultation, we will let you know when our application has been accepted by the Planning Inspectorate and this information is available to view.

This is likely to be the last time we consult on our proposals for Gate Burton Energy Park. However, further to our application being accepted for examination you will be able to register your interest in our proposals directly with the Planning Inspectorate, who will then inform you about the progress of our application during the examination process, and further opportunities you will have to contribute to that process.

You can find out more about the process for considering applications for development consent for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects and the Planning Inspectorate at <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>

Should you need any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the project team by phone on 0800 880 8259, emailing us at info@gateburtonenergypark.co.uk or sending a letter to FREEPOST GATE BURTON ENERGY PARK.

Once again, thank you for taking part in the consultation process.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Rutgers
Development Director
Low Carbon

Framework For Recording Responses

- 9.2.13 The CLG Guidance (2015) paragraph 80 advises that the report should 'set out a summary of relevant responses to consultation (but not a complete list of responses)'.
- 9.2.14 The responses to statutory consultation ranged from observations and suggestions to more detailed responses that raised a number of themes.
- 9.2.15 For the purposes of this report, the Applicant has undertaken a process of review and analysis to summarise the responses received. This helps identify the key themes and issues that were raised during consultation and allows the Applicant to explain how it has had regard to these.
- 9.2.16 The Applicant developed an approach to recording and summarising responses received to the statutory consultation based on the themes and

issues that emerged from feedback, alongside issues identified following review of the EIA Scoping Opinion.

9.2.17 The key themes identified and used to summarise consultation feedback (s42 and s47) were set out as:

- The Scheme – including scheme design, scheme size and general comments
- Alternatives and design evolution – including comments on local planning policy, route selection and general comments
- Consultation
- Climate change
- Cultural heritage – including local sites of archaeology, listed buildings and general comments
- Ecology & nature conservation – including biodiversity net gain, construction impact on the environment, loss of habitat, planting buffers and general comments
- Water environment – including flood risk, drainage and general comments
- Landscape & visual amenity – including impact on local views, underground cables, screening, glint and glare and general comments
- Noise and vibration
- Socio-economics – including agriculture, local jobs, community benefit and general comments
- Land use
- Transport and access – including construction traffic, local pathways, rights of way, local traffic impacts and general comments
- Human, health & well-being – including community wellbeing, safety of equipment and general comments
- Other environmental – including air quality and general comments
- Cumulative impacts

9.2.18 The Applicant considered that these broad categories provided a suitable framework for grouping and presenting feedback.

9.2.19 Requests for further engagement and questions raised were also separately recorded.

9.2.20 In seeing if there were ways to improve the Scheme as a result of feedback, the Applicant has had regard to each individual response received.

9.2.21 All personal data received as part of the consultation was processed in accordance with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2018.

9.3 Section 42 Statutory Consultation: Responses Received, Issues Raised And Changes Made

Introduction

9.3.1 A summary of comments received in response to the Section 42 consultation (S42(1)(a), S42(1)(b), S42(1)(c) and S42(a)(d)) is detailed in **Appendix H**. A summary of issues raised, along with details on the response and indication of changes made are detailed in Table 9-3.

Section 42 Consultee Comment Summary

9.3.2 Consultees who responded with comments relating to the overall scale and design of the scheme as a whole, included:

- Bassetlaw District Council
- Gate Burton Parish on the Marton and Gate Burton Parish Council
- Health and Safety Executive
- Historic England
- Lincolnshire County Council
- National Grid – UK Land and Property
- Natural England
- The Coal Authority
- Trent Valley Boards – Water Management Consortium
- UK Health Security Agency
- West Lindsey District Council
- Willingham by Stow Parish Council

9.3.3 The key themes that were raised in the responses to statutory consultation included:

- Proximity to Gate Burton residential areas;
- Impact on heritage assets and archaeology;
- Cumulative impact with other nearby projects;
- Impact on rural landscape and local Landscape Character Areas;
- Impacts on ecology and biodiversity;
- Mitigation measures for impacts on ecology and biodiversity;
- Impacts on Local Wildlife Sites;
- Impacts on PROWs;
- Biodiversity Net Gain
- Underground/overhead cabling;
- The proposed Grid Connection Corridor route;
- Flood risk and proposed mitigation;
- Surface water management;
- Loss of agricultural land;
- Mineral safeguarding;
- Impacts on the local highway network;
- Traffic impacts on public transport and recreational users;
- Battery decommissioning and capacity;

- Battery technology;
- Greenhouse gas emissions during construction and operation;
- Offsets from Residential Properties;
- Offsets from PROWs, ecological constraints, watercourses and heritage assets;
- Grid decarbonisation;
- Landscape and visual impacts (LVIA) of the larger and taller elements of the scheme;
- Detail of the proposed LVIA photomontages;
- LVIA study area and viewpoints;
- Landscape and visual impacts and proposed mitigation;
- Construction impacts on watercourses;
- Noise and vibration impacts during construction;
- Impacts on human health and wellbeing;
- The Scheme's operational lifespan;
- Assessment of alternative sites;
- References to emerging local development plan and neighbourhood plan policies;
- Impacts on Statutory Undertaker's operations.
- Glint and glare impacts;
- Community benefits of the scheme;
- Requests for further engagement with Prescribed Consultees.

9.3.4 The key changes made to the Scheme as a result of consultation are summarised below. A full table of responses received and the Applicant response to each is provided in **Table 9-3**.

Reducing Impacts On Residential Properties

9.3.5 Consultation responses from Gate Burton Parish on the Marton and Gate Burton Parish Council and the local community highlighted concerns with regard to the proximity of the Scheme to nearby properties including the residential area of Gate Burton. The key changes made to the Scheme as a result of consultation are summarised below.

9.3.6 As a result of the comments received, further offsets and planting were incorporated into the Scheme design to limit the visual impacts. Offsets from settlements and individual dwellings have been incorporated across the design, including at Gate Burton. The form and extent of these offsets has been adjusted through design development to respond to the existing character of views from residential properties. Following statutory consultation, several changes were made to the layout of the Scheme compared to that presented in the PEI Report. Further information on landscape and visual effects and mitigation can be found in the **ES, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010131/APP/3.1]**.

Removal Of Panels In Proximity To Gate Burton Hall And 'Site Of Heynings Priory' Scheduled Monument

9.3.7 Historic England, West Lindsey District Council and the local community responded to the statutory consultation process with concerns regarding the

impact of the Scheme on Gate Burton Hall, Gate Burton Château and the 'Site of Heynings Priory' Scheduled Monument.

- 9.3.8 As a result of the comments received, mitigation measures have been included within the Scheme design to remove panels within the vicinity of a number of cultural heritage assets. This includes removing panels from areas near Gate Burton Hall, Gate Burton Château (and several other listed buildings at Gate Burton) at the western extent of the Solar and Energy Storage Park; alongside 'Site of Heynings Priory' Scheduled Monument, adjacent to the north-western section of the Solar and Energy Storage Park. Together, these offsets act to reduce or avoid impacts on these heritage assets. Further information can be found in the **ES, Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage [EN010131/APP/3.1]**.

Removal Of Panels From Areas Of Higher Flood Risk And Incorporation Of Skylark Habitat

- 9.3.9 Consultation responses from the Environment Agency, West Lindsey District Council and the local community highlighted concerns regarding siting panels within Flood Zone 2 and 3 in north-east of the Order limits.
- 9.3.10 As a result of the comments received, the site layout has been amended in the north-eastern corner to remove panels from flood zones associated with Padmoor Drain. as illustrated on **ES Volume 2, Figure 2-4: Indicative Site Layout Plan [EN010131/APP/3.2]**. In addition, the design of the Scheme has considered the impact of surface water flood risk by revising the design to exclude solar PV Panels (and other infrastructure) from areas with a medium or high risk of flooding. This includes several areas of land, predominantly in the southern and eastern regions of the Solar and Energy Storage Park, generally associated with flow pathways following topographic low points including drains and agricultural ditches. Further information can be found in the **ES, Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010131/APP/3.1]**. These areas removed from development have been retained within the Order limits and used as opportunity for ecological enhancement and mitigation (such as providing skylark habitat). Further information can be found in the **ES, Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation [EN010131/APP/3.1]**.

Removal Of Panels From Marshy Grassland

- 9.3.11 The Environment Agency and West Lindsey District Council responses to statutory consultation raised concern regarding potentially significant impacts from the loss of marshland on-site.
- 9.3.12 As a result of the comment received, a large field of marshy grassland has been removed from the design and the surrounding habitat maintained. Further information can be found in the **ES, Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation [EN010131/APP/3.1]**. This removal of infrastructure has the simultaneous benefit of reduced surface water flood risk to the site, reduced setting effects on 'Site of Heynings Priory' Scheduled Monument and reduced landscape and visual effects.

Refinement Of The Order Limits To Reduce Land Take For The Main Access Point From The A156

- 9.3.13 Lincolnshire County Council's response to statutory consultation highlighted concerns regarding an extension to the Order limits since the Scoping Report to include two large plots covering two access points. As a result of the comment received, the Order limits were refined at this location to reduce the land take for the main access point from the A156.

Undergrounding Of Existing Overhead Lines Across The Site

- 9.3.14 Lincolnshire County Council, West Lindsey District Council and responses from the local community to statutory consultation highlighted concerns regarding overhead lines. As a result of the comments received, no new overhead lines are proposed. The cabling between solar panel racks will be at the height of the racks and not visible. The Grid Connection Corridor will be via a buried cable.

Reduction In The Grid Connection Corridor Area And Cumulative Impacts From The Cable Route

- 9.3.15 Consultation responses from Gate Burton Parish on the Marton and Gate Burton Parish Council, Historic England, Lincolnshire County Council and the local community highlighted concerns regarding the impact of multiple grid connections from Gate Burton Energy Park, Cottam Solar Project, West Burton Solar Project. The potential for sterilisation of mineral resources was also highlighted.
- 9.3.16 The Applicant has worked with Cottam Solar Project and West Burton Solar Project to reduce the grid connection area as far as practicable in order to reduce the overall environmental and social effects, including reducing effects on known ecological and archaeologically sensitive areas and minimise the sterilisation of mineral resources.
- 9.3.17 The teams working on all three projects have also worked closely together to identify mechanisms in the DCOs that would enable projects to proceed in isolation (e.g. to deal with the event that one Scheme were permitted and the others refused), whilst also enabling sections of grid connection that are shared to be implemented at the same time to reduce environmental effects. The DCO permits powers to be transferred to Cottam and West Burton without the consent of the Secretary of State.

Section 42 Consultee Comments And Applicant Responses

- 9.3.18 A summary of issues raised by Prescribed Consultees can be found in **Appendix H. Table 9-3** sets out key issues raised by Prescribed Consultees and the Applicant's response to them.



Table 9-3 – Section 42 Consultees issues raised and Applicant response

The scheme – including scheme design, scheme size and general comments			
Section 42 Applicant Regard to Consultee Responses			
Respondent	Comment	Development Change? ¹	Applicant Response
Bassetlaw District Council	It is positive to see a detailed description of the scheme, including the details of the scheme including key aspects of the scheme, the location and key environmental constraints. The general scheme makes a clear attempt to avoid key environmental designations in all respects, but this will be commented on more in the relevant sections of each project.	N	Comment noted. No response required.
Gate Burton Parish on the Marton and Gate Burton Parish Council	Special consideration must be given to the residential area of Gate Burton as the proposed siting of solar panels is in danger of encroaching on this area.	Y	The Applicant has taken account of the visual impact on residential receptors of Gate Burton in the design of the Scheme, including by providing an offset and planting to limit visual impact. Offsets from settlements and individual dwellings have been incorporated across the design, including at Gate Burton. The form and extent of these offsets has been adjusted through design development to respond to the existing character of views from residential properties. Following statutory consultation, several changes were made to the PEI Report Layout. This has included a thorough review of existing landscape, visual and heritage buffers, as well as addition of areas to exclude built development. as illustrated on ES Volume 2, Figure 2-4: Indicative Site Layout Plan [EN010131/APP/3.2] . Further information on the landscape and visual impacts on Gate Burton and mitigation can be found in Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010131/APP/3.1] .
Health and Safety Executive	Explosives sites HSE has no comment to make as there are no licensed explosives sites in the vicinity. Electrical Safety No comment from a planning perspective.	N	Comment noted. No response required.

¹ Indicates whether a change was made to the development following receipt of the comment.



Respondent	Comment	Development Change? ²	Applicant Response
Health and Safety Executive	The updated site plan and the options for the cable routes have been reviewed. There seems to be no major hazard sites or within the vicinity of the site, however the site is dissected by a major hazards pipeline. We would require further information on any locations of populations associated with the solar farm before further advice could be given. However the applicant will need to notify the pipeline operator and get permission prior to any construction work being carried out within the vicinity of the pipeline easement. This will also be the case for any work associated with the connection routing. The connection routing is in the vicinity of major hazard sites however it is these site the connections will be joining to. Therefore the advice previously given in HSE's letter dated 1 December 2021 remains valid.	N	<p>Comment noted. Further information on the local population within the vicinity of the proposed Scheme is contained within the ES, Chapter 12: Socio-economics and Land Use [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p> <p>The Applicant is currently in discussions with the Operations and Maintenance team for this asset, Penspen, and the asset owner, West Burton Energy, to discuss protective provisions prior to construction work commencing.</p>
Historic England	These are large schemes for solar generation lying in close proximity to each other.	N	As set out in the ES, Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage [EN010131/APP/3.1] , the Applicant has assessed cumulative impacts on heritage assets.
Lincolnshire County Council	The EIA has therefore been undertaken adopting the principles of the 'Rochdale Envelope', as described in the Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 9 (Ref 2-1). This involves assessing the maximum (and where relevant, minimum) parameters for the Scheme where flexibility needs to be retained." While this will likely be a reasonable approach for the PV panels, we have concerns in regards to the larger and taller elements, such as substation (up to 11m in height), Control building and Office (up to 6m in height), warehouse and storage building (up to 7.2m in height), and more conspicuous elements such as energy storage and conversion units/inverters. The final location and layout of these elements will likely have greater visual effects in this flat, rural landscape than PV panels.	N	<p>ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010131/APP/3.1], includes the following figures:</p> <p>10-9 ZTV (Bare Earth) - All Features 10-10 ZTV (With Surface Features) - All Features 10-9 ZTV (Bare Earth) - Solar Panels 10-10 ZTV (With Surface Features) - Solar Panels 10-9 ZTV (Bare Earth) - Substation / Battery Storage 10-10 ZTV (With Surface Features) - Substation / Battery Storage</p> <p>The above range of ZTVs provide a comprehensive indication of the worst-case scenario for each of the main Scheme elements. These ZTVs will assist the landscape and visual impact assessment and support the assessment of those individual items as well as their combined impact. This</p>

² Indicates whether a change was made to the development following receipt of the comment.



			will be further assisted by photomontages including winter and summer photography.
Lincolnshire County Council	Paragraph 10.8.3 outlines the design principles embedded into the layout. PEI Report Volume 2: Figure 2-2 is incorrectly referenced to illustrate “Relevant Offsets”: it is assumed this should be Figure 2-4 (Indicative Site Layout), however the actual offset distances are not provided. Expect that the final layouts and ES provide clear minimum offset distances for each situation (PROW, Residential, watercourse, ecological constraint etc.) and boundary treatments, which would likely be illustrated using typical sections showing distances and mitigation proposals (planting).	N	<p>The ES, Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010131/APP/3.1] and Figure 2-4 [EN010131/APP/3.2] have been updated to include the relevant offsets and mitigation proposals. They are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a Public Rights of Way Buffer of 5m to provide offset for footpath users; • a heritage setting buffer to provide an offset of infrastructure from the non-designated parkland and number of listed buildings at Gate Burton; • a Building Buffer of 25m from panels; • a Hedge Buffer of 5m; • an Existing Hedge with Trees Buffer of 10m; • an Existing Woodland Buffer of 15m to protect tree roots; • Ancient Woodland Buffer of 15m to protect the ancient woodland and avoid root damage; and • 10m offset from centreline of watercourses. <p>Details of planting are included within the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (OLEMP) [EN010131/APP/7.10] which outlines the landscape and ecology impact avoidance measures that would be implemented prior to, and during, construction of the Scheme, as well as the habitat restoration, enhancement, management and monitoring measures to be implemented once the Scheme is operational.</p>
Lincolnshire County Council	Section 10.10 provides a brief methodology of Visualisations (Photomontage) Methodology. This should include full details/parameters of the elements that have been modelled (Solar arrays, substation etc.) for transparency of what is being illustrated, and enable this to be referenced against the “worst case” design parameters (e.g. if shown at maximum heights, or lower than maximum provided in design parameters).	N	Comment noted. Additional information on elements illustrated in photomontages, including their dimensions, will be included in the ES, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010131/APP/3.1] .

Respondent	Comment	Development Change? ³	Applicant Response
Lincolnshire County Council	Section 7.10.3 includes the use of non-intrusive solar PV panel installation techniques where archaeological potential is identified. Specific impacts will need to be considered and 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.	N	An assessment of likely impacts and effects of the Scheme on heritage assets and their setting is presented in the ES, Chapter 7 Cultural Heritage [EN010131/APP/3.1] . Mitigation strategies are also outlined in Chapter 7 Cultural Heritage and a Mitigation Schedule [EN010131/APP/2.5] has been produced to accompany the DCO.
Lincolnshire County Council	Section 7.6.6 says 'The results of these surveys will provide more details on the heritage interest and significance of heritage assets. When considered along with the development of 3 the scheme design, is it considered that the likely significant effects will be reduced. The results will also assist in the development of a detailed mitigation strategy'. It is understood to mean the survey results will inform the scheme design, the results of the ground-truthing phase of trenching to determine extent and significance of the archaeology across the DCO site will also assist with this.	N	The results of the surveys (including trenching) have been used to identify embedded design mitigation strategies. Mitigation strategies are outlined in Chapter 7 Cultural Heritage [EN010131/APP/3.1] and a Mitigation Schedule [EN010131/APP/2.5] has been produced to accompany the DCO.
Lincolnshire County Council	While it is understood that some aspects of the scheme cannot be confirmed at this stage as they would be dependent upon individual contractors selected at the tender stage (para. 2.3.2) would expect a reasonable design fix for the final ES which would clearly set out the parameters of the development, such as heights and locations of elements that have been used in the assessment, which if there are still some outstanding design and layout elements to be finalised would be based on a "worst	N	Comment noted. Please refer to the ES, Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010131/APP/3.1] for Scheme details. The EIA has been undertaken adopting the principles of the 'Rochdale Envelope', as described in the Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 9. This involves assessing the maximum (and where relevant, minimum) parameters for the Scheme where flexibility needs to be retained.

³ Indicates whether a change was made to the development following receipt of the comment.



	case” scenario to ensure any effects are not underplayed. This is particularly important for larger and taller elements such as the substation or battery storage.		
National Grid-UK Land and Property	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. § 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.	N	Noted. The Applicant does not intend to develop over or under any National Grid Electricity Transmission infrastructure nor within easements or working width corridors, other than for cable, access roads or fence crossings where required. This would be done in correspondence with National Grid Electricity Transmission and within the prevailing guidelines & regulations on safety clearances.
National Grid-UK Land and Property	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 § 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). § 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.	N	Noted. The Applicant does not intend to develop over or under any National Grid Electricity Transmission infrastructure nor within easements or working width corridors, other than for cable, access roads or fence crossings where required. This would be done in correspondence with National Grid Electricity Transmission and within the prevailing guidelines & regulations on safety clearances.
Natural England	Regarding the submitted draft ALC report, the ALC map should be labelled that it is a semi-detailed survey. The ALC survey can then inform the layout of the development, i.e. avoid BMV for	N	Comment noted. It is stated within the ALC Report that a semi-detailed survey was carried out. An Outline Soils Resource Management Plan has been submitted as part of the application [EN010131/APP/7.12].



	<p>permanent development. A semi detailed survey may not identify all of the BMV land. • Detailed ALC surveys will provide the information required for a good soil management plan for the whole site, on which we will be happy to provide comment on.</p>		
The Coal Authority	<p>Further to your notification regarding the above Project, I can confirm that the project site including cabling and connection sites falls within the Development Low Risk Area as defined by the Coal Authority. Accordingly, there are no recorded coal mining legacy hazards at shallow depth that could pose a risk to land stability for surface development. We advised Bassetlaw District Council as part of the Scoping Opinion Consultation that if the application was considered an EIA development, there is no requirement for the applicant to consider coal mining legacy as part of their Environmental Impact Assessment. In addition, the Local Planning Authority will not need to consult us on any subsequent planning application for this site and our Standing Advice should be added to any Decision Notice.</p>	N	<p>Comment noted. No response required.</p>
Trent Valley Board - Water Management Consortium	<p>Usually Solar farms do not introduce direct outfalls to the Boards systems. However, should this be the case the Boards consent would be required. Generally the method of dealing with surface water from the arrays would need to be considered by the Board through the planning process to establish if any detriment is caused. Byelaw Number 10 states that: No person without the previous consent of the Board shall erect any building or structure, whether temporary or permanent, or plant any tree, shrub, willow or other similar growth within nine metres of the landward toe of the bank where there is an embankment or wall or within nine metres of the top of the batter where there is no embankment or wall, or where the watercourse is enclosed within nine metres of the enclosing structure. This will relate primarily to the location of the arrays, compounds and transformer stations.</p>	N	<p>Trent Valley IDB watercourses would be crossed by the Grid Connection Corridor route. However, there would be no requirement to introduce any water to the Trent Valley IDB watercourses from the Scheme once operational.</p> <p>Any discharge during construction would be appropriately attenuated in terms of flow rate and water quality, and would be subject to an Environmental Permit from the Environment Agency and consent of the Board should this affect watercourses under their jurisdiction. The Framework Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) [EN010131/APP/7.3] outlines mitigation measures to be implemented during construction for protection of the water environment, including for management of site runoff and accidental spillages.</p> <p>A 10m buffer has been applied around all watercourses within the Scheme boundary within which there would be no development, with the exception of where access track crossings need to be installed or cable crossings for the</p>



			Grid Connection Corridor. While horizontal directional drilling (HDD) beneath the bed is to be used for several watercourses, there is a requirement for open cut crossings in several cases as described in the Environmental Statement. Some watercourses would also require temporary culverts to facilitate access tracks along the Grid Connection Corridor. These would be subject to the consent of the IDB (where applicable) and appropriate mitigation would be in place as described in the ES and Framework CEMP, with full reinstatement of the watercourse being a requirement.
Trent Valley Board - Water Management Consortium	The Board will require all watercourses to be crossed by means of HDD at a depth no less than 2 metres PLUS the cable safety distance below the hard bed level of all watercourses (to ODN if EA or IDB maintained). This will allow the IDBs to have the flexibility to improve watercourses in the future due to climate change (works will include deepening & widening of watercourses). It is anticipated that the above requirements would be covered by SOCGs, MOU, and via Protective Provisions within the DCO. This matter should be discussed further and in more detail as the proposed cable route is refined.	N	<p>The requirement to obtain consent from the IDB for cable installation beneath or across watercourses is noted and would be applied for post DCO consent. This is understood to apply to HDD beneath the watercourses, plus open-cut cable installation (where required) and temporary access track culverts along the Grid Connection Corridor. Consent would be sought from Trent Valley IDB prior to any works commencing.</p> <p>It is agreed that the issues raised would be covered by Statements of Common Ground, Memorandums of Understanding, and via Protective Provisions within the DCO.</p>
UK Health Security Agency's Response	Electromagnetic Fields (EMF) UKHSA notes that it is intended to scope out electromagnetic fields from the Environmental Statement (ES). Volume 3 Appendix 1-C notes that information on EMF would be provided in Chapter 14 of the PEIR, however this does not appear to be the case. Justification should be provided within the ES to demonstrate that the potential for health impacts is not significant.	N	<p>The impact of EMFs generated by the cable route on local receptors has been considered in the ES, Chapter 14: Human Health [EN010131/APP/3.1] but scoped out given that only 400kV cable circuit will run underground. Whilst it is recognised that underground cables eliminate electric fields but still produce magnetic fields, it is unlikely that cables will be installed close to any residential or commercial properties due to difficulties with access. It is assumed that cables will be at least 10 metres away from any property. The EMF reduces rapidly with distance, and a maximum 4% of the permitted levels at 5 metres will be experienced. Some Public Right of Ways do cross the proposed cable route, although the users would be transient and present for short periods of time. For individuals exposed to EMF for short periods of time, the exposure is similar to that associated with general household appliances.</p>



Respondent	Comment	Development Change? ⁴	Applicant Response
UK Health Security Agency's Response	<p>Methodology - Determination of significant effects It is noted that Chapter 14 is drafted with reference to HUDU and as such no assessment of significance is provided for human health. This does not conform to the requirements of the EIA Regulations and as such an assessment of significance will be required to form part of the ES. 3 Recommendation The ES must provide an assessment of significance for those health determinants scoped into the population and human health chapter. The population and human health assessment should draw upon the findings from other relevant chapters, including air quality and noise. As there is not a defined approach to the assessment of significance for population and human health, it is strongly advised that any proposed approach is agreed with OHID/UKHSA and the local Director of Public Health. The guidance issued by the International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA)¹ could be used as a basis for the assessment of significance.</p>	N	<p>Comment noted. The legislation and guidance set out in the ES, Chapter 14: Human Health [EN010131/APP/3.1] has been used as the basis for the EIA. This includes the HUDU criteria which identifies the likelihood of neutral, positive or negative health effects drawing on the findings from other relevant chapters, including air quality and noise. It is not possible to robustly identify whether health effects or outcomes are significant or not significant, as there is no guidance which provides a justified definition of significance for health effects. More detail is provided in section 14.6 of the ES [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p>
West Lindsey District Council	<p>In contrast, I compare the findings of the PEIRs for the Cottam and West Burton Solar Projects – although larger sites, they estimate the significance of effect to be “major long-term adverse”. Those schemes are estimated to have a 40 year lifetime – two-thirds of that being proposed here. Consequently we are very concerned that the methodology being employed at the PEIR gives too much emphasis to the “temporary” nature of works to the point where the loss of 634.8Ha of agricultural land (73.6Ha of BMV land) could be concluded to be ‘negligible’.</p>	N	<p>The assessment of negligible effect takes into consideration both the area of BMV land that would be lost and the temporary nature of this loss.</p> <p>Chapter 12: Socio-economics and Land Use [EN010131/APP/3.1] confirms that the 73.6ha of grade 3a BMV land within the Solar and Energy Park would be required during the construction phase only and some agricultural use can continue (e.g. sheep farming underneath panels), following the completion of this construction. 6.8 hectares of the Solar and Energy Park is estimated BMV land but agricultural use can continue in full on this area. After construction, agricultural use can continue on land within the Grid Connection Corridor significantly limiting the duration of impacts.</p> <p>Construction work will involve relatively little displacement of the soil material, with the dominant impact being the trafficking over land with</p>

⁴ Indicates whether a change was made to the development following receipt of the comment.



			<p>delivery and construction vehicles and the soil compaction this might cause, although measures can be adopted to minimise impacts.</p> <p>The Agricultural Land Classification Survey is provided within Appendix 12-C of the Environmental Statement [EN010131/APP/3.3].</p>
West Lindsey District Council	It is noted that the grid connection route is predominantly within FZ3 and that the likelihood of increased flood risk from development is considered low as the connection is “via buried cables” (Appendix 9-B, 7.3.1). Whilst this is noted, Chapter 2 is not explicit in setting out that the grid connection will be via below ground cables.	N	The ES, Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010131/APP/3.1] now specifies that the grid connection will be via below ground cables.
Willingham By Stow Parish Council	Willingham by Stow Parish Council strongly oppose the massive scale of the 4 Solar Energy Projects that have been earmarked for the area. The parish council support plans for renewable energy generation but consider these 4 projects unacceptable.	N	The Applicant has had regard to developments in the surrounding areas in its cumulative assessment, which has been undertaken in each of the technical chapters of the ES and summarised in Chapter 16: Cumulative Effects [EN010131/APP/3.1] .

Alternatives and design evolution – including comments on local planning policy, route selection and general comments

Section 42 Applicant Regard to Consultee Responses

Respondent	Comment	Project Change	Applicant Response
Bassetlaw District Council	It is encouraging that the ES will contain a chapter that will consider alternative sites. Given that the site for the main development has already been selected, it would have been preferable if some consideration had already been given to this. This is especially important as by the time the proposal proceeds to submission, there is essentially no scope for alterations. That being said, it is promising that the broad methodology has been set out for establishing the selected site. The most preferable option would be for the chapter within the ES to fully justify why other potential sites were less preferable on balance.	N	<p>Chapter 3 of the ES [EN010131/APP/3.1] presents information on the alternatives considered and why alternatives were rejected.</p> <p>When considering assessment principles, adopted National Policy Statement (NPS) EN-1 paragraph 4.4.1 states that “<i>As in any planning case, the relevance or otherwise to the decision-making process of the existence (or alleged existence) of alternatives to a proposed development is in the first instance a matter of law, detailed guidance on which falls outside the scope of this NPS. From a policy perspective this NPS does not contain any general requirement to consider alternatives or to establish whether the proposed project represents the best option.</i>”. This paragraph is retained without amendment in Paragraph 4.2.11 of the Draft NPS EN-1.</p>



			<p>NPS EN-1 paragraph 4.4.3 goes on to state that: “where (as in the case of renewables) legislation imposes a specific quantitative target for particular technologies... the IPC should not reject an application for development on one site simply because fewer adverse impacts would result from developing similar infrastructure on another suitable site, and it should have regard as appropriate to the possibility that all suitable sites for energy infrastructure of the type proposed may be needed for future proposals”.</p> <p>Paragraph 4.2.13 of Draft NPS EN-1 similarly states that: “the SoS should not refuse an application for development on one site simply because fewer adverse impacts would result from developing similar infrastructure on another suitable site.”</p> <p>The relevant consideration when determining a DCO application is whether the Scheme should be consented in accordance with the decision-making process set out in Section 105 of the PA 2008, including compliance with relevant and important matters such as adopted and draft National Policy Statements and Local Plan documents. Whilst there are policy and regulatory requirements to consider alternatives in particular circumstances, there is no requirement to generally assess alternative sites or justify that the site promoted is the best site.</p>
Bassetlaw District Council	Although it is welcome that the emerging Bassetlaw Local Plan (2020-37) has been referenced, no specific policies have been referenced in relation to landscape and visual amenity. No reference has been made at all in Chapter 8, although it is just the cabling route that directly impacts the District, the lack of a direct reference is disappointing.	N	Appendix 10-A: Legislation and Planning Policy [EN010131/APP/3.1] , refers to Bassetlaw Local Plan 2020-2037 with specific reference to Chapter 8. It also states Policies ST35, ST37, ST39, ST41 and ST51 in relation to landscape character and visual amenities.
Bassetlaw District Council	As above, the following Neighbourhood Plan policies / supporting studies are of relevance to this theme, and should be referenced explicitly: • Rampton & Woodbeck Neighbourhood Plan: Character Assessment • Rampton & Woodbeck Neighbourhood Plan: Policy 10 (The Protection of the Parish Landscape) • Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan (Review): Design Code • Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan (Review): Policy 2a (Protecting the landscape character, significant green gaps and key views) • Treswell & Cottam Neighbourhood Plan:	N	<p>References to the following Neighbourhood Plan policies will be included within the ES, Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rampton & Woodbeck Neighbourhood Plan: Character Assessment • Rampton & Woodbeck Neighbourhood Plan: Policy 10 (The Protection of the Parish Landscape) • Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan (Review): Design Code



	Character Assessment • Treswell & Cottam Neighbourhood Plan: Policy 2 (Design principles)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan (Review): Policy 2a (Protecting the landscape character, significant green gaps and key views) • Treswell & Cottam Neighbourhood Plan: Character Assessment • Treswell & Cottam Neighbourhood Plan: Policy 2 (Design principles)
Respondent	Comment	Project Change	Applicant Response
Bassetlaw District Council	<p>It should be noted that the report takes an inconsistent approach to referencing the emerging Bassetlaw Local Plan. Some sections reference it and relevant policies and others don't. The emerging local plan should be referenced for all sections given the timescales envisaged for this proposal. However, it is welcomed that the ES will afford appropriate weight to the policies within the emerging Bassetlaw Local Plan but a consistent approach should be taken on this matter. The scheme is inconsistent in its application of the policies within the Bassetlaw Local Plan. Reference is made to Policies DM9, DM10 and DM12 which are all clearly relevant policies to the scheme. However, no reference has been given to Policies DM4 and DM8 of the Bassetlaw Core Strategy. These policies are critical in terms of the schemes potential impact in terms of design and the potential impact of the scheme on landscape character. Given the scale of the project, the lack of references to these policies is disappointing. The ES should make clear reference to these policies and afford them appropriate weight throughout the process. There is a similar issue in respect to Neighbourhood Plans. The Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan (Review), adopted 11 November 2021, is absent from the list of relevant development plan documents. In addition, despite the Rampton and Woodbeck and Treswell and Cottam Neighbourhood Plan being referenced in the list of relevant documents, no relevant policies from either Neighbourhood Plan have been referenced. It is requested that the relevant policies in all of these plans are set out in the ES and afforded appropriate weight.</p>	N	<p>References to the emerging Bassetlaw Local Plan will be included within all chapters of the ES [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p> <p>Reference to Policies DM4 and DM8 within the Bassetlaw Core Strategy will be included within the ES.</p> <p>Reference to the Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan as well as reference to relevant policies from Rampton and Woodbeck and Treswell and Cottam Neighbourhood Plan will be included within the ES and afforded appropriate weight.</p>



Bassetlaw District Council	No reference is made to the mitigation hierarchy in relation to the LWS and so it is not clear whether consideration was given to an alternative route to avoid negative impacts on the LWS. LWS receive protection within the NPPF (2021) and the Draft Bassetlaw Local Plan.	N	In consideration of the avoidance of LWS's and the mitigation hierarchy, the Grid Connection Corridor will cross Cow Pasture Lane Drains LWS via non-intrusive methods to avoid direct and indirect impacts to this Site. Therefore, there will be no loss of habitat and no fragmentation of habitats within the LWS. All construction methods will be presented in more detail within the Framework CEMP [EN010131/APP/7.3] , secured through the DCO.
Respondent	Comment	Project Change	Applicant Response
Bassetlaw District Council	The LWS network is comprehensive (meaning that every site which qualifies as a LWS is designated as one), whereas SSSIs are representative of the best sites in an area, such that that not all sites which meet the SSSI selection criteria have been, or will be, designated as a SSSI. Because of this, a number of LWS would potentially qualify as SSSIs, meaning that LWS are best described as sites that are of at least county-level importance for their flora and/or fauna. There should, therefore, be a presumption against development activity within sites of county biodiversity value.	N	Comment noted. The Grid Connection Corridor will cross Cow Pasture Lane Drains LWS via non-intrusive methods to avoid direct and indirect impacts to this Site. Therefore, there will be no loss of habitat and no fragmentation of habitats within the LWS. All construction methods will be presented in more detail within the Framework CEMP [EN010131/APP/7.3] secured through the DCO.
Bassetlaw District Council	Water Environment The following Neighbourhood Plan policies are of relevance to this theme, and should be referenced explicitly: • Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan (Review): Policy 4 (Reducing the risk of flooding),	N	A reference to Sturton Ward Neighborhood Plan (Review): Policy 4 (Reducing the risk of flooding) has been included within the ES, Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010131/APP/3.1] .
Bassetlaw District Council	Broadly speaking, the cabling route should follow the least sensitive route and avoid statutory and non-statutory designations wherever possible unless absolutely necessary. Appropriate mitigation should be considered where necessary.	N	Comment noted and agreed. The cable route does follow the least sensitive route, where possible. To avoid impacts to the LWS it will be crossed via non-intrusive methods. All construction methods will be presented in more detail within the Framework CEMP [EN010131/APP/7.3] secured through the DCO.
Bassetlaw District Council	This shows that the southern-most cable route, which runs to the north, west and south of Cottam, has been chosen as the preferred site. This is very much supported by Conservation, as it removes the likelihood of impacting on the Scheduled Ancient Monument at Littleborough. Conservation would, however, defer	N	An assessment of the significance of archaeological remains and the impact of the Scheme on these remains has been undertaken and provided in the ES, Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage [EN010131/APP/3.1] . Mitigation strategies have been identified which include embedded design mitigation to reduce or avoid the impact on assets of high importance.



	to the views of our Archaeologist on the matter of belowground heritage and archaeological impact and mitigation.		
Canal and River Trust	Use of the River Trent for Freight The installation of new solar farm equipment could involve the importation of significant indivisible heavy loads. The River Trent is a commercial waterway, where the transport of equipment may be possible which could help to minimise the need to utilise the Highway Network. We advise that the use of the Trent should be included within the Transport and Access chapter of the Environmental Statement, so as to ensure that every possibility to reduce the impact on the highway network is considered.	N	The use of the River Trent for freight was considered but ruled out due to the weight of equipment being transported (including abnormal loads such as cable drums). It was also considered that river transport would offer limited benefit as construction of the Grid Connection Corridor is only expected to result in up to 16 HGV's per day.
Canal and River Trust	Impact on Dredging Tips and Ground Contamination The stretch of the River Trent identified in the PEIR for the cable crossing lies immediately south of two areas of land in the Trust's ownership, located on either side of the river. This land has been used as dredging tips (and the site to the east of Coates Lane is still in use for this purpose) and any use of this land for routing cables could reduce the ability of the Trust to carry out future dredging activities on the River Trent, which is particularly important to facilitate continued navigation of the river by commercial vessels. We therefore recommend that, in considering the final cable route, this land is avoided. The Environmental Statement should nonetheless consider any potential impacts on existing dredging tips, including consideration of the potential for them to contain elevated levels of contamination.	N	<p>The potential for contamination associated with the existing dredging tips is considered within Appendix 15-F: Grid Connection Preliminary Risk Assessment [EN010131/APP/3.3].</p> <p>The Preliminary Risk Assessment concludes that given the nature of the Scheme, the sources identified and the nature of the likely exposure to existing human health receptors and that of the future users of the Site, the risk to human health is considered to be low. Risks to controlled waters has been identified to be low to moderate/low. Overall, the potential risks that have been identified have been assessed by the Preliminary Risk Assessment as being acceptable. Therefore, the potential risks identified are not considered to pose a significant risk to the Site.</p> <p>Based on the conclusions of the Preliminary Risk Assessment, an assessment of impacts from the existing dredging tips is not required.</p>
Canal and River Trust	The PEIR identifies a cable route corridor which includes a stretch of the River Trent approximately 1.5km in length to the south of Trentport, Marton. We note that assessment work is ongoing and the final route of the corridor has not yet been finalised although it is confirmed that the River Trent is to be crossed using underground techniques (Para 9.4.3).	N	<p>A meeting has been held with the Canal and River Trust to discuss the Scheme proposals. It is correct that the Grid Connection Corridor crosses the River Trent. The cable will be installed via trenchless techniques in this location i.e using Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD).</p> <p>The Applicant is working with Cottam Solar Project and West Burton Solar Project to maximise opportunities for reducing overall environmental and</p>



	<p>We note that two other similar projects are being progressed in the locality and that the cable route corridor identified partially overlaps with the Cottam Solar Project and West Burton Solar Project cable corridor options very closely. All three projects identify the same stretch of the River Trent for the cable crossing.</p> <p>We further note that the PEIR states that the developers have worked collaboratively on design development and environmental avoidance mitigation to maximise opportunities for reducing overall environmental and social effects, in particular on communities in proximity to the Grid Connection Corridor and on known ecological and archaeologically sensitive areas adjacent to the River Trent and we consider that this is an appropriate approach. We strongly recommend that the Trust is included in future discussions over the location of the cable crossing and whether a single crossing point can be agreed by the respective project promoters so we can advise on any potential issues likely to affect navigational safety or our interests as an affected landowner.</p>		<p>social effects, including communities in proximity to the Grid Connection Corridor and on known ecological and archaeologically sensitive areas.</p>
Historic England	<p>A shared Trent river crossing option that combines Cottam, West Burton and other adjacent Solar NSIPS accessing the grid via these outgoing coal burning power station connections is highly desirable to minimise archaeological impacts. Early attention should be paid to investigating crossing point options in this complex and dense archaeological landscape. The reach of the Trent from around Marton / Littleborough to Torksey presents particularly acute archaeological risks with the combination of Roman and Viking activity and the presence of windblown sand and alluvial deposits and it will be important to allow as much time as possible to plan the design and mitigation of works in this area.</p>	N	<p>A geoarchaeological assessment, including a deposit model, has been undertaken for the Scheme and is provided as an Appendix to the Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage [EN010131/APP/3.1] and summarised in the Desk-based Assessment (Appendix 7-A) [EN010131/APP/3.3].</p> <p>The Grid Connection Corridor has been designed with all three schemes in mind which includes a shared crossing point.</p>
Lincolnshire County Council	<p>Regarding Overhead/ground lines: Could it be clarified if any above-ground lines and associated poles are proposed.</p>	Y	<p>As outlined in the ES, Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN010131/APP/3.1] following feedback from non-statutory consultation no overhead/ground lines are proposed, with the exception of the connection</p>



			into the onsite substation and at Cottam substation. The cabling between racks will be low level i.e. at the height of the racks and therefore will not be visible.
Lincolnshire County Council	From the statement provided in 6.4.30 , 6.10.12 and Table 6-19 (Figure 3) in the PEIR, given the replacement rates of the products highlighted the estimation of the embodied emission during the operational stage seems to be underestimated.	N	Replacement rates, and associated GHG impacts, are in line with a 100% replacement in year 20. There is an additional 50% replacement to cover equipment failures, at a constant rate throughout the remaining 40 year project life. This figure includes the embodied emissions of replacement, as well as transportation emissions, and includes failures.
Respondent	Comment	Project Change	Applicant Response
Lincolnshire County Council	The PEIR identifies the extent of the Study Area of the development of 3km at section 10.5, which defines the spatial scope of the area to be addressed. The 3km study area also currently includes the grid connection route. The LVIA Chapter should include a clear statement on the justification for the extent of the final Study Area.	N	ES, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010131/APP/3.1] includes a further detailed rationale for the determination of the study area radius.
Lincolnshire County Council	Section 7.5.4 states that 'Where the Grid Connection Route is located beyond the 1km study area, a 500m study area has been applied from the boundary of the Grid Connection Route (refer to PEI Report Volume 2: Figures 7-5 and 7-8). This 500m study area is considered appropriate to the works due to the linear nature of the connector.' The study area should be at least 1km to maximize the potential for known archaeology to inform the archaeological potential of the development area.	N	The results of the geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation are presented in Appendix 7-D and 7-E [EN010131/APP/3.3] and are summarised in the Desk-based Assessment (Appendix 7-A) [EN010131/APP/3.3] . The results have been incorporated into the baseline information in order to understand the archaeological potential of the development area. The study areas for the assessment are defined within Section 7.5 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage [EN010131/APP/3.3] and are all at least 1km except for the Grid Connection Corridor which is 500m as stated in the comment.
Lincolnshire County Council	The PEIR and its accompanying appendices identify the Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan as relevant local policy and identify that the proposals fall partially within land designated as a Minerals Safeguarding Area (MSA) for sand and gravel. However, the documentation does not appear at this stage to include any consideration of the potential sterilisation of	Y	As per the meeting which was held between the Applicant and Lincolnshire County Council and Nottinghamshire County Council in May 2022, it was agreed that a MSA was not necessary as a standalone DCO Application document due to further information provided by the Applicant on the reduced and narrowed routing of the Grid Connection Route which passes through a MSA for sand and gravel. The advice has been taken on board



	<p>safeguarded mineral resources. It is noted that paragraph 12.7.31 states: "Further consideration of mineral safeguarding will be provided in the DCO Application." In terms of the information to be included in the DCO application, as set out in our response at the Scoping stage, it is acknowledged that the vast majority of the PV site itself does not lie within the MSA, and potential sterilisation of mineral resources may therefore be very limited. We did however request more detailed consideration of the proposed Grid Connection Corridors which pass through the MSA adjacent to the River Trent. It is noted that a preferred Grid Connection Corridor has now been selected, and this affects less of the MSA than the other options considered. The PEIR notes that the exact grid connection route will be further refined as the EIA progresses. As it will still affect some safeguarded sand and gravel resources, we would request that wherever possible the cable route follows existing constraints and infrastructure corridors such as roads, railways, drainage routes or existing pipelines or cable routes or alternatively follow the edge of significant landscape features rather than directly crossing open fields. This would ensure minimal sterilisation of resources</p>		<p>and the latest routing of the Grid Connection Corridor has been designed to limit the scale and extent of any mineral sterilization wherever possible. Further information and consideration of mineral safeguarding is provided in the Planning, Design and Access Statement [EN010131/APP/2.2] which accompanies the DCO Application.</p>
<p>Environment Agency</p>	<p>Critical infrastructure, panels and structures within the development should be sequentially located to avoid areas of high fluvial flood risk and raised to a sufficient height to avoid floodwater. These should be preferentially located within flood zone 1, an area at low probability of flooding. Cont/d.. 2</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>A sequential approach has been taken in locating panels to avoid areas of flood risk. Where areas of flood risk cannot be avoided, panels have been raised a minimum of 800 mm above ground level to avoid floodwater. The BESS and Storage Compound have been sequentially located to Flood Zone 1. The layout has been amended in the north eastern corner with panels removed from flood zones associated with Padmoor Drain. More detail can be found in the ES, Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p>
<p>Natural England</p>	<p>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. The ALC survey will enable a soil management plan to be generated</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Comment noted. It is considered that supplementary sampling of BMV areas is not required as permanent infrastructure (e.g. the BESS) has been sited to avoid BMV land where practicable while balancing surface water, flood risk and visual considerations.</p>



	<p>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. We will provide further comment when this is available.</p>		<p>In terms of the Grid Connection Corridor, a desktop study has been undertaken rather than a detailed survey as it is considered that a desktop survey is sufficient to establish the ALC and soil resource within the area. This is because the impacts on this area are limited to the installation of an underground grid connection, after which land can be returned to agricultural use. Therefore, for the purposes of the assessment a site based survey is not necessary.</p> <p>The desktop study has been undertaken using available published information (BGS mapping, published Soil Maps and MAGIC DEFRA site). The results of the desktop study are included within Chapter 12: Socio-economics and Land Use within the Environmental Statement [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p> <p>The results of the ALC survey will be fed into a site-specific Outline Soils Resource Management Plan [EN010131/APP/7.12] to ensure correct handling and restoration of soils, and onsite reuse of any surplus soils stripped from areas of permanent development (where possible).</p>
<p>Nottinghamshire County Council</p>	<p>Minerals The specifics relating to ‘Gate Burton’ and the cabling options for connection to the national grid. The entire of western side of River Trent lies within a Sand and Gravel Mineral Safeguarding Area, but that given relatively small land take we do not foresee any problems. The northern cabling route option, the buffer zone for which, runs through or at least very close to the permitted sand and gravel site at Sturton Le Steeple quarry (1/46/06/00014/). As this site is not presently active, it may not have been picked up as part of the initial scoping exercise. NCC would draw attention to Adopted Minerals Local Plan March 2021 (Policy MP2c) and Policies Map Inset 4.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Comment noted. The Adopted Minerals Local Plan March 2021 (Policy MP2c) and Policies Map Inset 4 has been considered within the ES and Local Policy Accordance Tables within Appendix B of the Planning, Design and Access Statement [EN010131/APP/2.2].</p> <p>The separation distance between the permitted sand and gravel site at Sturton Le Steeple and the Order limits is approximately 4.5km therefore the site will not be impacted.</p>
<p>West Lindsey District Council</p>	<p>1.4.16 – It is noted that relevant policy includes the Lea Neighbourhood Plan, which was adopted in January 2018, and for which the neighbourhood area immediately adjoins the site to the north. It can be noted that the site also immediately</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Reference to the Sturton by Stow and Sturton Neighbourhood Plan will be given in the Planning Statement [EN010131/APP/2.2] and afforded the appropriate weight.</p>



	adjoins the Sturton by Stow / Stow Neighbourhood area – along its south-eastern boundary. The Sturton by Stow and Sturton Neighbourhood Plan was formally made in July 2022, and should also be considered as relevant local policy.		
Western Power Distribution	A number of sites outlined in the proposal affect land WPD has assets on. Therefore, we will object to the development until we are certain our assets are protected.	N	The Applicant wishes to continue dialogue with Western Power Distribution all the way through the DCO process through to operation of the Scheme, should the proposal be consented. The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the Applicant and National Grid Electricity Distribution, formerly known as Western Power Distribution.
Western Power Distribution	Diversions of WPD apparatus may be required, please contact the local office for quotes.	N	The Applicant wishes to continue dialogue with Western Power Distribution all the way through the DCO process through to operation of the Scheme, should the proposal be consented. The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the Applicant and National Grid Electricity Distribution, formerly known as Western Power Distribution.
Western Power Distribution	If any of WPD's apparatus is with proximity of the corridor, please take advice on safe working practices. Please seek advice from the local WPD office to advise if any diversions are necessary.	N	The Applicant wishes to continue dialogue with Western Power Distribution all the way through the DCO process through to operation of the Scheme, should the proposal be consented. The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the Applicant and National Grid Electricity Distribution, formerly known as Western Power Distribution.

Consultation

Section 42 Applicant Regard to Consultee Responses

Respondent	Comment	Project Change	Applicant Response
Bassetlaw District Council	Comments on the general approach The general approach of the PEIR is generally acceptable and represents a significant increase in detail on the EIA Scoping Report, which is to be expected. It is also promising to see that some of the concerns that were raised in our previous response have been addressed. Each chapter now appears to contain references which form the key evidence base for how the PEIR was prepared. Furthermore, mitigation is set out in each topic which	N	Comment noted. No response required.



	is acceptable, although specific comments will be outlined below for each topic.		
Lincolnshire County Council	However, it should be noted that since the Scoping Report was issued, and meetings were held with AECOM on viewpoints, the redline boundary has been amended along the western boundary to include two large plots to cover two access points along the A156. While panels or development is not currently shown in these additional areas (Figure 2-4), access roads and main construction access will likely be located here, and Figure 2-4 is showing a large construction compound in one of these locations.	Y	The Order limits have been refined at this location to reduce the land take for the main access point from the A156, since the layout shown in the PEI Report. The proposed access road from the A156 are shown in Viewpoint / Photomontage 13. Views east from locations further west of the River Trent at a medium distance are illustrated in Viewpoint 14. ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010131/APP/3.1] , and appendices assess the landscape and visual effects arising from the proposed access road and relevant construction compounds at construction, operational and decommissioning stage.
Lincolnshire County Council	Paragraph 10.3.5 references 1:25,000 and 1:10,000 scale Ordnance Survey mapping, however, the base maps used on figures appears to be OS Landranger 1:50,000 Scale. We would recommend base mapping is "upgraded", where appropriate, to 1:25,000 or 1:10,000 and re-scaled as needed.	N	Comment noted. The base mapping used on figures has been updated to 1:25,000 where appropriate.
Lincolnshire County Council	Further Information Requirements – as anticipated at this stage of the project development of the Gate Burton Energy Park significant further information remains to be presented in the Environmental Statement.	N	Comment noted. No response required.
National Grid-UK Land and Property	This is a response on behalf of National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC (NGET). Due to the proximity of some of our assets, NGET wishes to express their interest in further consultation while the impact on our assets is still being assessed. 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.	N	Comment noted. The Applicant wishes to continue dialogue with National Grid all the way through the DCO process through to operation of the Scheme, should the proposal be consented. The Applicant is in discussions with National Grid regarding protective provisions.

Climate change

Section 42 Applicant Regard to Consultee Responses



Respondent	Comment	Project Change	Applicant Response
Historic England	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.	N	An assessment of the significance of archaeological remains and the impact of the Scheme on these remains has been undertaken and provided in the ES, Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage [EN010131/APP/3.1] . Mitigation strategies have been identified which include embedded design mitigation to reduce or avoid the impact on assets of high importance.
Lincolnshire County Council	Comparisons with other forms of energy especially renewable energies have not been provided.	N	<p>Section 6.10 of Chapter 6: Climate Change of the ES [EN010131/APP/3.1] outlines that the scheme has been compared against a gas-fired Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) generating facility, which is currently the most carbon-efficient fossil-fueled technology available. Although we cannot be certain where the power would come from without the Scheme, a comparison to another solar farm is not a meaningful comparison.</p> <p>It is potentially misleading to compare the Scheme with another solar farm, as this would not represent a valid counterfactual option. Even when comparing the Scheme with the grid or with a gas-fired Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) generating facility, it is important to only include operational emissions and not embodied emissions from the manufacture and supply of PV modules, battery storage systems and other components. Operational emissions dominate the GHG impact of a CCGT facility, while for a Solar scheme the large majority of emissions result from construction and capital maintenance.</p> <p>NREL estimates 43 gCO₂e/kWh according to Figure 6, whereas for Gate Burton the whole life carbon intensity was calculated to be significantly lower at 35 gCO₂e/kWh. Although the carbon intensity varies for different sources of power such as on- and offshore wind, nuclear and other low-carbon alternatives, the Scheme remains lower carbon than the fossil fuel alternative. Replacing fossil fuels will require the development of a range of low-carbon generating technologies, including solar.</p>
Lincolnshire County Council	Climate Change – The Council has engaged a consultant to examine the projected carbon emissions of the project. Work on this is still on-going and will be updated as information regarding	N	1. How are the batteries going to be decommissioned considering they will be replaced several times over the plant's lifespan?



	<p>battery storage becomes available. With the information available in the PEIR document the following questions are raised in respect of climate change with regard to the potential Green House Gas emissions and emission savings projected as a result of this project. 1.How are the batteries going to be decommissioned considering they will be replaced several times over the plant's lifespan? 2.What is the total battery capacity? Especially knowing that a given land area can accommodate well over 25 BESS units (conservative estimate). 3.What battery technology is considered? 4.Although the total GHGs from the construction stage are mentioned as the worst-case scenario what other sources of emissions have been considered in the 'worst-case' estimate? 5.What are the possible emissions during the operation stage? What is the replacement rate for the sources of emissions identified in the operations stage? 6.What are the emissions sources and total carbon emissions in the decommissioning stage? 7.What is the replacement rate of the batteries during the operational stage? 17 8.Is grid decarbonisation considered in the GHG emissions estimations and what is the total net savings from the plant with a decarbonising grid? 9.What are projections of grid decarbonisation over the lifespan of the project?</p>		<p>The embodied carbon emissions of replacing SV Panels, PV Invertors, BESS cells and transformers is outlined in Section 6.10 of Chapter 6: Climate Change of the ES [EN010131/APP/3.1]. As outlined in Section 6.4 of Chapter 6 of the ES, emissions from the decommissioning process are very difficult to estimate due to the substantial uncertainty surrounding decommissioning methodologies and approaches so far into the future. Further details on decommissioning can be found in Section 2.7 of ES Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p> <p>2. What is the total battery capacity? Especially knowing that a given land area can accommodate well over 25 BESS units (conservative estimate). Section 6.4, Chapter 6: Climate Change of the ES [EN010131/APP/3.1] outlines that the total battery storage capacity assumed is 500 mWh.</p> <p>3. What battery technology is considered? Lithium ion batteries are considered as outlined in Section 6.4, Chapter 6: Climate Change of the ES [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p> <p>4. Although the total GHGs from the construction stage are mentioned as the worst-case scenario what other sources of emissions have been considered in the 'worst-case' estimate?</p> <p>Section 6.4 and Section 6.10 of Chapter 6: Climate Change [EN010131/APP/3.1] outline the following worst case assumptions and emissions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 36-month construction programme has been assumed for the purposes of this assessment. This is expected to be a realistic worst-case assumption for this assessment, as it represents the expected maximum build time and therefore the maximum total emissions and impacts occurring as a result of the construction phase. • For the transportation of materials and waste, the longest distance (worst-case) country of origin for HGV and sea freight has been assumed for each of the key components of the Scheme.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emissions associated with worker transport is a highly conservative worst-case scenario, with the actual operational transport emissions likely to be much lower with the inevitable transition to EVs combined with the ongoing decarbonisation of UK grid electricity. • Emissions from the supply of water and treatment of wastewater are also a worst-case scenario, as the carbon intensity of water supply and wastewater treatment are expected to fall over time. • It has been assumed that the resources and effort required for decommissioning will be equivalent to those required for construction. This is considered to be a worst-case scenario. • The embodied carbon of the panels has been based on generic LCA data which is usually based on panels manufactured in China as no specific data was available. This tends to have higher embodied emissions due to the amount of coal used for grid electricity generation. • Over the lifetime of the Scheme, developments in PV waste recycling are expected to improve. <p>5. What are the possible emissions during the operation stage? What is the replacement rate for the sources of emissions identified in the operations stage?</p> <p>Section 6.10 of Chapter 6: Climate Change [EN010131/APP/3.1] presents emissions during the operation stage from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy consumption • Provision of clean water • Treatment of wastewater • Material use and waste generation resulting from ongoing site maintenance <p>Section 6.4 of Chapter 6: Climate Change [EN010131/APP/3.1] outlines the operational emission sources from components being replaced. It has been assumed that all inverters and BESS cells will require replacement twice, with a further 50% requiring replacement to cover equipment failures, at a constant rate throughout the 60-year project life. This equates to a 20 year replacement rate plus additional to cover failures.</p>
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		<p>6. What are the emissions sources and total carbon emissions in the decommissioning stage?</p> <p>As outlined in Section 6.6 of Chapter 6: Climate Change [EN010131/APP/3.1], emission sources during decommissioning are likely to be from consumption of energy (electricity and other fuels) from plant, vehicles and generators on-site, and emissions from the disposal and transportation of waste. Emissions from the decommissioning process at the end of the design life are very difficult to estimate due to the substantial uncertainty surrounding decommissioning methodologies and approaches so far into the future. It has been assumed that the resources and effort required for decommissioning will be equivalent to those required for construction. This is considered to be a worst-case scenario.</p> <p>Currently there is a lot of research around recycling of solar panels. Methods for recycling PV modules are being developed worldwide to reduce the environmental impact of PV waste and to recover valuable materials from the waste. Current recycling practices are inefficient as WEEE recycling plants are not equipped with specialised PV recycling equipment. The overall recycling rate achieved by current recycling processes is around 24%, well below the current minimum target of 80% (in mass) of reuse and recycling, as set by the WEEE Directive. However, much more efficient recycling processes are already being developed. For example, the Full Recovery End-of-Life Photovoltaic (FREL P) process is recognised as one of the most advanced PV waste recycling process currently developed. The FREL P process is capable of achieving recycling rates for aluminium, copper, glass, silicon and silver of at least 88% (as much as 95% for some materials). Due to this, over the lifetime of the Scheme, developments in PV waste recycling are expected to improve. See section 6.4 of Chapter 6: Climate Change [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p> <p>7. What is the replacement rate of the batteries during the operational stage?</p> <p>Section 6.4 of Chapter 6: Climate Change [EN010131/APP/3.1] outlines the operational emission sources from components being replaced. It has</p>
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			<p>been assumed that all inverters and BESS cells will require replacement twice, with a further 50% requiring replacement to cover equipment failures, at a constant rate throughout the 60-year project life. This equates to a 20 year replacement rate plus additional to cover failures.</p> <p>8. Is grid decarbonisation considered in the GHG emissions estimations and what is the total net savings from the plant with a decarbonising grid?</p> <p>Section 6.10 of Chapter 6: Climate Change [EN010131/APP/3.1] outlines that beyond 2037, it is anticipated that direct operational emissions will decrease over time due to continuing grid decarbonisation. It outlines that as the GHG electricity generation intensity figure for the Scheme is anticipated to sit continually below the forecast grid average, GHG emissions savings are expected to be achieved throughout the lifetime of the Scheme compared to other fossil fuel energy generation types. Therefore, the GHG emissions during construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Scheme can be considered to be 'offset' by the net positive impact of the Scheme on GHG emissions and the UK's ability to meet its carbon targets. It would be possible for a low-carbon energy generation project to have a GHG intensity below the projected grid for most of its lifetime, but above it towards the end of its lifetime and still have an overall positive impact on the UK's ability to meet its carbon targets. However, comparison to grid emissions is not a suitable comparison as decarbonisation of the grid relies on investment in low carbon technologies, such as this Scheme. Emissions associated with the grid are also based only on the fuel consumed by power stations and are therefore not relevant in the context of the Scheme.</p> <p>Section 6.10 of Chapter 6: Climate Change [EN010131/APP/3.1] also details that indirectly, the generation of electricity with a much lower carbon intensity than the grid average will result in reduced GHG emissions overall. This indirect emissions reduction will far outweigh any direct emissions resulting from the operations of the Scheme over its lifetime and overall, the operation of the project will provide GHG performance that supports the trajectory towards net zero.</p>
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			<p>9. What are projections of grid decarbonisation over the lifespan of the project?</p> <p>Grid decarbonisation has not been quantitatively included due to the above reasons (see question 8). Where referenced, grid decarbonisation has been used in line with government projections.</p>
Lincolnshire County Council	Estimates from other solar resource assessment tools put the yearly energy output at 452,000MWh” Battery capacity has also not been stated in the PIER document, the compound for the battery park has been specified at 6ha.	N	Chapter 6: Climate change [EN010131/APP/3.1] outlines that the total battery storage capacity assumed is 500 MWh.
West Lindsey District Council	Climate Change Contents noted, including the proposed mitigation as set out (6.9).	N	Noted. No response required.

Cultural heritage – including local sites of archaeology, listed buildings and general comments

Section 42 Applicant Regard to Consultee Responses

Respondent	Comment	Project Change	Applicant Response
Bassetlaw District Council	Regarding section 7.10 and Table 7-4, we are pleased to see good examples of embedded mitigation measures to lessen Historic Environment impacts.	N	Noted. No response required.
Bassetlaw District Council	The section 7.6.1 on sources does not include Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) data which is required	N	A review of the PAS online portal has been undertaken and the data has been incorporated into the baseline presented in Appendix 7-A [EN010131/APP/3.3] .
Bassetlaw District Council	Regarding section 7.9.7 which lists the potential decommissioning impacts on the Historic Environment, thought will need to be given to both embedded methodology and practical on-site solutions, for example fencing to ensure there is no potential compaction or tracking across any preserved in situ archaeological areas across the site.	N	The selected method of decommissioning would have due regard to health and safety, environmental impact and benefits, and economic aspects which will be set out in a Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan [EN010131/APP/7.5] ., which will be secured through a DCO Requirement. Any future maintenance, decommissioning and / or reinstatement works would be subject to prevailing legislation, guidance and permitting regimes. Landscape restoration and remediation to suitable surfaces would be undertaken. This will result in the restoration of the rural landscape. A well-



			designed decommissioning scheme would not have any impact beyond the already-disturbed footprint of the Scheme, and will take into account areas of archaeological deposits that have been preserved in situ.
Bassetlaw District Council	Section 7.10.4 states that 'It is anticipated that it will be possible to mitigate the Scheme's impacts upon the buried archaeological resource through a staged programme of archaeological investigation and recording undertaken as additional mitigation'. While we are pleased to hear that archaeological investigation through a staged archaeological programme of investigation and recording will be undertaken however this should not be referred to as 'additional' mitigation, it is a core aspect of effective archaeological mitigation strategy.	N	<p>An assessment of likely impacts and effects of the Scheme on heritage assets and their setting is presented in the ES, Chapter 7 Cultural Heritage. Mitigation strategies are outlined in Chapter 7 Cultural Heritage [EN010131/APP/3.1] and a Mitigation Schedule [EN010131/APP/2.5] has been produced to accompany the DCO.</p> <p>As explained in Chapter 5: EIA Methodology [EN010131/APP/3.1] additional mitigation is a term used to describe mitigation measures which are over and above 'embedded' mitigation. 'Additional mitigation' has the potential to reduce significant adverse effects following the assessment of the Scheme (inclusive of its embedded mitigation).</p>
Bassetlaw District Council	The geophysical survey for the Solar and Energy Storage Park is now completed and we await the results of the geophysical survey along the connection route which is on-going. Section 7.8 Future Baseline states: 7.8.1 The future baseline scenarios are set out in Chapter 5: EIA Methodology. It is considered there will be no change to the future baseline for cultural heritage. 7.8.2 The baseline details as presented above (including changes to settings of the assets) are not anticipated to change in the absence of the Scheme The future baseline will change following the results of the geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation along the corridor route. Sections 7.9.2 and 7.9.3 deal with permanent construction impacts on the Historic Environment, regarding earthworks excavation in the case of any historic earthworks which may be damaged or destroyed during construction these will need to be subject to a programme of recording prior to any works whatsoever and a programme of restoration following completion of the works.	N	<p>The geophysical survey reports are provided as Appendix 7-D to the Chapter 7 Cultural Heritage [EN010131/APP/3.3].</p> <p>The results of the trial trench evaluation have been incorporated into the existing baseline presented in Appendix 7-A [EN010131/APP/3.3].</p> <p>Earthwork remains of ridge and furrow which have been excavated during the trial trench evaluation have been restored following completion of the survey works. Earthwork remains of post-medieval flood defences within the Grid Connection Corridor will be subject to re-instatement following construction as set out in the Archaeological Mitigation Strategy [EN010131/APP7.6].</p>
Bassetlaw District Council	This shows that the southern-most cable route, which runs to the north, west and south of Cottam, has been chosen as the	N	An assessment of the significance of archaeological remains and the impact of the Scheme on these remains has been undertaken and provided in the



	preferred site. This is very much supported by Conservation, as it removes the likelihood of impacting on the Scheduled Ancient Monument at Littleborough. Conservation would, however, defer to the views of our Archaeologist on the matter of belowground heritage and archaeological impact and mitigation.		ES, Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage [EN010131/APP/3.1]. Mitigation strategies have been identified which include embedded design mitigation to reduce or avoid the impact on assets of high importance.
Bassetlaw District Council	Section 7.5.4 states that 'Where the Grid Connection Route is located beyond the 1km study area, a 500m study area has been applied from the boundary of the Grid Connection Route (refer to PEI Report Volume 2: Figures 7-5 and 7-8). This 500m study area is considered appropriate to the works due to the linear nature of the connector.' The study area should be at least 1km to maximize the potential for known archaeology to inform the archaeological potential of the development area.	N	The study areas for the assessment are defined within Section 7.5 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage [EN010131/APP/3.1] and are all at least 1km from the DCO Site boundary, except for the Grid Connection Corridor which is 500m from the boundary. In addition, the results of the evaluation surveys undertaken for the Scheme have been incorporated into the baseline information in order to understand the archaeological potential of the development area.
Bassetlaw District Council	The bulk of the project is located within Lincolnshire, however the cable connection will run through Bassetlaw District connecting to the hub at the site of the former power station at Cottam. Consequently, this response concerns the proposals for the cable route and not the main site. We are pleased by the progress which has been made and by our mutual engagement with finding a reasonable approach to undertaking sufficient archaeological field evaluation, the results of which will inform a fit for purpose mitigation strategy to deal with the impact of this proposed development.	N	Evaluation surveys have been undertaken within the Grid Connection Corridor, the scope of which have been agreed with the Local Authority Archaeological Advisors. The results of the evaluation surveys have informed the mitigation strategy, which sets out the methods proposed to mitigate the effects of the Scheme on cultural heritage assets. An Archaeological Mitigation Strategy [ENO010131/APP7.6] , which will be secured by a DCO requirement, sets out the objectives for the cultural heritage mitigation.
Bassetlaw District Council	We are generally pleased with the reasonable and competent approach to assessment, evaluation and proposed mitigation of the Cultural Heritage in response to this development. We look forward to the development of a reasonable mitigation programme strategy to include the corridor routes, which will need to be submitted with the DCO application.	N	An assessment of likely impacts and effects of the Scheme on heritage assets and their setting is presented in Chapter 7 Cultural Heritage . Mitigation strategies are outlined in Chapter 7 Cultural Heritage [EN010131/APP/3.1] and a Mitigation Schedule [EN010131/APP/2.5] has been produced to accompany the DCO. An Archaeological Mitigation Strategy [ENO010131/APP7.6] , which will be secured by a DCO requirement, sets out the objectives for the cultural heritage mitigation.



<p>Historic England</p>	<p>Deposit modelling is crucial in areas of alluvium and aeolian deposits - see our guidance [REDACTED] [REDACTED]</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>A geoarchaeological assessment, including a deposit model, has been undertaken for the Scheme and is provided in Appendix 7-F Geoarchaeological Assessment Report [EN010131/APP/3.3] and summarised in Appendix 7-A Cultural Heritage Desk-based Assessment [EN010131/APP/3.3]. The Grid Connection Corridor has been designed with all three schemes in mind which includes a shared crossing point.</p>
<p>Historic England</p>	<p>Historic England has published general advice in respect of renewable energy [REDACTED]. 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 upon specific heritage assets of high importance through adaptation to design, extents and layout.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>An assessment of the significance of archaeological remains and the impact of the Scheme on these remains has been undertaken and provided in the ES, Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage [EN010131/APP/3.1]. Mitigation strategies have been identified which include embedded design mitigation to reduce or avoid the impact on assets of high importance.</p>
<p>Historic England</p>	<p>At Knaith the relationship of the Grade II Park Farm South Farmhouse and the significance of the undesignated Knaith Park need to be understood in their own right and as a complex of related features with the Priory. The Grade II* listed Gate Burton Hall (1359458) with associated Grade II listed Walled Garden, Church of St Helen, Old Rectory and Gate Burton Hall Cottages, the Temple folly 'Burton Chateau listed at GII* (106408) and undesignated former mill site to south form a second focus whose relationship with Knaith Park should be explored in depth.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The assets at Knaith and at Gate Burton have been considered in their own right, as well as a complex of related features. Additional research and assessment of cartographic sources has also been undertaken, along with a detailed aerial photograph / LiDAR data analysis. Geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation have also been undertaken for the Scheme in order to further characterise these assets. This includes all of the assets within Gate Burton and Knaith. This is presented in Appendix 7-A Cultural Heritage Desk-based Assessment [EN010131/APP3.3] and summarised in Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p>
<p>Historic England</p>	<p>On the basis of the layout set out in the PEIR we have serious concerns as to the impact of the scheme upon the significance of both Gate Burton Hall and associated assets and Heynings Priory. We welcome that work is ongoing but the current layout</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>With regards to Gate Burton Hall and associated assets, a site visit with Historic England was undertaken on 21st October 2022 and a follow up virtual meeting was held 15th December 2022.</p>



	<p>does not appear to engage sufficiently with the significance of these nationally important assets in their setting.</p>	<p>In response to Historic England’s remaining concern regarding the Scheme’s impact on Gate Burton Hall and park the Scheme design was amended in accordance with their advice and the embedded mitigation was extended to include an additional panel-free exclusion zone between Gate Burton non-designated park and Burton Wood. This reduces the visual impact of the Scheme and retains the important connection between the park and woodland as part of the design intention of the park and the wider setting of Gate Burton Hall.</p> <p>In so doing, the Scheme design now provides appropriate mitigation of the impact to the Grade II* listed Gate Burton Hall and non-designated park.</p> <p>With regards to Heynings Priory, additional research into the Heynings Priory and its relationship to the wider landscape has been undertaken by the Applicant since the PEIR and this is presented in the DBA and is summarised in the ES, Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p> <p>Draft versions of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage [EN010131/APP/3.1] and Appendix 7-A Cultural Heritage Desk-based Assessment [EN010131/APP3.3] were provided for review and comment on 19 and 27 October 2022</p> <p>Embedded mitigation has been developed in order to reduce the potential impact of the Scheme since the PEIR was submitted. This includes panel free areas around the asset, and a panel free area and retention in situ of a possible medieval building that was identified during geophysical survey undertaken for the Scheme. This possible medieval building may be related to the Heynings Priory scheduled monument and therefore has a functional setting relationship. The areas of embedded mitigation are shown on the indicative layout plan ES Volume 2 Figures, Figure 2-4 [EN010131/APP/3.2].</p> <p>A site visit with Historic England was undertaken on 21 October 2022. During on site consultation, in a virtual meeting on the 15 December 2022 and in a follow-up email received 20 December 2022 Historic England</p>
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			agreed with the approach now taken to embedded design mitigation as representing a proportionate and pragmatic approach to the setting and significance of a relatively poorly understood monument. identified during geophysical survey.
Historic England	We welcome a dynamic approach to setting assessment which is not overly constrained fixed radii (see out GPA 3 Setting of Heritage Assets) [REDACTED] work should focus upon the particular significance of the assets under assessment and the impacts of the scheme thereon allowance should be made for understanding the topographic and tenorial context of the proposed development site, visual relationships to more distant but important assets such as the Grade I listed church and associated scheduled monument at Stow will require consideration	N	The response is noted. An assessment of the wider landscape including the 5km wider study area has been included as part of the cultural heritage assessment as detailed in the ES, Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage [EN010131/APP/3.1] . Assets within the wider study area have also been considered, including the Grade I listed church and associated scheduled monument at Stow.
Respondent	Comment	Project Change	Applicant Response
Historic England	Cropmarks are noted at SK8374084090 on the NHRE and further review of aerial photo evidence combined with existing and new lidar and geophysical survey data is likely to give a basis for initial characterisation and trial trenching (in which regard we refer you the county archaeological advisors.	N	Additional research and assessment of cartographic sources has also been undertaken, along with a detailed aerial photograph / LiDAR data analysis. Geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation have also been undertaken for the Scheme in order to further characterise these assets. A summary of the assessment reports and evaluation surveys is presented in Appendix 7-A Cultural Heritage Desk-based Assessment [EN010131/APP3.3] and the full reports are included as Appendix 7C – 7F of the ES [EN010131/APP3.3] .
Historic England	The importance of landscape change and settlement desertion / imparkment is well observed and the role of both secular and religious landholders in that process should be understood. This will require detailed archive cartographic and textual work alongside and integrated with an iterative programme of archaeological assessment (close consultation with both Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment specialist will be of obvious importance.	N	Additional research and assessment of cartographic sources has also been undertaken, along with a detailed aerial photograph / LiDAR data analysis. Geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation have also been undertaken for the Scheme in order to further characterise these assets. The scope of the assessments and evaluation surveys has been agreed in consultation with the Local Authorities Archaeological Advisors.



			A summary of the assessment reports and evaluation surveys is presented in Appendix 7-A Cultural Heritage Desk-based Assessment [EN010131/APP3.3] and the full reports are included as Appendix 7C – 7F of the ES [EN010131/APP3.3] .
Historic England	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). 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).	N	Geophysical surveys and trial trenching evaluations have been undertaken for the Scheme, the scope of which has been agreed with the Local Authority Archaeological Advisors. An assessment of the significance of archaeological remains and the impact of the Scheme on these remains has been undertaken and provided in the ES, Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage [EN010131/APP/3.1] .
Lincolnshire County Council	Encouraged by the progress which has been made and by our mutual engagement with finding a reasonable approach to undertaking sufficient archaeological field evaluation, the results of which will inform a fit for purpose mitigation strategy to deal with the impact of this proposed development. This is set out in Sections 7.1.5, 7.4.1 and 7.4.2 and look forward to the reports being produced and circulated in a timely fashion.	N	A Mitigation Schedule [EN010131/APP/2.5] has been produced to accompany the DCO Application which outlines the mitigation strategies that may be required and how they are secured through the DCO. An Archaeological Mitigation Strategy [ENO010131/APP7.6] , which will be secured by a DCO requirement, sets out the objectives for the cultural heritage mitigation.
Lincolnshire County Council	It is encouraging to see the reasonable and competent approach to assessment, evaluation and proposed mitigation of the Cultural Heritage (in response to) this development. Further work is necessary for the development of a reasonable mitigation programme strategy which will need to be submitted as part of the Environment Statement with the DCO application.	N	A Mitigation Schedule [EN010131/APP/2.5] has been produced to accompany the DCO Application which outlines the mitigation strategies that may be required and how they are secured through the DCO. An Archaeological Mitigation Strategy [ENO010131/APP7.6] , which will be secured by a DCO requirement, sets out the objectives for the cultural heritage mitigation.
Lincolnshire County Council	It would be useful to take into account the information collated as part of the Historic landscape characterisation project: The	N	The Historic Character of the County of Lincolnshire has been added to the Landscape Baseline. However, there are many parallels between this



	Historic Character of The County of Lincolnshire (September 2011), to ensure that the development is sensitive to the historic landscape.		document and the West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment. The LLCA's have been identified based on this document and all heritage/historical assets relating to the landscape and visual chapter have been identified and assessed within these character areas at a local level, i.e., what of that historic landscape characterisation is still relevant. The Historic Landscape Character of the Scheme and study area is set out in the cultural heritage baseline and presented in Appendix 7-A and on Figure 4 of Appendix 7-A [EN010131/APP/3.3] . The likely impacts and effects of the Scheme on the Historic Landscape are set out in Chapter 7 Cultural Heritage [EN010131/APP/3.1] .
Respondent	Comment	Project Change	Applicant Response
Lincolnshire County Council	Regarding section 7.10 and Table 7-4, it is encouraging to see good examples of embedded mitigation measures to lessen Historic Environment impacts.	N	Comment noted. No response required.
Lincolnshire County Council	Section 7.6.4 says there is a assessment of LiDAR and air photographs but the final report is not yet available. This report is now completed and is very well done.	N	The aerial photo and LiDAR assessment report is provided as Appendix 7-C to the Chapter 7 Cultural Heritage [EN010131/APP/3.1] .
Lincolnshire County Council	The section 7.6.1 on sources does not include Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) data which is required.	N	A review of the PAS online portal has been undertaken and the data has been incorporated into the baseline presented in Appendix 7-A [EN010131/APP/3.3] .
Lincolnshire County Council	Concerns are raised with section 7.8 Future Baseline: 7.8.1 The future baseline scenarios are set out in Chapter 5: EIA Methodology. It is considered there will be no change to the future baseline for cultural heritage. 7.8.2 The baseline details as presented above (including changes to settings of the assets) are not anticipated to change in the absence of the Scheme The future baseline will change following the results of the trial trench evaluation. Sections 7.9.2 and 7.9.3 deal with permanent construction impacts on the Historic Environment, regarding earthworks excavation in the case of any historic	N	The results of the trial trench evaluation have been incorporated into the existing baseline presented in Appendix 7-A [EN010131/APP/3.3] . Earthwork remains of ridge and furrow which have been excavated during the trial trench evaluation have been restored following completion of the survey works. Earthwork remains of post-medieval flood defences within the Grid Connection Corridor will be subject to re-instatement following construction as set out in the Archaeological Mitigation Strategy [EN0010131/APP7.6] .



	earthworks which may be damaged or destroyed during construction these will need to be subject to a programme of recording prior to any works whatsoever and a programme of restoration following completion of the works.		An assessment of likely impacts and effects of the Scheme on heritage assets and their setting is presented in the ES, Chapter 7 Cultural Heritage [EN010131/APP/3.1] . Mitigation strategies are outlined in Chapter 7 Cultural Heritage and a Mitigation Schedule [EN010131/APP/2.5] has been produced to accompany the DCO.
Lincolnshire County Council	Regarding section 7.9.7 which lists the potential decommissioning impacts on the Historic Environment, thought will need to be given to both embedded methodology and practical on-site solutions, for example fencing to ensure there is no potential compaction or tracking across any preserved in situ archaeological areas across the site.	N	The selected method of decommissioning would have due regard to health and safety, environmental impact and benefits, and economic aspects which will be set out in a Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan [EN010131/APP/7.5] which will be secured through a DCO Requirement. Any future maintenance, decommissioning and / or reinstatement works would be subject to prevailing legislation, guidance and permitting regimes. Landscape restoration and remediation to suitable surfaces would be undertaken. This will result in the restoration of the rural landscape. A well-designed decommissioning scheme would not have any impact beyond the already-disturbed footprint of the Scheme, and will take into account areas of archaeological deposits that have been preserved in situ.
Lincolnshire County Council	Section 7.10.3 includes the use of non-intrusive solar PV panel installation techniques where archaeological potential is identified. Specific impacts will need to be considered and 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.	N	An assessment of likely impacts and effects of the Scheme on heritage assets and their setting is presented in the ES, Chapter 7 Cultural Heritage [EN010131/APP/3.1] . Mitigation strategies are outlined in Chapter 7 Cultural Heritage and a Mitigation Schedule [EN010131/APP/2.5] has been completed. The selected method of decommissioning would have due regard to health and safety, environmental impact and benefits, and economic aspects which will be set out in a Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan [EN010131/APP/7.5] which will be secured through a DCO Requirement. Any future maintenance, decommissioning and / or reinstatement works would be subject to prevailing legislation, guidance and permitting regimes. Landscape restoration and remediation to suitable surfaces would be undertaken. This will result in the restoration of the rural landscape. A well-designed decommissioning scheme would not have any impact beyond the



			already-disturbed footprint of the Scheme, and will take into account areas of archaeological deposits that have been preserved in situ.
Lincolnshire County Council	Section 7.6.5 says that 'geophysical survey is currently underway and the results were not available at the time of writing.' The geophysical survey for the Solar and Energy Storage Park is now completed and we await the results of the geophysical survey along the connection route.	N	The geophysical survey reports are provided as Appendix 7-D to the Chapter 7 Cultural Heritage [EN010131/APP/3.3] .
West Lindsey District Council	It is however noted that the preliminary findings are that there will be significant effects on 7 heritage assets during the construction phase, as summarised in table 7-5, including a major adverse effect upon the Heynings Priory Scheduled Monument. It is noted that a major adverse effect is still anticipated after mitigation (table 7-6), and that this effect is expected when operational (60+ years). A moderate adverse effect is anticipated for the gate Burton non-designated parkland.	Y	<p>Embedded design mitigation strategies have been incorporated into the scheme design in order to lessen or remove significant effects on heritage assets. The Scheme design now provides appropriate mitigation of the impact to the Grade II* listed Gate Burton Hall and non-designated park, as well the impact to Heynings Priory and possibly associated possible medieval building identified during the geophysical survey undertaken for the Scheme.</p> <p>These changes are illustrated in ES Volume 2: Figure 2-4 [EN010118/APP/3.2]. No significant effects on these assets are anticipated as a result of the Scheme.</p>
Willingham By Stow Parish Council	Negative affect on wildlife and archaeology.	N	<p>The Scheme has been designed to avoid significant adverse effects on ecology and archaeology. No significant residual effects on ecology or archaeology are predicted during construction, operation and decommissioning of the Scheme's lifetime. The impact assessment on habitats / species and the Applicant's proposed mitigation are set out in Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation of the Environmental Statement [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p> <p>An assessment of the significance of archaeological remains and the impact of the Scheme on these remains has been undertaken and provided in Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage [EN010131/APP/3.1]. Mitigation strategies</p>



			have been identified which include embedded design mitigation to reduce or avoid the impact on assets of high importance.
Ecology & nature conservation – including biodiversity net gain, construction impact on the environment, loss of habitat, planting buffers and general comments			
Section 42 Applicant Regard to Consultee Responses			
Respondent	Comment	Project Change	Applicant Response
Bassetlaw District Council	Mitigation is set out in each topic which is acceptable, although specific comments will be outlined below for each topic. This is particularly welcomed in the case of the Environment Act which outlines an obligation to secure a 10% Net Gain from now development although this is not expected to become mandatory until near the end of 2023.	N	Comment noted. The BNG assessment will be submitted as part of the DCO application [EN010131/APP/7.9] .
Bassetlaw District Council	The commitment to a Net Gain is welcomed but given the scale of the development, it would have been beneficial to see at least some indicative indications as to the level of Net Gain that may be possible to secure.	N	Comment noted. The BNG assessment will be submitted as part of the DCO application [EN010131/APP/7.9] .
Bassetlaw District Council	We note that there is an intention to survey the LWS during 2022 to establish the habitat composition within the footprint of the Scheme. We would expect the whole of the LWS to be surveyed, not just the development footprint, to assess its overall condition.	N	Surveys of riparian mammals within the LWS have covered the entire LWS (due to the transient nature of these species) whereas surveys for flora have concentrated on areas within the Site boundary only, although as acknowledged above, there will be no direct or indirect impact to the LWS within the Site, or outside of the Site boundary. More detail is provided in Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation [EN010131/APP/3.1] and within the relevant technical appendices.
Bassetlaw District Council	The survey of Cow Pasture Lane Drains should be used to identify areas where the applicant and their ecologist can implement additional habitat management work to ensure Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).	N	Comment noted. Opportunities to implement habitat management work within Cow Pasture Lane Drains have been explored.
Bassetlaw District Council	Cabling operations should be carried out according to a PMW or Ecological Method Statement in the presence of an Ecological	N	Mitigation measures to avoid impacts to protected and notable species are included within the Framework CEMP [EN010131/APP/7.3] .



	Clerk of Works to supervise and advise during the process to avoid direct impacts upon protected and notable species		
Bassetlaw District Council	We note that the exact route and construction methods to be used are yet to be defined. We would expect every effort to be made to ensure impacts on the LWS are minimal by implementing suitable methods of working that would not directly impact upon habitats within the LWS. Once defined, measures to remove or reduce impacts on the LWS should be included within the CEMP submitted with the ES as part of the DCO submission. Following installation of the cable the working area should be restored to a high standard.	N	All construction methods will be presented in more detail within the Framework CEMP [EN010131/APP/7.3] , secured through the DCO. Following the installation of the cable the working area will be restored to its original condition.
Respondent	Comment	Project Change	Applicant Response
Bassetlaw District Council	Ecology and Biodiversity 8.3: Planning Policy Context and Guidance The following Neighbourhood Plan policies are of relevance to this theme, and should be referenced explicitly: • Rampton & Woodbeck Neighbourhood Plan Policy 10 (The protection of the Parish landscape); • Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan (Review) Policies 2a (Protecting the landscape character, significant green gaps and key views) and 2b (Enhancing biodiversity);	N	References to the following Neighbourhood Plan policies have been included within Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation [EN010131/APP/3.1] . Rampton & Woodbeck Neighbourhood Plan Policy 10 (The Protection of the Parish Landscape); and Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan (Review): Policies 2a (Protecting the landscape character, significant green gaps and key views) and 2b (Enhancing biodiversity).
Bassetlaw District Council	It is positive to see that a detailed description of the scheme, including the details of the scheme including key aspects of the scheme, the location and key environmental constraints. The general scheme makes a clear attempt to avoid key environmental designations in all respects, but this will be commented on more in the relevant sections of each project.	N	Comment noted. No response required.
Bassetlaw District Council	Lighting, even during construction phase, has the potential to impact on ecology and given the fact that there are still unknowns in respect of the location and design of this proposal	N	Any lighting used during construction and decommissioning will be directional and task-specific to avoid light-spill into adjacent habitats, including the LWS. These measures will be formalised in the Framework CEMP [EN010131/APP/7.3] and Framework DEMP [EN010131/APP/7.3] .



	it is considered that lighting should remain in the EIA and its effect on ecology should form part of this chapter.		<p>which are secured through the DCO, and more details are included within Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p> <p>In terms of the operational phase, no part of the Scheme will be continuously lit. Manually operated, and motion-detection lighting will be utilised for operational and security purposes around electrical infrastructure such as inverters, transformers and switchgear across the Solar PV Array Areas, and within the compounds and substations. Lighting will be directed downward and away from boundaries. No visible lighting will be utilised at the site perimeter fence, aside from the site entrance points. These measures are formalised in the Framework OEMP [EN010131/APP/7.4], which is secured through the DCO, and more details are included within Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p>
Bassetlaw District Council	Where avoidance is not possible then it may be justifiable that impacts proceed if accompanied by sufficient mitigation, compensation and aftercare.	N	The Grid Connection Corridor will cross Cow Pasture Lane Drains LWS via non-intrusive methods. There will be no direct or indirect impact to the LWS. All construction methods are presented in more detail within the Framework CEMP [EN010131/APP/7.3] , secured through the DCO. Mitigation measures are included within the Mitigation Schedule [EN010131/APP/2.4] to reduce the potential impacts of the Scheme.
Bassetlaw District Council	The Solar and Energy Storage Park is in Lincolnshire and so our comments will focus on the grid connection route within Nottinghamshire. The Grid Connection Route passes 50m to the north of Cottam and 300m east of Rampton to connect with Cottam Power Station. We are aware that several routes for the grid connection were considered and Corridor C1 has been selected as the preferred option. The PEI report states that 'Corridor C1 was identified as providing the best balance of minimising impacts on the environment and the local community whilst meeting the technical and constructability feasibility requirements'. It is disappointing therefore, to be informed that there will be a loss and fragmentation of habitat within Cow	N	Whilst the comments from Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust are correct in terms of Corridor C1 being selected from PEIR stage, the Scheme has evolved and, in consideration of the avoidance of LWS's and mitigation hierarchy, the Grid Connection Corridor will cross Cow Pasture Lane Drains LWS via non-intrusive methods to avoid direct and indirect impacts to this Site. Therefore, there will be no loss of habitat and no fragmentation of habitats within the LWS. All construction methods will be presented in more detail within the Framework CEMP [EN010131/APP/7.3] , secured through the DCO.



	Pasture Lane Drains Local Wildlife Site (LWS 2/470), albeit on a temporary basis, due to the site being within the footprint of the Grid Connection Route.		
Canal and River Trust	Temporary construction lighting along the cable corridor route in the vicinity of the River Trent will have the potential to disturb wildlife.	N	Any lighting used during construction will be directional and task-specific to avoid light-spill into adjacent habitats. These measures will be formalised in the Framework CEMP [EN010131/APP/7.3] , which is secured through the DCO, and more details are included within the ES, Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation [EN010131/APP/3.1] .
Respondent	Comment	Project Change	Applicant Response
Canal and River Trust	The directional drilling methods the cable installation process could result in a risk of vibrations leading to sediment mobilisation, or the emission of pollutants. Directional drilling can cause sediment discharges and problems arising from mud toxicity due to vibrations below the river. Impacts on fish species and invertebrates found in the water and their likely sensitivity to potential sediment movement should therefore be considered within the Environmental Statement.	N	Directional drilling methods are the least disruptive technique for installing the cable. The cable will be >2m below the river sediments and it is not anticipated that this will cause sediment mobilisation.
Gate Burton Parish on the Marton and Gate Burton Parish Council	Security or 'deer' fencing erected around these parks will make life difficult or nigh on impossible for large mammals to gain access to their habitat. Especially so when all the land proposed for solar farms is considered. Wild life corridors are essential and need to be coordinated between this site and all others being brought forward.	N	As stated within Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation [EN010131/APP/3.1] the fence design will include gaps to allow mammals that may use woodland habitats, including small deer, badger, brown hare and hedgehog, to pass underneath at strategic locations.
Lincolnshire County Council	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 against if required.	N	The extent of vegetation loss will be presented in Appendix 10-G: Arboricultural Impact Assessment [EN010131/APP/3.3] . This follows an approach agreed via consultation with the local planning authorities to utilise high level tree assessment data using LiDAR and aerial imagery with added buffer zones to capture likely tree constraints. Site walkovers and targeted tree surveys have verified data assumptions and provide detail in key areas. If situations arise where detailed tree survey data is not available for areas where loss is required conclusions on the significance and value of trees to



			be removed will be drawn from available high level tree assessment information.
Lincolnshire County Council	Regarding vegetation loss: o The extent of any vegetation loss to facilitate construction access or the permanent site access points identified in paragraphs 2.4.41 to 2.4.43, is not identified. Also, any vegetation loss to facilitate any potential wider highways works is not identified. Expect this all to be clearly illustrated and included within any assessment as this has the potential to remove existing features (that make up the character area) and open up views into or across the site.	N	The extent of vegetation loss is presented in Appendix 10-G: Arboricultural Impact Assessment [EN010131/APP/3.3] and Figure 10-21: Vegetation Removal Plan [EN010131/APP/3.2] . This follows an approach agreed via consultation with the local planning authorities to utilise high level tree assessment data using LiDAR and aerial imagery with added buffer zones to capture likely tree constraints. Site walkovers and targeted tree surveys have verified data assumptions and provide detail in key areas. If situations arise where detailed tree survey data is not available for areas where loss is required conclusions on the significance and value of trees to be removed will be drawn from available high level tree assessment information.
National Grid-UK Land and Property	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.	N	An Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) [EN010131/APP/7.10] , along with a landscape mitigation masterplan has been prepared. The document provides a framework for delivering the landscape strategy and the successful establishment and future management of proposed landscape works associated with the Gate Burton Energy Park. It sets out the short and long-term measures and practices that will be implemented by the Applicant to establish, monitor and manage landscape and ecology mitigation and enhancement (biodiversity net gain) measure embedded in the design including the species of trees and shrubs to be planted.
Natural England	Landscape and Biodiversity Management Plan We are pleased to note that a 'Framework Landscape and Biodiversity Management Plan' (LBMP) will be prepared to accompany the ES. This document will set out the principles for how the land will be managed throughout the operational phase, following the completion of construction.	N	Comment noted. An Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (OLEMP) has been submitted as part of the DCO application and is provided within EN010131/APP/7.10 .
Environment Agency	Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) needs to meet 10% as a minimum, currently there is no plan with regards to BNG. We would like to see improvement of watercourses in the area for flora and fauna, particularly water vole which may include the management of invasive species which have a major impact on	N	Habitat data, required to calculate the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) delivered by the proposed scheme has been collected during the original Phase 1 Habitat surveys and updated, as necessary, through subsequent surveys (such as arable flora and hedgerow surveys). This has ensured a comprehensive baseline of data for the BNG assessment has been



	water vole populations but also habitat improvements in ditches and other watercourses.		collected. The BNG assessment will be submitted as part of the DCO application [EN010131/APP/7.9]. It is at this stage that we will share the anticipated percentage of biodiversity net gain that is proposed for this scheme alongside indicative habitat management and delivery mechanisms. As part of the BNG assessment the site has been subject to a 'River Morph' survey. The results of the river morph surveys will be used to specifically measure the level of BNG delivered through ditch and water course enhancement.
Respondent	Comment	Project Change	Applicant Response
Natural England	The CEMP and LEMP should explain how the site will continue to be managed and secured for the lifetime of the development. They 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 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.	N	The Framework CEMP [EN010131/APP/7.3], Framework OEMP [EN010131/APP/7.4], and Framework DEMP [EN010131/APP/7.5] , secure the mitigation measures required throughout the lifetime of the Scheme. The Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) [EN010131/APP/7.10] provides details of how habitat will be enhanced, created, managed and maintained for the lifetime of the Scheme (60 years).
Natural England	We recommend that the LEMP summarise the principles which will be followed within the design of mitigation and enhancement for landscape and ecology, and does not comprise a final management plan. 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. We would like to note that further specific input can be provided on habitat creation/management plans via our DAS contract, in which case, we would ask that	N	Landscape Details of planting are included within the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (OLEMP) [EN010131/APP/7.10] which outlines the landscape and ecology impact avoidance measures that would be implemented prior to, and during, construction of the Scheme, as well as the habitat restoration, enhancement, management and monitoring measures to be implemented once the Scheme is operational. As set out in the Draft DCO [EN010131/APP/6.1] , a requirement will necessitate the submission and approval of a detailed Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) to deliver the provisions as set-out in this Outline LEMP. In the development of the scheme design and Outline Landscape Masterplan (as illustrated on Figure 10-23 [EN010131/APP/3.2]) , efforts



	specific issues/options are presented to allow us to provide the most useful advice.		have been made to integrate natural barriers (existing landscape features) wherever possible and provide habitat linkages.
Natural England	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 BNG. 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.	N	Comments noted, Biodiversity Metric 3.1 has been used to quantify the BNG assessment and habitat data has been informed by the Phase 1 habitat survey and updated through further surveys for arable flora, of grassland and hedgerow surveys. Discussions were held between the Applicant and Natural England at a workshop on 9 August 2022 regarding initial thoughts on habitat enhancement and BNG.
Natural England	We would recommend that the management of the habitats for the lifetime of the development is secured where possible. This would ensure the habitats are maintained beyond the anticipated mandatory 30-year period. Ref: 9.10.58	N	Comment noted. The management of habitats for the lifetime of the development is included within the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [EN010131/APP/7.10] which is secured via the Environmental Statement.
Natural England	As the given life span of the project is 60 years, with a possible extension, the agricultural land will be taken out of production in the long term. However it will be possible to restore the land to agricultural use with no permanent loss of agricultural land quality likely to occur, provided the development is undertaken to high standards. Some components of the development, such as construction of a sub-station, may permanently affect agricultural land but this would be limited to small areas. To both retain the long-term potential of this land and to safeguard all soil resources as part of the overall sustainability of the whole development, it is important that the soil retain as many of its	N	Comment noted. It is agreed that agricultural land will be taken out of production temporarily for 60 years (with a possible extension). Land affected permanently by the development (such as construction of the BESS) will be limited to small areas. Impacts to BMV have been avoided by siting permanent infrastructure outside of areas of good quality agricultural land. The Outline Soils Resource Management Plan [EN010131/APP/7.12] for the Solar Energy and Storage Park and the Grid Connection Corridor covers the following and includes relevant mapping:



	important functions and services (ecosystem services) as possible. This can be achieved through careful soil management and appropriate, beneficial soil re-use, with consideration of how adverse impacts on soils and their functions can be avoided or minimised. The ES should include a detailed breakdown of the land take into permanent and temporary losses for the different types of land use within the proposed development (including the cable route), broken down by ALC by area (ha) and percentage.		<p>Land access (determine safe work period for machinery land access by using information from mapping soil types according to clay content and drainage; produce maps of sections with specific access periods)</p> <p>Soil handling (advice on appropriate handling according to site specific soil type (clay content), weather conditions)</p> <p>Prevention of erosion (undertake erosion risk assessment of the site, map soils low to very high risk advise management accordingly)</p> <p>Remediation (advice for remediation works that may be required if management plan is not adhered to/should agricultural land problems be identified by landowners/operations the season following cable installation)</p> <p>Chapter 12: Socio-economics and Land Use [EN010131/APP/3.1] includes a breakdown of permanent and temporary losses for the different types of land use within the proposed development (including the Grid Connection Corridor), broken down by ALC area (ha) and percentage.</p>
Environment Agency	Can the applicant confirm there will be no potential impact on fish and eel and rule this out within the appraisal?	N	Horizontal drilling will be used to install the power cable >2m below the River Trent. This will ensure that there will be no impediment to movement or impact on fish and eel. Minor and temporary vibrations may be experienced during drilling, but these are not expected to be of an intensity or duration sufficient to cause an impact. A comprehensive aquatic desk study has been completed (see Appendix 8-E Aquatic ecology report [EN010131/APP/3.3] , along with targeted aquatic surveys, which has informed the ecological appraisal and impact assessment.
Natural England	Green Infrastructure We welcome that measures will be designed to integrate with and enhance the local green 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 recommend that a Green Infrastructure Strategy is produced as part of the ES.	N	Comment noted. No response required.
Natural England	Please refer to 'The Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 11, Annex C' which details information regarding licensing of protected species for NSIP applications. Natural England has	N	A suite of ecological surveys has been undertaken for the Scheme, as presented in Table 8-1 of Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature conservation [EN010131/APP/3.1] . Natural England Standing Advice has also been

	previously advised 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: a) provisionally sign up to DLL before the scheme launch or b) if the scheme has launched, sign up when they need to commence works on the ground and need a licence.		followed re. protected species. The requirement for protected species licencing has not been identified as part of the assessment.
Environment Agency	Otter surveys need to include assessment of adjacent woodland for otter holt potential as well as just species presence along the watercourses in question. Where there are works on the banks of watercourses there needs to be specific attention with regards to water vole. Displacement techniques may be required during the construction phase, but this should be highlighted sooner rather than later.	N	Surveys for riparian mammals have been undertaken within watercourses where impacts are predicted and, in consideration of the potential for Otter holts, has included adjacent woodland, scrub and mature trees that may be used by Otter. The Scheme design has avoided the majority of watercourses and the construction of the Grid Connection Corridor will utilise non-intrusive methods (including offsets from the banks of the watercourses to protect riparian habitats) for the majority of watercourses, particularly those where the habitat quality is suitable for riparian mammals, or where evidence of these species has been recorded. As such, no displacement is required for riparian mammals.
Environment Agency	Water Framework Directive (WFD) and Biodiversity There are still outstanding surveys to be completed. There is acknowledgement of this and we are happy with the surveys proposed	N	The surveys have now been completed. The results are included within the relevant appendices to Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation [EN010131/APP/3.1] .
Environment Agency	We are happy to see the detail around WFD and that a relevant WFD assessment will be undertaken.	N	Comment noted. No response required.
Environment Agency	The loss of marsh land on site is a potentially significant impact from the project. Can this area be left and buffered as watercourses have been?	Y	As shown on Figure 2-4 Indicative Site layout [EN010131/APP/3.2] solar panels have been removed from the area of marshy grassland that is within the Solar and Energy Storage Park boundary and the surrounding habitat retained.
West Lindsey District Council	Chapter 8 Ecology and Nature Conservation The intention to undertake a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) report, using Defra Metric 3.1 is welcomed (8.4.6). It is also noted that Existing and forthcoming biodiversity surveys will inform the development of a Landscape and Biodiversity Management Plan (LBMP) (8.4.7). The findings of the Preliminary Ecological Assessment	N	Comments noted. The Scheme has evolved to ensure that Cow Pasture Lane Drains LWS will be crossed using non-intrusive methods and that no direct or indirect impacts will occur. All construction methods are formalised into the



	<p>(PEA) (Vol 3 Appendix 8-B). It is noted that identified field surveys are ongoing (8.6.14). It is noted that further surveying of hedgehog and brown hare, will not take place, and will work on the assumption that both are present, and mitigation will be considered. The potential impacts of development on habitats and protected (And non-protected) species are noted (8.8). In particular it is noted that the potential for an effect upon the Cow Pasture Lane Drains LWS is noted at the construction phase (table 8.12) with mitigation proposed through a Construction and Environment Management Plan (CEMP). Table 8.13 - Potential effects are also identified for marsh / marshy grass land during construction and that surveys are still ongoing. The ES will need to reflect the findings, along with any scheme design iterations and proposed mitigation. Effects are also anticipated for running water and hedgerows during construction, with mitigation proposed within the CEMP. It is noted that hedgerow restoration is proposed. However, through mitigation, no effects are anticipated for protected species. It is noted that the temporary loss of habitat, and fragmentation of habitat within Cow Pasture Lane Drains LWS is assessed as a temporary moderate adverse effect that is potentially significant in EIA terms. However, "the exact construction methods within this area and habitats affected (as a result of no survey information at the time of writing this PEI Report) are not known" (8.12.6). We will therefore await these findings in the final ES. Potentially significant, moderate adverse effects are also identified for running water and marshy grassland habitats and hedgerows, including the permanent loss of marshy grassland. (table 8.15).</p>		<p>Framework Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), secured through the DCO [EN010131/APP/7.3].</p> <p>Effects on running water and hedgerows are considered further in Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p>
<p>West Lindsey District Council</p>	<p>Potential effects are also identified for marsh / marshy grass land during construction and that surveys are still ongoing. The ES will need to reflect the findings, along with any scheme design iterations and proposed mitigation.</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>The marshy grassland will be retained and avoided as the Scheme has evolved to remove this area from the developable area of the Scheme.</p>
<p>Willingham By Stow Parish Council</p>	<p>Negative affect on wildlife.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The Applicant respectfully disagrees with this assessment. The Scheme has been designed to avoid significant adverse effects on ecology. No significant residual effects on ecology are predicted during construction, operation and</p>



			decommissioning of the Scheme's lifetime. The impact assessment on habitats / species and the Applicant's proposed mitigation are set out in Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation of the Environmental Statement [EN010131/APP/3.1] .
Water environment – including flood risk, drainage and general comments			
Section 42 Applicant Regard to Consultee Responses			
Respondent	Comment	Project Change	Applicant Response
Bassetlaw District Council	It is positive to see that the majority of the development site will be situated outside of Flood Zones 2 and 3. However, it is noted that some of the site will be located in Flood Zone 2 with the Grid Connection Route being situated in Flood Zone 3. Due to the way solar development is designed, it does not considerably increase the risk of flooding. Due to the completed cabling route being underground and proposed mitigation returning the ground levels to their original baseline (alongside seeding to reduce potential runoff) this is considered to be broadly acceptable.	N	Comment noted. No response required.
Bassetlaw District Council	Water Environment The following Neighbourhood Plan policies are of relevance to this theme, and should be referenced explicitly: • Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan (Review): Policy 4 (Reducing the risk of flooding),	N	A reference to Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan (Review): Policy 4 (Reducing the risk of flooding) has been included within Chapter 9: Water Environment of the ES [EN010131/APP/3.1] .
Gate Burton Parish on the Marton and Gate Burton Parish Council	The operators of this site must be responsible for the land drainage system that covers this area.	N	Noted. An Outline Drainage Strategy is included within Appendix 9-C the Environmental Statement [EN010131/APP/3.3] . Drainage falls under part of the operational responsibilities of the Scheme.
Lincolnshire County Council	Volume 3, Appendix 9-B: Flood Risk Assessment The scope set out within this Appendix is generally acceptable. However, the FRA will need to address any large areas of impermeability that may be created (particularly during construction) such as plant	N	An additional appendix is included that addresses surface water management from areas of increased impermeability. Please see Appendix 9-C: Outline Drainage Strategy [EN010131/APP/3.3] .



	compounds, access roads, and battery facilities, the increased run off will need to be determined and mitigated in accordance with SUDS principles.		
Environment Agency	Flood risk management and mitigation measures are vital in ensuring the development will be safe without increasing flood risk elsewhere. In consideration of this, we have reviewed the PEIR and recommend that the following measures are incorporated within the development proposals: • Suitable easements to development are established around all watercourses and any cable crossing points agreed with the relevant parties, this is to include main rivers, ordinary watercourses and IDB assets. • Critical infrastructure, panels and structures within the development should be sequentially located to avoid areas of high fluvial flood risk and raised to a sufficient height to avoid floodwater. These should be preferentially located within flood zone 1, an area at low probability of flooding. Cont/d.. 2 • All services within areas at risk should be designed where possible to be flood resilient/water compatible. • Any site/boundary fencing should be designed to prevent minor obstructions occurring allowing the continuation of flow routes (if present) unimpeded through the site.	Y	Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010131/APP/3.1] and accompanying appendices have been updated for the ES and reflect the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Precautionary easements of 10 m have been applied to take account of minor differences between required easements from relevant parties. These have been increased to 16 m in the vicinity of flood defences (see Section below on Cabling works). • A sequential approach has been taken in locating panel layout for all sources of flooding to avoid areas of flood risk. The BESS and Storage Compound have been sequentially located to Flood Zone 1. The layout has been amended in the north eastern corner with panels removed from flood zones associated with Padmoor Drain. • Panels are raised a minimum of 800 mm above ground level to avoid floodwater. • Noted regarding site/boundary fencing, this will be accounted for at detailed design. This is secured by the Framework CEMP [EN010131/APP/7.3].
Environment Agency	The majority of the proposed Energy Park is located within flood zone 1 which is land assessed as having a less than 1 in 1,000 annual probability of river or sea flooding (<0.1%). However, the north-eastern corner of the site lies within flood zones 2 and 3a, associated with Padmore drain. This is land assessed as having between a 1 in 100 and 1 in 1,000 annual probability (1% - 0.1%) or between a 1 in 200 and 1 in 1,000 annual probability of sea flooding (0.5% - 0.1%) and land assessed as having a 1 in 100 or greater annual probability of river flooding (>1%), or a 1 in 200 or greater annual probability of flooding from the sea (>0.5%) in any year. The proposed cabling route is noted to cross the River Trent (main river) and passes within the functional floodplain, flood zone 3b, defined as land where water	Y	Comment noted. The layout has been amended in the north eastern corner with panels removed from flood zones associated with Padmoor Drain.



	has to flow or be stored in times of flood. Only water-compatible uses and essential infrastructure should be permitted within this zone.		
Environment Agency	<p>The works seek to manage and mitigate against disturbance of the bed and banks of the main river - we advise further discussion and early engagement with our Partnerships and Strategic Overview (PSO) team in relation to this. The East Midlands PSO team can be contacted via EMD_PSO@environment-agency.gov.uk.</p> <p>General advice on environmental permitting The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 require a permit or exemption to be obtained for any activities which will take place: • 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 riverbank, culvert or flood defence structure (16 metres if it's a tidal main river) and you don't already have planning permission For further guidance please visit https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-activities-environmental-permits or contact our National Customer Contact Centre on 03702 422 549. The applicant should not assume that a permit will automatically be forthcoming once planning permission has been granted, and we advise them to consult with us at the earliest opportunity.</p>	N	<p>Discussion and early engagement with the PSO team will be undertaken post DCO consent regarding management and mitigation against disturbance of the bed and banks of the main river (River Trent).</p> <p>A precautionary approach to easements has been included within Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010131/APP/3.1] to reflect relevant parties.</p> <p>The advice regarding environmental permitting is noted. Requirements for permits are outlined in Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010131/APP/3.1] of the ES.</p>
Environment Agency	The site borders the Park Wood East/West SSSI sites. Should there be any risk of these locations being affected permission should be gained from Natural England before any work is undertaken. End 4 Should any of the above points be breached please be minded that the Environment Agency has powers of under the Environmental Permit Regulations 2016 (England and Wales) and the Water Resources Act 1991 and enforcement	N	The Environment Agency reference to Park Wood East/West SSSI sites appears to be in error as this is not mapped in the vicinity of the Scheme, nor is any reference to it available online.



	action, up to and including prosecution, may be taken against the offender(s). For any queries please contact a member of the Environment Agency's customer contact centre on 03708 506 506.		
Environment Agency	We have the following comments to make on water quality: At any stage of the development no polluting matter shall be allowed to enter any surface water or groundwater body without the benefit of an Environmental Permit. No quantities of water greater than 20m ³ /day shall be removed or impounded from surface water or groundwater sources without the benefit of an Abstraction Licence. This includes non-consumptive abstractions. Before any in-river work is undertaken correct measures, including a detailed method statement, shall be considered and assessed by the Environment Agency's Land and Water team. Particular care should be given to minimising and mitigating the risk of siltation to the concerned watercourse(s). Should any pollution, over-abstraction or flooding events occur work should stop as soon as is safe and practicable and the Environment Agency informed within the same timeframe.	N	The requirements regarding water quality are noted, and align with the measures included in the Framework CEMP [EN010131/APP/7.3] , which are also discussed in Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010131/APP/3.1] . Permitting requirements relating to water and water quality are outlined in Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010131/APP/7.3] .
Environment Agency	River Trent The cable route corridor between Cottam Power Station and the Gate Burton Energy Park is located within the River Trent floodplain, flood zone 3a/3b and is proposed to cross the main river. Construction methods for undertaking the works are yet to be fully confirmed, however directional drilling may be a preferred option in laying the cabling along its required route.	N	The Grid Connection cable will be installed via HDD within avoidance areas (this includes the River Trent) as shown in ES Volume 2: Figure 2-1 [EN010131/APP/3.2] . Outside of avoidance areas the cable will installed via open cut methods. More detail is provided within Appendix 2-B Grid Connection Construction Method Statement [EN010131/APP/3.3] .
Nottinghamshire County Council	Flood Risk Given that this site falls outside of the county boundary (Notably on the eastern side of the Trent, and also due to the nature of the proposals, the Flood Team have no comment to make.	N	Comment noted. No response required.
Canal and River Trust	We note that mitigation measures to minimise such impacts are proposed to be incorporated into a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (para 8.10.4). We further note that	N	It is correct that mitigation measures to minimize construction related impacts will be included within a CEMP. A Framework CEMP has been submitted with the DCO application [EN010131/APP/7.3] which includes a



	<p>the CEMP will also include measures to minimise the risk of pollution of waterbodies, including the River Trent during construction operations, and in particular during works required for the cable connection under the river. Water quality monitoring should be undertaken during works to ensure that any pollution incidents can be rapidly identified and dealt with.</p>		<p>commitment to carry out water quality monitoring of potentially impacted watercourses to ensure that pollution events can be detected against baseline conditions and can be dealt with effectively.</p>
<p>Trent Valley Board - Water Management Consortium</p>	<p>Byelaw number 17 states that: No person shall without the previous consent of the Board - (a) place or affix or cause or permit to be placed or affixed any gas or water main or any pipe or appliance whatsoever or any electrical main or cable or wire in, under or over any watercourse or in, over or through any bank of any watercourse; (b) cut, pare, damage or remove or cause or permit to be cut, pared, damaged or removed any turf forming part of any bank of any watercourse, or dig for or remove or cause or permit to be dug for or removed any stone, gravel, clay, earth, timber or other material whatsoever forming part of any bank of any watercourse or do or cause or permit to be done anything in, to or upon such bank or any land adjoining such bank of such a nature as to cause damage to or endanger the stability of the bank; (c) make or cut or cause or permit to be made or cut any excavation or any tunnel or any drain, culvert or other passage for water in, into or out of any watercourse or in or through any bank of any watercourse; (d) erect or construct or cause or permit to be erected or constructed any fence, post, pylon, wall, wharf, jetty, pier, quay, bridge, loading stage, piling, groyne, revetment or any other building or structure whatsoever in, over or across any watercourse or in or on any bank thereof; (e) place or fix or cause or permit to be placed or fixed any engine or mechanical contrivance whatsoever in, under or over any watercourse or in, over or on any bank of any watercourse in such a manner or for such length of time as to cause damage to the watercourse or banks thereof or obstruct the flow of water in, into or out of such watercourse. Provided that this Byelaw shall not apply to any temporary work executed in an emergency but a person executing any work so excepted shall, as soon as practicable, inform the Board in writing of the</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The requirement to obtain consent from the IDB for cable installation beneath or across watercourses is noted and would be applied for post DCO consent. This is understood to apply to HDD beneath the watercourses, plus open-cut cable installation (where required) and temporary access track culverts along the Grid Connection Corridor. Consent would be sought from Trent Valley IDB prior to any works commencing as included within the Trent Valley IDB protective provisions contained within the Draft DCO [EN010131/APP/6.1].</p>



	execution and of the circumstances in which it was executed and comply with any reasonable directions the Board may give with regard thereto.		
Trent Valley Board - Water Management Consortium	Generally the method of dealing with surface water from the arrays would need to be considered by the Board through the planning process to establish if any detriment is caused. Byelaw Number 10 states that: No person without the previous consent of the Board shall erect any building or structure, whether temporary or permanent, or plant any tree, shrub, willow or other similar growth within nine metres of the landward toe of the bank where there is an embankment or wall or within nine metres of the top of the batter where there is no embankment or wall, or where the watercourse is enclosed within nine metres of the enclosing structure. This will relate primarily to the location of the arrays, compounds and transformer stations.	N	A 10m buffer has been applied around all watercourses within the Scheme boundary within which there would be no development, with the exception of where access track crossings need to be installed or cable crossings for the Grid Connection Corridor. While horizontal directional drilling (HDD) beneath the bed is to be used for several watercourses, there is a requirement for open cut crossings in several cases as described in the Environmental Statement. Some watercourses would also require temporary culverts to facilitate access tracks along the Grid Connection Corridor. These would be subject to the consent of the IDB (where applicable) and appropriate mitigation would be in place as described in the ES [EN010131/APP/3.1] and Framework CEMP [EN010131/APP/7.3] , with full reinstatement of the watercourse being a requirement.
Trent Valley Board - Water Management Consortium	It should be noted that the Boards consent is required irrespective of any permission gained under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. The Board's consent will only be granted where proposals are not detrimental to the flow or stability of the watercourse/ culvert or the Board's machinery access to the watercourse/ culvert which is required for annual maintenance, periodic improvement and emergency works.	N	It has been noted that the Boards consent is required irrespective of any permission gained under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
West Lindsey District Council	Chapter 9 Water Environment It is noted that a preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) (Vol 3, Appendix 9-B) has been prepared and that the majority of development is in flood zone 1, and outside of known areas with a risk of flooding. Nonetheless, the north east corner does cross an area of FZ2/3 associated with Padmore Drain and along the eastern boundary. There are some localised areas at high risk from surface water. (table 9-10). It is noted that mitigation (table 5-1) is proposed for fluvial flooding (through sequential locating of infrastructure) and for surface water flooding. It is noted that the grid connection route is predominantly within FZ3 and that the likelihood of	Y	Comment noted. It is correct that a sequential approach has been taken to locating panels to avoid areas of flood risk. The BESS and Storage Compound have been sequentially located to Flood Zone 1. The layout has been amended in the north eastern corner with panels removed from flood zones associated with Padmore Drain. Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010131/APP/3.1] reflects that the grid connection will be via below ground cables. Further details can be found in Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010131/APP/3.1] and Appendix 9-D: Flood Risk Assessment [EN010131/APP/3.3] .



	increased flood risk from development is considered low as the connection is "via buried cables" (Appendix 9-B, 7.3.1).		
Willingham By Stow Parish Council	The ground underneath the solar panels will not be able to absorb water, hence there will be additional run off. Where will this water go? The area has history of flooding.	N	A Flood Risk Assessment is provided in Appendix 9-D [EN010131/APP/3.3] which indicates that there would be no increase in flooding from any source, given implementation of Appendix 9-C: Outline Drainage Strategy [EN010131/APP/3.3] and the mitigation measures outlined in Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010131/APP/3.1] . Refer to Chapter 9 for a full assessment of impacts to the water environment during the construction and operational stages.
Landscape & visual amenity – including impact on local views, underground cables, screening, glint and glare and general comments			
Section 42 Applicant Regard to Consultee Responses			
Respondent	Comment	Project Change	Applicant Response
Bassetlaw District Council	Lighting, even during construction phase, has the potential to impact on ecology and given the fact that there are still unknowns in respect of the location and design of this proposal it is considered that lighting should remain in the EIA and its effect on ecology should form part of this chapter.	N	Any lighting used during construction will be directional and task-specific to avoid light-spill into adjacent habitats, including the LWS. These measures will be formalised in the Framework CEMP [EN010131/APP/7.3] and more details are included within Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation [EN010131/APP/3.1] .
Bassetlaw District Council	Although it is welcome that the emerging Bassetlaw Local Plan (2020-37) has been referenced, no specific policies have been referenced in relation to landscape and visual amenity. No reference has been made at all in Chapter 8, although it is just the cabling route that directly impacts the District, the lack of a direct reference is disappointing.	N	PEIR Appendix 10-A: Legislation and Planning Policy , refers to Bassetlaw Local Plan 2020-2037 with specific reference to Chapter 8. It also states Policies ST35, ST37, ST39, ST41 and ST51 in relation to landscape character and visual amenities. Those references again feature in the ES.
Bassetlaw District Council	At 3.5 metres in height, the solar panels appear to be lower in height than the 'fixed panels' which have been considered for other schemes and stand at 4.5 metres in height. This lower height will inevitably help to reduce to the visual impact of the development which is one of the key considerations for the District.	N	Comment noted. No response required.



Bassetlaw District Council	However again it is not yet known the form of the proposed cabling and therefore it is difficult to assess the methodology. Once the details are known early discussions are recommended with both District's to set out how the landscape and visual assessment chapter will be developed and the proposed viewpoints should be agreed with the local authorities prior to commencement of the ES.	N	As stated in Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010131/APP/3.1] the grid connection is via a buried cable. Viewpoints, including along the cable route corridor have been included in the PEIR submission. The development of the landscape and visual chapter and viewpoints were discussed and agreed with the local authorities. Viewpoints along the cable route corridor at ES stage remain the same and are assessed in the ES. These images are included in the ES.
Bassetlaw District Council	Temporary lighting may, however, be required during the construction phase, for example, security lighting at construction compounds associated with the cabling corridor. All artificial lighting should be carefully designed and sited, installed and angled in such a manner as to prevent glare or light shining directly into sensitive receptors, such as dwellings		Any lighting used during construction will be directional and task-specific to avoid light-spill into adjacent receptors such as dwellings. These measures are formalised in the Framework CEMP [EN010131/APP/7.3] .
Canal and River Trust	Landscape and Visual Impact The sites for the solar panels are set well away from the River Trent and their location and the local topography suggest that much of the site is unlikely to be visible from the river, as shown in the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) but nonetheless the ZTV shows that there are some locations where the panels might be visible.	N	Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010131/APP/3.1] assesses effects on the landscape character and the visual amenity resulting from all components of the Scheme during construction, operation and decommissioning. This will include effects on all relevant receptors including views from and along the River Trent.
Canal and River Trust	The PINS Scoping Opinion notes that the glint and glare assessment stated to underpin the LVIA Chapter does not include boats as receptors and advises that the glint and glare assessment should assess impacts to boats and where significant effects on these receptors are likely, this should be assessed and reported in the ES. We concur with this view; as the River Trent is a navigable waterway which is also designated as a commercial waterway carrying freight, it is therefore important that visual impacts (including impacts from glint and glare) on the river do not result in any harm to navigational safety. We advise that this matter should be considered within the LVIA and any likely impacts identified should be addressed as necessary.	N	A glint and glare assessment is included as Appendix 15-D [EN010131/APP/3.3] . Boats using the River Trent have been considered as receptors in the assessment. The assessment concluded that there will be no impacts upon the River Trent, as the same vegetation and topography screening the A156 will screen views from the River Trent into the Scheme where glint and glare is possible.
Canal and River Trust	The Environmental Statement should also consider the potential visual impact of construction operations along the cable route	N	Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010131/APP/3.1] assesses effects on the landscape character and the visual amenity resulting from all



	corridor, which extends to, and includes part of, the River Trent. In particular, the siting of construction compounds should be considered within the LVIA, and river users should be considered as potential receptors. It is important that visual impacts are assessed within the context of the river being a navigable waterway and also designated as a commercial waterway carrying freight. It is important that temporary visual impacts from construction do not result in any harm to navigational safety.		components of the Scheme during construction, operation and decommissioning. This will include effects on all relevant receptors including views from and along the River Trent.
Historic England	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 upon specific heritage assets of high importance through adaptation to design, extents and layout.	N	An assessment of the significance of archaeological remains and the impact of the Scheme on these remains has been undertaken and provided in Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage [EN010131/APP/3.1] . Mitigation strategies have been identified which include embedded design mitigation to reduce or avoid the impact on assets of high importance.
Lincolnshire County Council	Under Landscape Value (paragraph 10.3.25), it is potentially implied that only designated landscapes may have a medium or high value. This is not the case, and GLVIA3 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."	N	Comment noted. The level of landscape value is not only determined by the designation status but also on local features, whether they are designated or not. Considering this, the Applicant created local landscape character areas (LLCA). Those local landscape character areas are detailed to a level considered appropriate to inform the level of landscape value objectively outside of designated areas.
Lincolnshire County Council	Agree with the statement within paragraph 10.7.30 that National Character Areas are at a large scale and typically provide context only, as opposed to being a receptor to be assessed.	N	Comment noted. No response required.
Lincolnshire County Council	An HLF funded Landscape Partnership was carried out in the Trent Vale area in 2007-2013: the archived website is here: Trent Vale Landscape Partnership. It would be useful to have an assessment of how the proposed development will address the relevant priorities outlined in the reports: o Trent Vale	N	Comment noted. Public access to the suggested website is denied as shown in window below:



	<p>Landscape Conservation Management Plan (June 2013). o Trent Vales Landscape Character Assessment:</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>		<div> <p>Sign in to access this site</p> <p>Authorization required by http://www.trentvale.co.uk Your connection to this site is not secure</p> <p>Username <input type="text"/></p> <p>Password <input type="password"/></p> <p><input type="button" value="Sign in"/> <input type="button" value="Cancel"/></p> </div> <p>However, the relevant documents were requested by the Applicant and have been provided by the LCC representative (AAH Consultants). Relevant information has been reviewed and is included in ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010131/APP/3.1] and appendices [EN010131/APP/3.3].</p>
<p>Lincolnshire County Council</p>	<p>Beyond Viewpoint 13, and medium distance viewpoints west of the River Trent, these areas have not been captured in discussions. Request that this is clarified and discussed further with the development team as there are potential additional landscape and 6 visual impacts along the A156 through vegetation removal, construction activity (including construction vehicular activity), and new access construction.</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>The proposed access road from the A156 is shown in Viewpoint / Photomontage 13. Views east from locations further west of the River Trent at a medium distance are illustrated in Viewpoint 14. ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010131/APP/3.1], and appendices assess the landscape and visual effects arising from the proposed access road and relevant construction compounds at construction, operational and decommissioning stage.</p>
<p>Lincolnshire County Council</p>	<p>In regards to Visual Sensitivity, criteria are provided in Table 6, however how value and susceptibility are combined (which have already been defined within Tables 4 and 5), potentially as a matrix, to assess Sensitivity would be more useful. While not a requirement, including a matrix, which would guide professional judgement, would assist in transparency and provide a consistent approach as to how the Sensitivity of a receptor has been arrived at rather than relying on the pre-determined 14 characteristics within Table 6. Again, the descriptions imply that</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Comment noted. GLVIA3 discourages oversimplification and over-reliance on matrices or tabular summaries (refer to Section 3.29 and 3.33). It encourages to focus on text descriptions. ES Appendix 10-D [EN010131/APP/3.3] provides a narrative on the approach and judgement of visual sensitivity. The sensitivity of designated landscapes can be higher than undesignated landscapes; however, this is being decided on a case by case basis depending on the setting of the viewpoint and the content and character of the view.</p>



	only views of, or across, designated landscapes may have higher sensitivity.		
Lincolnshire County Council	Section 10.8 provides an overview of the Relationship to Residential Visual Amenity. It would be useful to clarify if the study area for this is the same as the LVIA – 3km (which is likely too large for the RVAA), or if a different study area is proposed, and provide justification for this.	N	Comment noted. Further details in relation to Residential Visual Amenity is included in Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010131/APP/3.1] . Further discussion was held with Lincolnshire County Council in November 2022 and it was agreed that a full residential visual amenity assessment was not required. Instead, a residential visual amenity survey has been carried out (see Appendix 10-G [EN010131/APP/3.3] in order to determine potential significant visual effects on residents, and to outline the mitigation measures undertaken through the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) process in order to prevent, reduce or offset potential adverse landscape and visual effects or enhance potential beneficial effects, where possible .
Respondent	Comment	Project Change	Applicant Response
Lincolnshire County Council	Paragraph 10.2.2 PEIR however states: “Additional viewpoints recommended by Lincolnshire County Council are still subject to verification and photography on site. These additional viewpoints will be fully assessed as the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) progresses”. However as stated and noted in previous correspondence, at this stage, 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.	N	Additional viewpoints / photomontages agreed with AAH/LCC will be included and assessed in the ES and identified as such. Figures 2-3 to 2-5 [EN010131/APP/3.2] indicate the location of all proposed elements of the Scheme. ES Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010131/APP/3.1] , provides a detailed description of the proposed elements, their scale and nature.
Lincolnshire County Council	Paragraph 10.3.17 identifies potential visual receptor groups. Having visited the site over the period of several days, as well as carrying out fieldwork in the local area for other projects, have observed that while many of the surrounding lanes and tracks 13 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 presence of several well-tended benches	N	The definition and description of local landscape character (LLCA) areas by the Applicant has been carried out to address an insufficiency in publicly available LCA. These local landscape character areas have been detailed to a level considered appropriate to support the assessment of landscape effects of the Scheme sufficiently. Further site work has been carried out since the PEI Report stage which has led to additional viewpoints for photomontages, particularly along the extensive PRow network. The descriptions of the landscape baseline



	and grass verges with swathes of spring bulb planting reinforce 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. Rail passengers should also be included as visual receptors, particularly with the railway line passing through the centre of the site.		<p>elements of these views, which are located across the LLCA identified, have further confirmed our findings within the LLCAs.</p> <p>The baseline descriptions of these views, along with the existing viewpoints prepared for the PEI Report have supported the further site-level analysis at ES stage.</p> <p>Rail passengers and recreational users are considered as visual receptors in the visual assessment – please see Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010131/APP/3.1] for further details.</p>
Lincolnshire County Council	Paragraph 10.7.54 identifies that AECOM have undertaken their own Local Landscape Character Area assessment, stating: “A local landscape character assessment has therefore been undertaken in preparation for the ES. This provides a current and more defined analysis of the landscape character within the study area, and in comparison to the published studies at a scale proportionate to the DCO Site and the likely significant effects.”. The LVIA should clarify why these character assessments were carried out, and also how they reflect (or are different than) published character assessments, which in some cases may be old documents, still provide relevant information.	N	<p>The study area is located within landscape character areas defined at national, regional, district and partially at county level. While Nottinghamshire County has a robust Landscape Character Assessment carried out for the jurisdiction, Lincolnshire County does not have a published Landscape Character Assessment to date (as of January 2023). The only current Landscape Character Assessment within the county, which relates to the study area, is the West Lindsey District Council Landscape Character Assessment which was published in 1999. While elements of this assessment are still valid, it was decided to carry out a local landscape character assessment based on the West Lindsey LCA along with the Nottinghamshire LCA and supporting publications at local and district levels. A local LCA will also address a concern that publicly available LCA are at a large scale and may not provide enough information at local level. The concern is that landscape effects could appear to be minimal considering the overall scale of affected LCA. In order to allow for a more detailed landscape character assessment to determine likely changes at a local level, AECOM created local landscape character areas (LLCA). Those local landscape character areas are detailed to a level considered appropriate to support the assessment of landscape effects of the Scheme sufficiently.</p>
Lincolnshire County Council	Paragraphs 10.3.1 to 10.3.3 provide an overview of the process of defining the 3km study area. Could it be clarified that now taller elements (substation etc.) have been indicated on the layouts and included on the ZTV (Figure 10-10), this process has been carried out again and views beyond 3km (apart from VP07, C4 and C5 along the eastern ridge) have been scoped	N	<p>Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010131/APP/3.1], is supported by the following ZTV figures (refer to ES Volume 2 [EN010131/APP/3.2]), which consider theoretical visibility within a 5km radius of the Scheme boundary, and which take account of all relevant elements of the Scheme to allow for a focused assessment:</p>



	out. The visibility of proposals appears to have increased over previous information provided.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-9A ZTV (Bare Earth) - All Features • 10-10A ZTV (With Surface Features) - All Features • 10-9B ZTV (Bare Earth) - Solar Panels • 10-10B ZTV (With Surface Features) - Solar Panels • 10-9C ZTV (Bare Earth) - Substation / Battery Storage • 10-10C ZTV (With Surface Features) - Substation / Battery Storage <p>ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010131/APP/3.1], Section 10.5 will include a further detailed rationale for the determination of the study area radius.</p>
Lincolnshire County Council	Requested that further landscape and visual consultation is carried out between AAH/LCC and District Authority landscape specialists and the developer team (AECOM) following the conclusion of this statutory consultation phase. This would likely cover the PEIR comments as well as development proposals and mitigation scheme, including the cable route corridor (particularly river crossing) 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	N	Further landscape and visual consultation has taken place between AAH/LCC and District Authority landscape specialists. This has included further discussions including the cable route corridor (particularly river crossing) 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.
Lincolnshire County Council	Detailed Comments on PEI Report - Volume 2: Figures: 1. Generally: Figures are well presented and on the whole read well. However, due to the scale of the figures, up to 1:60,000@A3, some would benefit from enlarged sections that focus on the site and immediate context, such as viewpoints and PROW information. The base mapping for figures appears to be OS Landranger 1:50,000 Scale, resized to the presented scale. This is fine for some of the mapping; however suggest that OS Explorer 1:25,000 Scale, resized to the presented scale, may be utilised for some of the figures to aid clarity such as viewpoint locations and PROW information. This would assist locating these on site and helping orientation. 11 2.	N	<p>Comment noted. All ES figures (ES Volume 2 [EN010131/APP/3.2]) will be reviewed to ensure clarity in the information displayed.</p> <p>An Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) [EN010131/APP/7.10], along with a landscape mitigation masterplan has been prepared at ES stage. The document provides a framework for delivering the landscape strategy and the successful establishment and future management of proposed landscape works associated with the Gate Burton Energy Park and would be updated to a final LEMP as a requirement of the DCO in accordance with the principles of the framework. It sets out the short and long-term measures and practices that will be implemented by the Applicant to establish, monitor and manage landscape and ecology</p>



	<p>Figure 2-2 Public Rights of Way: The PROW adjacent and within the site are unclear, particularly those running along red line boundaries, which are some of the most important to identify being in such close proximity to development. The final plan should make these PROW clearer – amending the layer order and colour of the PROW may improve this.</p> <p>3. Figure 2-4 Environment Masterplan (3 sheets): These plans illustrate the site proposals and mitigation areas in the context of existing infrastructure and features and environmental designations. The final submission should clearly state if the final Environmental Masterplan and mitigation identified within paragraph 10.8.3 of the PEIR 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, as different mitigation strategies will likely alter potential effects, 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 requested that additional meetings and workshops be held with AAH/LCC so that a continued dialogue is maintained in regards to the development proposals, including the cable route corridor, location of any larger structures or buildings such as the substations and mitigation.</p> <p>4. Figure 10-3 Public Rights of Way: The PROW adjacent and within the site are unclear, particularly those running along red line boundaries, which are some of the most important to identify being in such close proximity to development. The final plan should make the PROW clearer.</p> <p>5. Figure 10-5 Regional Landscape Character Areas: It would aid legibility of the Legend stated which published landscape character assessment the regional character areas are based</p>	<p>mitigation and enhancement (biodiversity net gain) measure embedded in the design. The latter will be achieved through habitat creation over and above that used for habitat mitigation.</p> <p>Comment noted. ES Volume 2 [EN010131/APP/3.2] will include the following ZTV figures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-9A ZTV (Bare Earth) - All Features • 10-10A ZTV (With Surface Features) - All Features • 10-9B ZTV (Bare Earth) - Solar Panels • 10-10B ZTV (With Surface Features) - Solar Panels • 10-9C ZTV (Bare Earth) - Substation / Battery Storage • 10-10C ZTV (With Surface Features) - Substation / Battery Storage <p>Further meetings and workshops were held were held with Lincolnshire County Council regarding updates to the development proposals and discussions around the scope of the LVIA. A documentation of the discussions held is contained within Table 10-1 of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, in ES Volume I [EN010131/APP/3.2]</p>
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	<p>upon (East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment (2009).</p> <p>6. Figure 10-6 County and District Landscape Character Areas: It would aid legibility of the Legend stated which published landscape character assessment the regional character areas are based upon (Nottinghamshire County Landscape Character Assessment).</p> <p>7. Figure 10-7 Local Landscape Character Areas: It would aid legibility of the Legend matched the text within the report (Table 10-5 Local Landscape Character Areas within the PEIR). 12</p> <p>8. Figure 10-10 ZTV Barrier: The production of this ZTV with the inclusion of the 11m Substation indicates that there may be more potential views of this tall structure than initially presented (earlier consultation meetings and information presented) even considering barriers within the landscape. Suggest a ZTV of these taller elements is produced to aid an understanding of the potential views of this element to allow further discussions on the potential visual impacts of the development.</p>		
<p>Lincolnshire County Council</p>	<p>Review of Appendix 10C Landscape Baseline: 15. No comments on the landscape baseline appendix at this stage. However, would note that the assessment of susceptibility, and subsequently sensitivity, does cloud the baseline aspect of the appendix. The susceptibility of the landscape is dependent upon the proposals and would be considered as part of the assessment. As stated in the AECOM methodology (PEIR Appendix 10B) at paragraph 10.3.26: “GLVIA3 paragraph 5.40 defines landscape susceptibility as: “the ability of the landscape receptor (whether it be overall character or condition of a particular landscape type or area, or an individual element and/or features, or a particular aesthetic and perceptual aspect) to accommodate the proposed development without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>



	and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies” (paragraph 5.40).”		
Lincolnshire County Council	<p>Review of Appendix 10F Existing Viewpoint Photography 19. Comments in regards to the viewpoint photography: • Have assumed these are interim lower resolution images for the PEIR and would expect full resolution images for the final LVIA. • 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. • Overall, the images presented for the viewpoints are of a resolution that does not allow for clarity of long-distance views, with elements in the mid to long-distance appearing hazy or pixelated and occasionally elements in the long distance often not being distinguishable, so as to not appear in the view at all.</p> <p>20. VP01: View may provide more indication of visibility of substation if either rotated to the right (east), or if extended (additional sheet) to capture more of the eastern extents. View shown looking north east on Figures. 21. VP07: While a long-distance view, this viewpoint provides a panoramic view of Gate Burton from a recognised viewing area (Tillbridge Lane Viewpoint) and the view likely includes West Burton and Cottam, so important for cumulative effects (as has been highlighted by the PEIR). The image included within the PEIR does not provide clarity of this long-distance view and beyond approximately 1 to 2km appears pixelated. This is likely due to the resolution; however we would expect this viewpoint image to pick up views of these sites; 22. VP10: Development is proposed both sides (north and south) of this road, as are site access points. Extending (additional sheet) the view to the left (south) would capture this. 23. VP13: If this location is selected for the A156 Access option, more context to the view would assist in understanding the change in view – extending the view (additional sheet) may achieve this.</p>	N	<p>The resolution in viewpoint photography / photomontages remains unchanged but the level of image compression determines the quality of images.</p> <p>The paper size of all photomontage sheets is A1 and will be indicated on each sheet for clarity.</p> <p>In line with the Lincolnshire County Council's comments the ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010131/APP/3.1] is accompanied by a high-quality set of viewpoint photography / photomontages. If viewed on a screen, the zoom factor should always be 100% to experience the view as realistic as possible.</p> <p>20. Comment noted. An additional photomontage sheet will be included extending the view further to the right (east).</p> <p>21. Please refer to response at Point 19 above in relation to resolution.</p> <p>Considering the distance between the viewpoint location and the Scheme of approximately 9.5km at the closest, the ability of the human eye to clearly distinguish between objects among many other adjoining objects reduces considerably.</p> <p>The proposed Cottam, West Burton and Tillbridge Lane solar farms will feature in cumulative photomontages (depending on the available level of detail for each project).</p> <p>22. Comment noted. An additional photomontage sheet will be included extending the view further to the left (south).</p>



			23. Comment noted. Additional photomontage sheets will be included extending the view further to the right (including sections of the A156 for context).
Lincolnshire County Council	Section 10.9 provides a preliminary assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects. In regards to landscape effects, the scale or size of a character area (County or District) should not be a determining factor in assessing effects – if it were then any character area larger than a “local” level would result in minimal change. Would urge caution in regard larger 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. 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: The baseline should identify the key elements and features that make up the character area, and the assessment should look at how these would be affected, not just the scale of the project in relation to the character area	N	<p>In order to allow for a more detailed landscape character assessment to determine likely changes at a local level, the Applicant created ‘Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)’ considering the general absence of publicly available, finer grained landscape character assessments.</p> <p>Those local landscape character areas are detailed to a level considered appropriate to support the assessment of landscape effects (including the assessment of each individual LLCA) of the Scheme sufficiently, as described in ES Volume 1, Chapter 10, Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010131/APP/3.1], as well as in ES Volume 3, Appendix 10-C: Landscape Baseline [EN010131/APP/3.3].</p> <p>ES Volume 2: Figure 10-7 – Local Landscape Character Areas [EN010131/APP/3.2] illustrates the location and extend of these local landscape character areas.</p>
Lincolnshire County Council	Subject to the final design solution and location of the crossing and cable corridor, additional viewpoints and potentially AVRs of the crossing may need to be included within the LVIA to assess and illustrate any potential visual effects.	N	Construction effects along the Grid Connection Corridor are considered temporary and are therefore not illustrated in specific photomontages.
Lincolnshire County Council	Visualisations are proposed as Type 3 photomontages, as referenced in paragraphs 10.3.21 and 10.10.1. 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.	N	Visualisations are produced as Type 3 photomontages. Other viewpoint images are provided as Type 1 annotated photography. Type 4 photomontages have been scoped out. Photomontages were discussed further at a meeting with LCC on 10th November 2022. Further details on the photomontage methodology will be provided in ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010131/APP/3.1] .



<p>Lincolnshire County Council</p>	<p>The EIA has therefore been undertaken adopting the principles of the ‘Rochdale Envelope’, as described in the Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 9 (Ref 2-1). This involves assessing the maximum (and where relevant, minimum) parameters for the Scheme where flexibility needs to be retained.” o While this will likely be a reasonable approach for the PV panels, have concerns in regards to the larger and taller elements, such as substation (up to 11m in 7 height), Control building and Office (up to 6m in height), warehouse and storage building (up to 7.2m in height), and more conspicuous elements such as energy storage and conversion units/inverters. The final location and layout of these elements will likely have greater visual effects in this flat, rural landscape than PV panels</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010131/APP/3.1], includes the following figures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-9A ZTV (Bare Earth) - All Features • 10-10A ZTV (With Surface Features) - All Features • 10-9B ZTV (Bare Earth) - Solar Panels • 10-10B ZTV (With Surface Features) - Solar Panels • 10-9C ZTV (Bare Earth) - Substation / Battery Storage • 10-10C ZTV (With Surface Features) - Substation / Battery Storage <p>The above range of ZTVs will provide a comprehensive indication of the worst-case scenario for each of the main Scheme elements. These ZTVs will assist the landscape and visual impact assessment and support the assessment of those individual items as well as their combined impact. This will be further assisted by photomontages including winter and summer photography.</p>
<p>Lincolnshire County Council</p>	<p>Expect the 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. •</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The design parameters that have been assessed within the ES are contained within Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010131/APP/3.1]. Each technical chapter (including Landscape) has assessed the design considered to be the likely worst-case scenario for that discipline to determine significance of effect.</p> <p>ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010131/APP/3.1], includes the following figures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10-9A ZTV (Bare Earth) - All Features 10-10A ZTV (With Surface Features) - All Features 10-9B ZTV (Bare Earth) - Solar Panels 10-10B ZTV (With Surface Features) - Solar Panels 10-9C ZTV (Bare Earth) - Substation / Battery Storage 10-10C ZTV (With Surface Features) - Substation / Battery Storage



			<p>The above range of ZTVs provides a comprehensive indication of the worst-case scenario for each of the main Scheme elements. These ZTVs will assist the landscape and visual impact assessment and support the assessment of those individual items as well as their combined impact. This will be further assisted by photomontages including winter and summer photography.</p>
Lincolnshire County Council	<p>While a more local assessment has been carried out by AECOM, would also suggest a finer-grained site-level character assessment and identification of individual elements or features of the landscape to form the baseline. • The Area of Great Landscape Value within the site and study area should also be detailed within the baseline (and likely form a landscape receptor). While a local designation, the elements and features that are valuable and distinctive should be identified and understood so that any effects upon these from the development may be assessed.</p>	N	<p>The definition and description of local landscape character (LLCA) areas by the Applicant has been carried out to address an insufficiency in publicly available LCA. These local landscape character areas have been detailed to a level considered appropriate to support the assessment of landscape effects of the Scheme sufficiently.</p> <p>Further site work has been carried out since the PEI Report stage which has led to additional viewpoints for photomontages, particularly along the extensive PRoW network.</p> <p>The descriptions of the landscape baseline elements of these views, which are located across the LLCA identified, have further confirmed our findings within the LLCAs.</p> <p>The baseline descriptions of these views, along with the existing viewpoints prepared for the PEI Report have been updated for the ES to support the further site-level analysis undertaken.</p> <p>The AoGLV has been added to Appendix 10-C: Landscape Baseline [EN010131/APP/3.3]. Local features and elements will have been captured additionally within the additional views and within the visual baseline photography and descriptions.</p>
Lincolnshire County Council	<p>Paragraph 10.3.13 provides an overview of the published character assessments reviewed, and clarifies a “Local Landscape Character Areas” assessment was carried out by AECOM. Also expect a finer-grained site-level character assessment and identification of individual elements or features</p>	N	<p>The definition and description of local landscape character (LLCA) areas by the Applicant has been carried out to address an insufficiency in publicly available LCA. These local landscape character areas have been detailed to</p>



	<p>of the site to form the baseline to understand how these may be affected by the development. The Area of Great Landscape Value within the site and study area should also be detailed within the baseline (and likely form a landscape receptor). While a local designation, the elements and features that are valuable and distinctive should be identified and understood so that any effects upon these from the development may be assessed. Effects within the AGLV should be assessed to understand what the change would be in that part of the local landscape designation and what identified key elements of value are impacted, and how development change would affect those.</p>		<p>a level considered appropriate to support the assessment of landscape effects of the Scheme sufficiently.</p> <p>Further site work has been carried out since the PEI Report stage which has led to additional viewpoints for photomontages, particularly along the extensive PRow network. The descriptions of the landscape baseline elements of these views, which are located across the LLCA identified, have further confirmed our findings within the LLCAs.</p> <p>The baseline descriptions of these views, along with the existing viewpoints prepared for the PEI Report have supported the further site-level analysis at ES stage.</p>
Respondent	Comment	Project Change	Applicant Response
Lincolnshire County Council	<p>People travelling on roads and public transport and Recreational users: 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 presence of several well-tended benches and grass verges with swathes of spring bulb planting reinforce the local value of these networks beyond being road networks, which also provide suitable connections for walkers improving the connectivity of the wider recreational footpath/PRow network.</p>	N	<p>The receptor group ‘recreational users’ covers all receptors who come to the relevant publicly accessible lanes and tracks. This receptor group combines users on foot, horse, bicycle, boat and other forms of leisure transport.</p> <p>ES Volume 1: Chapter 10 [EN010131/APP/3.1], Table 10-6 – Visual Receptors will include further details to the nature of and potential range of these receptors. It will also include details on their experience of landscape and visual effects along the local road, footpath and PRow network. This is based on the intended purpose of these transport corridors in order to provide a balanced and objective assessment.</p>
Lincolnshire County Council	<p>Review of Appendix 10D Visual Baseline 16. Paragraph 1.2.1 identifies that: “A total of 29 representative viewpoints have been selected to assist in illustrating the effects on visual receptors.”. These have been discussed previously with AECOM, and AAH/LCC have visited the viewpoints on site and comments on individual images/views are provided below (Review of Appendix 10F Existing Viewpoint Photography). 17. Paragraph 1.2.3 identifies that: “Additional viewpoints</p>	N	<p>A meeting between AECOM and AAH/LCC was held on the 4th August 2022 reviewing the additional photography taken on site. A selection of the viewpoint photography was put forward for photomontage production. Additional photomontages agreed with AAH/LCC are included and assessed in ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010131/APP/3.1], and appendices, and will be identified as such.</p>



	recommended by Lincolnshire County Council are still subject to verification and photography on site. These additional viewpoints will be included as the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) progresses. Once these views have been photographed, we request that AECOM provide AAH/LCC with the photographs to review and comment on as part of ongoing consultation and engagement.		
Lincolnshire County Council	Table 5 provides classifications of visual susceptibility; however would re-iterate the point in regards many of the surrounding lanes and tracks within the study area are also well used by dog walkers, horse riders and leisure cyclists, and subsequently the assessment should consider views (and susceptibility) from these groups from these locations.	N	Comment noted. ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010131/APP/3.1] , is accompanied by photography / photomontages from a range of viewpoints throughout the study area illustrating views experienced by various receptors groups. These are described and assessed in the above chapter and associated appendices. They assist the overall assessment of visual effects on various receptor groups.
Lincolnshire County Council	Paragraph 2.4.30 identifies some cabling above ground (between racks) on site, and further detail would be required to understand the potential visibility of these.	Y	The cabling between racks will be low level i.e. at the height of the racks and therefore will not be visible.
Lincolnshire County Council	Paragraph 10.7.64 confirms that additional viewpoints recommended by AAH/LCC will be included in the LVIA, however these are still subject to verification and photography on site. Once the viewpoint photographs are obtained, we request the opportunity to review and discuss with AECOM.	N	A meeting between AECOM and AAH/LCC was held on the 4th August 2022 reviewing the additional photography taken on site. A selection of the viewpoint photography was put forward for photomontage production. Additional photomontages agreed with AAH/LCC will be included and assessed in the ES and will be identified as such.
Natural England	Cumulative effects from the use of Best and Most Versatile land should also be considered regarding solar farm proposals at Six Hundreds Farm (Leicestershire) and Little Crow, as should landscape. Other large scale development proposals potentially influencing cumulative impact should also be ruled out.	N	The cumulative effect from the use of BMV land has been assessed in Chapter 12: Socio-economics and Land Use [EN010131/APP/3.1] which includes consideration of Little Crow and Six Hundreds Farm. Other large scale development proposals were considered as part of the Cumulative Assessment. The short list of developments is contained within Appendix 16A: Shortlist of Developments [EN010131/APP/3.1] .
Natural England	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.	N	Comment noted. No response required.



Network Rail	We understand that a Glint and Glare study will be undertaken in due course and this is essential in helping us to consider the impact of this scheme.	N	Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics includes an assessment of Glint and Glare [EN010131/APP/3.1] which includes the railway as a receptor. The assessment concludes that no significant effects.
Network Rail	Please note that given the number of level crossings in the development area, the Glint and Glare study must consider the potential impact on crossing users as well as train drivers in this instance.		Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics includes an assessment of Glint and Glare [EN010131/APP/3.1] which includes the railway as a receptor. Train drivers have been assessed and there is no impact as a result of the Scheme. Crossing users will be utilising the footpaths in the area, which are not considered within the glint and glare assessment due to their transient nature.
Respondent	Comment	Project Change	Applicant Response
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, impact on railway assets (in particular railway level crossings and bridges), the management of construction works around the operational railway and details such as boundary treatments, any lighting	N	Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics includes an assessment of Glint and Glare [EN010131/APP/3.1] which includes the railway as a receptor. The assessment concludes that there will be no glare impacts upon rail receptors from the Scheme.
Nottinghamshire County Council	The correct National, Regional Landscape Character areas have been referred to (paragraph 10.7.30 and 10.7.35)	N	Comments noted.
Nottinghamshire County Council	Having reviewed the information provided we are satisfied the applicant has clarified/addressed all our observations and comments regarding Landscape and Visual Impact at this point in the application process. EMD VIA do not envisage any visual impact from the actual solar panel site in Lincolnshire, and the only likely visual impact we can foresee is that arising from the cable connections to the power station and new buildings/sub stations at or around the existing Cottam power station.	N	Comments noted. The PEI Report identified potential for residual significant adverse visual effects on residents living in proximity to the Order limits. Therefore, visits to private land surrounding the properties were undertaken. Further consultation with residents was undertaken during the summer of 2022. This site analysis and consultation informed a series of design changes and landscape proposals to mitigate the potential for significant adverse visual effects on residents at year 15. The ES will therefore feature a 'Landscape



			<p>Mitigation Register' (Appendix 10-F [EN010131/APP/3.3]) instead of a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment. It will detail the consultation with residents, how potential significant effects will be mitigated, and it will be accompanied by a set of photomontages from residential properties who participated in the consultation process</p>
<p>West Lindsey District Council</p>	<p>Chapter 10 Landscape and Visual Amenity Whilst it is noted that “a study area radius of 3km has been determined... with reference to the ZTV submitted” – this is not altogether clear why. It is clear upon viewing the ZTV diagrams (Vol2. Figure 10-9 and 10-10) that the zone of theoretical visibility expands far beyond 3km. We are also mindful that Island Green Power propose a wider 5km zone. We are concerned that the 3km zone artificially limits the landscape and visual impacts that will arise from the development – and would need clearer justification as to why this has been set. We are also mindful of the cumulative landscape and visual impacts that may arise in combination with the proposed West Burton and Cottam projects. We would suggest more than a 3km study area is required. However, it is recognised that the preliminary findings of the PEIR are that the development will be likely to give rise to significant landscape and visual effects during construction/deconstruction (summarised at table 10-9); and during operation (table 10-10). It is appreciated that, whilst a full cumulative assessment is to be undertaken, “significant cumulative effects are anticipated at this stage”. The LVIA needs to assess and address the sequential effect on more transient receptors – those that are travelling through the District, be it by car, bicycle, walking / hiking, and even the train. For instance, those travelling along the A1500 (Tillbridge Lane) will be sensitive to, and experience both this and the other projects during their journey, which may be over many kilometres.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>As stated in the Gate Burton Energy Park EIA Scoping Report, Section 10.2 - Study Area, the study area was initially set at 5km. It was considered unlikely that there would be any significant effects on landscape or visual receptors beyond that radius due to the scale and nature of the Scheme. This was further assessed during field surveys in January and February 2022 as part of the PEI-Report process. It was subsequently concluded that a study area radius of 3km will be sufficient to identify potential significant effects arising from the Scheme considering the topographical setting, vegetation cover and built environment. However, as stated in PEI-Report, Chapter 10, Section 10.2 - Study Area, the panoramic viewpoint at Tillbridge Lane as well as other panoramic views along the elevated sections of the B1398 near Ingham have also been considered outside the study and within 10km from the DCO site boundary. Assets within that ‘wider study area’ have been considered, where identified as necessary, in order to determine the significance of landscape and visual effects at that distance. The extent of the study area was reviewed and agreed with AAH Landscape (acting on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council) at a meeting held on 10th November 2022.</p> <p>ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010131/APP/3.1], Section 10.5 includes a further detailed rationale for the determination of the study area radius.</p> <p>Comments on cumulative assessment noted. ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010131/APP/3.1], includes a cumulative assessment including sequential effects on transient receptors.</p>



West Lindsey District Council	However, it is recognised that the preliminary findings of the PEIR are that the development will be likely to give rise to significant landscape and visual effects during construction/deconstruction (summarised at table 10-9); and during operation (table 10-10). It is appreciated that, whilst a full cumulative assessment is to be undertaken, “significant cumulative effects are anticipated at this stage”. The LVIA needs to assess and address the sequential effect on more transient receptors – those that are travelling through the District, be it by car, bicycle, walking / hiking, and even the train. For instance, those travelling along the A1500 (Tillbridge Lane) will be sensitive to, and experience both this and the other projects during their journey, which may be over many kilometres.	N	Comments on cumulative assessment noted. ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010131/APP/3.1] , includes a cumulative assessment including sequential effects on transient receptors.
Respondent	Comment	Project Change	Applicant Response
Willingham By Stow Parish Council	Many people are concerned about the implications such major schemes will have on the area; considering the visual impact	N	ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010131/APP/3.1] , is accompanied by photography / photomontages from a range of viewpoints throughout the study area illustrating views experienced by various receptors groups. These are described and assessed in the above chapter and associated appendices. They assist the overall assessment of visual effects on various receptor groups.
Willingham By Stow Parish Council	The attractive link between the village and the countryside would be destroyed.	N	The Scheme has been designed to minimise the effect it will have on the countryside. The Scheme has sought to avoid ecological features and sites designated for nature conservation. Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation of the ES [EN010131/APP/3.1] , has assessed the impacts on ecology receptors and conclude there will be no significant effects on ecology and nature conservation. In addition, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual of the ES EN010131/APP/3.1 has assessed the impact of the Scheme on landscape and visual receptors and sought to reduce the potential effects of the Scheme through embedded mitigation which has been built into the Scheme design.



Willingham Parish Council	Viewpoints to share with Willingham PC cemetery and playing field- can you take images from there? Visual impact and landscaping.	N	<p>ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010131/APP/3.1], is accompanied by photography / photomontages from a range of viewpoints throughout the study area illustrating views experienced by various receptors groups. These are described and assessed in the above chapter and associated appendices. They assist the overall assessment of visual effects on various receptor groups. Viewpoint / Photomontage 9 illustrates a view west from Marton Road just northeast of the Willingham PC cemetery entrance and south of the playing fields.</p> <p>An Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) [EN010131/APP/7.10], along with a landscape mitigation masterplan has been prepared. The document provides a framework for delivering the landscape strategy and the successful establishment and future management of proposed landscape works associated with the Gate Burton Energy Park. It sets out the short and long-term measures and practices that will be implemented by the Applicant to establish, monitor and manage landscape and ecology mitigation and enhancement (biodiversity net gain) measure embedded in the design. The latter will be achieved through habitat creation over and above that used for habitat mitigation.</p>
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Noise and vibration

Section 42 Applicant Regard to Consultee Responses

Respondent	Comment	Project Change	Applicant Response
Bassetlaw District Council	As the final cabling corridors have not yet been finalised, it is not possible to comment on any likely impact from noise and vibration on Bassetlaw residents and businesses, and I would, of course, wish to see further noise and vibration assessments once these corridors have been finalised.	N	Comment noted. As stated in Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN010131/APP/3.1] opportunities to combine the connection corridor areas have been explored and have resulted in the identification of a shared Grid Connection Corridor area. Further details are provided in Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration [EN010131/APP/3.1] .
Bassetlaw District Council	I am satisfied that the Preliminary Environmental Impact Report identifies the likely risks from noise and vibration together with the type of receptor likely to be at risk. I am also satisfied that the PEIR sets out appropriate methodologies for assessing the	N	Comment noted.

	likely impact on those noise and vibration sensitive receptors and commits to minimise such disturbance.		
Bassetlaw District Council	Noise and Vibration I am satisfied that the Preliminary Environmental Impact Report identifies the likely risks from noise and vibration together with the type of receptor likely to be at risk. I am also satisfied that the PEIR sets out appropriate methodologies for assessing the likely impact on those noise and vibration sensitive receptors and commits to minimise such disturbance.	N	Comment noted.
Bassetlaw District Council	The majority of this project is to be situated outside the boundaries of Bassetlaw District Council, with only the cable connection corridor situated within the District. As the final cabling corridors have not yet been finalised, it is not possible to comment on any likely impact from noise and vibration on Bassetlaw residents and businesses, and I would, of course, wish to see further noise and vibration assessments once these corridors have been finalised	N	A full noise and vibration assessment is provided in Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration [EN010131/APP/3.1] of the ES.
Canal and River Trust	Noise and Vibration Works to install a cable crossing beneath the River Trent have significant potential to generate noise and vibration impacts and these effects on the river and users of the river should be considered within the Environmental Statement. In particular, works in proximity to the river need to be carefully managed to minimise the risk of significant vibration or loading that could adversely affect the stability of the riverbank	N	The potential for impacts on users of the river are not considered within Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration [EN010131/APP/3.1] due to the short exposure time to noise and vibration. However, precautionary working methods will be implemented to minimise potential adverse effects associated with construction. These measures are outlined in the Framework CEMP [EN010131/APP/7.3] .
Marton and Gate Burton Parish Council	we could do a visit keen as have sensitive hearing and would like to understand noise		The Applicant undertook a site visit with a small number of local residents and parish councillors. The Applicant would be happy to organise a follow up if it is of interest.
West Lindsey District Council	Noise and Vibration It is recognised that baseline monitoring has been undertaken (11.6.6), having identified receptors in proximity to the site. There is a potential for noise and vibration effects during construction and decommissioning phases (11.8.1) and for noise only during operation (11.8.4). It is noted that the PEIR concludes that the change from road traffic noise	N	For exceedances of the LOAEL, noise should be mitigated as far as reasonably practicable; however, this does not mean that such adverse effects cannot occur. For construction noise, best practicable means will be secured in the Framework CEMP [EN010131/APP/7.3] to reduce noise as far as



	<p>will be negligible (table 11-3), other than Marton Road where a minor adverse effect is predicted. During construction it is noted that the Lowest Observed Adverse Effect Level (LOAEL) is expected to be exceeded for scenario 3 (construction of PV modules) and may in scenario 4 (cable installation). Furthermore, it is noted during operation that the predicted rating level will be above the LOAEL in all cases, but not exceed the Significant Observed Adverse Effect Level (SOAEL). Whilst this may be so, it is noted that the predicted rating level at a number of receptors is equal to (R7, R16, R17); or, within a margin or 2dB (R2, R3, R6, R11, R12, R15, R18, R19, R21) of the SOAEL. Whilst the PEIR chapter concludes effects are not significant, on the basis that they are at or around the Significant Observed Adverse Effect Level, it is considered that there is an identified environmental impact here that needs to be addressed through mitigation at the very least.</p>		<p>reasonably practicable. This will include a construction monitoring scheme and a communication strategy to inform local residents. This level of mitigation is considered appropriate for exceedances of the LOAEL. For HDD activities that may be required to take place over the night-time period, a hierarchy of measures is contained in the CEMP to minimise potential noise impacts.</p> <p>For operational noise, Figure 2-4 Indicative Site Layout [EN010131/APP/3.2] has been optimised to locate noise generating plant as far from sensitive receptors as practicable. The final design will explore the potential for quieter plant and/ or enclosing plant in a contained unit. This approach represents best practicable mitigation measures.</p>
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Socio-economics – including agriculture, local jobs, community benefit and general comments

Section 42 Applicant Regard to Consultee Responses

Respondent	Comment	Project Change	Applicant Response
Bassetlaw District Council	Socio Economic and Land Use It is anticipated that there will be some minor-moderate benefits in terms of employment during the construction period but this is not expected to be significant during the operation of the site.	N	Comment noted. No response required.
Gate Burton Parish on the Marton and Gate Burton Parish Council	This level is and has been used for centuries as productive agricultural soil whether these solar organisations claim it is or not. With the sudden increase in cereal prices blamed on the Ukraine conflict and Covid pandemic it would be unwise to turn vast areas of this land over to industrial use.	N	Comment noted. The Applicant recognises that is the role of the planning system to assess the balance of the impact of withdrawing land from agricultural production for a period of time against the benefits of renewable energy generation. It is agreed that agricultural land will be taken out of production temporarily for 60 years. Land affected permanently by the development (such as construction of the BESS) will be limited to small areas, and is situated outside of good quality agricultural land, where possible.



<p>Gate Burton Parish on the Marton and Gate Burton Parish Council</p>	<p>A proportion of the power generated could be distributed to the affected parishes e.g through generated charging points regulated by the local parish councils.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The Applicant is bringing forward the Gate Burton Energy Park to meet an urgent national need for new, renewable, sources of electricity.</p> <p>The power generated by the energy park is likely to be in-part used by local communities as it is transmitted and distributed through the existing electrical grid system. However, the ability to deliver energy direct to local points through a 'private' network, bypassing the existing system is limited by the nature, operation, cost and regulation of local energy distribution networks in the UK. While it is technically achievable it is both complex and expensive to achieve, new bespoke electricity networks would need to be designed, constructed and operated by the applicant or an appointed IDNO (Independent Distribution Network Operator) with the appropriate licenses for distribution of the energy in place, alongside agreements with a supplier, or suppliers to manage the commercial elements of the provision, charging and settlement of the energy provided through the private network from the site to the local points. The additional cost of designing, constructing and managing these private networks would erode the financial benefit of developing schemes such as this, namely reducing the cost of energy in the UK to reduce energy prices en masse.</p>
<p>Lincolnshire County Council</p>	<p>Cumulative impacts – this is an important issue given the number of other NSIP projects currently programmed across Lincolnshire which includes 6 other solar energy parks, and the need for a full assessment of environmental and social-economic impacts of the cumulative affects of the Gate Burton scheme in conjunction with these other projects. In respect of Chapter 5 of the PEIR document considering the impacts with other NSIP across the County and in particular those with the West Lindsey District should be included.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Comment noted. Cumulative schemes within the shortlist in Appendix 16-A [EN010131/APP/3.3] have been considered within each cumulative assessment, including a review of Tillbridge Solar Project Scoping Report which was submitted in October 2022.</p>
<p>Lincolnshire County Council</p>	<p>Economic Development and Growth Based on the Socio-Economic section of the Socio Economic and Land Use chapter from a Growth perspective what is considered and the methodology in this section of the PEIR appears reasonable. The estimated GVA generation, creation of 400 jobs per day during construction, and the slight increase of operational</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>This comment is noted. No response required.</p>



	employment generation in the local economy is noted and will be beneficial, but s106 contributions may wish to be considered due to the disturbance of cable laying in the local areas affected.		
Lincolnshire County Council	Community Benefits- consideration needs to be given to community benefits and to consider legacy opportunities arising from the project.	N	Comment noted. The Applicant has developed an Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan [EN010131/APP/7.7] which aims to identify and maximise opportunities for local communities.
Lincolnshire County Council	There must also be adequate assessment of the likely origins of the labour force (both local and non-local) especially in the context of other energy projects in the area with potentially overlapping construction periods	N	Comment noted. The Applicant has developed an Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan [EN010131/APP/7.7] which aims to identify and maximise opportunities for local communities. The labour force in the context of the West Burton and Cottam solar projects is assessed within the cumulative effects section of Chapter 12: Socio-economics and Land Use [EN010131/APP/3.1] .
Respondent	Comment	Project Change	Applicant Response
Lincolnshire County Council	Skills Training Measures – In terms of skills LCC is seeking for Low Carbon to foster a local skills base in respect of renewable energy projects in this area which potential will host a number of energy related infrastructure projects in this local area and numerous energy related infrastructure projects across the County. Therefore financial measures in respect of relevant skills training within the local area should be agreed.	N	Comment noted. The Applicant has developed an Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan [EN010131/APP/7.7] which aims to identify and maximise opportunities for local communities.
Natural England	The PEIR reports that land in terms of Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) is predominantly Grade 3b (moderate quality agricultural land) with some 3a (good quality agricultural land). We note that, only the energy park has been surveyed and assessed at this point and not the grid connection route and that the route will be assessed as the ES progresses. A detailed ALC and soil resource survey will also be required for the final cable route.	N	<p>Comment noted. As reported in para 12.7.7 of ES Chapter 12: Socio-economics and Land Use [EN010131/APP/3.1] it is correct that land within the Solar and Energy Storage Park is predominantly ALC Grade 3b (moderate quality) with some Grade 3a (good quality).</p> <p>In terms of the Grid Connection Corridor, a desktop study is proposed rather than a detailed survey as it is considered that a desktop survey is sufficient to establish the ALC and soil resource within the area. The desktop study will be undertaken using available published information (BGS mapping, published Soil Maps and MAGIC DEFRA site). The results of the desktop</p>



			study are included within Chapter 12: Socio-economics and Land Use within the Environmental Statement [EN010131/APP/3.1].
Natural England	We would expect a detailed soil survey for the areas permanently affected by the development, and detailed ALC to identify the extent of BMV. For a site of this size we may advise on a free survey rather than grid based survey with flexibilities around density depending on land quality due to the size of the site. Published data for this area does indicate some likely higher quality land in the south, so a detailed survey is recommended. In areas identified as lower quality the survey density could be reduced, but in high quality areas the density needs to be detailed. This allows the planning authority to make informed decisions.	N	<p>Due to the nature of the development, there will be minimal areas within the Order limits that will be permanently affected by the Scheme.</p> <p>Areas to be permanently affected include the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). The BESS has been sited to avoid BMV land while balancing surface water, flood risk and visual considerations. It is therefore considered that further detailed surveys are not required within areas permanently affected by the development.</p> <p>It is noted that due to the size of the site a free survey may be advised rather than a grid-based survey.</p> <p>The ALC survey within Solar and Energy Storage Park was carried out at alternate intersects of a 100 m grid giving a density of one observation per two hectares. Where observation points varied (different soil type/higher land quality grade), additional auger points were carried out to confirm the coverage of the higher quality land in order to accurately draw boundaries between BMV and lower quality land. Boundaries of the BMV land have detailed coverage. Where lower quality land was found, the density of the augers at one observation per two hectares is deemed appropriate – this land showed no variation on the augers and there is no variation in the geology/soil types mapped in published data.</p> <p>In terms of published data which shows an area of alluvium in the south. These deposits can comprise clay, silt, sand and gravel. At least six observations (observations 271, 272,281, 290, 291, 300) were carried out in this area and showed the deposit comprises clay giving poor quality land. It is not considered that any further detail is needed in this area.</p>



West Lindsey District Council	At 12.10.27 it states “There are no new potential or additional impacts on agricultural land during the operation of the scheme.” The development would remove 635Ha of agricultural land from production for in excess of 60 years. The effects of this need to be properly assessed and addressed in the Environmental Statement.	N	The Agricultural Land Classification Survey is provided within Appendix 12-C of the Environmental Statement [EN010131/APP/3.3] . Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land-Use provides the assessment of effects on agricultural land [EN010131/APP/3.3] .
West Lindsey District Council	Socio-Economics and Land-Use 12.7.7 – In terms of agricultural land classification, it is noted that “only the Solar and Energy Storage Park has been surveyed and assessed at this point and not the Grid Connection Route”, and the overall findings are presented at 12-12. Where is the survey? It does not appear to be included in the appendices. Is there a plan which displays the ALC findings across the site? This has not been provided. Nonetheless on the basis of the above findings, it would result in the loss of 73.6Ha of Best and Most Versatile Land (BMV). It is agreed that 20Ha is a suitable threshold (12.6.28) for assessment – the development would exceed the threshold by nearly four-fold. It is considered that “a loss of BMV which is either temporary and reversible after construction, or which falls below the 20 ha threshold, is considered as being not significant” (12.6.28). However, the PEIR has already confirmed that “The design life of the Scheme is 60 years; however, if equipment is still operating successfully and safely, the Applicant may choose to operate beyond the Scheme’s originally anticipated design life. This is a common occurrence for generating stations. Many stations operate beyond the design life if they are well maintained.” (2.6.6) Whilst the scheme may ultimately be “temporary” – it will be in operation for a significant part of a human lifespan. It would result in the loss of 74ha of BMV land for in excess of 60 years. We are therefore concerned that the criteria employed at 12.6.28 should not exclude the site as “not significant”. Consequently – although the development would result in the loss of 634.8Ha of agricultural land – of which at least 73.6Ha would be BMV - this concludes a ‘negligible effect’ through the loss of agricultural land (12.10.23).	N	<p>The assessment of negligible effect takes into consideration both the area of BMV land that would be lost, and the fact that although the land would be removed for 60 years this would be returned back to agricultural land after the Scheme is decommissioned (i.e. the loss is not permanent).</p> <p>Chapter 12: Socio-economics and land use confirms that approximately 73.6ha of grade 3a BMV land would be required within the Solar and Energy Storage Park during the construction phase only and some agricultural use (e.g., sheep farming underneath panels) could continue following the completion of this construction.</p> <p>Construction work will involve relatively little displacement of the soil material, with the dominant impact being the trafficking over land with delivery and construction vehicles and the soil compaction this might cause, although measures can be adopted to minimise impacts.</p> <p>A site-based agricultural land classification assessment has been undertaken of the Solar and Energy Park , establishing that this area is approximately 12% BMV (3a), 85% subgrade 3b and 3% non-agricultural land. Land within the Grid Connection Corridor would only be affected by installation of underground cables and works at Cottam National Grid Substation so land can be returned to agricultural use after construction.</p> <p>The Agricultural Land Classification Survey is provided within Appendix 12-C of the Environmental Statement [EN010131/APP/3.3]. Figure 12-1 [EN010131/APP/3.2] displays the ALC findings across the site.</p>



<p>West Lindsey District Council</p>	<p>This chapter also needs to address the effect on the wider tourism sector in Lincolnshire - How will the development, alone and in combination with other projects, affect visitor perceptions of rural Lincolnshire? Will it affect the desirability of West Lindsey as a place to visit? How will it affect visitor numbers? Central Lincolnshire currently attracts over 3.3 million visitors a year, generating over £130 million (CLLP, 2017). How will this development affect the visitor economy?</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The impact on tourism was scoped out of the socio-economic chapter due to the unlikely impact of the scheme and cumulative schemes. There is only one (tourism) receptor located near the site, the Landmark Trust Chateau. The building has been renovated and now provides accommodation for 2 only. The impact of the scheme during the construction period will be negligible on this receptor and nil during operation. The next nearest receptor is located over 2km away, the Black Swan Guest House in Marton. This receptor will not be negatively impacted by the scheme (or cumulative schemes) and may benefit from it during the construction period (through an increase in occupancy).</p> <p>Furthermore, a study by The South West Research Company on “the impact of renewable energy farms on visitors to Cornwall” (2013) found that renewable energy parks (solar and wind) and no negative impact on tourism and may even have a positive impact as sustainability becomes an element of considerations for tourists when opting for a destination. The study found that just 6% of visitors to Cornwall had a negative attitude towards renewable energy parks. The study also found that only 2% of visitors are less likely to visit the county again in the future as a result of the presence of wind and solar farms. However, 4% of visitors are more likely to visit which is likely to be as a result of those that find such developments attractive and, more importantly, those that consider the county to be a more positive place as a result of the presence of renewable energy farms and its support for the environmental causes.</p>
<p>Willingham By Stow Parish Council</p>	<p>Many people are concerned about the implications such major schemes will have on the area; considering the visual impact, negative affect on wildlife and archaeology, loss of countryside and associated agricultural jobs.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010131/APP/3.1] assesses the effects on the landscape character and the visual amenity resulting from all components of the Scheme during construction, operation and decommissioning.</p> <p>The Scheme has been designed to avoid significant adverse effects on ecology and archaeology. No significant residual effects on ecology or archaeology are predicted during construction, operation and decommissioning of the Scheme’s lifetime. The impact assessment on habitats / species and the Applicant’s proposed mitigation are set out in</p>



			<p>Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation of the Environmental Statement [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p> <p>An assessment of the significance of archaeological remains and the impact of the Scheme on these remains has been undertaken and provided in Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage [EN010131/APP/3.1]. Mitigation strategies have been identified which include embedded design mitigation to reduce or avoid the impact on assets of high importance.</p> <p>An assessment of the impact of the Scheme on agricultural jobs is presented within Chapter 12: Socio-economics and Land Use [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p>
Willingham By Stow Parish Council	The large area of land required for these would mean a huge loss and waste of agricultural land to development, consequently impacting food production in the local area.	N	<p>Comment noted. It is agreed that agricultural land will be taken out of production temporarily for 60 years. Land affected permanently by the development (such as construction of the BESS) will be limited to small areas. Impacts to BMV have been avoided by siting permanent infrastructure outside of areas of good quality agricultural land.</p> <p>Chapter 12: Socio-economics and Land Use [EN010131/APP/3.1] includes a breakdown of permanent and temporary losses for the different types of land use within the proposed development (including the Grid Connection Corridor), broken down by ALC area (ha) and percentage.</p>
Land use			
Section 42 Applicant Regard to Consultee Responses			
Respondent	Comment	Project Change	Applicant Response
Canal and River Trust	Any crossing of the river is likely to require the prior consent of the Trust. Please be advised that the Trust is a statutory undertaker and has specific duties to protect its waterways. We would therefore resist any proposed use of compulsory purchase powers which may affect our land or undertakings. We		The Applicant is in correspondence with the Canal and River Trust



	reserve the right to seek protections under S16 of the Acquisition of Land Act 1981 should any proposals affect land which has been acquired for the purposes of our undertaking. Accordingly, we advise that the acquisition of any Trust land or rights over Trust land should be secured by agreement and we strongly recommend early contact with the Trust's Utilities Team to commence discussions over the terms of such an agreement ahead of submission of the DCO application. Please contact Beth Woodhouse, Senior Utilities Surveyor... for further advice.		
Canal and River Trust	As the proposal will involve works affecting the Trust's waterways, in our capacity as landowner, we will also require the applicant/developer to comply with the Trust's current Code of Practice for Works Affecting the Canal & River Trust and recommend early discussion with the Trust's Infrastructure Services Team over all works likely to affect Trust property. Please contact Keith Boswell, Works Engineer... for further advice.		The Applicant is in correspondence with the Canal and River Trust.
Lincolnshire County Council	In respect of Chapter 5 of the PEIR document considering the impacts with other NSIP across the County and in particular those with the West Lindsey District should be included. At paragraph 5-8 this needs a bespoke approach to include those NSIP developments beyond the 5km search zone and must include all the other NSIPs in the West Lindsey District including the most recent Tillbridge Solar proposal Planning Authority The Development Plan for the area affected by the project includes the Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (currently under review) and also the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan also under review.	N	<p>Comment noted. Cumulative schemes within the shortlist in Appendix 16-A [EN010131/APP/3.3] have been considered within each cumulative assessment, including a review of Tillbridge Solar Project Scoping Report which was submitted in October 2022.</p> <p>The Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan and also the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan were considered as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment and are referenced within the Planning Design and Access Statement [EN010131/APP/2.2].</p>
Ministry of Defence	The applicant is seeking a Development Consent Order for a Solar Energy Park. The application site occupies the statutory safeguarding zone surrounding East 1 WAM Network and RAF Scampton. In particular, the technical safeguarding zone surrounding the East 1 WAM Network and is approximately 8.7km from the centre of the operational technical area of the Asset and the aerodrome technical and Birdstrike safeguarding	N	Comment noted. No response required.



	<p>zones surrounding RAF Scampton and is approximately 8km from the centre of the airfield. After reviewing the application documents, I can confirm the MOD has no safeguarding concerns to this proposal.</p>		
<p>National Grid-UK Land and Property</p>	<p>The overhead lines and substations form an essential part of the electricity transmission network in England and Wales. Substations • Cottam 400kV Substation • Associated cables • Associated fibre cable Overhead Lines • 4VE 400kV Cottam – Keadby 1 Cottam – Keadby 2 Cottam – Grendon Cottam – Staythorpe 2 • ZDA 400kV Cottam – West Burton High Marnham – West Burton Cottam – Staythorpe 1 • 4VK 400kV Cottam – Eaton Socon – Wymondley 2 • 4ZM 400kV Bicker Fen - Spalding North - West Burton Bicker Fen - Walpole - West Burton Three plans showing the NGET Infrastructure are attached to this submission. The following points should be taken into consideration. Electricity Infrastructure: § 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 § 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). § If any changes in ground levels are proposed either beneath or in close proximity to our existing overhead lines, then this would serve to reduce the safety clearances for such overhead lines. Safe clearances for existing overhead lines must be maintained in all circumstances. § The relevant guidance in relation to working safely near to existing overhead lines is contained within the Health and Safety Executive’s (www.hse.gov.uk) Guidance Note GS 6 “Avoidance of Danger from Overhead Electric Lines” and all relevant site staff should make sure that they are both aware of and understand this guidance. § Plant, machinery, equipment, buildings or scaffolding should not encroach within</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Comment noted. The Applicant is in ongoing dialogue with relevant utility companies regarding protective provisions of their respective assets, including Northern Power Grid regarding the overhead lines around the Solar and Energy Storage Park.</p>



	<p>5.3 metres of any of our high voltage conductors when those conductors are under their worst conditions of maximum “sag” and “swing” and overhead line profile (maximum “sag” and “swing”) drawings should be obtained using the contact details above. § If a landscaping scheme is proposed as part of the proposal, we request that only slow and low growing species of trees and shrubs are planted beneath and adjacent to the existing overhead line to reduce the risk of growth to a height which compromises statutory safety clearances. § Drilling or excavation works should not be undertaken if they have the potential to disturb or adversely affect the foundations or “pillars of support” of any existing tower. These foundations always extend beyond the base area of the existing tower and foundation (“pillar of support”) drawings can be obtained using the contact details above § 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. § 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.</p>		
<p>Environment Agency</p>	<p>Suitable easements to development are established around all watercourses and any cable crossing points agreed with the relevant parties, this is to include main rivers, ordinary watercourses and IDB assets.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Precautionary easements of 10 m have been applied to take account of minor differences between required easements from relevant parties. These have been increased to 16 m in the vicinity of flood defences as included within the Framework CEMP [EN010131/APP/7.3].</p>
<p>Network Rail</p>	<p>Consideration should be given to ensure that the construction and subsequent maintenance can be carried out without</p>		<p>The Applicant has entered into a Basic Asset Protection Agreement with Network Rail so they can conduct a feasibility study over the railway that</p>



	<p>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 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 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. Network Rail also reserves the right to make additional comments once we have evaluated the proposals in more detail.</p>		<p>bisects the main site, looking at the feasibility of passing cables underneath the railway. The Applicant has also entered into discussions with Network Rail regarding protective provisions.</p>
<p>Network Rail</p>	<p>Please note that if the intention is to install cabling/equipment in support of the project through railway land, the developer will be 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. 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 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</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The Glint and Glare assessment which is included within Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics [EN010131/APP/3.1] assesses the impact of the Scheme on railway users. The Scheme includes additional landscape screening along the railway. The Applicant has started discussions with Network Rail and is seeking to continue to work with Network Rail all the way through the process, through to construction and operation.</p> <p>Network Rail have been engaged and a BAPA has been entered into to obtain information to feed into the design.</p>



	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.		
Nottinghamshire County Council	Waste In terms of the Waste Core Strategy, there are no existing waste sites within the vicinity of the site whereby the proposed development could cause an issue in terms of safeguarding existing waste management facilities (as per Policy WCS10)	N	Comment noted. No response required.
Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board	The site falls within Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board District, Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board's Extended Area and also Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board and Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board's Extended Area (within Lincolnshire). Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board has no further comment at this stage. The Board has previously been consulted and these comments remain valid. It is noticed that aspects of the information provided has been included in the documentation and the Board will continue to be available with regard to agreeing details as required.	N	Comment noted. No response required.
Transport and access – including construction traffic, local pathways, rights of way, local traffic impacts and general comments			
Section 42 Applicant Regard to Consultee Responses			
Respondent	Comment	Project Change	Applicant Response
Bassetlaw District Council	Transport and Access There are no further comments to be made at this stage regarding transport and access. Please refer to our original comments in relation to transport and access and Public Rights of Way in the original EIA Scoping Report.	N	Comment noted. No response required.

Gate Burton Parish on the Marton and Gate Burton Parish Council	Clay Lane is in a very bad condition with numerous potholes and extensive subsidence caused by heavy vehicles. It would need upgrading and resurfacing for future constant use.		Comment noted.
Lincolnshire County Council	Volume 3: Appendix 13-A: Transport Scoping Note The scope set out in this Chapter is considered appropriate as a basis for the Transport Assessment necessary for this development.	N	In terms of transport, this comment is noted. No response required.
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 several level crossings - Stow Park, Hansons, Foxes and Lea on the Great Northern-Great Eastern (SPD3) line and Cow Pasture Lane on the TYB1 Cottam Power Station branch line. It is imperative that traffic associated with construction activity at the site does not adversely impact operational safety and risk at these crossings and we note that there is reference to haulage traffic being diverted away from railway level crossings in the documentation provided (for example section 6.9.26 in the non-technical summary). The safety of railway crossings and all crossing users is of paramount importance at all times and we would consider any such impact to be unacceptable.	N	<p>This is noted and construction vehicles will avoid bridges (with low clearance/ weight restrictions) and railway level crossings where possible.</p> <p>For the Solar and Energy Storage Park, HGVs (excluding abnormal loads) will travel via the A156, thereby avoiding the level crossing on the A1500 Stow Park Road. For the Grid Connection Corridor, all HGVs (including abnormal loads) will travel via the A57 and then Laneham Road to access Cottam Road and Headstead Bank, therefore avoiding the level crossing on Cow Pasture Lane.</p> <p>As above, there will be a limited number of abnormal loads which will be escorted by the Police with supporting road closures. Therefore, whilst the abnormal load transporting the transformer for the Solar and Energy Storage Park will travel along the A1500 Stow Park Road and the level crossing, this will be a one-off occurrence which will be managed. As above, abnormal loads for the Grid Connection Corridor will avoid the level crossing on Cow Pasture Lane.</p>
Network Rail	We also feel that consideration should be given to the closure of Hansons and Foxes user worked railway crossings to minimise any risk imported from the scheme onto the operational railway and welcome further discussion on this point		The Applicant has started discussions with Network Rail and had entered into a BAPA. The Applicant is seeking to continue to work with Network Rail all the way through the process, through to construction and operation.
Nottinghamshire County Council	County Planning Context Transport The Transport Team have no comments to make. The traffic impact on the Nottinghamshire highway network is unlikely to be material. I'd therefore be happy for Lincolnshire to take the lead on agreeing	N	Comment noted. No response required.



	the transport assumptions contained in chapter 13 of the Main Report and associated Figures 13 1 to 6 and Appendix 13 A to C.		
Nottinghamshire County Council	Rights of Way The Rights of Way Team welcome the provisions set out in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report for the protection and enhancement of the network of Public Rights of Way within the proposed development site. This response focuses on the area affected by the Grid Connection Corridor and the associated buffer zone as the proposed solar facility is situated in Lincolnshire and does not impact directly on the PROW of Nottinghamshire. For the same reason, the Team have not considered the Glint and Glare connotations with regards the PROW network. The preferred Grid Connection corridor would potentially impact up to six Public Rights of Way. Trenching underground cabling, requiring a 30-40m working corridor, would invariably affect PROW in the short term during the construction phase and it is requested that these closures, wherever practicable, are employed sensitively to optimise the connectivity of the wider PROW network and any works that affect the safe use of the PROW should be closed temporarily under a formal Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO), which is managed by Nottinghamshire County Council as Highway Authority. The Rights of Way Team acknowledge the collaborative approach to cabling by liaising with the Cottam Solar project to minimise the impact on the PROW network.	N	There will be no PROW closures as a result of the Scheme and an Outline PROW Management Plan [EN010131/APP/7.8] will be prepared in support of the DCO Submission to demonstrate how PROW will be managed safely during the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning phases.
Rampton and Woodbeck Parish Council	Query will be raised re Diana Ayres re charity land access.	N	Comment noted. No response required.
UK Health Security Agency's Response	Public Rights of Way (PROW) The PEIR identifies the intention to retain the existing PROW across the site and Grid Connection Corridor, as such they may require 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	N	There will be no PROW closures as a result of the Scheme and an Outline PROW Management Plan [EN010131/APP/7.8] will be prepared in support of the DCO Submission to demonstrate how PROW will be managed safely during the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning phases.



	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. The PEIR does not identify specific PRow mitigation measures, but diversions would be agreed locally. Recommendation The ES must report the level of significance relating to the construction impacts on the PRow. The CEMP or separate PRow Management Plan (PRowWMP) should include sufficient detail regarding the proposed mitigation measures for each PRow.		In addition, the ES will include an assessment of the potential construction impacts on PRow in terms of severance, pedestrian delay, pedestrian and cyclist amenity and fear & intimidation. The Scheme will include mitigation measures to avoid any adverse PRow impacts which is further detailed in Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010131/APP/3.1] .
Respondent	Comment	Project Change	Applicant Response
West Lindsey District Council	Chapter 13 Transport and Access The preliminary findings, and expected trip generation figures are noted. Measures for embedded mitigation and to conduct a Stage 1 Road Safety Audit are recognised. It is noted that a minor adverse effect on pedestrian amenity is expected, to be managed through a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP). It is noted that no significant effects are anticipated (13.11.1) and no mitigation deemed necessary, although we would defer to the advice of Lincolnshire County Council, as the Local Highway Authority.	N	Comment noted. No response required.
Willingham By Stow Parish Council	Local roads are unsuitable for construction traffic on this scale.	N	Construction traffic has been assessed in Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010131/APP/3.1] and measures to mitigate impacts in the construction phase are included within the Framework CTMP (Appendix 13-E [EN010131/APP/3.3]) and is not anticipated to have any significant effects.
Willingham By Stow Parish Council	Many people are concerned about the implications such major schemes will have on the area; considering the visual impact, negative affect on wildlife and archaeology, loss of countryside and associated agricultural jobs. In addition, the loss of footpaths and byways during construction, as well as bearing in mind that local roads are unsuitable for construction traffic on this scale.	N	Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010131/APP/3.1] assesses the effects on the landscape character and the visual amenity resulting from all components of the Scheme during construction, operation and decommissioning. The Scheme has been designed to avoid significant adverse effects on ecology and archaeology. No significant residual effects on ecology or archaeology are predicted during construction, operation and decommissioning of the Scheme's lifetime. The impact assessment on



			<p>habitats / species and the Applicant's proposed mitigation are set out in Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation of the Environmental Statement [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p> <p>An assessment of the significance of archaeological remains and the impact of the Scheme on these remains has been undertaken and provided in Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage [EN010131/APP/3.1]. Mitigation strategies have been identified which include embedded design mitigation to reduce or avoid the impact on assets of high importance.</p> <p>Construction traffic has been assessed in Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010131/APP/3.1] and measures to mitigate impacts in the construction phase are included within the Framework CTMP (Appendix 13-E [EN010131/APP/3.3]). There will be no closure of footpaths or byways during construction.</p> <p>The impact of the Scheme on agricultural jobs is assessed within Chapter 12: Socio-economics and Land Use [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p>
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Human, health & well-being – including community well being, safety of equipment and general comments

Section 42 Applicant Regard to Consultee Responses

Respondent	Comment	Project Change	Applicant Response
Bassetlaw District Council	Human Health and Wellbeing The PEIR predicts that potential impacts with respect to human health and wellbeing are generally not expected to be significant during the construction phase and would be negligible during the operation of the site. There are no further comments to make in this respect. It is anticipated that there might be some minor adverse impacts during the construction period but this is expected to be temporary. Comments received from Nottinghamshire County Council's Rights of Way Officer to the original EIA Scoping Report should therefore be taken into account.	N	Comment noted. No response required.



Canal and River Trust	We strongly recommend that the Trust is included in future discussions over the location of the cable crossing and whether a single crossing point can be agreed by the respective project promoters so we can advise on any potential issues likely to affect navigational safety or our interests as an affected landowner.	N	The Applicant has been in discussion with the Canal and River Trust. The Applicant is working with Cottam Solar Project and West Burton Solar Project to maximise opportunities for reducing overall environmental and social effects, including communities in proximity to the Grid Connection Corridor and on known ecological and archaeologically sensitive areas.
Respondent	Comment	Project Change	Applicant Response
Gate Burton Parish on the Marton and Gate Burton Parish Council	I would like to see a permissive path through or around the Gate Burton site for walking and recreational use.		<p>Safe access will be maintained along and across existing Public Rights of Way (PRoW) during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Scheme. There will be no PRoW closures and a limited number of temporary PRoW diversions will be implemented around the Grid Connection Corridor works area when the cables are installed. The PRoW will be managed throughout the construction phase to ensure that routes can continue to be used as safely as possible. The existing PRoW widths will be maintained for all PRoW throughout the construction phase. Further details are set out within the Outline PRoW Management Plan [EN010131/APP/7.8].</p> <p>At present no permissive paths have been incorporated into the Scheme but the Applicant is open to discussions on any opportunities and will continue to engage with local stakeholders on this matter, subject to consent being granted.</p>
Gate Burton Parish on the Marton and Gate Burton Parish Council	In sparsely populated areas with difficult access the ambucopter is often used by the emergency services. I recommend landing pad areas being designated around the whole site.		<p>Comment noted. The Applicant does not consider this to be necessary given the location of the site, the nature of the use and the small number of staff present. The BESS has been located on the western side of the site so that access can be provided from the A156 and the internal access road designed to accommodate swift access by emergency vehicles in the unlikely event of a fire. Access and minimizing risk has been discussed with the LCC fire brigade and all their comments have been taken on board in the design of the Scheme. The Applicant is not otherwise aware of any</p>



			heightened risk associated with the site that would necessitate provision of landing pads.
Lincolnshire County Council	C4 and C5: Comments as per VP07 above. Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue – no comments at this stage but note that further details will be provided within the ES which will set out a fire prevention plan for dealing with any potential fires and further comments will be provided at this stage.	N	Comment noted. No response required.
Respondent	Comment	Project Change	Applicant Response
Marton and Gate Burton Parish Council	Running club could be worth engaging • putting a route could reinstate park run • lots of permissive rights of way		<p>Safe access will be maintained along and across existing Public Rights of Way (PRoW) during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Scheme. There will be no PRoW closures and a limited number of temporary PRoW diversions will be implemented around the Grid Connection Corridor works area when the cables are installed. The PRoW will be managed throughout the construction phase to ensure that routes can continue to be used as safely as possible. The existing PRoW widths will be maintained for all PRoW throughout the construction phase. Further details are set out within the Outline PRoW Management Plan [EN010131/APP/7.8].</p> <p>In terms of permissive paths, no new permissive paths have yet been incorporated into the Scheme.</p> <p>The Applicant encouraged people at consultation events and has been in touch with the running club to share where they want these walkways/access/running track but there was no direct feedback on this.</p>
Marton and Gate Burton Parish Council	Just north of Tillbridge Road - start of cable corridor – check for MOD pipeline fuel and potentially a gas pipe running west to east they live on Tillbridge Road facing field of IGP WB3 zone battery safety how would low carbon		The Applicant has been in discussions with Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service and virtually met them on 29 November 2022. The Applicant is designing a track to accommodate emergency vehicles to be able to travel to and from the location of the BESS and Substation.



	deal with putting out the fires could we or all three companies provide training and equipment to Lincs urban fire brigade permissive right away along willingham road		
National Grid-UK Land and Property	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.		Noted. Any works would be done observing required standards.
Respondent	Comment	Project Change	Applicant Response
Environment Agency	It is advised that the following recommendations are adhered to in conjunction with the necessary safe working practices. We have the following initial recommendations: • That the launching and landing areas for the cabling installation works are a minimum of 16 metres from the toe of the defences to limit the impact of the works. • Permanent hazard markers on both banks of the main river are erected. • All excavated material not re-used on the site of the works is removed from the floodplain.	Y	The recommendations are noted and have been incorporated into locations for launch/exit pits (see Appendix 2-B: Construction Method Statement [EN010131/APP/3.3] Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010131/APP/3.1] and the Order limits have been amended to include reference to minimum of 16 m from toe of defences to limit impact of work + removal of all excavated material not re-used will be removed from the floodplain, and the inclusion of permanent hazard markers on both banks of the main river.
UK Health Security Agency's Response	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.	N	Comment noted – No significant impacts are anticipated which is further detailed in Chapter 14: Human Health and Wellbeing [EN010131/APP/3.1] .
UK Health Security Agency's Response	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.	N	Comment noted –The assessment on health presented in Chapter 14: Human Health and Wellbeing [EN010131/APP/3.1] draws on the conclusions of the technical chapters included within the ES.
UK Health Security Agency's Response	Baseline data The PEIR provides baseline data, often referencing 2011 census data, to support any population or human health assessment. It does not consider local health priorities which have been identified within local Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNA), Health and Wellbeing Strategies or other local published current data sources ² . This matter was	N	The Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Nottinghamshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and The Nottinghamshire Spatial Planning and Health Framework is referenced in the Policy and Legislation section of the PEI Report (listed in Section 14.3 and in more detail within Appendix 14-A [EN010131/APP/3.3]). Within the Environmental Statement (ES), a more detailed baseline section is presented, drawing on the most recent data



	<p>raised at the scoping phase and the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) required the ES to refer to the Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy, The Nottinghamshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and The Nottinghamshire Spatial Planning and Health Framework as highlighted by NCC in their consultation response (ID 3.9.2). PINS also note the requirement to use 2022 census data where available (ID 3.7.2), to provide baseline data and support the assessment. Recommendation Health baseline data should include local priorities established within local JSNAs and Health and wellbeing Strategies. Census 2022 data should be used in place of 2011 data where available. In terms of additional data sources, we would draw your attention to the following: • PHE Fingertips – Area profiles with various indicators on common mental disorders (including anxiety) and severe mental illness which can be benchmarked with other local areas as well as regional and national data • Office for National Statistics - Wellbeing Indicators 1 Cave, B., Claßen, T., Fischer-Bonde, B., Humboldt-Dachroeden, S., Martín-Olmedo, P., Mekel, O., Pyper, R., Silva, F., Vilianni, F., Xiao, Y. 2020. Human health: Ensuring a high level of protection. A reference paper on addressing Human Health in Environmental Impact Assessment. As per EU Directive 2011/92/EU amended by 2014/52/EU. International Association for Impact Assessment and European Public Health Association. 2 West Lindsey DC (2020). State of the District 2020 Report. 4 • Range of datasets related to wellbeing available including young people’s wellbeing measures, personal wellbeing estimates and loneliness rates by local authority Advice could also be sought from the local public health team on additional local data and local health priorities.</p>		<p>available, including from PHE Fingertips. At the time of writing the PEI Report, 2022 Census data was not available. This is used where possible in the ES report, however in many cases it should be noted that it is only available at a national scale and so not comparable to the more local geographies. The ONS data mentioned within the comment relating to wellbeing has been explored in detail within the baseline section of the ES. The data sources mentioned in the comment have been considered.</p>
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Other environmental – including air quality and general comments

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Respondent	Comment	Project Change	Applicant Response
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Natural England	Air Quality Ancient Woodland Ammonia-emitting developments in close proximity to Ancient Woodland sites can impact on many characteristic ancient woodland plants. Ammonia can be released in small quantities from engine exhausts. Because of the low numbers of construction traffic, Natural England agrees that the scheme will not be a significant emitter of ammonia, and therefore accepts that this has been scoped out as significant effects are not anticipated. Ref: 15.3.36	N	Comment noted. No response required.
Respondent	Comment	Project Change	Applicant Response
Environment Agency	The report suggests that any low level risks to water quality will be able to be managed. There is unlikely to be significant risks to controlled water receptors as this is a predominantly undeveloped site. We are therefore satisfied with the information presented on ground conditions and have no further comments to make at this stage	N	Comment noted. No response required.
The Coal Authority	We advised Bassetlaw District Council as part of the Scoping Opinion Consultation that if the application was considered an EIA development, there is no requirement for the applicant to consider coal mining legacy as part of their Environmental Impact Assessment.	N	Comment noted. No response required.
UK Health Security Agency's Response	There is a contradiction within in the PEIR assessments. Section 15.3.26 and 15.3.27 estimate that the construction phase of the development will result in a small increase in HGV traffic i.e. 32 HGV movements per day. It is specified that this is below the IAQM guidance criteria (outside of an air quality management area) of 100 above average daily traffic (AADT) and as such an air quality assessment is not needed. However, within Section 13.6.8, its stated that peak construction there will be 60 HGV movements (i.e. 120 HGV movements per day). This level of construction traffic suggests that IAQM criteria for further assessment would be met. UKHSA requests clarification on the predicted construction traffic and if IAQM criteria are met	N	The traffic numbers have been updated since the PEIR. It is stated within the Air Quality Section of Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics [EN010131/APP/3.1] that there are anticipated to be an average of 66 HGV movements per day. Note this is the average number of movements across the construction period. Data provided for the construction phase shows that the peak number of HGV's on the road network is 92. The IAQM screening criteria are AADT – Annual Average Daily Traffic, which is why the average value has been used for the air quality screening.



	then we would recommend that a detailed air quality assessment is presented.		
West Lindsey District Council	Other Environmental Topics The preliminary findings in relation to air quality, glint and glare, ground conditions, telecommunications (et al.), and waste are noted. In terms of risk of accident – it is noted that whilst a significant risk is not anticipated, major accidents and disasters have the potential to lead to moderate or major adverse effects. The mitigation referred to should be detailed in the ES	N	<p>Comment noted. Minimising the risk of major accidents during construction, operation and decommissioning will be addressed through appropriate risk assessments as required in the Framework CEMP [EN010131/APP/7.3], OEMP [EN010131/APP/7.4] and DEMP [EN010131/APP/7.5]. The implementation of those plans will be secured via a requirement to the DCO.</p> <p>An Outline BSMP [EN010131/APP/7.1] has been produced for the Scheme and will be updated and maintained as a 'live document' throughout the operational phase of the Scheme. The implementation of the strategy will be secured via requirement to the DCO.</p>

Cumulative impacts

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Respondent	Comment	Project Change	Applicant Response
Bassetlaw District Council	It should be noted at this stage that there is another NSIP (Tillbridge Solar Farm) that will also be located in West Lindsey that is several months behind and is at the earliest stages of public consultation. This information is now public, although it is anticipated that the developer may have been aware of the project for some time. Although it is acknowledged that it would not have been possible to comment on this matter in the PEIR, the ES should take into account this project when this proposal is submitted for examination. It is expected that the scale of the proposal will be similar to Cottam, West Burton and Gate Burton so careful consideration of the potential cumulative impacts in this respect is crucial.	N	Comment noted. Tillbridge Solar Farm will be included within the Cumulative Effects Assessment that will be submitted as part of the ES [EN010131/APP/3.1] in addition to Cottam and West Burton solar farms.
Gate Burton Parish on the Marton and	Most residents appreciate the need to find renewable sources of clean energy. However the Gate Burton Energy Park is not a stand alone project. It is slap bang in the middle of the proposed	N	The Applicant is working with Cottam Solar Project and West Burton Solar Project to maximise opportunities for reducing overall environmental and



Gate Burton Parish Council	Cottam and West Burton multiple sites. Now another organisation is coming forwards with the Tillbridge solar energy park. There has to be a limit on the number of these generating plants concentrated in one particular area.		social effects, including communities in proximity to the Grid Connection Corridor and on known ecological and archaeologically sensitive areas. Tillbridge Solar Farm is included within the Cumulative Effects Assessment that can be found within Chapter 16: Cumulative Effects [EN010131/APP/3.1] in addition to Cottam and West Burton solar farms.
Respondent	Comment	Project Change	Applicant Response
Gate Burton Parish on the Marton and Gate Burton Parish Council	The cable routes for ALL these proposed solar farm projects are going to cross the parishes of Marton and Gate Burton. These organisations claim they will not impose on existing infrastructure but they will have to. Cooperation between them must be encouraged to minimise disruption and the landscape/ infrastructure reinstated to existing condition or improved.	N	The Applicant is working with Cottam Solar Project and West Burton Solar Project to maximise opportunities for reducing overall environmental and social effects, including communities in proximity to the Grid Connection Corridor and on known ecological and archaeologically sensitive areas. An Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) [EN010131/APP/7.10] , along with a landscape mitigation masterplan has been prepared. The document provides a framework for delivering the landscape strategy and the successful establishment and future management of proposed landscape works associated with the Gate Burton Energy Park. It sets out the short and long-term measures and practices that will be implemented by the Applicant to establish, monitor and manage landscape and ecology mitigation and enhancement (biodiversity net gain) measure embedded in the design. The latter will be achieved through habitat creation over and above that used for habitat mitigation.
Lincolnshire County Council	Cumulative Effects have not been adequately covered in the methodology and we would expect this to be part of the final LVIA.	N	ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010131/APP/3.1] , includes a cumulative assessment based on information available from 3 rd party developments.
Lincolnshire County Council	In respect of Chapter 5 of the PEIR document considering the impacts with other NSIP across the County and in particular those with the West Lindsey District should be included. At	N	Comment noted. Cumulative schemes within the shortlist in Appendix 16-A [EN010131/APP/3.3] have been considered within each cumulative



	paragraph 5-8 this needs a bespoke approach to include those NSIP developments beyond the 5km search zone and must include all the other NSIPs in the West Lindsey District including the most recent Tillbridge Solar proposal Planning Authority LCC is the planning authority for minerals and waste planning matters with Lincolnshire as well as for its own development which includes schools and highway developments.		assessment, including a review of Tillbridge Solar Project Scoping Report which was submitted in October 2022.
Natural England	Chapter 16 Cumulative Effects and Interactions Natural England notes that this has not yet been assessed as the project is still under revision and development. It is acknowledged in the PEIR that Cottam and West Burton solar parks are key projects to be considered under this topic. Natural England is pleased to note that all three developers have explored opportunities to combine the connection corridor areas, and this has resulted in the identification of a shared Grid Connection Corridor area, reducing potential environmental impact. (Ref:3.7)	N	A cumulative assessment is presented within each of the technical Chapters 6-15 [EN010131/APP/3.1] . A summary of cumulative effects is included in Chapter 16: Cumulative Effects and Interactions [EN010131/APP/3.1] .
West Lindsey District Council	Chapter 5 EIA Methodology It is noted that the list of 'other developments' is contained at Volume 3, appendix 5-A, although this appendix was missing from your documents list on the website, at the time of writing. Critically, however, this will need to consider the proposed West Burton and Cottam solar projects, by Island Green Power.	N	The long list of developments is provided within Appendix 16-A of the ES [EN010131/APP/3.3] . This includes the West Burton and Cottam solar projects.
West Lindsey District Council	It is noted that assessments are underway and that the West Burton and Cottam Solar Projects will be considered. It is noted that the development at 684Ha, would in combination with Cottam (1270Ha) and West Burton (1035ha) – result in the loss of 3000ha of Lincolnshire countryside to Solar development. It is considered that the cumulative environmental effects will be significant and that we await the findings of the ES in that regard.	N	A cumulative assessment has been undertaken in each of the technical chapters of the ES and summarised in Chapter 16: Cumulative Effects and Interactions of the ES [EN010131/APP/3.1] .
West Lindsey District Council	In combination with the Cottam Solar Project (1270ha) and West Burton (1035ha) – it will cumulatively amount to over 3000ha of Lincolnshire (& Nottinghamshire) agricultural land.	N	The Applicant has had regard to developments in the surrounding areas in its cumulative assessment, which has been undertaken in each of the technical chapters of the ES and summarised in Chapter 16: Cumulative Effects [EN010131/APP/3.1] .



Willingham By Stow Parish Council	Willingham by Stow Parish Council strongly oppose the massive scale of the 4 Solar Energy Projects that have been earmarked for the area. The parish council support plans for renewable energy generation but consider these 4 projects unacceptable.	N	The Applicant has had regard to developments in the surrounding areas in its cumulative assessment, which has been undertaken in each of the technical chapters of the ES and summarised in Chapter 16: Cumulative Effects [EN010131/APP/3.1] .
Requests for further engagement			
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Respondent	Comment	Project Change	Applicant Response
Health and Safety Executive	The updated site plan and the options for the cable routes have been reviewed. There seems to be no major hazard sites or within the vicinity of the site, however the site is dissected by a major hazards pipeline. We would require further information on any locations of populations associated with the solar farm before further advise could be given.	N	This comment is noted. Further details can be found in Chapter 14: Human Health and Wellbeing [EN010131/APP/3.1] .
Lincolnshire County Council	the PEIR section 3.7 identifies the opportunity to develop a “Shared Grid Connection Corridor” with the proposed Cottam and West Burton Solar schemes (also shown on Figure 3-3). This would include a combined crossing of the River Trent southwest of Marton, which also seeks to combine this crossing with Cottam and West Burton. This crossing is indicative at this stage and due to the context has likely landscape and visual effects, as well as potential ecological effects. It is requested AAH and LCC, as well as other relevant stakeholders, are involved and consulted further in regards to the crossing, and cable corridor, once further design and surveys have been carried out.	N	ES Volume 2: Figure 2-1 [EN010131/APP/3.2] indicates the avoidance areas and access exclusion areas for the proposed cable trenching. Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010131/APP/3.1] , outlines details on the proposed cable drilling process. Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010131/APP/3.1] and Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation [EN010131/APP/3.1] provide an assessment on ecological and landscape and visual effects respectively,
Ministry of Defence	Any variation of the parameters (which include the location, dimensions, form, and finishing materials) detailed may significantly alter how the development relates to MOD safeguarding requirements and cause adverse impacts to safeguarded defence assets or capabilities. In the event that any amendment, whether considered material or not by the determining authority, is submitted for approval, the MOD	N	Comment noted. No response required.



	should be consulted and provided with adequate time to carry out assessments and provide a formal response		
National Grid-UK Land and Property	This is a response on behalf of National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC (NGET). Due to the proximity of some of our assets, NGET wishes to express their interest in further consultation while the impact on our assets is still being assessed.	N	Comment noted. No response required.
Respondent	Comment	Project Change	Applicant Response
Environment Agency	There needs to be a clear outline of what is mitigation and what is enhancement for the purposes of the scheme, and how this has been derived.	N	Comment noted. Both 'mitigation' and 'enhancement' measures are outlined separately in each chapter of the ES [EN010131/APP/3.1] .
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. 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 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 associated mitigations and traffic management plans are to be provided and agreed in writing before development can commence..	N	<p>The Glint and Glare assessment which is included within Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics [EN010131/APP/3.1] and Appendix 13-E Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010131/APP/3.3] assesses the impact of the Scheme on railway users. The Scheme includes additional landscape screening along the railway. The Applicant has started discussions with Network Rail and is seeking to continue to work with Network Rail all the way through the process, through to construction and operation.</p> <p>Network Rail have been engaged and a BAPA has been entered into to obtain information to feed into the design.</p>
Network Rail	Network Rail would welcome further discussion and negotiation with Gate Burton Energy Park Limited in relation to the proposed development as required going forward.	N	Comment noted. No response required.



Network Rail	I would be grateful if it would be possible to send this to me electronically so that I can then consult internally within Network Rail		Comments noted.
Nottinghamshire County Council	The EMD Team request to continue to be involved in the discussions about the location of the cable route corridor and the crossing of the River Trent, and any new buildings/substations at or around the existing Cottam Power Station with AECOM.	N	An optioneering was undertaken to identify the cable route corridors for the Scheme to connect to the existing Cottam Substation. The options appraisal report is included in ES Volume 3: Appendix 3-A [EN010131/APP/3.3] . Four corridors for connection to Cottam substation were considered at EIA Scoping and non-statutory consultation stage. An options appraisal exercise was undertaken to identify and review the engineering, constructability and environmental constraints within each of the corridors in order to identify a preferred corridor. As set out in ES Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN010131/APP/3.1] key feedback from the non-statutory consultation was considered in selecting the preferred corridor. Following receipt of this feedback and the conclusion of the environmental options appraisal, Corridor C1 was identified as providing the best balance of minimising impacts on the environment and the local community whilst meeting the technical and constructability feasibility requirements.
Severn Trent Water Limited	We have received your letters of 6th May and would be grateful for electronic copies of correspondence and LIQ to be sent to our assigned point of contact - CPOSTW CPOSTW@fishergerman.co.uk		Comments noted.
West Lindsey District Council	Chapter 17 Summary of Environmental Effects This is considered to be a helpful summary of those significant effects identified thus far. It is asked that the above comments be taken into consideration as you continue to develop the ES and prepare your submission for the DCO. We would wish ongoing dialogue to continue – particularly in regard to some of the outstanding matters as cited above.	N	Comment noted. Discussions have been continuing with West Lindsey District Council.

Questions received

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Respondent	Comment	Project Change	Applicant Response
Gate Burton Parish on the Marton and Gate Burton Parish Council	Does the community infrastructure levy apply to this type of development?	N	Community Infrastructure Levy does not apply to this form of development. It is, in itself, infrastructure.
Respondent	Comment	Project Change	Applicant Response
Gate Burton Parish on the Marton and Gate Burton Parish Council	I am unsure what a 'heritage setting buffer' is.	N	Heritage setting buffers are offsets of infrastructure that have been embedded within the design of the Scheme to avoid impacts to the setting of heritage assets.
Health and Safety Executive	Will the proposed development fall within any of HSE's consultation distances?		HSE confirmed in their response submitted to the Stage 2 consultation (see Table 9-3 of this report [EN010131/APP/4.1]) that there are no licensed explosive sites or major hazard sites within the vicinity of the Solar and Energy Storage Park. The site is dissected by a major hazards pipeline (HSE reference 11166 operated by Uniper) and the Applicant will notify the operator and get permission prior to any construction work being carried out. The grid connection is in the vicinity of major hazard sites, but these are the installations at the Cottam Power Station site where the grid connection point is located.
Lincolnshire County Council	What is the total battery capacity?	N	Chapter 6: Climate Change [EN010131/APP/3.1] outlines that the total battery storage capacity assumed is 500 mWh.
Lincolnshire County Council	GHG Intensity comparison with other forms of Energy Generation Technologies is broad. Can an estimate of the net GHG savings of an equally rated power plant (as Gate Burton) be made?	N	It is potentially misleading to compare the Scheme with another solar farm, as this would not represent a valid counterfactual option. Even when comparing the Scheme ed with the grid or with a gas-fired Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) generating facility, it is important to only include operational emissions and not embodied emissions from the manufacture and supply of PV modules, battery storage systems and other components. Operational emissions dominate the GHG impact of a CCGT facility, while



			<p>for a Solar scheme the large majority of emissions result from construction and capital maintenance.</p> <p>NREL estimates 43 gCO₂e/kWh according to Figure 6, whereas for Gate Burton the whole life carbon intensity was calculated to be significantly lower at 35 gCO₂e/kWh. Although the carbon intensity varies for different sources of power such as on- and offshore wind, nuclear and other low-carbon alternatives, the Scheme remains lower carbon than the fossil fuel alternative. Replacing fossil fuels will require the development of a range of low-carbon generating technologies, including solar.</p>
Respondent	Comment	Project Change	Applicant Response
Lincolnshire County Council	What is the comparison of Gate Burton with other forms of Energy Generation Technologies?	N	<p>Chapter 6: Climate Change [EN010131/APP/3.1] outlines that the scheme has been compared against a gas-fired Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) generating facility, which is currently the most carbon-efficient fossil-fueled technology available. Although we cannot be certain where the power would come from without the scheme, a comparison to another solar farm is not a meaningful comparison.</p>
Lincolnshire County Council	Solar PV site allocated space falls below the recommended sizing (2ha to 1MW). How will panels be packed into the space without affecting the output energy yield?	N	<p>ES Volume 2: Figure 2-4 'Site Layout' [EN010131/APP/3.2] details the layout of PV panels on the site.</p> <p>The use of 2ha to 1MW is merely an arbitrary figure based on a single set of assumptions. Owing to continuous improvements in technology, primarily; the increased efficiency of panels, sizing ratios continue to evolve.</p>
Rampton and Woodbeck Parish Council	I noticed at band practice last night that the village hall what's on board has several pieces of literature relating to their project. Is this something we have put up please? Sue Cllr Susan Kyle (Chair) Rampton and Woodbeck Parish Council.	N	No response required. Queries resolved with Rampton and Woodbeck Parish Council.
West Lindsey District Council	Chapter 1 Introduction Paragraph 1.2.3 – It is noted that a 60 year lifetime is anticipated, with decommissioning in 2088. We are aware that similar solar DCO projects being proposed within West Lindsey (namely Island Green Power's West Burton & Cottam Projects) anticipate a 40 year lifespan. Is 60 years a	N	The assessment of the impacts of the Scheme is based on a 60 year lifespan. This will generate low carbon electricity for a longer period of time than a 40 year lifetime, delivering more benefits in terms of providing a secure, affordable, low carbon supply of electricity. This is considered to be a realistic estimate based on the Applicant's understanding of the lifetime of the technology available and is not considered to be conservative. Each



	<p>conservative estimate, applying a “Rochdale envelope” scenario? It would be helpful to explain this.</p>		<p>project is entitled to make its own assumptions about the lifetime of the project and the Applicant cannot comment on why other developers may use different timeframes.</p>
<p>West Lindsey District Council</p>	<p>Chapter 3 Alternatives and Design Evolution Section 3.3 – Alternative Sites. This section is not altogether clear. It is not clear how the DCO site was identified and what alternative sites were considered before selecting the DCO site. It mentions a “5km area of search” – 5km from where? What were the search parameters? Why could the development only be met within a 5km search area? Were any alternative sites identified and considered? They are not set out or demonstrated.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>As detailed in ES Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN010131/APP/3.1] the Applicant’s site selection process consisted of a four-stage approach, summarised as follows:</p> <p>Stage 1 – identification of a 8km area of search for potential solar development sites based on operational criteria associated with the fixed point of connection. Constraints were mapped to 15 km to also capture potential constraints close to the area of search;</p> <p>Stage 2 – within the study area identified in Stage 1, exclusionary and discretionary planning and environmental criteria were applied to discount land within the area of search unsuitable to locate the solar scheme;</p> <p>Stage 3 – of the land that remained within the area of search after Stage 2, a series of key operational inclusionary criteria were applied such as site size, land assembly, site topography, access requirements and availability of brownfield land. In summary, this stage identified land suitable for solar development; and</p> <p>Stage 4 – Comprised of a desktop assessment and evaluation by environmentalist and planning specialists to consider the identified locations. This process identified the most suitable land opportunities that were potentially available for the siting of a solar scheme should the land be available for development.</p> <p>The Applicant’s area of search was incorrectly determined as being 5km in the PEI Report. As stated above, the area of search was confirmed as being 8km from the point of connection to the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS) at Cottam substation.</p> <p>The requirement in the EIA Regs is for the Applicant to describe the reasonable alternatives studied by the developer and as required to meet policy tests, not to identify all possible alternative sites and select the best site. Search areas can therefore vary by Applicant depending on the</p>



			<p>approach taken by different developers and commercial considerations. The search area may therefore be larger, or smaller than 8 km for other developers.</p> <p>NPS EN-1 paragraph 4.4.3 states that [Applicant's emphasis]: <i>"where (as in the case of renewables) legislation imposes a specific quantitative target for particular technologies... the IPC should not reject an application for development on one site simply because fewer adverse impacts would result from developing similar infrastructure on another suitable site, and it should have regard as appropriate to the possibility that all suitable sites for energy infrastructure of the type proposed may be needed for future proposals"</i>.</p> <p>In this context, it is possible for several 'alternative' sites to exist and be brought forward for development, as is occurring in the area near to the Gate Burton site and there is no general need or benefit to the Applicant carrying out a comparison between this site and those (or other alternatives) except where required by policy. Please see ES Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN010131/APP/3.1] for more detail.</p>
West Lindsey District Council	Chapter 7 Cultural Heritage 7.1.5 – It is noted that "A Cultural Heritage Desk-Based Assessment is currently in progress and the initial outcomes of that assessment have guided the baseline and impact assessment presented in this chapter" and that (7.4.1) "The assessment will be developed and refined following statutory consultation and as additional information becomes available, including desk-based research, visualisations and the results of trial trenching data, with a final assessment presented within the Environmental Statement (ES)." It is assumed that the assessment, including desk based research, is therefore still ongoing and not complete?	N	The Cultural Heritage Desk-based Assessment is provided in Appendix 7-A [EN010131/APP/3.3] .
West Lindsey District Council	The Environmental Statement should therefore set out the agri-economic impacts of development. The baseline study should set out the current agricultural use of the sites, on a seasonal	N	The assessment of negligible effect takes into consideration both the area of BMV land that would be lost and the temporary nature of this loss.



	<p>basis. What is being produced on site? What is its contribution towards food supplies and other sectors? How many are directly and indirectly employed that will be affected by the development and at what socio-economic impact?</p>	<p>Para 12.10.25 confirms that the 73.6ha of grade 3a BMV land within the Solar and Energy Park would be required during the construction phase only and could be returned to farming (e.g., sheep farming underneath panels), following the completion of this construction.</p> <p>The baseline study sets out the existing land use, the quality of the agricultural land as per the Agricultural Land Classification Survey which is provided within Appendix 12-C of the Environmental Statement [EN010131/APP/3.3]. It also includes the number of people directly employed within the Scheme boundary.</p> <p>In terms of what is being produced on site and the contribution towards food supplies and other sectors, the assessment of BMV land is preferred. There is no set guidance on how to assess the contribution to food supply (what would be assessed: tonnage, value, nutritional contribution?) and the agricultural use of the site (and productivity level) will be reliant and variable based on a series of external factors (climate and weather impacting on productivity; expected market prices impacting on farmer's choice of crops; etc.). For these reasons, and in recognition that the future agricultural use of the site could not be predicted, the assessment of BMV land is preferred to an assessment of the site's contribution towards food supplies.</p> <p>Construction work will involve relatively little displacement of the soil material, with the dominant impact being the trafficking over land with delivery and construction vehicles and the soil compaction this might cause, although measures can be adopted to minimise impacts.</p> <p>The impact on tourism was scoped out of the socio-economic chapter due to the unlikely impact of the scheme and cumulative schemes. There is only one (tourism) receptor located near the site, the Landmark Trust Chateau. The building has been renovated and now provides accommodation for 2 only. The impact of the scheme during the construction period will be negligible on this receptor and nil during operation. The next nearest receptor if located over 2km away, the Black Swan Guest House in Marton. This receptor will not be negatively impacted by the scheme (or cumulative</p>
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			<p>schemes) and may benefit from it during the construction period (through an increase in occupancy).</p> <p>Furthermore, a study by The South West Research Company on “the impact of renewable energy farms on visitors to Cornwall” (2013) found that renewable energy parks (solar and wind) and no negative impact on tourism and may even have a positive impact as sustainability becomes an element of considerations for tourists when opting for a destination. The study found that just 6% of visitors to Cornwall had a negative attitude towards renewable energy parks. The study also found that only 2% of visitors are less likely to visit the county again in the future as a result of the presence of wind and solar farms. However, 4% of visitors are more likely to visit which is likely to be as a result of those that find such developments attractive and, more importantly, those that consider the county to be a more positive place as a result of the presence of renewable energy farms and its support for the environmental causes as stated in Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land-Use [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p>
West Lindsey District Council	It is noted that “fixed” panels are stated – is it safe to presume that “tracking” panels are not therefore part of the proposals?	N	As stated in Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010131/APP/3.1] the PV Tables will slope towards the south, at a fixed angle of 5 to 45 degrees from horizontal. Tracking panels are not part of the proposals.
West Lindsey District Council	Section 3.6 – alongside chapter 2, this remains unclear – are overhead lines being considered, or not? If so, where are these identified?	Y	As stated in Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010131/APP/3.1] the connection to the National Grid Substation will be via an underground cable. Following non-statutory consultation, the outline design principle of undergrounding the cable was adopted as stated in Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN010131/APP/3.1]
West Lindsey District Council	This chapter is not clear as to the National Grid Connection to Cottam station, within the cable corridors. Will this be above or below ground? Or a combination of both? As this will be likely to have environmental implications – this needs to be clearly set out.	Y	As stated in Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010131/APP/3.1] the electrical connection to the National Grid Substation will be via an underground 7.5km 400kV at Cottam Power Station.
Willingham By Stow Parish Council	With solar panels surrounding all local villages. Would this land really be suitable for farming again once all solar panels and concrete have been removed?	N	The soil will have undergone an expected 60 years of recovery through less intensive farming such as being left fallow, or sheep grazing and is therefore expected to be the same or better quality than it is currently. This is provided



			in further detail Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land-Use [EN010131/APP/3.1]
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9.4 Section 47 Public/Community Consultation: Responses Received, Issues Raised And Changes Made

Introduction

- 9.4.1 The section sets out responses received to Section 47 consultation. This consultation was focused on communities and near neighbours within the vicinity of the Development.
- 9.4.2 It includes analysis of responses received (**Table 9-4**) as well as details of issues raised and the regard the Applicant had to them.
- 9.4.3 The Applicant solicited responses to consultation under s47 of the PA 2008 primarily through the consultation Feedback Form, but also through written responses received as emails and letters.

Collecting Responses

- 9.4.4 Responses were collected primarily via online and hard copy Feedback Forms. Written responses and email received to the Applicant's communications channels were also collected and content considered.
- 9.4.5 Hard copy Feedback Forms were collected via a Freepost address, while feedback was also collected electronically via the online feedback form on the Scheme website.
- 9.4.6 Through the consultation Feedback Form, the Applicant asked for comments on a range of topics, including views on the overall Development proposals, views on the site masterplan, landscape and views, ecology and wildlife, environment, the Grid Connection Corridor, construction operation and decommissioning, community benefits and provision to provide any other comments.
- 9.4.7 Nine out of the ten questions were open ended, with one question asking for a tick box response to indicate 'Supportive', 'Do not Support' or 'Neutral' in their view on the Development. A copy of the Feedback Form can be found in **Appendix E-10**.
- 9.4.8 In total 142 responses were received between launch on 22 June 2022 and consultation close on 05 August 2022. A summary of the results is provided below.

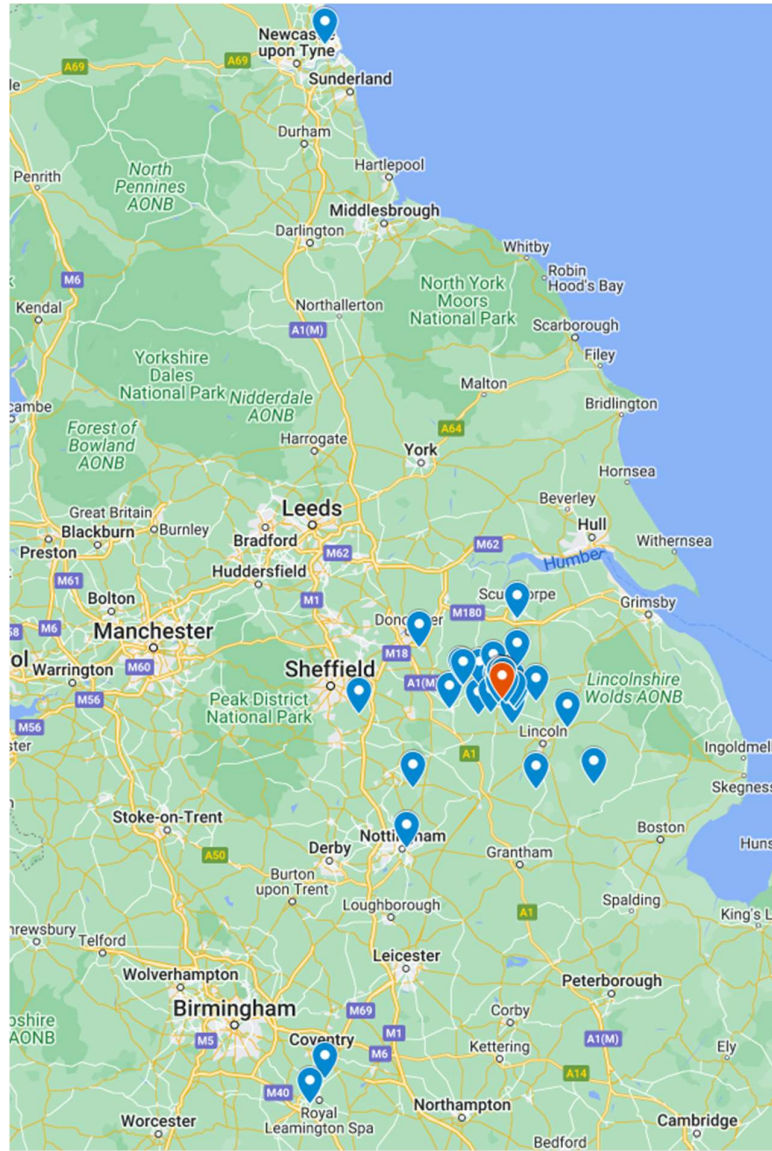
Source Of Responses

- 9.4.9 During the s47 consultation period, the Applicant received 142 individual submissions, of which 25 were from s42 stakeholders. The 142 submissions were received in the following format:
- 40 completed Feedback Forms and online comments
 - 12 completed hard copy Feedback Forms
 - 90 pieces of feedback via email or letters

9.4.10 Responses were received from locations across the North East of England, ranging from Royal Leamington Spa to Newcastle upon Tyne. **Figure-6** illustrates the approximate postcodes identified respondents

Figure9-1: Approximate locations of respondents identified by postcode given.

Development location marked in red.



9.4.11 Of the respondents who provided their age range on the feedback form, 28% of these were over the age of 65 and 47% of the respondents were aged between 51 and 65. **Figure-7** below shows the age range of those respondents who specified an age.

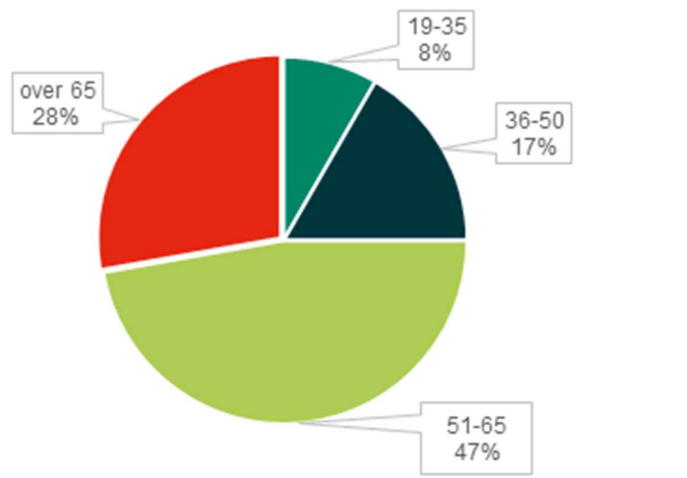


Figure9-2: Age range of respondents who specified an age.

Overview Of Issues Raised

9.4.12 Comments received from Section 47 consultation responses raised a wide range of issues.

9.4.13 All comments received were reviewed and assessed by a dedicated team conversant with the Scheme, local and policy issues. Every comment received through online feedback forms, hard copy feedback forms, emails and letters was considered by the coding team to understand the intended point raised. Using a bespoke platform designed for coding consultation responses, relevant comments were tagged against a set of topic areas and sub issues. The platform allows one text comment to be tagged multiple times if it contains reference to more than one of the topic areas and sub issues. Relevant comments considered to contain feedback on the Development and the process were assigned to an appropriate topic area to help categorisation and further Applicant Response. This allowed all comments to be grouped by topic area and sub-issue by the project team in its review and analysis. Regular checks were made during the process to code/group the comments, to check on consistency and accuracy.

9.4.14 The topic areas assigned in the coding/grouping process were set out to match key areas of focus in the PEI Report, including:

- The Scheme
- Alternatives and Design Evolution
- Consultation,
- Climate Change
- Cultural Heritage
- Ecology and Nature Conservation
- Water Environment
- Landscape and Visual Amenity
- Noise and Vibration
- Socio Economics and Land Use

- Transport and Access
- Human Health and Wellbeing
- Other Environmental Topics
- Cumulative Effects and Interactions

9.4.15 Issues raised in comments relating to The Scheme, included:

- Loss of agricultural land and impact on food supply
- Decommissioning and impact on land
- Impact on local communities, residential properties and wildlife
- Size and scale of the Development
- Heritage buffers
- Traffic impact and access roads
- Public access
- Construction impacts

9.4.16 Issues raised in comments relating to Alternatives and Design Evolution, included:

- Brownfield and industrial sites
- Alternative sites including Cottam Power Station, West Burton power Station, Scampton Airfield and the Old School site in Retford
- Domestic roof tops
- Alternative energy sources
- Cable routes
- Local wildlife impacts
- Mineral Safeguarding Areas

9.4.17 Issues raised in comments relating to Consultation, included:

- How feedback will be regarded
- Format and accessibility of consultation materials
- Information available at consultation events
- Detailing in maps
- CPO process
- Requests for site visits

9.4.18 Issues raised in comments relating to Climate Change, included:

- Carbon emissions
- Impact on climate
- Impact on trees and plants
- Use of non-renewable resources
- Cradle to grave environmental impact

9.4.19 Issues raised in comments relating to Cultural Heritage, included:

- Impact on local cultural and heritage assets including:
 - Burton Chateau
 - Gate Burton Hall
 - Gate Burton Hall Cottages
 - Gate Burton Hall Grade II listed Walled Garden

- Gate Burton Village (medieval settlement)
- St Helen's Church
- St Mary's Church, Stow
- The Old Rectory
- Moat Cottage, the South Park
- Gate Burton Park land
- Sturton Village Hall
- Gainsborough Model Railway
- Rose Cottage
- Roman Fort
- Site of Roman coins
- Site for former medieval parish
- Burton Wood
- Ancient footpaths
- Heritage buffers
- Impact on local farming heritage

9.4.20 Issues raised in comments relating to Ecology and Nature Conservation, included:

- Impact on wildlife habitats and ecology
- Cumulative impacts
- Environmental assessments
- Biodiversity Net Gain
- Local Wildlife Sites
- Impact on SSSIs
- Impact of security fencing
- Wildlife habitat buffers
- Ancient Woodland Buffer zones
- Enforced buffer zones
- Site maintenance

9.4.21 Issues raised in comments relating to Water Environment, included:

- Flood risk
- Cumulative impact
- Existing watercourses and drainage

9.4.22 Issues raised in comments relating to Landscape and Visual Amenity, included:

- Impact on local landscapes
- Buffer zones
- Impact of additional planting on landscapes/views
- Visual Impact Assessment
- Tree belt and additional hedgerow planting

9.4.23 Issues raised in comments relating to Noise and Vibration, included:

- Noise baseline monitoring
- Impact of noise from construction traffic, including summer working hours
- Impact of construction on local and neighbouring properties

9.4.24 Issues raised in comments relating to Socio Economics and Land Use, included:

- Impact on the local economy – agriculture, housing, tourism and recreation
- Assessment of impact on agriculture
- Impact on local equestrian businesses and safety of horses
- Impact on productive agricultural land for food production
- Concern regarding supply chains
- Concern regarding potential loss of local employment
- Impact on local property values
- Long term benefit for local communities
- Suggestions for community benefit included:
 - Provision of EV charging facilities
 - Improved broadband delivery /connectivity
 - Subsidised solar PV for domestic installation
 - Support for Lincolnshire & Nottinghamshire Air Ambulance
 - Financial support to assist parish councils, churches, schools, and community organisations with running costs
 - Creation of walkways / accesses across the solar park site
- Compensation
- Landowner agreements
- Mineral resources
- Grazing livestock on site
- Requests for job opportunities

9.4.25 Issues raised in comments relating to Transport and Access, included:

- Impact of construction traffic
- Impact on local roads
- Safety on local roads
- Traffic management
- Emergency access
- Public rights of way

9.4.26 Issues raised in comments relating to Human Health and Wellbeing, included:

- Wellbeing of local communities
- Community Focus Group
- Risk of respiratory illness
- Impact of noise on horses
- Financial compensation
- Construction site wellbeing
- Cumulative impacts
- Impact of radiation emissions
- Provision for site security

9.4.27 Issues raised in comments relating to Other Environmental Topics, included:

- Battery storage safety
- Glint and glare impact

- Impact on existing gas pipelines
- Heat radiation
- Recycling and disposal
- PV panel lifespan

9.4.28 Issues raised in comments relating to Cumulative Effects and Interactions, included:

- Assessment on cumulative impacts of other solar projects in the area
- Further assessment
- Construction impacts for grid connections and mitigation



9.5 Section 47 Consultee Comments And Applicant Responses

9.5.1 A full list of Section 47 issues raised and the Applicant’s response can be found in **Table 9-4** below.

Table 9-4: Section 47 consultation – Issues raised and Applicant response

Topic Area: The Scheme		
Comment	Development Change (Y/N)	Applicant Response
<p>Development of this site as a solar and energy park will result in the loss of productive agricultural land and have a detrimental effect on the UK food supply chain.</p> <p>Specific concerns were cited in respect of global food security issues in context of Ukraine/Russia conflict.</p>	N	<p>There is always a degree of balance when assessing any site for potential development. There are competing planning and technical considerations for all sites and there will always be a trade-off and balance to be found. This site is all grade 3 land (and mainly 3b) – where the grading system runs from grade 1 as the highest quality and 5 lowest.</p> <p>The Scheme has been designed to take into account the quality of agricultural land such as avoiding development in the area predicted to be BMV land in the north west corner of the site as far as practicable.</p> <p>A large proportion of the land is farmed for crops used to produce bioethanol or biomass and is not actually reaching the food chain.</p> <p>The site itself represents approximately 0.1% of all the farmland in Lincolnshire but is capable of powering approximately 155,000 homes which is around one half of all the homes in Lincolnshire.⁵</p>
<p>The stated 60-year operational lifespan of the project is incompatible with the description ‘temporary land-use’.</p> <p>Concerned about the decommissioning stage and wished for more information on how equipment, kit and hardstanding will be removed to enable the land to revert to its original use.</p>	N	<p>In planning terms, ‘temporary’ means any development that is reversible after its lifetime. So, whilst it is acknowledged that 60 years is a long period of time, following the conclusion of the operation and decommissioning periods, the majority of land within the Solar and Energy Storage Park will be returned to its original use. Unlike other forms of development like housing, the majority of impacts are reversible.</p> <p>The process of decommissioning is effectively the reverse of construction. At the time of decommissioning, the methods and approach to this could have evolved and therefore a detailed decommissioning environmental management plan will be submitted within 12</p>

⁵ ONS (2011) Census 2011: Households (Tenure)



<p>Several respondents asserted that, further to being decommissioning, solar development on this site will effectively sterilize it against any future agricultural use.</p>		<p>months of the date of decommissioning, which is secured as a Requirement through the DCO.</p> <p>There is no evidence that solar farms sterilize land for agriculture following their decommissioning. In fact, the opposite could be true with ongoing research into how soils improve from being 'rested' when taken out of intensive agriculture during a solar farm's operation. Prior to the commencement of decommissioning, an assessment will be made of the land and soil, and a programme of remedial action will be agreed and during decommissioning undertaken to return land to arable agricultural use.</p>
<p>Oppose the development of this site for solar due to the detrimental effect it will have on local communities and residential properties, ecology and wildlife.</p> <p>Conversely several respondents cited support for a large-scale solar development on this site, commenting on the suitability of the site.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>All development will have a personal element of support or objection due to our human nature.</p> <p>Recent polls across the UK show strong support for building new renewable projects including solar farms which generate electricity much more cheaply than currently high-priced gas.</p> <p>The application contains a plethora of detailed studies and recommendations to ensure ecology and wildlife thrive and this is the Applicant's experience on existing solar farm sites we own or manage across the UK.</p> <p>The Applicant has not seen any evidence to show that existing solar farms have a detrimental effect on local communities or residential properties. In fact through the community benefit package and educational engagement the Applicant is seeking to deliver, this project has the ability to support local initiatives / projects; one of the positive outputs for the local community.</p> <p>The ecological impacts have been assessed within Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation of the Environmental Statement [EN010131/APP/3.1]. The impacts on local communities and residential properties have been assessed in Chapter 12: Socio-economics and Land Use [EN010131/APP/3.1]. The chapters conclude that there will be no significant effects on local communities, residential properties, ecology or wildlife.</p> <p>The comment regarding the suitability of the site is noted.</p>



<p>The project is only being proposed here because of the available grid connection at Cottam.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The availability of grid connection is an important factor in any renewable development but is not the only reason this Scheme is being proposed at this location. The gradient and topography of land, the likely solar irradiation, engaged landowners and existing transport links are all critical factors when considering where to build renewable projects and are all positive at this site. The availability and locality of the grid connection at the site is also very good, capacity is available and without the need to reinforce the network. Reinforcements are additional works to build more or to increase the size of our electricity infrastructure to enable projects to connect. Across the UK the costs and delays associated with reinforcement works are impacting renewable projects significantly, with some connection dates now pushing into the mid 2030's. If we hope to meet the net-zero commitments made across the UK it is critical that renewable energy projects connect and export their energy into the UK grid swiftly. Sites such as this where enabling works are minimal are essential in delivering renewable energy to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, meet carbon targets and combat climate change as well as helping to reduce the costs of energy in the UK.</p>
<p>The size and scope of the project is too large for the area; solar development should be delivered on a smaller scale; this scheme's layout will create visual barriers between communities.</p> <p>Suggested amends to the design of the solar park included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduce the size of panel arrays and incorporate additional planting - Remove the solar arrays located in fields that straddle Kexby Lane - Increase building and footpath buffers – minimum proposed are inadequate - All buffers should be 100 metres and left as wildflower/tree/shrub - Extend heritage setting buffer from Clay Lane up to construction compound at Fox Covert Woods and include fields bordering Burton Wood and Gate Burton 	<p>Y</p>	<p>Whilst it is acknowledged that the site is large, this location offers an opportunity to deliver vast sums of renewable energy, at scale, making a significant contribution to reductions in CO₂ whilst also delivering one of the cheapest forms of energy available, helping to keep bills lower.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this, many suggestions have been incorporated into the indicative layout to reduce the environmental impact (including landscape and visual) of the Scheme as shown on Figure 2-4 Indicative Site Layout [EN010131/APP/3.3] including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Panels have been removed in several areas both within and on the fringes of the site. Additional planting has been proposed both within and along the perimeter of the site. - Panels have been pulled back from homes on the north side of Kexby Lane and further landscaping proposed in their place. - Panels have been moved further from properties. There are no public footpaths within the site and a small number in the vicinity. Stand-offs have been incorporated. - Buffers may vary in width within the site but there are generous green corridors to link habitats. Many of these will contain wildflowers, trees and shrubs. - The setting of assets in Gate Burton park has been considered and a buffer area is provided as embedded mitigation to reduce the impact of the Scheme upon assets



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extend the internal access road from the A156 north entrance to the top of the hill - Incorporate accesses to important historic structures - Ensure location of equipment across solar park and additional planting is set-back areas so east-west airflow across the site is not impeded a this is critical to hay production for equine consumption <p>Several respondents expressed support for the proposed location of the substation and energy storage element.</p>		<p>with Gate Burton park. The relationship between Burton Wood and the park has also been considered and the Scheme retains a linear route between the park and the woodland reflecting a historic connection between the two. The Applicant has developed its assessment of the Scheme’s impact on heritage assets using best practice and in consultation with statutory bodies including Historic England and the local authorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access extension – the main proposed access point to the Site will be from the A156. The route from the access point has been designed to minimize environmental impacts by taking a route outside the heritage buffer and avoiding existing trees and hedgerows as far as possible. - In terms of access to historic structures, there is no legal requirement to provide public access to privately owned heritage assets. The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 provides legal powers of access to approved representatives of the Secretary of State in course of carrying out their work only. - There are open, green corridors between arrays in addition to gaps beneath the arrays all of which allow plentiful airflow.
<p>The design of the solar park should incorporate elements that encourage/facilitate opportunities to promote physical/mental wellbeing</p> <p>Suggestions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extending buffer outside the security fencing and make it publicly accessible for dog walking, exercising - Open up site for public access to walkers and cyclists [permitted walkways/access] - Increase buffer zones between development perimeter and roads/highways and plant up around [3m] boundary fencing to offset views of solar park 	<p>N</p>	<p>Safe access will be maintained along and across existing Public Rights of Way (PRoW) during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Scheme. There will be no PRoW closures and a limited number of temporary PRoW diversions will be implemented around the Grid Connection Corridor works area when the cables are installed. The PRoW will be managed throughout the construction phase to ensure that routes can continue to be used as safely as possible. The existing PRoW widths will be maintained for all PRoW throughout the construction phase. Further details are set out within the Outline PRoW Management Plan [EN010131/APP/7.8].</p> <p>In terms of permissive paths, no new permissive paths will be introduced by the Scheme including during the operational phase. The Applicant encouraged people at consultation events to share where they want these walkways/access but there was no direct feedback on this. The Applicant has also been in touch with the running club on adding a running track on site but hasn’t had much detail back from them to date.</p> <p>Details of planting are included within the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (OLEMP) [EN010131/APP/7.10] which outlines the landscape and ecology impact avoidance measures that would be implemented prior to, and during, construction of the Scheme, as well as the habitat restoration, enhancement,</p>



		management and monitoring measures to be implemented once the Scheme is operational.
<p>Construction compound accesses should not be located near residential property.</p> <p>Specific concerns cited in respect of accesses close of Kexby Lane properties and Rose Cottage.</p> <p>Request for information on how construction access roads and compounds will be used when construction is complete.</p>	N	<p>The majority of construction vehicle trips will travel to/ from the main site access on the A156 Gainsborough Road. The Framework CTMP (Appendix 13-E [EN010131/APP/3.3]) includes an HGV routing plan which shows that local roads and nearby villages will be avoided where possible.</p> <p>Operational access will primarily be taken from the A156 Gainsborough Road via Clay Lane, but will also be achievable via Kexby Lane North, Kexby Lane South and Marton Road (as above) which will all be retained during the operational phase. An additional operational access will also be provided on a separate part of Marton Road at the south-eastern boundary of the Solar and Energy Storage Park. There is expected to be approximately 3-4 visitors per week for deliveries, and periodic replacement of any components. The compounds will be converted to solar PV or landscaping at the end of their use.</p> <p>Further details can be found in Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010131/APP/3.1] which confirms no significant effects as a result of the Scheme on transport and access.</p>
<p>The grid connection for the project into Cottam substation should be delivered using underground cable not overhead lines to minimise visual impact.</p>	Y	<p>As stated within Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010131/APP/3.1] the Solar and Energy Storage Park will be connected to Cottam substation via an underground cable.</p>
<p>Incorporate features in the solar park design which encourage/facilitate opportunities to promote physical/mental wellbeing and benefit local communities:</p> <p>Suggestions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extend buffer outside the security fencing and make access publicly available for dog walking, exercising - Introduce permissive rights of way for walkers, cyclists, runners, horse riders 	N	<p>Safe access will be maintained along and across existing Public Rights of Way (PRoW) during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Scheme. There will be no PRoW closures and a limited number of temporary PRoW diversions will be implemented around the Grid Connection Corridor works area when the cables are installed. The PRoW will be managed throughout the construction phase to ensure that routes can continue to be used as safely as possible. The existing PRoW widths will be maintained for all PRoW throughout the construction phase. Further details are set out within the Outline PRoW Management Plan [EN010131/APP/7.8].</p>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase buffer zones between development perimeter and roads/highways and plant up around [3m] boundary fencing to offset views of solar park 		<p>At present no permissive paths have been incorporated into the Scheme but the Applicant is open to discussions on any opportunities and will continue to engage with local stakeholders on this matter, subject to consent being granted'</p> <p>Details of planting are included within the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (OLEMP) [EN010131/APP/7.10] which outlines the landscape and ecology impact avoidance measures that would be implemented prior to, and during, construction of the Scheme, as well as the habitat restoration, enhancement, management and monitoring measures to be implemented once the Scheme is operational.</p>
<p>Topic Area: Alternatives & Design Evolution</p>		
<p>Comment</p>	<p>Development Change?</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p>
<p>Solar development should be located on existing brownfield / industrial sites where accesses for construction and operational vehicles, as well as emergency services, are established and impacts on local wildlife habitat are minimised.</p> <p>Build the scheme at Cottam Power Station where it will connect into the national grid.</p> <p>Alternative brownfield/industrial sites suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - West Burton Power Station - Cottam Power Station - Scampton Airfield - Old school site in Retford 	<p>N</p>	<p>The Applicant always considers brownfield sites for potential development. However, those sites have to be in a location where the grid network exists and can accommodate an energy generation project.</p> <p>Brownfield sites often command higher land values as they present opportunity for residential and commercial development, so therefore tend not to be made available to the energy industry.</p> <p>NPS EN-1 paragraph 4.4.3 provides guidance on how consideration of alternatives should guide decision making on DCO applications. It states that "Given the level and urgency of need for new energy infrastructure, the IPC should, subject to any relevant legal requirements (e.g. under the Habitats Directive) which indicate otherwise, be guided by the following principles when deciding what weight should be given to alternatives...".</p> <p>These principles include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consideration of alternatives for policy requirements should be proportional; • decision makers should consider whether alternatives could realistically provide the same capacity and be delivered over the same timescale; • alternatives not studied by the applicant should only be considered where 'important and relevant' to decision making (proposals that are not commercially viable or vague will not meet this criterion); and



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wherever possible, alternatives should be identified before an application is made. <p>The Applicant’s site selection process is set out Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN010131/APP/3.1]. This consisted of a four-stage process: Stage 1 consisted of determining the search area for a site to accommodate the Scheme defined by the available grid connection at the NETS Cottam substation. Stage 2 consisted of a feasibility assessment within the search area to identify the presence/absence of key environmental and social constraints. At Stage 3, areas of land which were identified as potentially suitable to accommodate a proposed solar development following Stage 2 were further refined with the application of the following inclusionary criteria which included topography, size and pattern of potential sites, access, suitable sites of brownfield land and a preference for a small number of willing landowners. At Stage 4, the Gate Burton site (the Order Limits) was identified as being suitable for solar PV development as it met all criteria and avoided those areas likely to lead to a policy requirement to consider whether alternative sites would be preferable. However, at all stages of design development and EIA process alternatives have been considered to maximise benefits of the Scheme and minimise adverse environmental and social impacts.</p> <p>As a case in point, one of the alternatives suggested; Cottam Power Station is identified in the draft Bassetlaw Local Plan 2020-2038 as a Priority Regeneration Area and as a broad location for mixed use regeneration under Policy ST6. This policy states that the site will be safeguarded from development which would jeopardise the comprehensive remediation, reclamation and redevelopment of the whole site. The Cottam Power Station site is also too small for the development proposed and is located partially in Flood Zone 2 (and surrounded by Flood Zone 3).</p> <p>West Burton C Power Station project was granted Development Consent by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy on 21 October 2020 for a 299MW gas turbine power project. Construction is expected to commence in 2022 and enter operation in 2024. The West Burton C Power Station is also subject to a proposed Town and Country Planning Act application (22/01095/SCO) comprising of a BESS with an Electrical Generating Capacity up to 500 Megawatts (MW) and Associated Development Including Connections, Access, and Planting.</p>
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		<p>At the time of writing, RAF Scampton is likely to be marketed in the near future. West Lindsay has expressed an interest in acquiring the site but both West Lindsay and the Ministry of Defence will be seeking to secure best value for taxpayer which means a degree of housing and other higher value uses than solar would be required.</p> <p>The Bassetlaw Brownfield Register list two school sites in Retford, namely the former Elizabethan High School and Former Retford Oaks School. The former Elizabethan High School is identified in Policy 23: Site HS9 of the draft Bassetlaw Local Plan 2020 to 2038 as an area expected to be developed during the plan period for approximately 46 dwellings and supporting Infrastructure.</p> <p>The former Retford Oaks School site has been granted outline planning permission (16/00363/OUT) with all matters reserved for residential development.</p> <p>The current Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Consultation Draft June 2021 refers to RAF Scampton as an “Opportunity Area” where these types of uses are being considered.</p>
<p>Domestic rooftop solar should be deployed at scale to limit development on productive agricultural land.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The Applicant entirely agrees that solar on rooftop is part of the renewable energy mix for the UK.</p> <p>Roofs of buildings are a natural place for solar panels to be sited and it is something that the Applicant gladly welcomes more of. However, there are constraints that slow, or prevent in some cases, the rolling out of rooftop solar at scale.</p> <p>These constraints can be categorized into three separate areas: physical; legal and; scalability. For instance, and this is far from exhaustive but this may be that the roof is not strong enough to take a solar installation and may need to be replaced, there may be a landlord and tenant who are not aligned on using the roof space and, ultimately, the biggest roofs are generally single MW scale. Each of those need their own connections rather than one single connection for a solar farm. These connections are not always viable.</p>



		<p>In addition to these constraints, the cost of solar for rooftop is higher compared to that of ground-mounted and, the cost of the energy, therefore, sold on the market translates into higher bills for consumers, ultimately.</p> <p>Facing the current climate emergency means deploying renewable energy at scale is a necessity. This cannot simply be achieved by development on rooftop sites alone. To make a meaningful impact, the Applicant believes solar farms must form the backbone of this approach.</p>
<p>Concerned about the efficiency of solar panels, the technology's ability to provide a reliable supply of electricity due to sunlight levels, and potential for the technology to quickly become outdated.</p> <p>Comparatively the generation capacity of this project (and other large scale solar schemes proposed in the area) is less than that of West Burton and Cottam power stations.</p> <p>Alternative renewable energy sources such as onshore wind, offshore wind, hydro/tidal and nuclear were cited as preferable on the grounds of being less impactful than solar.</p> <p>Conversely several respondents cited support for renewable energy developments to ensure security of supply, mitigate impacts of climate change and contribute to achieving Net Zero targets to reduce carbo emissions.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>As part of the Government's Energy Security Strategy, published April 2022 and advice from the Climate Change Committee (CCC)- an independent statutory body advising the Government on emission targets and reporting on progress made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for and adapting to the impacts of climate change- the UK needs a diverse and flexible mix of energy solutions, generating cheaper, cleaner homegrown energy produced in the UK. Part of this energy mix includes ground-mounted solar PV with energy storage alongside.</p> <p>Solar PV is part of this energy mix not only for being able to harness energy from the sun (a free resource) but also because it does not produce any harmful greenhouse gasses in the process. It is also the quickest to build and one of the cheapest forms of renewable power available to us.</p> <p>Technology is continuously improving. There is a balance to strike between meeting current needs and holding out for a better technology. In reality, the solar technology will keep improving before any procurement decisions are made, should this site be consented. It is in everyone's interests, the operator's included, to use the best available technology at that point.</p> <p>However, doing nothing is not an option when there is an urgent need for proven, cheap and clean sources of energy such as solar. If a technology is not proven today then it cannot be relied upon to meet our needs.</p> <p>The scale of the need for electricity in the move to electrify transport and heat homes and other buildings means that lots of these technologies are needed but they cannot necessarily all connect or all be delivered through connecting into Cottam substation. All development and all forms of energy generation have an impact and these impacts vary.</p>



		<p>It is not possible to simply say that the impacts are lower from other sources, nor is it possible to simply deliver other solutions here as the planning system has a big impact on what can be delivered and where.</p>
<p>Proposed development will only make a limited contribution to addressing climate emergency / net zero targets and meeting future energy needs.</p> <p>The primary driver for this project is profit.</p> <p>The inclusion of an energy storage element in the scheme design is solely for the purpose of generating profit whereby it will store electricity purchased from National Grid at periods of low demand so it could be sold back at a higher price during peak demand.</p> <p>Concerned that in the event of consent being granted Low Carbon will then sell the site on for someone else to build and manage.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The Scheme will be capable of powering approximately 155,000 homes which is around one half of all the homes in Lincolnshire. This will avoid more than 100,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions every year, and will make a valuable contribution to the UK Government aims to increase the UK's solar capacity five-fold by 2035.</p> <p>All forms of energy generation must be viable and cannot rely on charitable donations to be delivered. In this respect solar is like any other technology that would deliver our energy. It is however on a par with wind as the cheapest form of energy to the consumer.</p> <p>Energy storage is both able to shift the power generated by the solar farm to when it is most needed but also is able to take power from the grid when the grid needs to utilise balancing services – thereby, in both cases helping deal with consumer demand and in the case of the storage, excess electricity in the system at times of lower demand. This type of service must also be viable and cannot be provided through charitable means in the majority of cases.</p> <p>The Applicant's current business model is to own and operate its assets. It is, however, common for the development and operation of energy projects (and many other forms of development) to be separated.</p>
<p>Concerned that the needs of multiple developers are determining the cable route selection at the sacrifice of wildlife and landscape.</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>Cable Route options for Gate Burton encompassed a huge area initially. Once the Gate Burton Energy Park and both the Cottam and West Burton project companies were aware of each other and their respective connection locations, there was, rightly, an encouragement from multiple stakeholders for the parties to collaborate to try to minimise the impacts as much as possible.</p> <p>A number of studies were undertaken, jointly and, singularly, over the land for considerations such as ecology, landscape and archaeology in order to understand and screen out the higher-sensitivity areas.</p>



		<p>This process has led to the least sensitive route corridor (including a shared corridor for sections of the projects) coming forward for Gate Burton Energy Park.</p> <p>The ecological impacts associated within the cable route have been assessed within Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation [EN010131/APP/3.1]. Landscape impacts are assessed within Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010131/APP/3.1]. As stated within Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010131/APP/3.1] the Energy Park Site will be connected to Cottam substation via an underground cable to minimise the environmental impact of the Scheme. The cable route will be constructed in sequential sections, so areas of land will only be affected for a limited time before it is backfilled. It will not be visible during operation. As part of the embedded mitigation, a Framework CEMP [EN010131/APP/7.3], will be submitted with the DCO.</p>
Concern that no reference is made to the mitigation hierarchy relating to the Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), so it is unclear whether alternative routes were considered to avoid negative impact on LWS which receive protection within the NPPF (2021) and the Draft Bassetlaw Local Plan.	N	In consideration of the avoidance of LWS's and the mitigation hierarchy, the Grid Connection Corridor will cross Cow Pasture Lane Drains LWS via non-intrusive methods to avoid direct and indirect impacts to this Site. Therefore, there will be no loss of habitat and no fragmentation of habitats within the LWS. All construction methods will be presented in more detail within the Framework CEMP [EN010131/APP/7.3] , secured through the DCO. Information on how the Applicant has considered alternatives can be found in the ES Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN010131/APP/3.1] submitted as part of the DCO application.
Give consideration to mineral resource – particularly in the route corridor for the grid connection in those Mineral Safeguarding Areas identified in the Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plans.	Y	Mineral resource has been considered. The grid connection has been routed to avoid the Minerals Safeguarding Area where possible. Further information is included within the Planning Statement [EN010131/APP/2.2] .
Topic Area: Consultation		
Comment	Development Change?	Applicant Response
Concern that the community views and feedback will be disregarded.	N	All feedback received has been regarded and considered to understand concerns and issues relating to the Development.



<p>Community engagement through pre-application process is perceived as having a lack of regard for the concerns and wellbeing of local residents generally.</p> <p>Specific concern was cited that design change requests submitted during the first stage of consultation have not been taken on board.</p>		<p>The Applicant clearly set out its undertaking to consult and use feedback to inform the design process within a published Statement of Community Consultation.</p> <p>All feedback received as part of the Stage One non-statutory consultation was also considered by the project team. The Applicant's response to feedback received during this consultation stage can be found in the Gate Burton Energy Park Stage 1 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report 11 January – 18 February 2022 (see Appendix B). A copy of the report can also be found at: [REDACTED]</p> <p>The Applicant has responded to all feedback received during consultation on the Development in accordance with Section 49 - Duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity. Following receipt of feedback from consultees design changes have been made to the Scheme (as evidenced in this Consultation Report).</p>
<p>The PEIR was too large and detailed to interrogate.</p> <p>Conversely concern was raised that insufficient information was provided on certain aspects of the project, restricting ability to provide feedback. Specific areas identified include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental surveys and assessments • Height of the solar PV panels • Construction traffic impacts on local roads and road users, and disruption to local communities • Details of construction delivery and site logistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Location of workforce welfare units – Loading/unloading of materials and equipment – Making good HGV damage to local roads / local road maintenance 	<p>N</p>	<p>Comments are noted.</p> <p>The PEI Report was a snapshot of the Applicant's assessment at that time. The Applicant considers the amount of information published during the statutory consultation sufficient to enable meaningful consultation.</p> <p>A PEI Report Non-Technical Summary was available to view, download and print from the Scheme website.</p> <p>A Non-Technical Summary [EN010131/APP/3.4] has been produced for the ES.</p> <p>Further information re. ecological surveys can be found within Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p> <p>Details regarding the height of the solar PV panels can be found within Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p>



		<p>Workforce welfare units and loading/unloading of materials and equipment will be located within the construction compounds which are shown on Figure 2-5 [EN010131/APP/3.2].</p> <p>Construction traffic impacts are assessed within Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p> <p>A Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been developed and is provided as ES Volume 3: Appendix 13.E [EN010131/APP/3.3]. The CTMP contains mitigation to avoid and/or reduce impacts, relating to construction traffic including the delivery of materials during construction. This includes a commitment to undertake a road construction survey at various locations which includes sections of carriageway within the vicinity of the proposed access points, as well as the abnormal vehicle route between the A15/A1500 roundabout and the proposed site access on the A156 during pre-construction, construction and post-construction to identify any defects for reinstatement.</p>
<p>The PEIR was only accessible to view in digital format and there was a cost associated with obtaining a printed copy for review.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The Applicant has been committed to a digital first approach to consultation, providing information and documents relevant to inform the consultation electronically and accessible from the Scheme website.</p> <p>In addition, clear channels were available to allow access to the Applicant team to help guide and direct specific queries to relevant information and It is also normal practice in DCO applications to provide hard copies with an associated charge.</p> <p>A PEI Report Non-Technical Summary was available to view, download and print from the Scheme website.</p> <p>The PEI Report Volumes 1, 2 and 3 (Appendices) were also available to view, download and print through the Scheme website.</p> <p>All PEI Report documents were fully searchable online and relevant pages of interest available to print separately. [REDACTED]</p>



		<p>The PEI Report Non-Technical Summary, PEI Report Volumes 1, 2 and 3 (Appendices) were available free of charge at deposit locations in local centres near to the Scheme. These were held at Saxilby Library, Gainsborough Library, Lincoln Central Library, West Lindsey District Council and Retford Library.</p>
<p>Concern that information was not available at consultation, consultation overview documents provided an inadequate level of detail, and questions were not adequately answered by staff at public consultation events.</p> <p>Specific concerns were cited about the limited number of photos showing what the project would look like and the low level of information on event display panels.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Comments are noted.</p> <p>The Project Information Booklet provided information about the Scheme, the Applicant, the consultation and how people could take part. For more detail on the environmental assessments and proposals the PEI Report was available online and at document inspection locations.</p> <p>Consultation materials including the PEI Report Non-Technical Summary and PEI Report Volumes 1, 2 and 3 (Appendices), project information booklet, postcards, panels and maps of the Scheme were available at consultation events and on the Scheme website.</p> <p>Technical and specialist consultants were available at all consultation events to respond to questions.</p> <p>The Applicant considers the amount of information published and made available during the statutory consultation, including representative visualisations of the Development, sufficient.</p> <p>An indicative concept masterplan was available in the project information booklet and on event display panels, showing a visualisation of the Scheme and its components. The event display panels also included indicative images of the construction of a solar park and infographics.</p>
<p>Insufficient detail regarding the cable route corridor makes it difficult to provide feedback/comments.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The PEI Report was a snapshot of the Applicant's assessment at that time. The Applicant considers the amount of information published during the statutory consultation sufficient.</p>



<p>Engage fully and effectively with landowners and occupiers affected by the project, particularly those with interests in the cable route corridor.</p> <p>Specific concern cited in respect of CPO process and perception that people will have their land taken off them.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>As set out in the Schedule of Negotiations and Powers Sought [EN010131/APP/6.5], the Applicant has been engaging with landowners and occupiers of the land required for solar PV panels (Work No. 1) since 2019 and those affected by the Grid Connection since January 2022. This engagement is ongoing.</p> <p>The Applicant has been seeking to acquire the relevant freehold interests and other rights over land required by agreement and will continue to endeavour to reach voluntary agreements wherever possible. The Draft Proposed DCO [EN010131/APP/6.1] contains powers to enable the acquisition of land, new rights over land and the imposition of restrictions that are required to construct, operate and maintain the Scheme. In addition, it contains powers sought for the possession and use of land on a temporary basis to facilitate the construction of the Scheme.</p>
<p>Figures regarding financial benefits associated with the project should be made public as part of consultation.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The Applicant is continuing to work on the details of a community benefit package. This will not form a specific part of the planning application as it will not be taken into account in the decision-making process. However, the Applicant will continue to work with the community and wider stakeholders to develop this over the coming year and will be sharing these details in due course.</p>
<p>Request for site visits to residents / properties neighbouring the DCO site.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Following a positive planning outcome, our engagement with local schools, residents, and community near and neighboring our site would continue through the construction and into the operational phase of Gate Burton.</p> <p>This could include, but is not limited to, site visits during both phases to see and understand how a solar farm works and operates.</p>
<p>Request for copies on the consultation overview documents, PEIR, maps and plans, images in digital and print format.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Comment noted. All requests for additional copies of consultation materials were responded to.</p>
<p>Concerned that relevant third party bodies and organisations (statutory and non-statutory) were consulted with to ensure their specific knowledge of the area / specific assets and utilities can be accessed to inform the project design.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>A workshop was held with Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust and Natural England in August 2022 in which the following matters were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach to ecological survey work and baseline conditions; • The evolution of the Scheme design to avoid and/ or minimise impacts to important ecological features (IEFs); and



<p>Specific concern was cited in respect of consulting the following parties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Site owners/managers of LWS sites within 2km of DCO site - Drainage boards 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat creation and enhancements. <p>The IDB were consulted at the Scoping and PEI Report stages, and a Statement of Common Ground will be produced in collaboration with the IDB following submission of the DCO application.</p>
<p>Request for clarity on measures put in place to enable people with disabilities to participate in the consultation.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Comment noted. All requests for additional information on how the Applicant will provide access to people with disabilities were responded to.</p> <p>All event venues provided disabled access and two online events were held for those who couldn't attend in person.</p>
<p>Concern that consultation submission is received and issues raised are taken into consideration.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>All feedback received has been regarded and considered to understand concerns and issues relating to the Development.</p> <p>The Applicant clearly set out its undertaking to consult and use feedback to inform the design process within a published Statement of Community Consultation.</p> <p>All feedback received as part of the Stage One non-statutory consultation and Stage Two Statutory Consultation was also considered by the project team. The Applicant's response to feedback received during Stage One can be found in the Gate Burton Energy Park Stage 1 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report 11 January – 18 February 2022 (Appendix B). A copy of the report can also be found at: <div style="background-color: black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div> <div style="background-color: black; height: 20px; width: 80%;"></div></p> <p>The Applicant has responded to all feedback received during consultation on the Development in accordance with Section 49 - Duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity.</p>
<p>Request for clarification on perceived assumption that DCO application will be accepted by The Planning Inspectorate.</p>		<p>The Applicant is following legislation, guidance and the PINS advice note to ensure consultation and the DCO application meets the requirements for acceptance and is in continued discussions with stakeholders.</p>



Topic Area: Climate Change		
Comment	Development Change?	Applicant Response
Carbon emissions generated during manufacture and transportation of panels and equipment from China, construction of the project and then decommissioning undermine the case for it contributing to net zero targets.	N	<p>We source the most appropriate materials for the job. Due to the technical complexity of our projects this means that some materials will be sourced from countries outside the UK.</p> <p>We will always consider materials sourcing in context of the needs of the project and the availability of quality materials. Where materials can be sourced locally, at appropriate prices, we will do so.</p> <p>While there is a carbon footprint associated with manufacturing the equipment, such as the panels and transporting them to site, the carbon emissions avoided over the life of the project is significantly higher.</p> <p>The Applicant is bringing forward the Scheme to meet an urgent national need for new, renewable, sources of electricity. Further information on this is provided within the Statement of Need [EN010131/APP/2.1] submitted as part of the DCO application.</p>
When operational, heat generated by the panels and technology on the solar park will have a detrimental effect on the microclimate of the immediate area.	N	<p>Chapter 6: Climate Change of the Environmental Statement [EN010131/APP/3.1] assesses the impact of GHG emissions arising as a result of the Scheme on the climate and provides a review of the resilience of the Scheme to projected future climate change impacts. The potential for a microclimate to be created by solar panels is extremely unlikely, and far lower risk than from other projects such as power stations etc. A note to this effect is documented in Chapter 6: Climate Change [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p>
The development proposed will result in loss of tree and plant life and associated ability to sequester carbon through capture of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and transform it into biomass through photosynthesis.	N	<p>As stated in Chapter 6: Climate Change [EN010131/APP/3.1] land use change as a result of the Scheme is anticipated to have a beneficial GHG impact due to the conversion of large areas of cropland to grassland, which has a higher carbon sequestration value than cropland. However, it is assumed that the new areas of grassland will be returned to cropland following decommissioning of the Scheme, with any carbon stored in soil or vegetation re-released to the atmosphere. The beneficial</p>



		<p>GHG impact from land use change is therefore considered to only be temporary (approximately 60 years) and has therefore been excluded from the lifecycle GHG impact assessment. This is considered to be a robust worst-case approach and likely to underestimate the beneficial effect of the Scheme, as it is expected that tree and hedgerow planting will be retained after decommissioning.</p> <p>An assessment of the potential impacts of the Scheme on ecological receptors is included in Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation [EN010131/APP/3.1]. An Arboricultural Impact Assessment is included within Appendix 10I [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p>
<p>Concerned about depletion of non-renewable natural resources in manufacture of solar park and grid connection equipment and technology.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The Waste and Recycling Section within Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics [EN010131/APP/3.1] confirms the design life and replacement frequency for the main components of the Scheme, including the panels and batteries. It anticipated that replacement of the modules will be considered after 30 years of operation. Recycling routes are generally available for these materials at present. When the time comes for these elements to be replaced, several decades into the future, it is likely that there will be even greater opportunities for recycling, not least because the market will have expanded to meet demand as PV installations increase.</p>
<p>Request for clarity on the environmental impact and carbon emissions associated with the development from construction through to operation, decommissioning and end of life.</p> <p>Specific request for information on cradle-to-grave environmental impact associated solar PV panels.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>As part of the new wave of projects which will commence construction in 2023, the Applicant is working with its contractors to collect carbon data to help build their knowledge, inform their management system and develop their standard setting methods.</p> <p>There have been many studies in many forms that have been undertaken in regard to analysis of the Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) of solar photovoltaic panels. All concluding that Solar Panels do in fact pay for themselves in a relatively short period of time, both in carbon reductions, embodied energy, and electricity, all redeemed well within their operational lifecycle. As the volume of PV units manufactured increases, the carbon cost of their production goes down, ever decreasing this carbon and energy 'payback' period.</p> <p>It is very hard to ascertain the exact point in which this 'payback' period is reached as there are many varying factors that go into its accurate deliberation. These include manufacturing methods, country and locality of manufacturing, operating conditions, country and locality of installation and orientation of installation / installation method.</p>



		<p>However, a typical solar panel will save over 900kg of CO2 per year that results in a carbon payback period of ~ 1.6 years.</p> <p>As solar panels are fully warranted for 25 years and, in practice will likely generate power well beyond, even in areas where the sun's radiation is received at less than 550kWh per m2 such as the northern UK, a typical solar panel takes around 6 years to pay back its energy cost.</p> <p>Technology in this sector is always evolving and therefore the above information will improve each year.</p> <p>A full environmental impact assessment has been prepared. Full details can be found in the Environmental Statement [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p> <p>Carbon emissions associated with the development of the Scheme from construction through to operation and decommissioning are presented within Chapter 6: Climate Change [EN010131/APP/3.1] this includes consideration of carbon emissions associated with solar PV panels.</p>
<p>Topic Area: Cultural Heritage</p>		
<p>Comment</p>	<p>Development Change?</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p>
<p>Concerned about impact of the development on local cultural and heritage assets including Grade 1, Grade II and Grade II* listed buildings, and archaeology during the construction phase and when operational.</p> <p>Specific concerns cited in respect of impacts on the following assets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Burton Chateau - Gate Burton Hall - Gate Burton Hall Cottages - Gate Burton Hall Grade II listed Walled Garden - Gate Burton Village (medieval settlement) 	<p>Y</p>	<p>The Applicant has developed its assessment of the Scheme's impact on heritage assets using best practice and in consultation with statutory bodies including Historic England and the local authorities. All assets which have the potential to be impacted by the Scheme have been considered and mitigation has been implemented to reduce the impact of the Scheme on individual assets. The results of this assessment and the Applicant's proposed mitigation are set out in Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage of the Environmental Statement [EN010131/APP/3.1] and Appendix 7-A: Cultural Heritage Desk-Based Assessment [EN010131/APP/3.3].</p>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - St Helen's Church - St Mary's Church, Stow - The Old Rectory - Moat Cottage, the South Park - Gate Burton Park land - Sturton Village Hall - Gainsborough Model Railway - Rose Cottage - Roman Fort - Site of Roman coins - Site for former medieval parish - Burton Wood - Ancient footpaths <p>Request for measures that will be put in place to protect/mitigate the impact on heritage/cultural assets</p>		
<p>Extend the heritage setting buffer from Clay Lane through to the construction compound at Fox Covert Wood to better mitigate impacts on heritage assets, including Burton Woods and '18 acre' pastureland which contribute to Gate Burton's identification as an 'Area of Great Landscape', and also the wellbeing of horses grazed in '18 Acre' pastureland.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The setting of Gate Burton Hall and associated assets including the non-designated parkland has been considered and the Scheme design has been amended in accordance with Historic England's advice. The embedded mitigation has been extended to include an additional panel-free exclusion zone between Gate Burton non-designated parkland and Burton Wood. This reduces the visible impact of the Scheme and retains the important connection between the parkland and woodland, as part of the design intention of the part and the wider setting of Gate Burton Hall. The Applicant has developed its assessment of the Scheme's impact on heritage assets using best practice and in consultation with statutory bodies including Historic England and the local authorities.</p>
<p>The proposed development will have a detrimental effect on local farming heritage including ancient pastureland, hedgerows, footpaths and bridleways.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The Applicant recognises the importance of the Scheme location. The ES assessments include the potential impacts on historic landscape character and cultural heritage (see Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage of the ES [EN010131/APP/3.1]) and the landscape and visual impact (see Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity of the ES [EN010131/APP/3.1]). The agricultural character of the area has been recognised and</p>



		<p>assessed as part of the Applicant's assessment on cultural heritage, historic landscape and landscape and visual.</p> <p>The potential impact on Public Rights of Way (PRoW) including footpaths and bridleways has been assessed in Chapter 12: Socio-economics and Land Use [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p>
<p>Concerned that assessment of individual heritage and cultural assets identified in the PEIR is subjective and not evidence based.</p> <p>Specific concern cited include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Size of present St Mary's Church relative to Saxon predecessor 	N	<p>The PEIR presented the preliminary understanding of the heritage baseline and the likely effects of the Scheme. This has developed since. The text regarding the size of St Mary's Church has been amended to clarify that it is the complex of buildings at St Mary's Church that is much reduced from its former extent as a Benedictine Abbey with associated buildings, rather than the church itself.</p> <p>The Applicant has developed its assessment of the Scheme's impact on heritage assets using best practice guidance and in consultation with statutory bodies including Historic England and the local authorities. The results of this impact assessment and the Applicant's proposed mitigation are set out in Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage of the Environmental Statement [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p>
Topic Area: Ecology & Nature Conservation		
Comment	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<p>Oppose project due to the negative impact it will have on established wildlife habitat and ecology during construction phase and when operational. This effect will be exacerbated by the cumulative impacts of multiple large-scale solar projects proposed in the area.</p> <p>The impact of the project on habit and ecology would be permanent and cannot be mitigated. Any measures implemented will deliver no immediate/short term benefit.</p> <p>Specific concerns cited include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – wildlife displaced by construction phase impacts (noise, vibration, traffic, pollution) will not return 	N	<p>The Cumulative Effects and Interactions chapter [EN010131/APP/3.1] assesses the potential for effect interactions and cumulative effects caused by reasonably foreseeable plans and projects (including the Tillbridge, West Burton and Cottam projects) with the Scheme.</p> <p>The Scheme has been designed to avoid significant adverse effects on ecology. No significant residual effects on ecology are predicted during construction, operation and decommissioning of the Scheme's lifetime. The impact assessment on habitats / species and the Applicant's proposed mitigation are set out in Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation of the Environmental Statement [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p> <p>Precautionary working methods will be implemented to minimise potential adverse effects on species (including wildlife displacement) prior to and during construction. This is outlined in the Framework Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)</p>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – disruption to established wildlife corridors across the site and displacement of large mammals – particularly deer – insufficient regard given to how loss of habitat will affect more common species – fragmentation of habitat inhibiting its functionality – loss of habitat will damage local wildlife populations including breeding and migrating birds, owls, vertebrates and invertebrates – creation of an imbalance between the existing ecosystem and established food chain – impact on Cow Pasture Lane Drains Local Wildlife Site (LWS) – the solar park site and cable corridor need to be reinstated to a high standard when construction is complete – construction compounds location impact on habitat inc. removal of hedges to establish Kexby Lane construction compounds – creation of barn owl buffers if project adversely impacts local wildlife – impacts of solar panels to flying birds and insects 		<p>[EN010131/APP/7.3]. This also sets out the retention and protection of existing habitats, e.g., woodlands, hedgerows and other semi-natural habitats, which will ensure that wildlife will not be displaced. The Framework CEMP also includes provisions for habitat re-instatement following construction and measures to minimise hedgerow loss, e.g., along Kexby Lane.</p> <p>The Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (OLEMP) [EN010131/APP/7.10] outlines the landscape and ecology impact avoidance measures that would be implemented prior to, and during, construction of the Scheme, as well as the habitat restoration, enhancement, management and monitoring measures to be implemented once the Scheme is operational. There will be no loss of established wildlife corridors, nor fragmentation of habitats, as existing corridors, e.g., hedgerows, field margins, etc., will be retained and in many instances, enhanced. Security fencing has been designed to continue to allow movement of deer across these existing corridors. Creation of grassland and undeveloped margins will benefit many species, including Barn Owl, with improved habitat availability for small mammal prey.</p> <p>Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation of the Environmental Statement [EN010131/APP/3.1] sets out the process for identifying Important Ecological Features (IEFs) and whilst these are the focus of detailed assessment, the Biodiversity Net Gain report also sets out the contribution of the Scheme towards deliver net gains for general biodiversity. Chapter 8 considers potential impacts to relevant vertebrates and invertebrates, including breeding and migrating birds and owls and designated sites including Cow Pasture Lane Drains LWS. This concludes that there are no significant effects on ecology and nature conservation, including from impacts of solar panels on birds and insects.</p>
<p>Environmental assessments and surveys carried out are inadequate.</p> <p>Request for evidence to demonstrate understanding of existing wildlife/ecology across the project site.</p> <p>Specific request for information on assessments undertaken in respect of:</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>All wildlife and habitat surveys met appropriate guidelines and the methodology used to undertake the EIA is outlined in Chapter 5: EIA Methodology of the ES [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p> <p>Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation [EN010131/APP/3.1] provides an assessment of the impacts of the Scheme on habitats and species across the project site. This is supported by the results of ecological surveys which are presented in and Appendices 8-A-8-L [EN010131/APP/3.3].</p>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bats - Barn owls 		<p>Appendix 8-J [EN010131/APP/3.2] provides the results of the bat surveys and Appendix 8-H [EN010131/APP/3.3] provides the results of the breeding bird surveys (including information on Barn owls).</p>
<p>The Environmental Statement should state whether there are international sites within a 10 km radius and, if present, a Habitats Regulation screening assessment (HRA) should be attached to confirm no likelihood of significant impact.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation [EN010131/APP/3.1] confirms that there are no international sites within a 10km radius of the Scheme.</p> <p>A Habitats Regulations Assessment is provided within [EN010131/APP/7.2] and confirms no likely significant effects.</p>
<p>Support for measures proposed to enhance local biodiversity and contribute to Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).</p> <p>Additional suggestions to deliver BNG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional enhancement of areas on the eastern boundary - Use biodiversity metric 3.1 to quantify gains and demonstrate development will benefit - Use Cow Pasture Lane Drain Survey to identify areas for implementing additional habitat management work <p>No long-term research has been undertaken to substantiate BNG claims or that measures proposed will deliver any benefit, and that the project will undermine farmers' efforts to improve biodiversity.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Habitat data, required to calculate the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) delivered by the proposed scheme has been collected during the original Phase 1 Habitat surveys and updated, as necessary, through subsequent surveys (such as arable flora and hedgerow surveys). This has ensured a comprehensive baseline of data for the BNG assessment has been collected.</p> <p>DEFRA's Biodiversity Metric 3.1 will be used to quantify gains and demonstrate developmental benefits. The approach to delivering BNG at the site has been guided by the mitigation hierarchy that seeks to avoid impacts in the first instance and then minimise and offset residual impacts and the BNG Best Practice Principles Biodiversity Net Gain: Good Practice Principles for Development, A Practical Guide. CIEEM.</p> <p>It is recognised that BNG is an emerging approach recently mandated through the Environment Act 2021, however, the wealth of quantitative data supporting how solar farms can deliver benefits for biodiversity is growing Solar Energy UK launches new 'Natural Capital Best Practice Guidance' on how to increase biodiversity at all stages of a solar farm's lifecycle. • Solar Energy UK . Any scheme of habitat retention, enhancement or creation informed by the BNG assessment would seek to complement, enhance and integrate with the adjacent agricultural landscape and existing schemes that seek to improve biodiversity locally.</p> <p>A BNG assessment will be submitted as part of the DCO application [EN010131/APP/7.9].</p>



<p>Request for anticipated percentage biodiversity net gain proposed for the project and overview of how that will be delivered.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The BNG assessment will be submitted as part of the DCO application [EN010131/APP/7.9].</p> <p>The assessment includes the anticipated percentage of biodiversity net gain that is proposed for the Scheme alongside indicative habitat management and delivery mechanisms.</p>
<p>Site is integral to the comprehensive network of Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), whose importance at county-level for biodiversity should determine a presumption against development activity.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation [EN010131/APP/3.1] provides an assessment of the potential impacts of the Scheme on Local Wildlife Sites. The assessment concludes no significant effects to the LWS are anticipated.</p>
<p>Adequate mitigation and compensation measures need to be established where loss of habitat and ecology is unavoidable.</p> <p>Those measures proposed are inadequate to compensate for loss of land, wildlife habitat and ecology on the solar energy park site and within the cable route corridor.</p> <p>Concerned they risk creating imbalance in the ecosystem due to loss of some species and potential introduction of alien species.</p> <p>The measures proposed would be unnecessary were it not for the development.</p> <p>Conversely some respondents welcomed measures proposed to mitigate the project's potential impact on ecology and wildlife habitat. Support was specifically cited for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inclusion of land for lapwing habitat - Additional planting 	<p>N</p>	<p>The Applicant disagrees that the mitigation measures are inadequate. The Scheme has been designed to avoid significant adverse effects on ecology. No significant residual effects on ecology are predicted during construction, operation and decommissioning of the Scheme's lifetime. The impact assessment on habitats / species and the Applicant's proposed mitigation are set out in Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation of the Environmental Statement [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p> <p>Precautionary working methods will be implemented to minimise potential adverse effects on species prior to and during construction. This is outlined in the Framework Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) [EN010131/APP/7.3].</p> <p>The Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (OLEMP) [EN010131/APP/7.10] outlines the landscape and ecology impact avoidance measures that would be implemented prior to, and during, construction of the Scheme, as well as the habitat restoration, enhancement, management and monitoring measures to be implemented once the Scheme is operational. Considerable enhancement measures are proposed as part of the OLEMP, with net gain proposed for the Solar and Energy Storage Park, when compared to baseline conditions, resulting in positive effects for ecology during the lifetime of the Scheme. Large areas of the Solar and Energy Storage Park have been excluded from development specifically for planting and wildlife linkages, such as skylark plots and lapwing fields. The species mix proposed for the site is also documented in the OLEMP.</p>



<p>Request that further assessment of two SSSI identified in PEIR (Ashtons Meadow SSSI, Lea Marsh SSSI) is carried out when grid connection route is finalised</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation [EN010131/APP/3.1] provides further assessment of the potential impacts of the Scheme on Ashton’s Meadow SSSI and Lea Marsh SSSI.</p>
<p>Security fencing around the solar park site will cut off established wildlife corridors across the site, and trap wildlife inside the perimeter.</p> <p>Security fencing has potential to displace larger mammals (deer) onto local roads and increasing risk of road traffic accidents.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation [EN010131/APP/3.1] provides further details, but the fence design will include gaps to allow mammals that may use woodland habitats, including small deer, badger, brown hare and hedgehog, to pass underneath at strategic locations.</p>
<p>Wildlife habitat buffers currently proposed are inadequate to mitigate the impact of the project on habitat and wildlife during construction and when operational and should be increased.</p> <p>Gates onto site should be locked to prevent vehicles disturbing lapwing fields.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Undeveloped buffers throughout the Scheme are minimum buffers that have been embedded within the Scheme design to avoid potential impacts to retained habitats and species using them. Buffers proposed follow good practice and industry guidance and were discussed and agreed during workshops with the Wildlife Trusts and Natural England.</p> <p>The Site will be secure to prevent unauthorized access. Measures to reduce disturbance to ground nesting birds including lapwing are detailed in the Framework CEMP [EN010131/APP/7.3].</p>
<p>Additional information requested as being included in the Framework CEMP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • specific wording from NFU to cover how practical aspects of construction should be dealt with in relation to agricultural land regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Agricultural liaison officer – Records of condition – Biosecurity – Irrigation – Agricultural land drainage – Treatment of soils – Agricultural water supplies 		<p>The NFU were contacted regarding their specific wording as per the comment, however no response was received. A Framework CEMP is provided in the DCO application [EN010131/APP/7.3]. The Applicant will contact the NFU during the development of the detailed CEMP to ensure the practical aspects referred to in the comment are covered in the document.</p> <p>In relation to the LWS, woodland buffer zones and environmental protection measures please refer to Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010131/APP/3.1], Figure 2-4 Indicative Site Layout [EN010131/APP/3.2], Framework CEMP [EN010131/APP/7.3] and the Mitigation Schedule [EN010131/APP/2.4].</p>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • measures to remove or reduce impacts on LWS during construction of cable connection • woodland buffer zones and environmental protection measures to reduce risk of impact to broadleaved woodland • standard environmental protection measures to reduce risk of impacts on broad-leaved woodland 		
<p>Support for enforced buffer zones and implementation of standard environmental protection measures to reduce risk of impacts on broad-leaved woodland.</p> <p>The proposed Ancient Woodland Buffer (20 metres) is only five metres more than the Woodland Buffer (15 metres) and does not adequately recognise the heritage value of Burton Wood. Extend the Heritage Setting Buffer to include Burton Wood and neighbouring fields.</p>		<p>The Applicant recognised the historic interest of Burton Wood as forming part of the setting of assets in Gate Burton park. This has been considered and a buffer area is provided as embedded mitigation to reduce the impact of the Scheme upon assets with Gate Burton park. The relationship between Burton Wood and the park has also been considered and the Scheme retains a linear route between the park and the woodland reflecting a historic connection between the two. The Applicant has developed its assessment of the Scheme’s impact on heritage assets using best practice and in consultation with statutory bodies including Historic England and the local authorities.</p> <p>Undeveloped buffers throughout the Scheme are minimum buffers that have been embedded within the Scheme design to avoid potential impacts to retained habitats and species using them. Buffers proposed follow good practice and industry guidance and were discussed and agreed during workshops with the Wildlife Trusts and Natural England.</p> <p>The setting of Gate Burton Hall and associated assets including the non-designated parkland has been considered and the Scheme design has been amended in accordance with Historic England’s advice. The embedded mitigation has been extended to include an additional panel-free exclusion zone between Gate Burton non-designated parkland and Burton Wood. This reduces the visible impact of the Scheme and retains the important connection between the parkland and woodland, as part of the design intention of the part and the wider setting of Gate Burton Hall. The Applicant has developed its assessment of the Scheme’s impact on heritage assets using best practice and in consultation with statutory bodies including Historic England and the local authorities.</p>



<p>Adequate site maintenance needs to be implemented when it becomes operational: hedge/tree cutting, pest control, watercourse dredging.</p> <p>Several respondents cited concern about the potential impact on human health and wellbeing this activity might have.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The Scheme will have an Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) in place for the operation and maintenance of the Scheme. This will include measures to regulate environmental effects of the operational phase of the Site. The Framework OEMP is included in [EN010131/APP/7.10] and includes measures to manage surface water runoff and trees / hedgerows in line with the Outline LEMP [EN010131/APP/7.10]. A programme of surveillance and monitoring will be established prior to operation to ensure that biodiversity measures are implemented according to plan with necessary remediation. These elements will be informed by an Ecology Advisory Group established pre-construction, invitees including Natural England, Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire County Councils and wildlife trusts.</p> <p>The impact of the Scheme on health and wellbeing is assessed in Chapter 14: Human Health and Wellbeing [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p>
<p>Topic Area: Water Environment</p>		
<p>Comment</p>	<p>Development Change?</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p>
<p>The solar park will give rise to increased flood risk due to increased water run-off being directed into adjacent watercourses (inc. dykes, ditches, swales).</p> <p>Cumulative impact from drainage of multiple solar projects in the immediate area further heightens this risk.</p> <p>Specific concerns cited about increased risk of flooding to properties in proximity of existing watercourses and the domestic sewage treatment plant due to increase in run-off, and measures in place to compensate owners.</p> <p>It was noted that drainage via swales will go into adjacent watercourse managed by the Upper Witham Drainage Board.</p> <p>An attenuation system should be put in place to collect and store excess water in dykes at times of peak</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>An Outline Drainage Strategy is provided in Appendix 9-C [EN010131/APP/3.3]. Surface water runoff across the Solar and Energy Storage Park site will be discharged to ground through the use of SuDS to provide attenuation (both in terms of storage capacity and water quality treatment). No new direct connections to watercourses are proposed.</p> <p>The cumulative impact from the drainage of multiple solar projects in the immediate area including West Burton, Cottam and Tillbridge has been assessed in Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010131/APP/3.1] and Chapter 16: Cumulative Effects and Interactions [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p> <p>A Flood Risk Assessment is provided in Appendix 9-D [EN010131/APP/3.3] which indicates that there would be no increase in flooding from any source, given implementation of the Outline Drainage Strategy [EN010131/APP/3.3] and the mitigation measures outlined in Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010131/APP/3.1]. Refer to Chapter 9 for a full assessment of impacts to the water environment during the construction and operational stages.</p>



<p>flow/rainfall so it can be released when water levels recede.</p>		<p>Refer to Appendix 9C: Outline Drainage Strategy [EN010131/APP/3.3] for the management of surface water flows across the site.</p> <p>SoCG agreements will be sought with Upper Witham and Trent Valley IDBs following DCO application.</p>
<p>Regular monitoring and maintenance of watercourses, including culverted sections, needs to be carried out throughout the operational lifetime of the solar park to reduce flood risk.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The maintenance and monitoring requirement for the drainage system (including SuDS, drainage features and watercourse crossings) will be secured via the Outline Drainage Strategy Appendix 9-C [EN010131/APP/3.3].</p> <p>SoCG agreements will be sought with the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), Upper Witham and Trent Valley IDBs following DCO application to agree monitoring and maintenance requirements and responsibilities for watercourses.</p>
<p>Further to consent being granted and construction phase starting, as the development/manager of the solar park Low Carbon will assume responsibility from the current landowners for maintaining dykes on the site.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The Applicant will assume responsibility for maintaining dykes within the Site with the exception of those watercourses maintained by the IDBs.</p>
<p>Flood risk assessments have not been completed in advance of statutory consultation and the drainage plans available are inadequate.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>An Outline Drainage Strategy is provided in Appendix 9-C [EN010131/APP/3.3]. Surface water runoff across the Solar and Energy Storage Park site will be discharged to ground through the use of SuDS to provide attenuation (both in terms of storage capacity and water quality treatment).</p> <p>A Flood Risk Assessment is provided in Appendix 9-D [EN010131/APP/3.3] which indicates that there would be no increase in flooding from any source, given implementation of the Outline Drainage Strategy and the mitigation measures outlined in Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p>
<p>Concerned that construction traffic and HGV will compact soil and change its drainage qualities and give rise to increased flood risk.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Construction activities will take place with the Final CEMP in place (building on the Framework CEMP provided in the DCO application [EN010131/APP/7.3]) to ensure no exacerbation of localised flooding from soil compaction or any other drainage issues arise during construction. This will include implementation of a temporary drainage system.</p>



		Refer to Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010131/APP/3.1] for a full assessment of impacts to the water environment during the construction stage.
Assertion that much of the site lies in Flood Zone 1, parts of which regularly flood. Suggestion that panels could be mounted on stilts to avoid damage in the event of flooding and/or enable scheme to be located on an alternative site.	Y	The Solar and Energy Storage Park is predominantly located within Flood Zone 1 from fluvial sources. Surface water flood risk associated with rainfall/runoff has been assessed and the minimum height of the lowest part of the solar PV Panels to be 0.8m above ground level (AGL). Where flood depths exceed 500mm, up to a maximum of 800mm, the lowest part of the panel height would be raised further to 1.1 m (AGL) (i.e. 800mm + 300 mm freeboard). However, this will be limited as the layout has sought to avoid areas of flood risk. Flood risks have been assessed in Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010131/APP/3.1] and Appendix 9-D: Flood Risk Assessment [EN010131/APP/3.3]
Topic Area: Landscape & Visual Amenity		
Comment	Development Change?	Applicant Response
Concerned about the visual impact of the project on the local rural area and landscape views due to its size and scale, and upper most height of the panels which is understood to be approximately four metres. Buffers proposed are inadequate to compensate/reduce visual impact of the project and fail to account for local community views. Concerned that landscape views containing listed buildings and heritage assets should be respected; and views from/to specific locations should be protected/preserved. Specific locations cited include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – towards Burton Woods from A156 behind Gate Burton Church and Gate Burton Parkland – to/from Rose Cottage – from Sandy Barr Cottage – to St Mary’s Church, Stow from a distance 	Y	The panel height will be up to a maximum of 3.5m as described in ES Volume 1, Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010131/APP/3.1] . In a number of locations the panels would be lower, to reduce visual effects. Offsets from settlements and individual dwellings have been incorporated across the design. The form and extent of these offsets has been adjusted through design development to respond to the existing character of views from residential properties. Following statutory consultation, several changes were made to the PEI Report Layout. This has included a thorough review of existing landscape, visual and heritage buffers, as well as addition of areas to exclude built development. This has been informed by further site visits, discussions with a number of near neighbours as well as statutory consultees. Further information on the embedded design mitigation measures is documented within ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010131/APP/3.1] . The Scheme has been designed to integrate with the local green infrastructure network, improving ecological and recreational connectivity across the Order limits. The planting proposed as part of the Scheme is shown on the Indicative Landscape Masterplan and associated management regime in the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010131/APP/7.10] .



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - panels in fields north of Kexby Lane impeding views between communities - from the new housing being built locally - from Gate Burton properties - of Trent Valley from Middle Street - to Willingham by Stow - to St Helen's Church - listed buildings and heritage assets <p>Suggested mitigation to reduce visual impacts included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement effective screen to offset/mitigate impact on views - Compensate local community organisations for lack of views - Graded heights for panels in line of sight of residential properties - Increase height/width of hedges 		<p>The locations mentioned within the comment have been included within the baseline of the Landscape and Visual chapter (Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010131/APP/3.1]). Mitigation measures have been considered to minimize the impacts of the scheme on these receptors.</p>
<p>Concerned that additional planting proposed to mitigate visual impact of solar panels and kit from neighbouring communities will impede existing views of the rural landscape.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Careful consideration of the locations of any proposed planting has taken place, including offsets to maintain openness of views in a number of locations. This is discussed further within ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p> <p>The planting proposed as part of the Scheme is shown on the Indicative Landscape Masterplan and associated management regime in the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010131/APP/7.10].</p>
<p>The visual impact assessment carried out is inadequate. It needs to consider the impact of the project in isolation, and cumulative visual impact of the multiple solar projects proposed in the immediate area.</p> <p>Specific concerns/suggestions cited include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the visual impact from Kexby Lane a (PEIR Table 7.2) should be classed as having a Low, rather 	<p>N</p>	<p>Following the preliminary assessment work presented during the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), the landscape and visual assessment (LVIA) has been now been completed and is documented within ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010131/APP/3.1]. The visual impact on Kexby Lane has reduced since PEIR stage, due to the removal of panels from the field seen from Viewpoint 10 and the relocation of proposed screening planting. The LVIA has been undertaken by competent experts and in accordance with the industry guidance. The LVIA also includes a full cumulative assessment of the other solar projects within the</p>



<p>than a Very Low impact, resulting in a Moderate magnitude of impact (PEIR Table 7.3).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the assessment within para 7.11.11 of the PEIR is subjective - particularly the lack of evidence that the present church is much reduced in size from the Saxon – vehicle users on Marton Road being identified as having :Low-Medium sensitivity (Section 17 PEIR) – views of open farmland should not be described as having ‘low sensitivity’ <p>One respondent asserted that a visual impact assessment has not been carried out.</p>		<p>vicinity. The locations of viewpoints (including cumulative viewpoints) have been agreed with the relevant local authorities.</p>
<p>Support for additional tree belt, woodland and hedgerow planting as a screening method.</p> <p>Specific concerns / suggestions cited include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planting proposed is a long-term solution – it will take 10-15 years to establish and be effective • No short-term screening solutions proposed • Deciduous species will only provide screening until the end of growing season • Tall hedges will not mitigate impact on views and could also: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – reduce light – impacting drivers – change the character of the landscape • Planting is used to reinforce hedges and minimise security of neighbouring land being compromised due to change in land-use from agriculture to solar development. • Planting is used to screen security fencing and security measures. 	<p>N</p>	<p>Careful consideration of the locations of any proposed planting has taken place, including offsets to maintain openness of views, using planting to screen security fencing, reinforcing existing vegetation and strategic planting to mitigate any potential effects of glint and glare on sensitive receptors. In addition, areas of advanced planting is being considered in a number of locations to ensure planting is effective at screening at an early stage in the project. Further information is available within ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010131/APP/3.1]. The planting proposed as part of the Scheme is shown on the Indicative Landscape Masterplan and associated management regime in the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010131/APP/7.10].</p>



Benefit of lapwing fields providing visual as well as habitat buffers welcomed.	N	This comment is noted.
Topic Area: Noise & Vibration		
Comment	Development Change?	Applicant Response
Specific concern cited by that PEIR makes no reference to noise baseline monitoring carried out at monitoring location M4 during adverse weather conditions.	N	Noise monitoring locations provided data that was considered representative of noise conditions at receptors R6, R15, R16, R17. Periods of adverse weather conditions that may have influenced noise measurements were removed from the dataset – see Appendix 11-C [EN010131/APP/3.3] .
Concerned about detrimental effect of noise from construction traffic (HGV and worker transport vehicles, heavy plant movement).	N	The assessment of noise accounts for HGV movements on the site and public roads. Although HGV movements are likely to be noticeable, the overall resulting change in road traffic noise is identified as not significant as stated in Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration [EN010131/APP/3.1] . Measures to manage construction traffic are included within Appendix 13-E: Framework CTMP [EN010131/APP/3.3] .
Concerned about the impacts of noise associated with construction compounds and their accesses on neighbouring property. Specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Property prices – Resident wellbeing – Livestock wellbeing and safety 	N	Temporary construction compounds have been located so they are not in close proximity to sensitive receptors. Whilst noise may be audible for period, the level at receptors is not considered to be significant. As such, property prices will be unaffected and there are no significant effects on health and quality of life. Further details can be found in Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration [EN010131/APP/3.1] and Chapter 14: Human Health and Wellbeing [EN010131/APP/3.1] . Construction noise levels will be controlled through the use of embedded mitigation and the use of the CEMP. A Framework CEMP has been submitted as part of the DCO Application [EN010131/APP/7.3] .
Noise-sensitive Receptor R15 (PEIR – 11.2): request that significant mitigation is implemented to ensure residents at this property are not adversely impacted by noise associated with the construction and operation phases.	N	Potential noise impacts during the construction phase have been identified as not significant. However, adverse noise levels were identified that may cause periods of disturbance. Consequently, best practicable means (as defined in Section 72 of the Control of Pollution Act) mitigation has been adopted to ensure that construction noise emissions are reduced at all times as far as reasonably practicable. Details of



		<p>construction noise mitigation measures can be found in the Framework CEMP [EN010131/APP/7.3].</p> <p>No significant operational noise effects were identified at receptor R15. Noise predictions are considered to represent a reasonable worst-case scenario where plant are operating at full load continuously. In reality, this will not be the case as weather conditions will determine the operating load. Embedded mitigation measures for operational noise have included the locating of noise sources to maximise the distance to receptor R15. Additionally, the plant installed will be selected to provide the lowest noise emissions practicable, which is likely to provide lower noise levels than predicted in the ES.</p>
Noise baseline monitoring [Monitoring location M4]: put in place adequate measures to avoid noise during construction phase and when solar park becomes operational affecting behaviour of horses liveried/trained in vicinity and increasing risk of injury to the horses, riders, handlers, members of the public.		<p>Horses may be startled by short high noise events, which may occur as a result of construction activities. Consultation will be undertaken with equestrian groups on the timings and duration of construction activities. As secured by the Framework CEMP [EN010131/APP/7.3] a community liaison officer will be available to liaise with the horse racing and training community and other neighbours. As stated in Chapter 11 Noise and Vibration [EN010131/APP/3.1] when the Scheme is in operation plant will operate continuously so there will not be any noticeable impulsive or intermittent characteristics from plant noise emissions experienced at the surrounding receptors.</p>
Concern regarding summer construction working hours (07.00 to 19.00). Core construction working hours of 08.00-18.00 Monday to Friday should be maintained all year round.		<p>The periods from 07:00 to 08:00 and 18:00 to 19:00 are known as 'shoulder periods' where work undertaken is setting up or closing down for the day. The main noise generating work will only occur in the period from 08:00 to 18:00 as secured by the Framework CEMP [EN010131/APP/7.3].</p>
Continued use of construction compound access routes throughout operational lifetime of project will have noise impact on neighbouring properties.	N	<p>The construction compound access route will be temporary during the construction phase and will not be used in the operational phase. The assessment of noise accounts for effects due to construction traffic; no significant effects were identified.</p>
Generation of noise from equipment and kit across the operational solar park including switch gear, fans, invertors, transformers, energy storage facilities, PV arrays will impact neighbouring properties.	N	<p>No significant operational noise effects were identified. Noise predictions account for a downwind influence under typical weather conditions, which is considered to represent a reasonable worst case as stated in Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration [EN010131/APP/3.1]. As part of embedded mitigation measures, the distance between noise sources and receptors has been maximized as far as reasonably practicable, including at the field adjacent to Marton Road</p>



<p>Specific concern that operational noise will be amplified and channeled by strong winds, array formation within fields / across roads.</p> <p>Request that inverters sited in the field adjacent to Marton Road are positioned away from properties as prevailing westerly wind carries noise across.</p>		
<p>Topic Area: Socio Economics & Land Use</p>		
<p>Comment</p>	<p>Development Change?</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p>
<p>The project will have a detrimental effect on the local economy; negatively impact businesses operating in the agriculture, housing, tourism, and recreation sectors in particular.</p> <p>Concerned that the PEIR provided no assessment on how the loss of agricultural land for the project will impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Employment in agriculture and rural industries - Food supply chain (production of crops for human and animal consumption) 	<p>N</p>	<p>It is concluded in Chapter 12: Socio-economics and Land Use [EN010131/APP/3.1] that the Scheme will have a minor beneficial impact on the local economy due to GVA (Gross Value Added) generation.</p> <p>Impacts on businesses have also been considered under 'local amenities and land use' and it has been concluded that the Scheme will have no impact on these.</p> <p>In addition, there is currently an equivalent of 1.5 existing jobs at the Site relating to agriculture industries which has been accounted for in the employment assessment.</p>
<p>The project will have a negatively impact equestrian businesses (livery yards and bloodstock) located in immediate vicinity of the project.</p> <p>Specific impacts which could negatively impact those businesses during the project's construction phase and when operational include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Loss of grazing - Loss of amenity for equestrian activity 	<p>N</p>	<p>Impacts on businesses are assessed under 'local amenities and land use' in Chapter 12: Socio-economics and Land Use [EN010131/APP/3.1]. There are no impacts expected upon businesses during construction or operation of the Scheme. In regard to loss of grazing, the majority of land required for construction will only temporarily be lost and therefore can be returned back to grazing use during operation (i.e.. within the grid connection corridor).</p> <p>Amenity is assessed within Chapter 12: Socio-economics and Land Use [EN010131/APP/3.1] and confirms that no significant effects are anticipated. In terms of</p>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Threat to wellbeing and safety of horses (inc. their handlers and riders) - Impact on livestock food supply chain <p>Request that consideration is given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cable connection is routed to the north of track used by riders - Create separation between the location of construction compound and horse grazing pasture - Accesses should be removed, and land reinstated when construction is complete 		<p>threat to wellbeing and safety of horses, their handlers and riders there are measures within the Framework CEMP [EN010131/APP/7.3], Framework OEMP [EN010131/APP/7.4] to avoid or reduce impacts as far as possible during the construction and operational phase, respectively. In terms of the impacts on livestock food supply chain, a large proportion of the land is farmed for crops used to produce bioethanol or biomass and is not actually reaching the food chain.</p> <p>The site itself represents approximately 0.1% of all the farmland in Lincolnshire but is capable of powering approximately 155,000 homes which is around one half of all the homes in Lincolnshire.</p> <p>As secured by the Framework CEMP [EN010131/APP/7.3] a community liaison officer will be available to liaise with the horse racing and training community and other neighbours in order to minimize construction impacts.</p>
<p>Threat to safety and wellbeing of horses (specifically young horses and foals) and riders/owners and construction workers in proximity to location of main construction compound and access due increased anxiety associated with noise, vibration, dust, pollution, vehicle movement.</p> <p>Request consideration is given to information set out in <i>'The Impact of Noise Anxiety on Behaviour and Welfare of Horses from UK and US Owner's Perspective'</i> (MPDI, 2022, Riva et al.)</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The air quality, noise and vibration, and traffic chapter [EN010131/APP/3.1] conclude that no significant effects are likely as a result of Scheme. Therefore, the safety and wellbeing of horses is not expected to be compromised as a result of the Scheme. Measures to reduce or avoid noise, vibration, dust and pollution impacts are included in the Framework CEMP [EN010131/APP/7.3]. Measures to manage construction traffic are included within Appendix 13-E Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p> <p>Consideration has been given to the information set out in 'The Impact of Noise Anxiety on Behaviour and Welfare of Horses from UK and US Owner's Perspective' (MPDI, 2022, Riva et al.).</p>
<p>Solar development on this site will take productive agricultural land out of use. This is in direct conflict with the Government Food Strategy and guidance that solar development should not be located on agricultural land classified as Best and Most Versatile (BMV) including Grade 1,2 and 3a.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>BMV land is a constraint to development but it sits amongst other planning constraints such as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Flood Zones, Green Belts and Sites of Specific Scientific Interest. There will always be trade-offs in locating development as more often than not, one designation/constraint or another will apply.</p> <p>A full soil assessment has been undertaken with soil samples being taken and the grading of the land has been assessed as 11% BMV (3a), 84% subgrade 3b, 1%</p>



<p>Request for full soil assessment to confirm the Agricultural Classification of the land on which the solar energy park is proposed.</p> <p>Acknowledging that a large part of the site proposed for solar development comprises agricultural land classified as Grade 3b, several respondents asserted that Grade 3b land qualifies as BMV.</p>		<p>estimated BMV⁶ and 1% estimated subgrade 3b. This can be found in Appendix 12-C: Agricultural Land Classification Report [EN010131/APP/3.3] and Chapter 12: Socio-economics and Land Use [EN010131/APP/3.3]</p> <p>The Scheme has been designed to take into account the quality of agricultural land such as positioning the permanent infrastructure (the substation and the BESS) to avoid BMV land as far as possible. In line with the Government Food Strategy, Grade 3b is not considered BMV.</p> <p>It is hard to farm to the highest grade and even harder when it represents a small proportion of the land available. The tendency is to base all cropping decisions on the lowest grade within a site.</p> <p>Whilst there have been soundbites from the Government about the possibility of reconsidering the grading of land, currently there is no change in the current classification system.</p> <p>With regards to food, as covered above, a large proportion of the land is farmed for crops used to produce bioethanol or biomass and is not actually reaching the foodchain.</p>
<p>Farming businesses with land interests affected by the cable connection need to be adequately compensated.</p>		<p>As set out in the Schedule of Negotiations and Powers Sought [EN010131/APP/6.5] the Applicant has issued terms to acquire the relevant freehold interests and other rights over land required by agreement and will continue to endeavour to reach voluntary agreements wherever possible.</p> <p>Compensation is payable for the compulsory acquisition of land or rights and for loss or damage caused by the exercise of any power of temporary use of land. Any dispute in respect of the compensation payable is to be determined by the Lands Chamber of the Upper Tribunal.</p>

⁶ Grades estimated using published soils and geology data and nearby observation points



<p>Concerned about the PV panel supply chain and sourcing panels from China – notably human rights issues regarding use of forced labour in panel manufacturing process (including mining of raw materials required), carbon footprint in manufacture and shipping processes, as well as the depletion of raw materials required in the technology’s manufacture.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>We collaborate with other members of the UK solar industry, which maintains a strong position on human rights and against forced labour. You can see more on the industry’s position at [REDACTED].</p> <p>We support applying the highest possible levels of transparency and sustainability throughout the value chain, and we’re supportive of developing an industry-led traceability protocol to help to ensure our supply chain is free of human rights abuses.</p> <p>The Applicant’s Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement 2022 can be found here [REDACTED]</p> <p>We source the most appropriate materials for the job. Due to the technical complexity of our projects this means that some materials will be sourced from countries outside the UK.</p> <p>We will always consider materials sourcing in context of the needs of the project and the availability of quality materials. Where materials can be sourced locally, at appropriate prices, we will do so.</p> <p>While there is a carbon footprint associated with manufacturing the equipment, such as the panels and transporting them to site, the carbon emissions avoided over the life of the project is significantly higher.</p>
<p>Concerned about loss of local employment/jobs in agriculture and associated service industries, as well as tourism and recreation including holiday park business, accommodation (hotels, B&B establishments, Air BNB lets).</p> <p>Several respondents cited concern that an influx of construction workforce will put pressure on local accommodation.</p>		<p>It is estimated that there are 1.5 existing jobs in the DCO site related to agricultural activities which would be lost. Therefore, the ‘existing employment’ has been assessed as up to 2 jobs lost.</p> <p>There will be up to 14 permanent FTE staff during the operational phase.</p> <p>An element of labour force will come from the local area with the remainder beyond. It is not possible to provide exact figures as much of this will depend upon skillset and availability. There is a desire to source local workers for as many roles as possible. Local workers will not require accommodation but will also retain more of the investment spend within the surrounding area.</p> <p>Where workers are coming from further afield, how they are accommodated can vary project to project. Local accommodation has been assessed and the construction workers can be</p>



		<p>accommodated adequately by existing capacity. Remote workers have an indirect effect on other local businesses increasing spend on hospitality. Further details can be found in Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan [EN010131/APP/37.7]</p> <p>The impact of the Scheme on local amenities (including businesses) has been assessed in Chapter 12: Socio-economics and Land Use [EN010131/APP/3.1]. The assessment has concluded that there will be no effect on these businesses both in terms of the influx of construction workers and the impact on tourism and recreation..</p>
<p>The project will negatively impact local property values, particularly those immediately neighbouring the site.</p> <p>Specific concerns cited include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Impact on value property on Station Road. - Owners of property on Kexby Lane should be compensated for depreciation in property value. 	<p>N</p>	<p>We are not aware of any hard evidence to say that solar farms affect house prices. Once constructed they operate in a largely benign way. Through design we look to incorporate set-backs from housing which, combined with the maturing landscaping, tends to provide a good screen for projects. This is set out further in Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Impact [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p>
<p>The development will provide no long-term benefit to local communities.</p> <p>The support available to communities closest to the project will not compensate for their loss.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>While there is no basis for compensation simply from a project of this nature sitting in the vicinity of communities, we believe that the community benefit package will provide significant support to a number of projects locally.</p> <p>The project will contribute to local business rates which directly fund local services provided by the Council.</p> <p>In addition to this, there are other measures we can provide such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - - teacher's packs for both junior and senior schools, which include lesson plans for key subjects, focusing on renewable energy and climate as well as a plan for an all-school assembly. - - education days including visits to the solar farm for local schools. <p>Further details can be found in Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan [EN010131/APP/37.7]</p>



<p>Consider supporting local schemes and initiatives that will benefit communities closest to the project.</p> <p>Focus should be on providing support to those individuals immediately neighbouring the project.</p> <p>Specific suggestions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Provision of EV charging facilities – Improved broadband delivery /connectivity – Subsidised solar PV for domestic installation – Support for Lincolnshire & Nottinghamshire Air Ambulance – Financial support to assist parish councils, churches, schools, and community organisations with running costs – Creation of walkways / accesses across the solar park site <p>Make financial compensation available during the construction phase, with a percentage return on profit when the scheme becomes operational.</p>		<p>We appreciate these valuable suggestions for how the community benefit package could be delivered.</p> <p>It is important to the Applicant that we support the local community and provide value where it is most needed.</p> <p>All suggestions received will be considered and we intend to maintain a dialogue with community leaders to discuss options and ideas.</p> <p>We will publish more details of the community benefit package in due course but this will continue to be worked on during 2023.</p> <p>Further details can be found in Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan [EN010131/APP/37.7]</p>
<p>Negotiate with landowners to reach voluntary agreements to access land for building the cable connection rather than relying on rights under DCO – discussing heads of terms within an Option Agreement first.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>As set out in Schedule of Negotiations and Powers Sought [EN010131/APP/6.5] the Applicant has been seeking to acquire the relevant freehold interests and other rights over land required by agreement and will continue to endeavour to reach voluntary agreements wherever possible.</p>
<p>Provide further information on length of proposed easement term for cables – would want to see the term limited to the stated 60-year operational lifespan of the project.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The rights sought will be linked to the operation of the Scheme.</p>



<p>Land to east-west margin to the north of the quarry situated within the cable corridor comprises land restored to agriculture. The quarry was fully restored with effect from 30th September 2017, with aftercare of the restored land being undertaken in accordance with statutory requirements.</p> <p>Subject to written confirmation from the Mineral Planning Authority, this land will be out of aftercare with effect from 1 October 2022, with the expectation that if not already by that point, the land will be returned to the freehold Title owners.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>This comment is noted.</p>
<p>Consider the potential presence of mineral resource to avoid unnecessary sterilisation of minerals, particularly within the cable corridor, which is located within Mineral Safeguarding Areas identified within the Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire Minerals/Minerals and Waste Local Plans.</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>Mineral resource has been considered. The grid connection has been routed to avoid the Minerals Safeguarding Area where possible. Further information is included within the Planning Statement [EN010131/APP/2.2].</p>
<p>Follow existing best practice guidance for multi-purpose land (including grazing of livestock and agri-environmental measures)</p> <p>Consider grazing livestock beneath PV arrays – noting that adequate stock proof fencing needs to be used.</p> <p>Additional suggestions includes growing vines in between panels.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The Applicant grazes sheep on other sites as a means of retaining agricultural use of the land and keeping a site in good condition. Panels can provide protection from the weather and predators in the early spring for newly born lambs.</p> <p>Sheep management has to be compliant with the Outline Landscape and Environment Management Plan [EN010131/APP/7.10].</p> <p>Best practice guidance will be followed in terms of managing multi-purpose land in accordance with the OLEMP [EN010131/APP/7.10].</p> <p>The Applicant is actively involved in agri-voltaic research in the Netherlands. As an example of this, growing fruit trees under panels to provide protection from hail storms. Deploying agri-voltaics requires careful consideration as there is a greater landscape</p>



		impact as the equipment is higher off the ground to accommodate growing space for crops.
Request for clarification on ownership of land within the DCO boundary by Severn Trent.	N	Land ownership within the DCO boundary is provided in the Book of Reference [EN010131/APP/6.6]
Request that the final Environmental Statement includes an assessment of the project impact on tourism / visitor numbers.	N	<p>Impacts of the Scheme on tourism was scoped out of the socio-economics and land use assessment and therefore the chapter does not contain an assessment of this. However, it is expected that the impact would be negligible given that there are no hotels in the immediate surroundings and limited tourism activities in the area.</p> <p>In regard to access of other tourist-related premises, impact on the road network has been assessed in Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010131/APP/3.1] and impact on PRoW has been assessed in Chapter 12: Socio-economics and Land Use [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p>
Requests for information about job opportunities associated with the construction and operational phases of the project.	N	<p>Comment noted. All requests for additional information on how the Applicant will provide job opportunities associated with the construction and operational phases were responded to.</p> <p>It is estimated the Scheme will require an average 400 gross direct full-time employment (FTE) jobs on-site per day during the construction period. Although these jobs are temporary, they represent a positive economic effect for a substantial period.</p> <p>There will be up to 14 permanent FTE staff during the operational phase.</p> <p>Information on this matter was made available in the PEI Report Non Technical Summary - 6.8 Socio-Economics and Land Use and can be found in Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land-Use [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p>



		The Applicant has developed an Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan [EN010131/APP/7.7] which aims to identify and maximise opportunities for local communities.
Topic Area: Transport & Access		
Comment	Development Change?	Applicant Response
Increase in construction traffic and HGV will negatively impact local roads, and give rise to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Congestion problems - Increased risk of accident - Disruption to local road users 	N	An assessment of the potential effects relating to additional construction traffic (including HGVs) including on severance, driver delay, and accidents & safety is carried out within Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010131/APP/3.1] of the ES. This concludes that the Scheme is not expected to result in any significant effects with the proposed embedded mitigation in place.
Existing minor roads and country lanes are unsuitable for HGV. Concerned about the safety of HGV and construction traffic on single track/narrow lanes, and associated increase in risk of accident. Specific concerns cited regarding HGV using B1241 to access construction compounds on Kexby Lane. All traffic and site access should be via A159. However, access from A159 to main construction compound poses a threat to the safety and wellbeing of horses grazed in proximity.	N	The majority of construction vehicle trips will travel to/ from the main site access on the A156 Gainsborough Road to access the primary construction compound. Whilst a proportion of these construction vehicles will access the A156 via the A159 to the north, alternative routes such as the A57 will also be used. The scheme is not expected to result in any significant effects on either the A156 or the A159 to the north of the study area as a result of additional construction traffic, including with respect to fear and intimidation. Further details are contained within Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010131/APP/3.1] . In comparison to the A156, significantly fewer construction vehicles will utilise the B1241 Kexby Lane to access the secondary construction compounds and no abnormal indivisible loads will travel on the B1241 thereby reducing the potential impact of construction vehicles on this part of the network. The B1241 is suitable for accommodating HGVs (given its B-road status) and no carriageway widening is expected to be required in support of the Scheme. The proposed site accesses on the B1241 Kexby Lane have also been designed to accommodate construction vehicles with vegetation clearance to achieve sufficient visibility splays to/ from these access points. The Framework CTMP (Appendix 13-E [EN010131/APP/3.3]) includes an HGV routing plan which shows that local roads and nearby villages will be avoided where possible. An assessment of the potential effects relating to additional construction traffic (including HGVs) on pedestrian & cycle amenity, fear& intimidation, as well as accidents & safety is



		carried out within Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010131/APP/3.1] of the ES which concludes that the Scheme is not expected to result in any significant effects with the proposed embedded mitigation in place.
Concerned about the impacts noise and pollution associated with an increase in construction traffic and HGV will have on the local environment.	N	<p>Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration [EN010131/APP/3.1] includes an assessment of peak day construction traffic noise effects. No significant impacts on health and quality of life were identified due to increases in noise as a result of construction traffic movements.</p> <p>The Applicant has assessed the risk of dust and particulate matter impacts during construction in the Air Quality section within Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics [EN010131/APP/3.1]. The assessment concludes that the impacts of construction on local air quality are not significant. Mitigation measures to reduce potential air quality and dust impacts have been incorporated in the Framework CEMP [EN010131/APP/7.3] which is secured through the DCO.</p>
<p>Concerned that an increase in construction traffic and HGV on local roads will give rise to an increase in spoil/debris on roads, and increased risk of damage to road surfaces and verges.</p> <p>Roads and lanes need to be restored to their original state when construction phase is complete.</p>	N	<p>Wheel washing facilities will be provided within the site construction compounds to minimise mud from being trafficked onto the highway as a result of construction traffic. Swept paths have also been carried out to determine whether any highway improvements (e.g. carriageway widening, vegetation clearance) are required to accommodate HGVs, in order to prevent any damage to verges. Further details in terms of management and mitigation are set out within the Framework CTMP (Appendix 13-E [EN010131/APP/3.3]) which is secured through the DCO.</p> <p>This includes a commitment to undertake a road construction survey at various locations which includes sections of carriageway within the vicinity of the proposed access points, as well as the abnormal vehicle route between the A15/A1500 roundabout and the proposed site access on the A156 during pre-construction, construction and post-construction to identify any defects for reinstatement.</p>
Adequate traffic management systems need to be put in place – particularly in respect of effectively managing construction traffic/HGV accessing/leaving construction compounds.	N	Adequate traffic management will be put in place as set out within the Framework CTMP (Appendix 13-E [EN010131/APP/3.3]) which is secured through the DCO. This includes utilising banksmen to control HGV movements at the accesses to ensure these movements are carried out safely.



<p>Concerned about impact of construction workforce arrival/departure to site on local roads and need for provision of adequate onsite parking for workforce.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>A total of 100 car parking spaces will be provided within the main construction compound for construction workers which is designed to meet peak parking demand. Additional parking will also be provided at the secondary construction compounds. The Framework CTMP (Appendix 13-E [EN010131/APP/3.3]) which is secured through the DCO. includes measures to reduce construction worker vehicle movements, including implementing a Car Share Scheme, shuttle services to/ from local settlements and a minibus service to transfer construction workers between the Solar and Energy Storage Park and the Grid Connection Corridor.</p>
<p>Consider alternative modes of transport to limit increase of traffic on local roads during construction phase:</p> <p>Specific suggestions include utilising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existing railway lines - Existing rail heads and Cottam and West Burton Power stations - Barges/boats on the River Trent 		<p>Due to the remote location of the Scheme and lack of easy access to public transport, the majority of construction workers are expected to travel to and from the Site by vehicle. However, the Framework CTMP (Appendix 13-E [EN010131/APP/3.3]) which is secured through the DCO. includes measures to reduce construction worker vehicle movements, including implementing a Car Share Scheme, shuttle services to/ from local settlements and a minibus service to transfer construction workers between the Solar and Energy Storage Park and the Grid Connection Corridor.</p> <p>In terms of transporting materials. there is no rail infrastructure (stations/ sidings) in close proximity to the Solar and Energy Storage Park to suggest that there would be the potential to bring materials by rail. In addition, the section of railway to the northwest of Cottam is disused and the section of railway near West Burton Power station would still require HGVs to use the local highway network through nearby villages in order to access the Grid Connection Corridor and would therefore offer limited benefit.</p> <p>The use of the River Trent for freight was considered but ruled out due to the weight of equipment being transported (including abnormal loads such as cable drums). It was also considered that river transport would offer limited benefit as construction of the Grid Connection Corridor is only expected to result in up to 16 HGV's per day.</p> <p>Further to the above, the abnormal loads (cable drum transporters) for the Grid Connection Corridor within Nottinghamshire will be required to follow a specific route to/ from the A57 to the west. The offloading dock at Cottam Power Station (on the western side of the River Trent) does not therefore offer a viable option for the transportation of heavy equipment such as the cable drums given where this is located e.g. Torksey Ferry Road is not suitable for HGVs. The offloading dock would also offer limited benefit for any deliveries that need to be made to the Solar and Energy Storage Park and the Grid Connection Corridor within Lincolnshire (to the east of the River Trent), as the equipment/</p>



		materials would still ultimately need to be transferred by construction vehicles (HGVs) by relatively long routes using bridging points back across the river.
Oppose use of track adjacent to Sandebus Farm for vehicular access.	N	Sandebus Farm falls outside of the Order limits and the Scheme does not therefore seek to utilise the track adjacent to the farm for vehicular access. An operational access will be located on the northern side of Marton Road circa. 500m to the east of Sandebus Farm. However, no construction vehicles are expected on this part of the highway network, including in the vicinity of Sandebus Farm.
Provide adequate access to site for emergency service vehicles to deal with an incident. Specific concerns were raised in respect of fire risk associated with onsite battery storage system and substation.	N	The Solar and Energy Storage Park will be served by four access points during construction including a primary access on the A156 Gainsborough Road and secondary accesses on Kexby Lane (north), Kexby Lane (south) and Marton Road. Operational access will be primarily taken from the A156 Gainsborough Road via Clay Lane (note: alternative location to the construction access above), but will also be achievable via Kexby Lane North, Kexby Lane South and Marton Road which will all be retained during the operational phase. An additional operational access will also be provided on a separate part of Marton Road at the south-eastern boundary of the Solar and Energy Storage Park. Therefore, emergency vehicles will be able to utilise a number of different access points to deal with any incidents if necessary. This includes two separate access points on the A156 in order to access the on-site battery storage system and substation (which could also be accessed via Kexby Lane North or Marton Road) which is set out in the ES and secured through the DCO . In terms of fire risk associated with the onsite battery storage system and substation, a Battery Safety Management [EN010131/APP/7.1] is included within the DCO application which includes measures to reduce the likelihood of a fire.
Concerned about the location of construction compound accesses and impacts of associated HGV / construction traffic movement on/off site. Specific concerns cited in respect of impacts on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Neighbouring property - Livestock - Narrow/single track country lanes/farm tracks 	N	The majority of construction vehicles will utilise the main site access on the A156 Gainsborough Road to access the primary construction compound. Fewer construction vehicles will utilise Kexby Lane or Marton Road to access the secondary construction compounds which will reduce the impact of construction vehicles on these parts of the network. In terms of utilising the proposed site access on the A156, this will be designed to accommodate the largest construction vehicles travelling to/ from the Solar and Energy Storage Park including 16.5m articulated vehicles and any abnormal loads. The required



<p>Concerns were cited about the safety of construction vehicles stopping/turning off A159 to access the main construction compound.</p>		<p>visibility splays will also be achievable in each direction to/ from the access. Further details are provided within the Framework CTMP (Appendix 13-E [EN010131/APP/3.3]) which includes measures to manage construction vehicles, including utilising banksmen to control HGV movements at the accesses to ensure these movements are carried out safely.</p> <p>An assessment of the potential effects relating to additional construction traffic (including HGVs) including on severance, driver delay, and accidents & safety is carried out within Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010131/APP/3.1]. This concludes that the Scheme is not expected to result in any significant effects with the proposed embedded mitigation in place.</p> <p>Whilst a proportion of construction vehicles will use the A159 to access the Site, the access to the main construction compound will be situated on the eastern side of the A156. Construction vehicles won't therefore be required to stop or directly turn off the A159 to access the compound. The access to the site off the A156 (which connects to the A159) has also been designed to accommodate the largest vehicles accessing the site, with sufficient width (minimum of 6m) for construction vehicles to pass one another to minimise risks of queuing along the A156. The main entrance during construction has been located carefully along the A156 to maximise visibility to the north and south. .</p> <p>Further to the above, it should be noted that Clay Lane is only proposed to be used during the operational phase of the Scheme when significantly fewer vehicles or a smaller size are expected.</p>
<p>Existing public rights of way and permissive rights of way across the site should be retained, consideration to creating additional for community benefit.</p> <p>Conversely, concerns were cited about the potential introduction of new permissive rights of way posing problems in respect of loose dogs/people disturbing livestock, damage to crops, increased crime.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Safe access will be maintained along and across existing Public Rights of Way (PRoW) during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Scheme. There will be no PRoW closures and a limited number of temporary PRoW diversions will be implemented around the Grid Connection Corridor works area when the cables are installed. The PRoW will be managed throughout the construction phase to ensure that routes can continue to be used as safely as possible. The existing PRoW widths will be maintained for all PRoW throughout the construction phase. Further details are set out within the Outline PRoW Management Plan [EN010131/APP/7.8].</p> <p>In terms of permissive paths, no new permissive paths will be introduced by the Scheme including during the operational phase.</p>



Topic Area: Human Health & Wellbeing		
Comment	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<p>The mental and physical well-being of local communities and people living in proximity of the proposed scheme will be negatively impacted.</p> <p>Reasons cited include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Loss of rural amenity - Disruption – during construction and when operational - Local economic decline - job loss / business closure - Decline in property value <p>One respondent asserted that anxiety about the project's impact on property prices was already negatively impacting the mental health of some individuals.</p> <p>Conversely it was asserted that solar developments are believed to have a positive impact on life expectancy.</p>	N	<p>Chapter 14: Human Health [EN010131/APP/3.1] considers the impact on human health and wellbeing during the construction and operational period, resulting from air quality, transport and access, socio-economics and noise and vibration. These chapters have found no adverse significant residual effects related to human health and wellbeing.</p> <p>In terms of loss of rural amenity this is assessed in Chapter 12: Socio-economics and Land Use [EN010131/APP/3.1] and concludes that no significant effects are anticipated.</p> <p>In terms of disruption during the construction and operational phase there are measures set out in the Framework CEMP [EN010131/APP/7.3] and Framework OEMP [EN010131/APP/7.3] to reduce or avoid impacts during the construction and operational phase, respectively.</p> <p>In terms of economic decline including through job loss / business closure, there is anticipated to be an increase in employment rather than reduction. During the construction phase, there are estimated to be 363 total net jobs created. Currently, there are up to 2 FTE roles within the Site boundary, all relating to agricultural activities, which are anticipated to be lost as a result of the Scheme. However, the operational FTE is anticipated to higher (14 FTE roles), resulting in a total net employment on site of 13 FTE as stated within Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land-Use [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p> <p>Temporary construction compounds have been located so they are not in close proximity to sensitive receptors. Whilst noise may be audible for period, the level at receptors is not considered to be significant. As such, property prices will be unaffected and there are no significant effects on health and quality of life. Further details can be found in Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration [EN010131/APP/3.1] and Chapter 14: Human Health and Wellbeing [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p>
<p>Consider convening a community focus group to identify measures/initiatives that can be implemented as part of</p>	N	<p>We will review this suggestion. The mechanism for holding and administering the community benefit has to be worked through. It could form part of the responsibility of the local committee which will help administer the community benefit.</p>



the development to promote physical and mental wellbeing.		
Oppose scheme on ground that the effects of the project negatively impacting the mental and physical wellbeing of people from local communities will put unnecessary pressure on NHS resources.	N	The impact upon local healthcare services is assessed as part of Chapter 14: Human Health [EN010131/APP/3.1] . Assuming a worst case scenario whereby all of the 156 construction workers who do not live locally require places at surgeries within the wider Primary Care Network, this would increase the patient:GP ratio from 1887 patients to 1889 patients per GP. Whilst this exceeds the recommended ratio set by the Royal College of General Practitioners (1:1,800), this does not worsen the current situation to a large extent and the impact is assessed to be neutral.
Noise, dust, pollution and carbon emissions associated with construction phase would contribute to increased risk of respiratory illness in adults and children.	N	The impact upon human health from noise and vibration and air pollution (includes dust and carbon emissions) is assessed within Chapter 14: Human Health [EN010131/APP/3.1] . This has found that there are no adverse significant residual effects related to human health and wellbeing. Mitigation measures identified in these assessments will be adhered to in order to limit the impact on human health as much as possible.
Likelihood of increased noise anxiety on horses' behaviour and welfare poses a risk to the health and safety of handlers, riders/owners, road users and members of the public and construction workers.		Horses may be startled by short high noise events, which may occur as a result of construction activities. Consultation will be undertaken with equestrian groups on the timings and duration of construction activities. As set out in the Framework CEMP [EN010131/APP/7.3] which is secured by the DCO, there will be a nominated person, a Community Liaison Coordinator, during construction who can be contacted for questions.. A point of contact will be available within the Contractor to liaise with the horse racing and training community and other neighbours.
Communities affected by the proposed development should be financially compensated. Specific suggestions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Direct funds to schools, parish councils, community and voluntary organisations: – Make a lump sum available during construction phase to compensate for disruption – Consider percentage return on profits to community to continue to deliver benefits throughout operational lifetime 	N	The Applicant has been working on the final details of a community benefit package. This will not form a specific part of the planning application as it will not be taken into account in the decision-making process. However, the Applicant will be sharing these details in due course .



<p>– Financially compensate local business impacted by the project - i.e. loss of rural amenity, disruption to day-to-day operations</p> <p>Concern cited that any community benefits of a financial nature are equivalent to a bribe to solicit support for the project.</p>		
<p>Suitable onsite hygiene and welfare facilities need to be provided for construction workforce.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The applicant will ensure that health and safety regulations will be followed and provide suitable onsite facilities for the construction workforce.</p>
<p>Concerned about radiation emissions and electromagnetic fields from the solar park components and equipment and potential risk to they pose to human health.</p> <p>The cumulative impact of these risks from multiple solar projects in the local area was cited.</p> <p>Concerned about the of long terms studies to identify radiation emission impact on / risk to human health – particularly those with ‘radiation sensitivity’.</p> <p>Request that the buffer between the solar park and neighbouring properties is increased to limit the effect of radiation emissions on human health.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>All electric appliances emit electric and magnetic fields (EMF). Solar panel arrays emit EMF in the same extremely low frequency ranges as electrical appliances and wiring found in most houses and buildings.</p> <p>The average daily background exposure to magnetic fields is estimated to be around one mG (milligauss – the unit used to measure magnetic field strength) but can vary considerably depending on a person’s exposure to EMF from household electrical devices and wiring.</p> <p>The cumulative impact of the Scheme along with other proposed solar projects in the local area are considered within Chapter 16: Cumulative Effects and Interactions [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p> <p>The lowest exposure level that has been potentially associated with a health effect is three mG. Measurements at three commercial PV arrays in Massachusetts demonstrated that their contributions to off-site EMF exposures were low (less than 0.5 mG at the site boundary), which is consistent with the drop off of EMF strength based on distance from the source (2015, Clean Energy Results).</p> <p>More information on EMF can be found at: [REDACTED]</p>



		<p>Offsets from settlements and individual dwellings have been incorporated across the design. The form and extent of these offsets has been adjusted through design development. Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010131/APP/3.1] and Figure 2-4 [EN010131/APP/3.2] include the relevant offsets and mitigation proposals.</p> <p>Reference to Electromagnetic Fields (EMF) is considered in relation to noise pollution caused by traffic and commercial uses during the operational phase. The impact of EMFs generated by the cable route on local receptors has been considered and it is explained that the only cable which connects the onsite substation to Cottam involves cables above 132 kv, all other cables would be a max 33kv, below the recommended threshold and therefore unlikely to have a negative impact on human health.</p>
<p>Concerned about fire risk associated with the solar park components, particularly during summer months and heat waves, and the potential impact of toxic fumes on human health in the event of an incident.</p> <p>Request for more detail on the measures that would be put in place to mitigate fire risk.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The fire risk from PV panels is negligible. As the voltage increases through the equipment the risk of electrical arcing increases at specific locations like inverters and transformers.</p> <p>The Scheme will mitigate the wider fire risk by ensuring internal access tracks go to these locations for easy access for fire crews. The Applicant's operational team on its existing portfolio monitor the equipment and conduct proactive maintenance on all equipment to ensure the highest safety standards. Furthermore, through the procurement process it ensures the equipment purchased for schemes are some of the best in the market from an operational and safety perspective</p> <p>Fire risk is assessed in the Major Accidents and Disasters section within Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics [EN010131/APP/3.1]. Health and Safety on-site would be managed by the contractor during construction and decommissioning to mitigate the risk of a fire. The Scheme design has embedded mitigation measures to regulate temperatures of the battery storage systems. An Outline Battery Fire Safety Management Plan has been submitted with the ES [EN010106/APP/7.1], which is secured through the DCO.</p> <p>In terms of the potential impact of toxic fumes on human health, an Unplanned Atmospheric Emissions from BESS Report has been produced (Appendix 15-C) [EN010106/APP/3.3] which provides an assessment of the potential consequences of unplanned emissions to air from the BESS. The report concludes that even if all the systems fail, and a large-scale fire breaks out within enclosures (which is very unlikely),</p>



		then the resultant hydrogen fluoride concentration at the closest receptors would not exceed the safe limits.
<p>Adequate security measures to be included in the solar park design to prevent and deter criminal activity, and ensure security of neighbouring properties is not compromised due to change in use from agriculture to solar park</p> <p>Specific suggestions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – CCTV along site perimeter – Planting/fencing to plug gaps in boundary – Locked gates to prevent unauthorised vehicular access to site – Locked gates/fencing to be located close to public highways – not set back. 	N	<p>The Applicant is incorporating feedback from landowners and neighbours to ensure the correct security measures are put in place.</p> <p>The Applicant is designing the site to ensure that unauthorised access is difficult to achieve, especially on those areas outside of the secured fencing.</p> <p>CCTV is monitored on a 365/24 basis and gates will be in place to stop unauthorised access</p> <p>The Scheme has been designed to minimise the potential for damage to occur through criminal activity. This will include Security fencing which will be established at an early stage during construction to protect the Scheme. The fence will be a 'deer fence', up to 3m in height. CCTV cameras will also be installed around the perimeter of the site. Lighting sensors for security purposes will be deployed around the electrical infrastructure and potentially around other pieces of critical infrastructure. This is described further in Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p>
Topic Area: Other Environmental Topics		
Comment	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<p>Concerned about the safety of the lithium battery storage system, the chemical components it comprises, and risk posed to human health, wildlife and ecology in the event of fire or leakage giving rise to release of toxic fumes/chemicals</p> <p>Request that measures are put in place to mitigate for risk of battery fire, and emergency services are trained, equipped and provided with access to the site in the event a major incident.</p>	N	<p>Health and Safety is a core principle for the Applicant who manages around 1 in 5 solar farms in GB.</p> <p>Lithium batteries have been used for decades in our society with very low instances of fires relative to use. But it is recognised that there is a risk to the technology due to potential damage caused to the equipment through transportation and installation.</p> <p>The Applicant has brought in Dr Paul Christensen from Newcastle University to advise on the latest worldwide safety protocols associated with Lithium-Ion technology, along with the Lincolnshire FRS to advise on design and a safety management plan and to provide the emergency services with relevant information if requested. This will be refreshed prior to construction to ensure the highest safety standards are incorporated in the design</p>



		<p>and ensure minimal impact on the environment. The Applicant has had a virtual meeting with Lincolnshire's Fire and Rescue team and this engagement will continue throughout the development, construction and operation of the Scheme.</p> <p>The Applicant has embedded mitigation within the Scheme design and has included an Outline Battery Fire Safety Management Plan in its DCO application [EN010106/APP/7.1]. This outline plan sets out how the Scheme proposes to mitigate and manage the potential fire risk posed by the BESS.</p>
<p>Impact of 'Glint & Glare' on local communities, livestock, commercial and military sectors.</p> <p>Concerned that a 'Glint and Glare' study has not been carried out, and request that the study carried out examines fire risk associated with PV panels reflecting sunlight.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>A Glint and Glare Assessment is provided within Appendix 15-D [EN010106/APP/3.3].</p> <p>An assessment of fire risk is included within the Major Accidents and Disaster Section of Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics [EN010106/APP/3.1].</p>
<p>Concerned that existing underground utilities and pipelines within the DCO site are located identified to avoid damage/disruption – particularly during construction phase.</p> <p>Specific concern cited in respect of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Gas pipelines 		<p>All utility services have been identified and will be accurately geo-located prior to any construction activities. All prevalent easement and safe working widths along with crossing requirements will be observed.</p>
<p>Concerned about detrimental effect construction and operation of solar park will have on air quality due to emissions associated with increased volume of HGV and traffic on local roads.</p> <p>Specific concerns cited regarding emission impact on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Human health / respiratory issues – Wildlife habitat and ecology 	<p>N</p>	<p>The Applicant has assessed the risk of dust and particulate matter impacts during construction and operation (including on human health, wildlife habitat and verges) in the Air Quality section within Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics EN010131/APP/3.1. The assessment concludes that the impacts of the Scheme both during construction and operation, on local air quality are not significant. Mitigation measures to reduce potential air quality and dust impacts have been incorporated in the Framework CEMP [EN010131/APP/7.3].</p>



– Verges		
Concern about PV panel inefficiency resulting in radiation of heat being back into the atmosphere having harmful effect.		The solar panels are designed to absorb light rather than absorb or reflect heat. Inevitably the air temperature above panels can become slightly warmer than the surrounding air, however this effect is considered to be negligible and not sufficient to cause any micro-climate effects or ecological effects (see Chapter 6: Climate [EN010131/APP/3.1]).
Spoil/debris/mud being deposited by HGV and construction vehicles on local roads will increase the risk of road traffic accidents during wet weather.	N	As stated in Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010131/APP/3.1] a self-contained wheel wash will be installed near the site exits onsite to be used by vehicles prior to exiting the Site onto the public highway. For loads unable to use the fixed wheel wash, localised wheel washing would be set up to cater for these individually and as required to prevent detrimental effect to the highway.
Plans for recycling/safe disposal of all equipment and technology used on the solar park needs to be clarified. Concern that PV panels have a limited operational lifespan and limited consideration has been given to disposal of equipment/kit when it reaches the end of its operational life; or the decommissioning of the solar park when it reaches end of operation.		The Waste and Recycling Section within Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics [EN010131/APP/3.1] confirms the design life and replacement frequency for the main components of the Scheme, including the panels and batteries. It anticipated that replacement of the modules will be considered after 30 years of operation. Recycling routes are generally available for these materials at present. When the time comes for these elements to be replaced, several decades into the future, it is likely that there will be even greater opportunities for recycling, not least because the market will have expanded to meet demand as PV installations increase.
Installation of CCTV around the site perimeter is an invasion of privacy.	N	CCTV is to observe internal movement within the site, not externally.
Topic Area: Cumulative Effects & Interactions		
Comment	Development Change?	Applicant Response
There are too many solar NSIP projects proposed as being developed in the local area / West Lindsey District,		The Applicant has had regard to developments in the surrounding area in its cumulative assessment, which has been undertaken in each of the technical chapters of the ES and



<p>the cumulative impacts of which have not been adequately assessed.</p> <p>Topics /areas on which further assessment of cumulative impacts is requested include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visual impact - Local ecology and wildlife - Loss of agricultural land and impact on food supply chain - Drainage and flood risk - Human health, safety and wellbeing - Construction - Construction traffic <p>Request for clarification on measures being taken to reduce cumulative impact of multiple solar projects in the local area.</p>		<p>summarised in Chapter 16: Cumulative Effects and Interactions of the ES [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p> <p>Measures being taken to reduce the cumulative impact of multiple solar projects in the local area include a commitment to a shared Grid Connection Corridor as outlined in Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN010131/APP/3.1]. Other commitments are outlined in Chapter 16: Cumulative Effects and Interactions [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p>
<p>Welcome Low Carbon working collaboratively with Island Green Power to maximise opportunities to reduce cumulative impacts of multiple solar NSIP projects – specifically the development of a shared route corridor for the grid connection.</p> <p>Concerned about the cumulative impacts construction of grid connections for multiple solar NSIP projects will have on wildlife and ecology, agriculture, the River Trent, and local roads. Developers should seek to mitigate these cumulative construction impacts.</p> <p>Suggestions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sharing haul roads - using existing rail links at Cottam and West Burton Power Stations. 		<p>Given the proximity of Gate Burton Energy Park to the proposed Island Green Power Cottam and West Burton solar projects, we have worked together to identify opportunities for a single shared grid connection area for the projects; the aim being to maximise opportunities for reducing overall environmental and social effects, in particular on communities in proximity to the Grid Connection Corridor, and sensitive heritage and ecological receptors adjacent to the River Trent.</p> <p>The outcome from this work has resulted in us together identifying a shared Grid Connection Corridor, including sharing haul roads. In addition, we have shared contractors for intrusive works including archeology and cable route engineers.</p> <p>Consideration of the cumulative impacts of the Gate Burton Scheme with Cottam Solar Project, West Burton Solar Project and Tillbridge Solar is included within Chapter 16: Cumulative Effects and Interactions [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p>



<p>Request to collaborate with Tillbridge Solar project developer in respect of Grid Connection Corridors for it going through the Gate Burton Energy Park DCO site</p>		<p>In terms of transporting materials using existing rail links there is no rail infrastructure (stations/ sidings) in close proximity to the Solar and Energy Storage Park to suggest that there would be the potential to bring materials by rail.</p> <p>The Applicant will collaborate with Tillbridge Solar Project in respect of the Grid Connection Corridor, but recognises that the differences in timings of the projects may affect this.</p>
<p>Request that The Planning Inspectorate examines the DCO applications for Gate Burton Energy Park, Cottam Solar Project, West Burton Solar Project and Tillbridge Solar in combination.</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>We have made all reasonable efforts to liaise and collaborate, where it is appropriate to do so, with all of the other project developers including on the issues of cumulative impact and common cable route corridors. Ultimately, the examination process is a matter for the Planning Inspectorate to determine.</p>

9.6 Conclusion

- 9.6.1 As detailed in this chapter, the Applicant considers that it has fulfilled its statutory duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity, pursuant to s49 of the PA 2008. This chapter explains the process the Applicant undertook to analyse the feedback received to the statutory consultation under s42 and s47 of the PA 2008. The Applicant did not receive any feedback that could be identified as being specifically submitted as a result of the publicity carried out as required by s48.
- 9.6.2 In compliance with the DCLG Guidance on the pre-application process (March 2015), the Applicant received no responses which advised major changes to the Scheme. As detailed in **Tables 9-3 and 9-4**, the Applicant has addressed responses where changes have been proposed or objections made and has provided responses to how they have had regard to them.

10. Targeted Consultation

10.1 Overview

10.1.1 Through ongoing engineering and construction review, design evolution of the Scheme proposals resulted in the Applicant making a number of localised changes to the indicative Order Limits that had been consulted on from 22 June to 05 August 2022. The changes related to minor additions to the indicative Order Limits resulting in a small increase in land take.

10.1.2 These did not give rise to any potential changes in environmental effects and were limited to:

- Removal of vegetation along the verge/highway to improve visibility for vehicles accessing construction compounds
- Inclusion of additional land within adopted highway to enable access for larger vehicles
- Inclusion of additional land within adopted highway to facilitate highway improvements to accommodate abnormal indivisible loads
- Inclusion of additional land within adopted highway to enable connection of existing utilities with the sub-station and battery storage facility
- Inclusion of additional land to allow flexibility during construction for installation of cable connections and access to Cottam substation
- Adjustment of the indicative Order Limits to align with ownership and/or field boundaries

10.1.3 The location and details of these additions are listed in **Table 10-1** below. A map showing the location of the additional areas on the Scheme boundary with individual maps of each localised change is set out in **Appendix I-1**.

Table 10-1 – Description of the localised changes to the Indicative Order Limits

Location	Reason for change	Description of change
Kexby Lane East	Transport and access requirements	The Order Limits have been changed to accommodate the potential for areas of vegetation removal along the highway. This will ensure there is sufficient visibility for vehicles to safely access the construction compounds.
Kexby Lane West	Transport and access requirements	The Order Limits have been changed to accommodate the potential for areas of vegetation removal along the highway. This will ensure there is sufficient visibility for vehicles to access the construction compounds safely.
Within site – adjacent to main construction access	Due diligence	The Order Limits have been adjusted to align with the ownership and field boundary.
A156 – west of Gate Burton	Engineering and feasibility	The Order Limits have been changed to allow for connection to an existing water main along the A156 - enabling provision of a water supply directly to the sub-station and battery storage facility. The exact point of connection is still to be determined and will be confirmed in the detailed design.
A156 – Willingham Road	Engineering and feasibility	The Order Limits have been changed to allow for a proposed connection to an existing water main along the A156/Willingham Road, so water can be provided to the sub-station and battery storage facility. The exact point of connection is still to be determined and will be confirmed at detailed design.
A156 – 1500 (Stow Park Road) / Littleborough Road junction	Transport and access requirements	The Order Limits have been changed to accommodate highway improvements at this junction. This is to accommodate abnormal indivisible loads travelling to the Solar and Energy Storage Park (north) and the Grid Connection Corridor (south).
A156 South of Marton (northern extension)	Transport and access requirements	The Order Limits have been changed to accommodate the potential for areas of vegetation removal along the highway. This will ensure there is sufficient visibility for vehicles to access the proposed Grid Connection Corridor safely
A156 South of Marton (southern extension)	Transport and access requirements	The Order Limits have been changed to accommodate the potential for areas of vegetation removal along the highway. This will ensure there is sufficient visibility for vehicles to access the proposed Grid Connection Corridor safely
Land south/east of Broad Lane and Headstead Bank	Engineering and feasibility	The Order Limits have been widened to follow the field boundaries which will allow flexibility for installation of the 400kV cable connections from Gate Burton Energy Park to the substation.

Headstead Bank/Town Street, Cottam	Transport and access requirements	The Order Limits have been changed to allow for abnormal indivisible loads accessing the Grid Connection Corridor. Improvements may need to be made along this stretch of road to enable access for larger vehicles.
Cottam Road (eastern extension)	Transport and access requirements	The Order Limits have been changed to accommodate the potential for areas of vegetation removal along the highway. This will ensure there is sufficient visibility for vehicles to access the proposed Grid Connection Corridor safely
Cottam Road (western extension)	Transport and access requirements	The Order Limits have been changed to accommodate the potential for areas of vegetation removal along the highway. This will ensure there is sufficient visibility for vehicles to access the proposed Cable Connection Corridor safely.
Green Lane/Rampton Road Junction	Transport and access requirements	The Order Limits have been changed to allow for abnormal indivisible loads accessing the Grid Connection Corridor. Improvements may need to be made to the junction to enable access for larger vehicles turning.
North of Cottam Substation	Engineering and feasibility	The Order Limits have been changed to enable the grid connection into Cottam Substation.
Marton Road	Transport and access requirements	The Order Limits have been changed to accommodate the potential for areas of vegetation removal along the highway. This will ensure there is sufficient visibility for vehicles to safely access the site.
Land south of Park Farm	Due diligence	The Order Limits have been adjusted to align with the ownership and field boundary

10.2 Approach To Targeted Consultation

- 10.2.1 This section provides details of the targeted consultation the Applicant undertook in respect of the localised changes to the indicative Order Limits as noted above in addition to statutory consultation.
- 10.2.2 In light of the localised changes described above the Applicant considered how best to consult on the additional areas.
- 10.2.3 In determining how to consult on the additional areas required, the Applicant had regard to paragraphs 73-77 of the PA 2008 DCLG pre-application guidance.
- 10.2.4 Paragraph 73 states: *“Applicants are not expected to repeat consultation rounds set out in their Statement of Community Consultation unless the project proposals have changed very substantially. However, where proposals change to such a large degree that what is being taken forward is*

fundamentally different from what was consulted on, further consultation may well be needed. This may be necessary if, for example, new information arises which renders all previous options unworkable or invalid for some reason. When considering the need for additional consultation, applicants should use the degree of change, the effect on the local community and the level of public interest as guiding factors.”

10.2.5 **Table 10-1** sets out the localised changes required. Having given consideration to the degree of change, the effect on the local community and level of public interest, the Applicant determined that the localised changes proposed were minor and did not change the Scheme ‘very substantially’, and therefore deemed there to be no requirement to repeat consultation on the Statement of Community Consultation.

10.2.6 Having determined the changes as minor, paragraphs 75-76 are relevant:

75. ‘If the application only changes to a small degree, or if the change only affects part of the development, then it is not necessary for an applicant to undertake a full re-consultation. Where a proposed application is amended in light of consultation responses then, unless those amendments materially change the application or materially changes its impacts, the amendments themselves should not trigger a need for further consultation. Instead, the applicant should ensure that all affected statutory consultees and local communities are informed of the changes’.

76. ‘In circumstances where a particular issue has arisen during the preapplication consultation, or where it is localised in nature, it may be appropriate to hold a non-statutory, targeted consultation. A developer’s Statement of Community Consultation should be drafted so that it does not preclude this approach. A more bespoke approach can be adopted, which may allow developers to respond with more agility to the issue at hand. If adopting this approach, the emphasis should be on ensuring that relevant individuals and organisations are included’.

10.2.7 Given the nature of the minor changes, and in context of PA 2008 DCLG pre-application guidance the Applicant did not consider that the ‘*proposed application changes to such a large degree that the proposals could be considered a new application*’ or that it ‘*materially change[s] the application or materially changes its impacts*’.

10.2.8 The additional areas and associated activities including their nature, extent and duration were reviewed as part of the environmental assessment. The findings of this assessment determined that they did not change the significant effects of the environmental impact assessment that was set out in PEI Report the findings of which the Applicant sought views on through statutory consultation. In context of the PA 2008 DCLG pre-application guidance it was therefore considered that the Scheme remained the same Scheme as was consulted on during earlier statutory consultation as set out in **Chapter 6**.

10.2.9 The Applicant thus determined that while consultation under section 47 of the PA 2008 was unnecessary, the changes involved an extension to the Order Limits and additional Compulsory Acquisition Powers over those additional areas. A diligent inquiry process (as set out in **Chapter 7**) was undertaken to

identify the land interests potentially affected by the additional areas identified, and the Applicant adopted a strategy whereby targeted consultation was delivered to provide the opportunity for the following consultees to provide any views and comments on the additional areas identified:

- Section 42(1)(a) and (b) consultees
- Section 42(1)(d) consultees – persons having an interest in land affected by the additions to the indicative Order Limits
- Local communities in vicinity of the localised changes

10.2.10 Section 45 of the PA 2008 requires the Applicant, when consulting a person under section 42, to notify the person of the deadline for receipt by the Applicant of the persons response to the consultation. The deadline must not be earlier than the end of the period of 28 days, beginning with the day after the day on which the person received the consultation documents.

10.2.11 Targeted Consultation on localised changes to the Scheme ran from 03 November to 13 December 2022 – a consultation period of 41 days which exceeds the minimum period of 28 days as required by the PA 2008. The consultation period was extended in acknowledgement of postal strikes planned for November 2022 to ensure all parties had a period of over 28 days to respond.

10.2.12 The Applicant provided information on localised changes by writing to those consultees set out in **section 10.2.9** above, providing them with information on each of the areas additional to the indicative Order Limits as set out in **Table 10-1**; also advising them where the same information could be additionally viewed online on the Scheme website.

10.2.13 Comments on the localised changes detailed in the written communication issued were invited either by submitting feedback online via the Scheme website or emailed to info@gateburtonenergypark.com, or in writing to the Applicant at FREEPOST GATE BURTON ENERGY PARK.

10.2.14 The activity carried out to deliver this further stage of targeted consultation and a summary of the feedback received and how the Applicant has had regard to the feedback is set out in the following sections of this chapter.

10.3 Targeted Consultation Activity

10.3.1 The SoCC as published on 08 June 2022 provided the Applicant with the option to pursue further consultation if necessary (see **Appendix D-1**). Having regard to DCLG guidance on the pre-application process, given the nature of the minor additions proposed the Applicant considered it was proportionate and appropriate to notify prescribed bodies, those with an interest in land affected by the proposed changes, and local communities in vicinity of the additional areas – providing them with information about the localised changes and inviting them to provide feedback.

10.3.2 The Applicant met with representatives from host authorities in October 2022 and informed them of the scope of the targeted consultation. Further to this

meeting taking place, on 28 October 2022 the Applicant issued representatives from the host authorities with an email to provide a document setting out the rationale and methodology on how targeted consultation on the localised changes would be delivered along with a plan showing the indicative Order Limits presented during statutory consultation and the additional areas (see **Appendix I-2 to I-4**).

Targeted Consultation Information And Documents

- 10.3.3 As set out in the Targeted Consultation Methodology (see **Appendix I-2**), the Applicant produced a suite of collateral in digital and print format providing information on the localised changes to the indicative Order Limits being consulted on.
- 10.3.4 These were made available from the launch of the targeted consultation on 03 November 2022, when the Applicant updated the Scheme website to provide information about the localised changes being consulted on and the facility for consultees to provide feedback online. Formatted documents mirroring the content on the website were produced – a Consultation Information Leaflet and a Feedback Form – with printed copies of these being enclosed in communications directly mailed to consultees (see **Appendix I-6** and **Appendix I-7**).

Scheme Website

- 10.3.5 The Scheme website – [REDACTED] – was updated on the first day of targeted consultation (03 November 2022) to include a dedicated webpage setting out information about the targeted consultation and the localised changes being consulted on and an online feedback form through which submissions to the consultation could be made.
- 10.3.6 The website home page was updated to clearly signpost people to the information on which feedback was being sought, and an online facility through which feedback could be submitted. During targeted consultation, the Applicant continued to make all the consultation materials produced for previous stages of consultation available on the Scheme website including the PEI Report.
- 10.3.7 Screenshots of the updated Scheme website can be found in **Appendix I-5**.
- 10.3.8 The website address was publicised across all the communications issued to notify people about the targeted consultation and provide information of the localised changes being consulted on, as well as the press release circulated to regional media (see **Appendix I-20**).
- 10.3.9 The website was visited throughout the targeted consultation period; with a peak in visitors during within the first days of the consultation launching when letters communicating details about it were delivered. Site traffic levelled off through consultation period, peaking again towards the end when the communications reminding people of the closing date for submissions were issued.
- 10.3.10 Over the targeted consultation period the website was viewed a total of 355 times, of which 288 were new users. There were 1,750 clicks made

through to links / pages. Visitor numbers to the website over the period of statutory consultation can be seen in the graphic below.

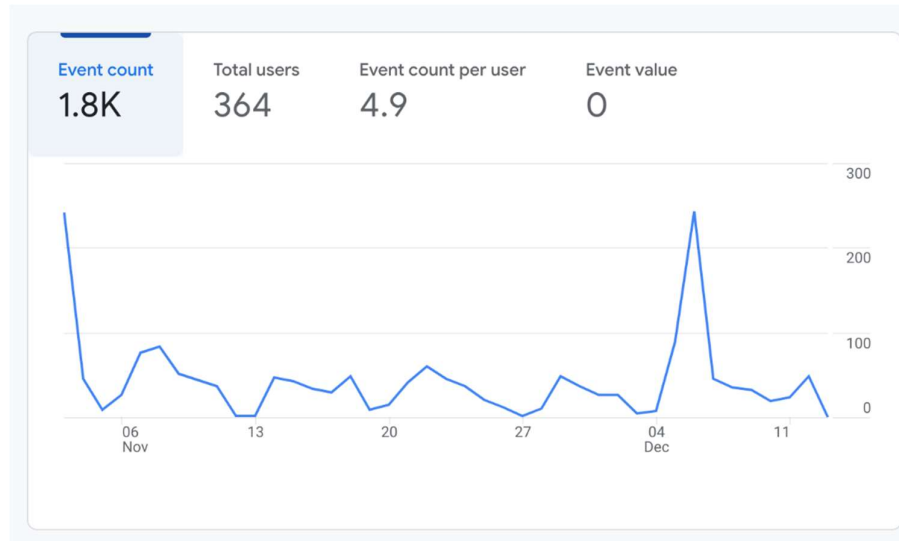


Figure10-1: Targeted Consultation web analytics

Consultation Information Leaflet

10.3.11 The Applicant produced a Consultation Information Leaflet in which set out the same information as included on the dedicated webpage on the Scheme website to provide information on the localised changes and the targeted consultation. The leaflet included:

- The context for the targeted consultation;
- A summary map showing the location of the localised changes proposed as being made to the indicative Order Limits;
- A map and description of each additional area proposed and the reason for it;
- Details of how to provide feedback to the consultation.

10.3.12 The leaflet was enclosed with the letters issued to all consultees, and a digital version was available to download from Scheme website. Printed and digital copies were also made available on request.

10.3.13 A copy of the Consultation Information Leaflet can be found in **Appendix I-6**.

Feedback Form

10.3.14 To give consultees the option to submit written feedback to the targeted consultation, the Applicant produced and made available a formatted version of the online feedback form on the Scheme website.

10.3.15 Formatted as a four-page document, it invited consultees to provide comments on any of the additional areas proposed. The feedback form provided a brief overview of context for the targeted consultation, the different ways in which feedback could be submitted, directing consultees to the

website where more information about the localised changes being consulted on could be found.

10.3.16 The Feedback Form was enclosed together with the Consultation Information Leaflet in the communications issued to all consultees (see **section 10.4** and **10.5**). A digital version was available to download from the Scheme website and printed and digital copies were made available on request.

10.3.17 A copy of the feedback form can be found in **Appendix I-7**.

Collection Of Responses

10.3.18 Consultees were able to respond to the statutory consultation using a number of methods:

- Submitting comments online via the Scheme website by providing comments in response to the question.
- Completing the Project Feedback Form in either digital or printed format and returning it by email to info@gateburtonenergypark.co.uk or sending it by post to FREEPOST GATE BURTON ENERGY PARK.
- The Applicant also accepted written responses by email and by letter sent to the project email (info@gateburtonenergypark.co.uk) or FREEPOST GATE BURTON ENERGY PARK

10.4 Targeted Consultation – S42(1)(d) Consultation

Identification Of Section 42(1)(d) Interests

10.4.1 In advance of the targeted consultation the Applicant carried out diligent inquiries (in line with the process set out in **Chapter 7** above) to identify persons with an interest in land in the additional areas.

10.4.2 These persons are listed in **Appendix I-8** and fall in to three categories:

1. Those previously consulted in the statutory consultation carried out between 22 June and 05 August 2022 but who have additional interests in the additional areas.
2. Those who have a subsoil interest only in the additional areas.
3. Those who have not been consulted previously in relation to the Scheme.

10.4.3 The Applicant prepared the following materials to carry out the section 42(1)(d) Targeted Consultation:

- A covering letter providing an overview of the localised changes being consulted on and the consultation process. Different versions of this letter were prepared for:
 - **Appendix I-9**, ‘persons identified as having an interest in the land in the additional areas who had not previously been consulted – also directing them to the consultation materials from the 22 June to 05 August 2022 statutory consultation’ (see **Chapter 6**)

- **Appendix I-10**, ‘persons identified as having an interest in the land in the additional areas adjacent to the highway up to the highway point and presumed to own the subsoil under the highway surface within the indicative order limits soil who had not previously been consulted – also directing them to the consultation materials from the 22 June to 05 August 2022 statutory consultation’ (see **Chapter 6**)
 - **Appendix I-11**, ‘persons identified as having an interest in the land in the additional areas who were previously consulted in the 22 June to 05 August 2022 statutory consultation, which did not include directions to the consultation materials from 22 June to 05 August 2022 statutory consultation’.
- A printed plan showing the indicative Order Limits presented during statutory consultation with the additional areas indicated (see **Appendix I-3**)
 - A printed plan showing the individual’s land interest
 - A Targeted Consultation Information Booklet explaining the rationale for each change to the indicative Order Limits with additional maps (see **Appendix I-6**)
 - A Targeted Consultation Feedback Form (see **Appendix I-7**)
 - A printed copy of the Feedback Form from 22 June to 05 August statutory consultation was additionally inserted into the pack issued to persons with an interest in land in the additional areas who were not previously consulted under section 42(1)(d) during the statutory consultation carried out between 22 June and 05 August 2022 (see **Appendix E-10**).
- 10.4.4 The Applicant issued the relevant covering letters and targeted consultation materials to all the identified section 42(1)(d) consultees by Recorded Delivery on 02 November 2022 in advance of targeted consultation starting on 03 November 2022.
- 10.4.5 The covering letters (see **Appendices I-9 to I-11**) accompanying the targeted consultation materials clearly stated that the deadline for responses to be received was 13 December 2022.
- 10.4.6 A number of new land interests were identified during the targeted consultation period through ongoing diligent inquiry. The Applicant wrote to these consultees by recorded delivery setting out the background to the Scheme, the Applicant’s intention to submit a DCO application, the fact that the Applicant had identified them as a consultee under s42(1)(d) of the PA 2008, the documents being provided as part of the consultation, and how to respond to the consultation. These land interests were each provided with a minimum of 28 days to respond to the consultation. Details of these land interests are included in **Appendix I-8**.

Notification Of The Planning Inspectorate

- 10.4.7 The Applicant sent a copy of the Targeted Consultation Materials, including the proposed methodology to PINS on 02 November 2022 and provided a high-level summary of the nature of the localised changes in a virtual teams meeting, also on 02 November 2022.

10.5 Targeted Consultation – Section 42(1) (a), (b) And Local Communities In Vicinity Of The Localised Changes

10.5.1 The Applicant carried out targeted consultation relating to the localised changes to the indicative Order Limits for the scheme as set out in **Table 10-1** during the defined consultation period 03 November to 13 December 2022 with section (1)(a) and (b) consultees, and the local communities in vicinity of the localised changes.

Section 42(1)(a), 42(1)(aa) And 42(1)(b) Parties

10.5.2 The Applicant prepared the following materials to carry out the section 42(1)(a), 42(1)(aa) and (b) Targeted Consultation:

- A covering letter providing an overview of the localised changes being consulted on and the consultation process (see **Appendix I-12**)
- A printed plan showing the indicative Order Limits presented during statutory consultation with the additional areas indicated (see **Appendix I-3**)
- A Targeted Consultation Information Booklet explaining the rationale for each change to the indicative Order Limits with additional maps (see **Appendix I-6**)
- A Targeted Consultation Feedback Form (see **Appendix I-7**)

10.5.3 The Applicant issued the covering letters and targeted consultation materials to all the identified section 42(1)(a) and (b) consultees by Royal Mail 1st Class on 31 October 2022 in advance of targeted consultation starting on 03 November 2022.

10.5.4 The covering letter (see **Appendix I-12**) accompanying the targeted consultation materials clearly stated that the deadline for responses to be received was 13 December 2022. The Applicant also included a copy of the Section 48 notice (see **Appendix E-21**).

Local Communities In Vicinity Of The Localised Changes

10.5.5 The Applicant undertook targeted consultation on the additional areas to the indicative Order Limits with selected local communities in vicinity of the localised changes.

10.5.6 Given the minor nature of the additional areas, the Applicant initially applied a minimum 200m radius from each additional area to determine those communities as being within vicinity of the changes, with the same principles as set out in **Chapter 6, section 6.3** being used to refine the targeted consultation zone defined.

10.5.7 A map illustrating the targeted consultation zones used for targeted consultation is available in **Appendix I-13**. The selected areas in combination include 610 addresses.

10.5.8 Diligent inquiry was undertaken to identify whether any of the addresses within the defined consultation areas were the addresses of the following:

- persons identified as having an interest in land previously consulted in the 22 June to 05 August 2022 statutory consultation but having no interest in the additional areas
- persons identified as having an interest in the land in the additional areas being consulted as part of the s42(1)(d) targeted consultation.

10.5.9 The Applicant identified 23 addresses within the defined targeted consultation zones that would be consulted as part of the s42(1)(d) consultation which were removed from the database to avoid duplication.

10.5.10 The Applicant then prepared and sent the following materials to the remaining 587 addresses within the targeted consultation zones identified:

- A covering letter providing an overview of the localised changes being consulted on and the targeted consultation process. Different versions of this letter were prepared and sent to:
 - **Appendix I-14**, ‘residential and business addresses with no interests in the land previously consulted in the 22 June to 05 August 2022 statutory consultation, or the additional areas being consulted in the 3 November to 13 December 2022 targeted consultation. This letter was sent to 536 addresses’.
 - **Appendix I-15**, ‘persons with an interest in land previously consulted in the 22 June to 05 August 2022 statutory consultation but having no interest in land in the additional areas being consulted in the 3 November to 13 December 2022 targeted consultation. This letter was sent to 51 addresses’.
- A Targeted Consultation Information Booklet providing a map showing the location of the localised changes proposed to the indicative Order Limits, a map and description of each additional area proposed and the rationale explaining each change to the indicative Order Limits with additional maps (see **Appendix I-6**)
- A Targeted Consultation Feedback Form (see **Appendix I-7**)

10.5.11 In addition to mailing addresses within the defined targeted consultation zone, the Applicant also issued materials with the covering letter shown in **Appendix I-15** to those persons with an interest in the land previously consulted in the 22 June to 05 August 2022 statutory consultation but having no interest in land in the additional areas being consulted in the 03 November to 13 December 2022 targeted consultation at addresses beyond the defined targeted consultation zones. This letter was sent to 153 addresses.

10.5.12 A total of 740 addresses were sent information about the targeted consultation.

10.5.13 The Applicant issued the covering letters and targeted consultation materials to all 783 addresses by Royal Mail 2nd Class on 1 November 2022, so

information would be delivered in or around targeted consultation starting on 03 November 2022 when the Scheme website was updated.

Parties Representing The Interests Of Communities In Vicinity Of Localised Changes

10.5.14 The Applicant, having determined those communities in vicinity of the localised changes, also prepared and issued the following materials to those elected members and bodies representing the communities identified:

- A covering letter providing an overview of the localised changes being consulted on and the targeted consultation process including details of how it was being communicated, as well as the offer to meet and brief representatives in person. Different versions of this letter were prepared and sent to:
 - **Appendix I-16**, ‘members of parliament whose Westminster constituency communities identified as being in vicinity of the localised changes lie within’
 - **Appendix I-17**, ‘county council members whose electoral divisions/wards communities identified as being in vicinity of the localised changes lie within’
 - **Appendix I-18**, ‘district council ward members whose electoral divisions/wards communities identified as being in vicinity of the localised changes lie within’
 - **Appendix I-19**, ‘the clerks for parish councils whose parish communities identified as being in vicinity of the localised changes lie within’
- A Targeted Consultation Information Booklet explaining the rationale for each change to the indicative Order Limits with additional maps (see **Appendix I-6**)
- A Targeted Consultation Feedback Form (see **Appendix I-7**)

10.5.15 The Applicant issued the covering letters and targeted consultation materials as set out in this chapter (10), section 10.5.10 all the identified in **Table 10-2** below by Royal Mail 2nd Class on 01 November 2022 so information would be delivered in or around targeted consultation starting on 03 November 2022.

10.5.16 An email providing the same information was also issued to the individuals identified in **Table 10-2** below on 03 November 2022 when targeted consultation had started and the Scheme website was updated. (See **Appendices I-16 to I-19**)

Table 10-2 List of parties identified as representing the interest of communities in vicinity of the localised changes

Elected representatives / parish councils

West Lindsey District Council Members

Cllr Jessie Milne (CON – Lea)
Cllr Tracey Coulson (CON – Stow)
Cllr Jane Ellis (CON – Torksey)

Bassetlaw District Council Members

Cllr Anthony Coultate (CON – Rampton)

Cllr James Naish (CON – Sturton)

Lincolnshire County Council Member

Cllr Richard Butroid (CON – Gainsborough Rural South)

Nottinghamshire County Council

Cllr John Ogle (CON – Tuxford)

Members of Parliament

Mr Brendan Clarke-Smith MP (CON – Bassetlaw)

Rt Hon. Sir Edward Leigh MP (CON – Gainsborough)

Rt Hon. Robert Jenrick MP (CON – Newark)

Parish Councils

Kexby Parish Council (Clerk – Mr Geoff Payne)

Knaith Parish Council (Clerk – Ms Ella Coulson)

Marton & Gate Burton Parish Council (Clerk – Mrs G Martin)

North Leverton with Hablesthorpe Parish Council (Clerk – Ms Sara Stillard)

Rampton & Woodbeck Parish Council (Clerk - Claire Challener)

South Leverton (Clerk – Mr Ed Knox)

Treswell & Cottam Parish Council (Clerk – Ms Sara Stillard)

Willingham Parish Council (Clerk – Ms Lisa Brooks-Sleight)

Additional Communications

10.5.17 A press release was issued to local and regional media outlets on 03 November 2022 when targeted consultation started as part of an ongoing media relations programme. The press release provided context for the targeted consultation, a high-level summary of the information being consulted on and how people could take part, while directing people to the Scheme website for more details. A further press release was issued two weeks before the close of consultation on 29 November 2022 to remind people of the deadline for comments. A final press release was issued immediately following the close of targeted consultation on 14 December 2022 to provide a summary of the consultation. A copy of each press release was also posted on the Scheme website news page.

10.5.18 **Table 10-3** below lists those local and regional media outlets to whom press releases were issued. Copies of the press releases issued are set out in **Appendix I-20**.

Table 10-3 List of local and regional media outlets to which the press release publicising targeted consultation was issued on 03 November 2022, 29 November 2022, and 14 December 2022

Lincolnshire media outlets

BBC Look North

BBC Radio Lincolnshire

Nottinghamshire media outlets

BBC Radio Nottingham

Nottinghamshire in Focus

Gainsborough Life	Nottinghamshire Live
The Gainsborough Standard	Nottingham Local News
The Grantham Journal	Nottingham Post
The Lincolnite	
Lincolnshire Echo	
Lincolnshire Free Press	
Lincolnshire In Focus	
Lincolnshire Life	
Lincolnshire Live	
Lincolnshire Reporter	
Lincolnshire Today	
Lincolnshire World	
Market Rasen Mail	
Retford Life	
Retford Times	

10.5.19 The press release issued generated editorial coverage, and the Scheme itself also attracted media coverage during consultation. **Table 10-4** below itemises editorial appearing about the targeted consultation.

Table 10-4 Media coverage regarding targeted consultation

Media outlet	Date
Lincolnshire World – Still chance to have your say on proposed Gate Burton Energy Park plans	9 th November 2022
Business Link – Firms asked to look at changes to Gate Burton Energy Park Plans	30 th November

10.5.20 Copies of all the media coverage can be found in **Appendix I-21**.

10.5.21 As part of ongoing social media activity posts were made from the Gate Burton Energy Park Facebook and Instagram pages on 03 November 2022 (see **Appendix I-22**) to publicise the targeted consultation and signpost people to the Scheme website.

10.5.22 An email notification was issued to individuals and organisations who had registered their details with the project to receive updates when targeted consultation opened on 03 November 2022, advising them that the Scheme website had been updated with information and give them the opportunity to take part in the targeted consultation.

10.5.23 The email was issued to 147 project registrants – the total number of individuals and organisations registering their details to receive project updates by 03 November 2022 when the targeted consultation opened.

10.5.24 A copy of the email notification issued to project registrants can be found in **Appendix I-23**.

10.6 Summary Of Responses To Targeted Consultation And Regard Had To Them

Section 42 Responses To Targeted Consultation

- 10.6.1 In total of **33** consultees responded to the Section 42 targeted re-consultation including two late responses.
- 10.6.2 Responses that contained comments relating to the project or specific issues relating to the changes to indicative Order Limits were received from:
- Willingham By Stow Parish Council
 - Health and Safety Executive
 - Uniper
 - Marton & Gate Burton Parish Council
 - Lincolnshire County Council
- 10.6.3 General comments raised that did not refer to changes in indicative Order Limits included:
- Concern for safety of children and residents crossing roads and Howson House residents
 - Loss of agricultural land
 - Impact on wildlife and archaeology
 - Loss of footpaths and byways during construction
 - Suitability of local roads for construction traffic
 - Rainwater run-off
- 10.6.4 Comments raised that referred to changes in indicative Order Limits included:
- Change 10 appears to fall within consultation zones for a nearby major accident pipeline. The Applicant will need to notify the pipeline operator and get permission prior to any construction work being carried out within the vicinity of the pipeline easement.
 - Change 14 appears to fall within zones for a nearby major accident hazard site, however the change represents an extension to an already impacted area from the previous boundary proposal.
 - Have regard for a buried high pressure natural gas pipeline which runs through the proposed site.
 - Change Numbers 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 15 regarding highways works and potential vegetation removal along the highway: Aligned with the Council's PEIR comments, would expect the extents of any vegetation removal be clearly indicated and any tree or hedgerow removal be surveyed to BS 5837 (2012)
 - Existing retained vegetation (hedgerows and trees) and associated root protection areas (RPA) adjacent to removals and construction activity need to be protected and depending on the proximity of works this may need to be to BS 5837.
 - Request that vegetation removal is avoided where possible, or where necessary is either kept to a minimum or that where possible the translocation of hedgerows is investigated. Expect that any vegetation lost

to accommodate the development or associated enabling works is replaced with suitable species, quantity and specification as part of the wider mitigation scheme. Any landscape and visual effects of this vegetation removal should be considered as part of the assessment as this may open up views and/or change landscape character in the wider area.

Section 47 Responses To Targeted Consultation

- 10.6.5 There were **37** responses to the Section 47 targeted re-consultation, including five late responses. Issues raised included broad comments relating to the project alongside specific comments relating to the indicative Order Limit changes.
- 10.6.6 General comments raised that did not refer to changes in indicative Order Limits included:
- Use of agricultural land/food security
 - Concern relating to highways safety and disruption to local traffic
 - Concern relating to the size and weight of the abnormal invisible load
 - Concern regarding the use of the word 'requirement' which would mean regulation. A request to provide evidence of the regularly conditions that must be satisfied in each additional change
 - Concern that identified changes do not identify alternative considerations
 - Concern relating to road through a village school area
 - Concern relating to removal of vegetation causing impact for wildlife
 - Replacement sections should include native species and avoid removal of larger trees. Concern regarding impact on nesting birds and recommendation to avoid nesting bird season.
 - Recommendation to create a permissive footpath between Willingham Road (Marton) and Clay Lane (Gate Burton)
 - Impact on existing footpaths around Knaith Park
 - Concern relating to definition of 'indicative Order Limits'; in particular that the areas could be used for solar panels to the west of the river Trent and surrounding the village of Cottam
 - Concern that Marton Road is unsuitable for construction access and proposed changes may conflict with assurances given that the road will not be used for construction access
 - Concern changes will have on horses and dog walkers
 - Query regarding location of the Willingham construction compound
 - Concern regarding potential access to the lapwing field
 - Concern relating to overall increases in size of the project
 - Concern regarding the removal of additional vegetation in conflict with previous feedback to retain vegetation along Kexby Lane
 - Concern relating to construction access on a bend
 - Impact on cultural heritage, archaeology, historic monuments and listed buildings
 - Impact on Burton Wood as a designated ancient woodland
 - Proximity to residential area
 - Impact on the landscape and visual amenity

- Transportation and access, particularly impact during construction and impact on Rose Cottage Pastureland and Gardens
- Construction compound and access road impact, including on Rose Cottage Pastureland & Gardens

10.6.7 Comments raised that referred to changes in indicative Order Limits included:

- Concern relating to vegetation removal for areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14 and 15
- 1 Kexby Land East – proximity to residential properties, construction access and impact on wildlife and habitats
- 2 Kexby Lane West – concern regarding habitat removal and construction traffic impact
- 6 Stow Park junction - concerns regarding roadworks on the main road north into the town of Gainsborough and in the village of Marton
- 9 to 13, concern regarding access to Cottam village and residential property, including invisible loads
- Concern regarding 10 and widening the road through Cottam village
- Concern regarding 15 Marton Road, particularly if used for construction access as unsuitable for construction traffic
- Concern relating to 15 Marton Road, in particular concern regarding vehicle access on isolated section of Willingham to Marton road. Concern this has changed from access via south-eastern part of the site via access track to Park Farm
- Local landowner proposing adjacent land which could provide rail access, a compound and temporary accommodation
- Impacts on Rose Cottage
- Concern relating to 3 regarding access from the A156 to the '18 acre' pastureland owned by Tanks & Vessels Industries Ltd
- Concern relating to 4 regarding the proposed new water supply along the A156 parallel with Gate Burton village

10.6.8 Seven responses were received after the deadline on 19 December 2022, 22 December 2022, 3 January 2023, 18 January 2023, and 23 January 2023, including one from EDF Energy, one from Natural England, and five from members of the community. Regard was had to the responses, as noted in **Table 10-5 and Table 10-6.**

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Section 42 And Section 47 Responses Received, Issues Raised And Applicant’s Response

10.6.9 Key issues raised by consultees and the Applicants response to them are set out in **Table 10-5** and **Table 10-6** below as follows:

- **Table 10-5** sets out comments relating to aspects not included in the targeted consultation
- **Table 10-6** sets out comments relating to specific proposed changes in targeted consultation

Table 10-5: Comments relating to aspects not included in the targeted consultation from: prescribed bodies of relevant local authorities (s42(1) (a) and (b); those with an interest in land (s42(1)(d); and local community (s47)

Con ID / Organisation	Comment	Applicant response
General comments		
Community responses (including late responses)	Objection to the Scheme as a whole including request for site to be placed elsewhere, alternative power generation used, and concerns due to loss of agricultural land for food production. Reference war, flooding and drought as risks to food security.	<p>There is always a degree of balance when assessing any site for potential development. There are competing planning and technical considerations for all sites and there will always be a trade-off and balance to be found.</p> <p>A site based agricultural land survey has been undertaken for the Solar and Energy Storage Park area of the site. The Solar and Energy Storage Park mostly comprises Grade 3 land, with the majority (85%) being Grade 3b. The remaining land is Grade 3a (12%) and non-agricultural land (3%). This is using the grading system which runs from Grade 1 as the highest quality and 5 lowest. Land within the Grid Connection Corridor will be returned to agricultural use after construction.</p> <p>A large proportion of the land is farmed for crops used to produce bioethanol or biomass and is not actually reaching the food chain.</p> <p>The site itself represents approximately 0.1% of all the farmland in Lincolnshire but is capable of powering approximately 155,000 homes, which is around one half of all the homes in Lincolnshire.</p>
Nottinghamshire Fire Service	Following observations made: 1. The main solar panel aspect to the project appears to be located within Lincolnshire Fire Service and as such	1) The Applicant notes that Lincolnshire Fire Service will assume the lead for matters relating directly to them within the county

	<p>that authority will assume the lead for matters relating directly to them within the county.</p> <p>2. For matters that relate to the county of Nottinghamshire, Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) will assume the lead for matters relating directly to them.</p> <p>3. As neighbouring Fire and Rescue Services, we will attempt to work together to ensure where possible that any observations tendered do not contradict thus causing confusion. It is likely however, that our comments and concerns on the matter in reality will be similarly aligned.</p> <p>4. I have attached a copy of the documentation that NFRS has previously issued to developers with projects such as these with a view to helping to achieve a successful outcome for all.</p> <p>5. Once the finer detail is known, further informed responses could be offered as and when required to guide the project.</p> <p>6. It is the location, size, distribution and comprehensive safety considerations afforded to any of the Battery Energy Storage Systems primarily that is the major concern for NFRS.</p>	<p>2) The Applicant notes that Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service will assume the lead for matters relating directly to them.</p> <p>3) In terms of the location, size, distribution and safety considerations associated with the BESS an Outline Battery Fire Safety Management Plan has been prepared and is submitted as part of the DCO application [EN010131/APP/7.1].</p>
<p>Community response 25</p>	<p>Concern that Scheme will have negative impact on animal boarding business, due to construction, noise and visual effects.</p>	<p>Impacts on businesses are assessed under 'local amenities and land use' in Chapter 12: Socio-economics and Land Use [EN010131/APP/3.1]. There are no impacts expected upon businesses during construction or operation of the Scheme. Noise impacts are assessed in Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration [EN010131/APP/3.1]. Visual impacts are assessed within Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p>
<p>Late community response</p>	<p>Concerns regarding impacts of property prices.</p>	<p>Temporary construction compounds have been located so they are not in close proximity to sensitive receptors. Whilst noise may be audible for period, the level at receptors is not considered to be significant as stated in Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration [EN010131/APP/3.1]. As such, property prices will be unaffected and there are no significant effects on health and quality of life as stated in Chapter 14: Human Health [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p> <p>Construction noise levels will be controlled through the use of embedded mitigation and the use of the CEMP. A Framework CEMP</p>

has been submitted as part of the DCO
Application [EN010131/APP/7.3].

Consultation Process

Several community responses	Concerns that consultation process has not been robust. Concerns that most members of some parishes do not receive correspondence.	All feedback received has been regarded and considered to understand concerns and issues relating to the Scheme.
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The Applicant clearly set out its undertaking to consult and use feedback to inform the design process within a published Statement of Community Consultation.

All feedback received as part of the Stage One non-statutory consultation was also considered by the project team. The Applicant's response to feedback received during this consultation stage can be found in the **Gate Burton Energy Park Stage 1 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report 11 January – 18 February 2022 (Appendix B)**. A copy of the report can also be found at:

[REDACTED]

The Applicant has responded to all feedback received during consultation on the Development in accordance with Section 49 - Duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity.

In preparation for the consultation, the Applicant developed a stakeholder database which identified and included all parish councils that fell within the defined consultation zone (**Appendix I-13**) and the respective parish council clerk.

Following the approach taken at non-statutory and statutory consultation, correspondence was issued to the parish clerks acting on behalf of the identified parish councils (Kexby, Knaith, Marton & Gate Burton, North Leverton with Hablesthorpe, Rampton & Woodbeck, South Leverton, Treswell & Cottam and Willingham) on 03/11/22 to notify them of the targeted consultation.

A copy of the correspondence issued to parish clerks on 03 November 2022 can be found in **Appendix I-19**.

E5	Founder of E5 requests that his development is marked on the map so he can see how close the Scheme is.	Comment noted and information provided on 25 November 2022.
Late community response	Concern that consultation printed materials are a waste of resources.	As set out in the Targeted Consultation Methodology (see Appendix I-2), the Applicant produced a suite of collateral providing information on the localised changes to the indicative Order Limits being consulted on. The materials were provided in digital and print format, with print copies being issued only to identified consultees.

Landscape

Marton & Gate Burton Parish Council	Concern that views from Lincoln Ridge across the Trent Valley and over to Nottinghamshire would be impacted, which would impact tourism in the area, resulting in loss of income and increased social deprivation.	Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010131/APP/3.1] assesses effects on the landscape character and the visual amenity resulting from all components of the Scheme during construction, operation and decommissioning. This includes effects on all relevant receptors including views from and along the River Trent. The Scheme is not expected to have a negative impact on tourism, this is supported by a study by The South West Research Company on “the impact of renewable energy farms on visitors to Cornwall” (2013) that found that renewable energy parks (solar and wind) had no negative impact on tourism, and may even have a positive impact as sustainability becomes an element of considerations for tourists when opting for a destination. The study found that just 6% of visitors to Cornwall had a negative attitude towards renewable energy parks. The study also found that only 2% of visitors are less likely to visit the county again in the future as a result of the presence of wind and solar farms. However, 4% of visitors are more likely to visit which is likely to be as a result of those that find such developments attractive and, more importantly, those that consider the county to be a more positive place as a result of the presence of renewable energy farms and its support for the environmental causes.
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Heritage

Marton & Gate Burton Parish Council	Cable routes pass through Marton and Gate Burton Parish, which has roman heritage to it. They request that archaeological surveys been undertaken.	The Applicant has developed its assessment of the Scheme’s impact on heritage assets using best practice and in consultation with statutory bodies including Historic England and the local authorities. The setting of assets at Gate Burton have been comprehensively considered and a buffer area is provided as embedded mitigation to reduce the impact of the Scheme upon assets at Gate Burton. The results of this impact and the Applicant’s proposed mitigation are set out in Chapter 7:
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Cultural Heritage of the Environmental Statement [EN010131/APP/3.1] and Appendix 7-A: Cultural Heritage Desk-Based Assessment [EN010131/APP/3.3].

Archaeological evaluation surveys have been completed, including geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation. The results are summarised in **Appendix 7-A Cultural Heritage Desk-based Assessment**, and the reports are provided in **Appendix 7-D and 7-E [EN010131/APP/3.1]**.

Biodiversity

Marton & Gate Burton Parish Council
Concerns that invasive weeds would grow while solar farm is in operation, causing natural food supplies to be reduced for animals, and impeded migratory corridors.

As stated in the **Framework CEMP [EN010131/APP/7.3]** pre-construction survey will provide an update on the presence and location of any invasive species, the findings of which will inform the implementation of measures to prevent their spread into the wild.

These surveys will inform the production of a Biosecurity Management Plan which will set out procedures to ensure that no invasive species are brought onto the Order limits.

Trans-Sport
Question whether hedgerows could be cut down to a size that vehicles can travel over them rather than rip them out completely. Also question if well established trees be planted in the place of those removed for the movement of goods to the site. Also request that security of properties along the route be considered when removing boundary fences, trees and hedgerows.

The Scheme has been designed to avoid the removal of existing trees and hedgerows as far as possible, which includes consideration of security of properties along the route. Vegetation removal will be required in certain locations to facilitate construction of access points; however, a commitment to either cutting down to base or where necessary replanting is made in the **Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (OLEMP) [EN010131/APP/7.10]**. In addition, the locations of any proposed planting is shown on the Indicative Landscape Masterplan and associated management regime in the **OLEMP [EN010131/APP/7.10]**.

Transport and Access

Willingham by Stow Parish Council
Concerns that safety of children and resident crossing the roads & Howson House residents due to the increased large heavy traffic and noise volume.

The **Framework CTMP (Appendix 13-E [EN010131/APP/3.3])** includes an HGV routing plan which shows that local roads and nearby villages will be avoided where possible. An assessment of the potential effects relating to additional construction traffic (including HGVs) on accidents & safety is carried out within **Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010131/APP/3.1]** of the ES which concludes that the Scheme is not expected to result in any significant effects with the proposed embedded mitigation in place. The impact of the Scheme on noise

has been assessed within **Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration [EN010131/APP/3.1]** and confirms no significant effects are expected.

Water Environment (including Flood)

Willingham by Stow Parish Council Concerns that the ground underneath the solar panels will not be able to absorb water, hence there will be additional run off.

An Outline Drainage Strategy is provided in **Appendix 9-C [EN010131/APP/3.3]**. Surface water runoff across the Solar and Energy Storage Park site will be discharged to ground through the use of SuDS to provide attenuation (both in terms of storage capacity and water quality treatment). No new direct connections to watercourses are proposed.

A Flood Risk Assessment is provided in **Appendix 9-D [EN010131/APP/3.3]** which indicates that there would be no increase in flooding from any source, given implementation of the Outline Drainage Strategy and the mitigation measures outlined in **Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010131/APP/3.1]**.

Refer to **Chapter 9** for a full assessment of impacts to the water environment during the construction and operational stages.

Socio-Economic and Land Use

Community response 26 Concerns about panels in Knaith Park, which surround a public footpath. Footpath attracts local residents, dog walkers and local wildlife. Request to reconsider using these two fields.

Offsets have been included within the Scheme design to move panels further from properties as shown on **Figure 2-4 Indicative Site Layout Plan [EN010131/APP/3.2]**. There is only one PRow located within the Solar and Energy Storage Park, running for approximately 35m within the Order limits and then running adjacent to the northern boundary of the Solar and Energy Storage Park: LL|Knai|44/2 (footpath), which is the prolongation of LL|Knai|44/1 (footpath). As stated in **Chapter 12: Socio-economics and land use [EN010131/APP/3.1]** no permanent PRow closures would result from the Scheme and any diversions would allow any routes affected during construction to remain open, and therefore local residents, dog walkers and local wildlife will be able to continue to use this route. An offset of 5m has been incorporated into the scheme design for all Public Rights of Way.

Community response 34 Question whether residents will get compensation for detriment to rural way of life.

Given the nature of the Scheme, its low lying nature, the relative lack of visibility within the area and very small number of significant effects, it is not considered that the Scheme will be significantly detrimental to the rural way of life in the area.

Quotes the following from the Planning inspectorate regarding flood issues: “Solar panels have potential to alter runoff rates and patterns. In the absence of more detailed information regarding drainage design and controls, the Inspectorate does not agree to scope this matter out.” Concerned that the Applicant suggests that solar panels have no effect on runoff.

An Outline Drainage Strategy is provided in **Appendix 9-C [EN010131/APP/3.3]**. Surface water runoff across the Solar and Energy Storage Park site will be discharged to ground through the use of SuDS to provide attenuation (both in terms of storage capacity and water quality treatment). No new direct connections to watercourses are proposed.

A Flood Risk Assessment is provided in **Appendix 9-D [EN010131/APP/3.3]** which indicates that there would be no increase in flooding from any source, given implementation of the Outline Drainage Strategy and the mitigation measures outlined in **Chapter 9: Water Environment [EN010131/APP/3.1]**.

Refer to **Chapter 9** for a full assessment of impacts to the water environment during the construction and operational stages.

Other Environmental Topics

Community response 34 Concern that lithium batteries are a fire hazard, citing recent reports from both American and European developments.

The fire risk from PV panels is negligible. As the voltage increases through the equipment the risk of electrical arcing increases at specific locations like inverters and transformers.

The Scheme will mitigate the wider fire risk by ensuring internal access tracks go to these locations for easy access for fire crews. The Applicant’s operational team on its existing portfolio monitor the equipment and conduct proactive maintenance on all equipment to ensure the highest safety standards. Furthermore, through the procurement process it ensures the equipment purchased for schemes are some of the best in the market from an operational and safety perspective

Fire risk is assessed in the Major Accidents and Disasters section within **Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics [EN010131/APP/3.1]**. Health and Safety on-site would be managed by the contactor during construction and decommissioning to mitigate the risk of a fire. The Scheme design has embedded mitigation measures to regulate temperatures of the battery storage systems. An Outline Battery Safety Management Plan has been submitted with the ES **[EN010106/APP/7.1]**.

Late community response	Concern that need case for the project is undermined given scale of emissions elsewhere in the world	The Applicant is bringing forward the Scheme to meet an urgent national need for new, renewable, sources of electricity. Further information on this is provided within the Statement of Need [EN010131/APP/2.1] submitted as part of the DCO application.
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Table 10-6 Comments relating to specific proposed changes in targeted consultation from:

prescribed bodies of relevant local authorities (s42(1) (a) and (b); those with an interest in land (s42(1)(d)); and local community (s47)

Con ID / Organisation	Comment	Applicant response
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General Issues

Willingham By Stow Parish Council, and several community responses	Concerns relating to overall increases in size of the Scheme.	<p>The changes proposed relate to transport and access requirements to accommodate the potential removal of vegetation along highways to ensure sufficient visibility and engineering and feasibility requirements. Activity in the majority of these areas is associated with very minor works such as any works required to reinstate pavements and street furniture following delivery of large components and vegetation clearance to ensure the safety of accesses.</p> <p>We have also adjusted the indicative Order Limits in a number of places to follow field and land ownership boundaries.</p> <p>The area that will include solar panels has been reduced since Stage 2 statutory consultation in response to comments raised. The Order limits have also been reduced as the Scheme has developed, particularly around the Grid Connection Corridor. Overall, despite the identification of minor additional areas to include within the Order limits, the Scheme has reduced in size since Stage 2 consultation not increased.</p>
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Consultation Process

Community response 49	Concern that consultation has been unfairly vague, and questions are deflected or unanswered. State that it cannot be a true consultation due to these factors.	<p>The Scheme website was updated to provide information about the consultation and the amendments being consulted on from 3 November 2022.</p> <p>The Applicant provided a map of the Scheme showing changes to the boundary, a consultation information leaflet and feedback form. The consultation materials were available on the website, by download or by post on request.</p>
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All comments submitted were recorded and acknowledged by auto response or letter. Themes and issues raised in comments are addressed in this Consultation Report.

Questions on the consultation programme, events, materials and advice on how to submit a feedback response were responded to directly

Community response 35	Concern relating to definition of 'indicative Order Limits'; in particular that the areas could be used for solar panels to the west of the river Trent and surrounding the village of Cottam	The indicative Order Limits are the maximum boundary for the Scheme and include areas designated for solar panels, the grid connection and access requirements. The indicative Order Limits to the west of the river Trent and surrounding the village of Cottam are allocated for the grid connection and do not include the installation of solar panels.
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Landscape and Visual

Lincolnshire County Council	Any landscape and visual effects of this vegetation removal should be considered as part of the assessment as this may open up views and/or change landscape character in the wider area.	Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010131/APP/3.1] assesses effects on the landscape character and the visual amenity resulting from all components of the Scheme during construction, operation and decommissioning. This includes vegetation clearance occurring as a result of the creation of visibility splays identified in this consultation.
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Cultural Heritage

Lincolnshire County Council	Cultural Heritage comments: much of the proposed land take does not involve works that would have an archaeological impact and other areas are very small. It would not therefore be proportionate to request further specific archaeological evaluation in the proposed additional areas. Confident that desk based evaluation and field evaluation on the scheme have been reasonable and the results will provide a good level of characterisation of the archaeological potential across the scheme.	Comment noted.
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Biodiversity

Community responses: 42, 47, 48	Concerns regarding vegetation removal and impacts on hedgerows on wildlife in the area.	The Scheme has been designed to avoid significant adverse effects on ecology. No significant residual effects on ecology are predicted during construction, operation and
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	<p>Concern regarding impact on nesting birds and recommendation to avoid nesting bird season.</p> <p>Proposals for replacement planting to comprise selection of locally native species.</p>	<p>decommissioning of the Scheme's lifetime. The impact assessment on habitats / species and the Applicant's proposed mitigation are set out in Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation of the Environmental Statement [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p> <p>The Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (OLEMP) [EN010131/APP/7.10] outlines the landscape and ecology impact avoidance measures that would be implemented prior to, and during, construction of the Scheme, as well as the habitat restoration, enhancement, management and monitoring measures to be implemented once the Scheme is operational.</p>
<p>Community response 49</p>	<p>Concerns regarding destruction of part of an ancient strip wood and ancient hedgerows, and its impact on wildlife,</p>	<p>Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010131/APP/3.1] and Figure 2-4 [EN010131/APP/3.2] includes the following offsets to avoid impacts on ancient woodland and hedgerows :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a Hedge Buffer of 5m; - an Existing Hedge with Trees Buffer of 10m; - an Existing Woodland Buffer of 15m to protect tree roots; - Ancient Woodland Buffer of 15m to protect the ancient woodland and avoid root damage.
<p>Lincolnshire County Council</p>	<p>Seek to draw attention to Change Numbers 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 15 regarding highways works and potential vegetation removal along the highway: Aligned with the Council's PEIR comments, would expect the extents of any vegetation removal be clearly indicated. To allow for this to be fully understood, any tree or hedgerow removal be surveyed to BS 5837 (2012) – Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction to allow for an understanding of the quality and value of removed vegetation. Existing retained vegetation (hedgerows and trees) and associated root protection areas (RPA) adjacent to removals and construction activity need to be protected, and depending on the proximity of works this may need to be to BS 5837.</p> <p>Request that vegetation removal is avoided where possible, or where necessary is either kept to a minimum or that where possible the translocation of hedgerows is</p>	<p>An assessment of the impact on trees is presented in Appendix 10-G: Arboricultural Impact Assessment [EN010131/APP/3.3]. This follows an approach agreed via consultation with the local planning authorities to utilise high level tree assessment data using LiDAR and aerial imagery with added buffer zones to capture likely tree constraints. Site walkovers and targeted tree surveys have verified data assumptions and provide detail in key areas. If situations arise where detailed tree survey data is not available for areas where loss is required conclusions on the significance and value of trees to be removed have been drawn from available high level tree assessment information.</p> <p>An Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) [EN010131/APP/7.10], along with a landscape mitigation masterplan has been prepared. The document provides a framework for delivering the landscape strategy and the successful establishment and future management of proposed landscape works associated with the Gate Burton Energy Park. It sets out the short and long-term measures and practices that will be implemented by the Applicant to establish, monitor and manage landscape and ecology</p>

investigated. Expect that any vegetation lost to accommodate the development or associated enabling works is replaced with suitable species, quantity and specification as part of the wider mitigation scheme.

mitigation and enhancement (biodiversity net gain) measure embedded in the design. The latter will be achieved through habitat creation over and above that used for habitat mitigation. Vegetation removal will be avoided wherever possible. Where necessary to facilitate access, a commitment to either cutting down to base or where necessary replanting is made in the **Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (OLEMP) [EN010131/APP/7.10]**.

Transport and Access

Community response 19

Requests clarification of Area 15 (Marton Road). States that proposal appears to indicate a vehicle access at an isolated section of the Willingham to Marton road. Concerns that would mean vehicles using narrow and dangerous road to reach this access point). Suggest that vehicles should be accessing the south-eastern part of the solar site via the access track to Park Farm, as indicated in an earlier plan. States that it seemed clear in the earlier plan that the Willingham construction compound would be accessed directly from the B1241 (via Park Farm's access track) which would avoid vehicles using any part of the Willingham to Marton road. Note that consultee made the point in August formal feedback that the road is unsuitable for additional traffic. Request specific details of location of Willingham construction compound.

The project team can confirm that any construction vehicle access to the Solar Farm in the vicinity of Marton Road would access the site via the access track to Park Farm.

The access proposed on Marton Road will only be utilised once the Scheme is operational and would not require large or articulated vehicles to utilise this access.

The location of the construction compound off the B1241 (Gainsborough Road) is shown on **Figure 2-4 Indicative Site Layout Plan [EN010131/APP/3.2]**.

Community response 23

States that changes to the highway to accommodate indivisible loads, heavy plant etc. would cause disruption due to increased traffic. Concerns regarding the suitability of the road through a village school area, which is at the best of times is busy

The A156 and A1500 junction has been included within the Order limits to facilitate the transportation of the transformer to the site, which will require the use of an abnormal load vehicle. This transportation movement will not be a regular occurrence and will only be required to transport the substation components to site for installation. This abnormal load vehicle will require a police escort in order to assist with traffic control and will be co-ordinated with Lincolnshire County Council to limit any disruption caused. Further details of the measures to mitigate impacts in the construction phase are included within the **Framework CTMP (Appendix 13-E [EN010131/APP/3.3])**.

Community response 47	References numbers 9 through 13. States that main concerns are access to Cottam village and property due to increased traffic through the village and the nature of the latter (indivisible loads?)	Construction vehicle movements through the village of Cottam will be limited to those travelling to/ from the two proposed access points on Headstead Bank to construct the sections of the Grid Connection Corridor to the east and west of Headstead Bank. The only abnormal indivisible loads will be associated with the delivery of cable drums to this part of the site which will be infrequent. Construction staff associated with the Grid Connection Corridor will be transported by minibus to reduce vehicle trips on this part of the network. Therefore, the forecast increase in daily traffic levels along Cottam Road during the peak construction phase will be nominal and less than 10% compared to baseline traffic flows, and no vehicle trips are expected to travel along Cottam Road during the development peak hours. Further details are set out within Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010131/APP/3.1] .
Community response 48	Concerns regarding change number 10, widening the road through Cottam village. States that this would completely change the village of Cottam, as the village has had a more or less single track road through it since the beginning of the village forming goes back to Saxon times. Concerns that there would be an impact on the aesthetics of the village and also encourage traffic to speed through the village. Request that once the work for the energy park is completed the road through Cottam village should be put back to how it was before this work started.	It can be confirmed that the roads passing through the village of Cottam will not be widened and therefore the current aesthetics or characteristics of the road (e.g. expected speeds) of Cottam will be unchanged.
Community response 49	Concerns that 1 Kexby Lane East is too close to residential properties and will impact adjacent businesses, which during business hours is very busy with vehicles dropping off and collecting. There are usually multiple vehicles parking on the road side throughout the working day. The intended entrance to the proposed construction site would in all probability be hindered by the normal working practices of this business and given the construction site's proximity to residential dwellings would be better suited in a geographical position away from properties.	This additional area has been included within the Order limits to allow for the potential clearance of vegetation to achieve sufficient visibility splays to/ from the proposed access. The access itself will be situated at least 215m to the west of the existing residential properties on the northern side of Kexby Lane and is not expected to result in any impacts in terms of parking.

Community response 49	<p>Concern that the destruction of hedging along Kexby Lane for transportation, will result in many large vehicles being routed via Lea, and Knaith Park to Kexby Lane additionally impacting on those communities.</p>	<p>The proposed removal of vegetation along Kexby Lane will be required to accommodate two access points and to achieve sufficient visibility splays to/ from these access points. The vegetation clearance is not required to accommodate the manoeuvres of large vehicles along Kexby Lane and no carriageway widening is proposed. The majority of construction vehicles will travel to/ from the proposed primary access point on the A156. Construction vehicle movements along Kexby Lane will therefore be limited to those travelling to/ from the two proposed secondary access points on Kexby Lane and the proposed secondary access point on Marton Road (via B1241 and Park Farm). No abnormal indivisible loads will travel on this part of the network.</p>
Community response 49	<p>Concerns relating to 4 Stow Park junction, that the main road north into the town of Gainsborough and in the village of Marton will be affected by major roadworks. Seeking further detail on engineering, traffic flow, routes and type of vehicles.</p>	<p>The A156 and A1500 junction has been included within the Order limits to facilitate the transportation of the transformer to the site, which will require the use of an abnormal load vehicle. This transportation movement will not be a regular occurrence and will be limited to the number of times required to transport the substation components to site for installation. No highway modifications are proposed along the A156 between the village of Marton to the south and the town of Gainsborough to the north, other than to accommodate the proposed construction access on the eastern side of the A156 for the Solar and Energy Storage Park (with associated vegetation clearance to accommodate visibility splays). It should be noted that trenchless methods will be utilised when installing the cable beneath the A156 in order to avoid any lane or road closures on this part of the network.</p> <p>In terms of traffic flow, routes and type of vehicles, the transportation movement of the abnormal load vehicle (transformer) will be on a very limited basis, will require a police escort in order to assist with traffic control and will be co-ordinated with Lincolnshire County Council to limit any disruption caused. . Otherwise, this section of the A156 will be utilised by HGVs, LGVs and construction staff travelling to/ from the Solar and Energy Storage Park and the Grid Connection Corridor, including a limited number of abnormal indivisible loads associated with the delivery of cable drums. Construction workers and HGVs will avoid travelling during the traditional AM peak hour (08:00-09:00) and PM peak hour (17:00-18:00) to minimise impacts on the surrounding highway network. In addition, the impact of additional construction traffic on driver delay through the A156/ A1500 junction is expected to</p>

		be negligible based on the assessment carried out within the Environmental Statement.
Community response 50	Note that consultee has been assured that 15. Marton Road proposed additional access will be for operational access only. Also note that consultation states that the additions relate to the engineering and construction of the Scheme. Seek to reiterate that Marton Road would be unsuitable for construction access. State that construction access for the south-eastern area of the solar site should, as previously proposed, be via the track leading to Park Farm as that access is situated directly off the main B1241 road.	<p>The project team can confirm that any construction vehicle access to the Solar Farm in the vicinity of Marton Road would access the site via the access track to Park Farm.</p> <p>The access proposed on Marton Road will only be utilised once the scheme is operational and will not require any large or articulated vehicles to use this access.</p>
Community response 49	Concerns regarding mud and detritus materials on the road as vehicles enter and egress the site and particularly in such close proximity to residential properties.	As stated in Chapter 2: The Scheme of the Environmental Statement [EN010131/APP/3.1] a self-contained wheel washing facility will be installed near the site exits onsite to be used by vehicles prior to exiting the Site onto the public highway. For loads unable to use the fixed wheel wash, localised wheel washing would be set up to cater for these individually and as required to prevent detrimental effect to the highway.
Community response 59	Concerns relating to Transport & Access Requirements 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15. Concerns that highway changes will create disruption to resident of Marton village and road users wjho travel to work from Lincolns to Gainsborough.	These highway changes are either required to accommodate the construction of the proposed access points including vegetation clearance to achieve sufficient visibility splays to/ from these access points (1, 2, 7, 8, 11, 12 and 15) or to allow for minor (temporary) modifications such as vegetation clearance or the relocation of street furniture to accommodate abnormal loads (6, 10 and 13). Therefore, the majority of these works will not directly affect the highway and will be managed using Temporary Traffic Management (TTM) to minimise disruption and carry these works out safely. Furthermore, these highway changes will allow for the repair and reinstatement of these parts of carriageway during the works if required.
Community response 61	<p>Objection to proposed enhancement of the road (Town Street) through Cottam village for following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Currently when HGV traffic travels along this road, it already causes significant vibration and noise inside our home. Increasing the volume of traffic would increase this disturbance significantly. 	It can be confirmed that the roads passing through the village of Cottam (including Town Street) will not be widened or altered and so there will be no changes to road character or vehicle speeds. In addition, construction vehicle movements through the village of Cottam will be limited to those travelling to/ from the two proposed access points on Headstead Bank to construct the Grid Connection Corridor to the east and west of Headstead Bank. A Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan and Outline Public Rights of Way (PRoW) Management Plan have been prepared which include measures to safely manage

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To access our paddocks on the East side of this road, we (and many other people) must cross with our horses and young foals. This can already be quite dangerous due to the speed at which some vehicles already travel along Town Street (30mph). Improving this road will enable higher speeds to more easily be achieved, increasing the road safety hazard to pedestrians and animals. Cottam has a very high percentage of horse owners, with all of the fields to the East of this road set to paddocks. All of these will be negatively affected by an increase in traffic along this route. - To the North of Cottam, town street is a used as a route for equestrian hacks and dog walkers alike. Mixing horse riders with an increase in traffic volume will increase the risk to life for locals. Horses are known to react badly with inconsiderate drivers. . 	<p>construction vehicles and potential interactions with PRow users and non-motorised user movements on routes. An assessment of accidents and safety has also been carried out as part of the Environmental Statement which does not identify any adverse impacts for Cottam Road. A single collision has been recorded on this part of the network (including Cottam Road, Town Street and Headstead Bank) in a five-year period and the forecast increase in traffic flows as a result of the Scheme will be less than 10% during the construction phase.</p>
<p>Community response 42</p>	<p>Recommendation to create a permissive footpath between Willingham Road (Marton) and Clay Lane (Gate Burton)</p>	<p>The area between Willingham Road (Marton) and Clay Lane (Gate Burton) within the Order limits will be enclosed by fencing and filled with solar panels during the operational phase of the Scheme. There are also no existing footways or pedestrian routes such as Public Rights of Way (PRow) along Clay Lane or Willingham Road for which a logical connection could be made. As such, it is not considered that a permissive path would be a viable, attractive or beneficial route through this part of the site. The Scheme will retain existing links to adjacent PRow routes and highways throughout.</p>
<p>Community response 53</p>	<p>States that consultation leaflet provides no detailed information on the changes. Seek detailed information about size and weight of abnormal indivisible loads. Suggests that the word 'requirement' is misleading. Question if specific regulatory condition in each of additional changes will be provided. State that additions which identify changes to transport and access requirements to accommodate highway improvements will need</p>	<p>The changes which relate to transport and access are either required to accommodate the construction of the proposed access points including vegetation clearance to achieve sufficient visibility splays to/ from these access points or to allow for minor (temporary) modifications such as vegetation clearance or the relocation of street furniture to accommodate abnormal loads. These works will be subject to agreement with the local highway authority and will be managed using Temporary Traffic Management (TTM) to minimise disruption and allow the works to be carried out safely. The movement of abnormal</p>

<p>approval from the Highways Agency and others to demonstrate the need for change. Request that a copy of Highways Agency response to the changes is provided. Also suggest that identified changes to accommodate the potential areas of vegetation removal will need to consider TPO's and the return to original state after change. Changes that are desired by the applicant are identified, without identifying alternative considerations, if any. Request that alternative solutions are identified an considered in respect of additional changes.</p>	<p>load vehicles (transformer and cable drums) will be infrequent and limited, provided with a police escort, as appropriate, in order to assist with traffic control and will be co-ordinated with Lincolnshire County Council and Nottinghamshire County Council to limit any disruption caused. Further information relating to abnormal indivisible loads are set out within the Framework CTMP.</p> <p>Vegetation removal is considered and assessed within Environmental Statement Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010131/APP/3.1]. Commitments to reinstate vegetation lost (including TPOs) are detailed within the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010131/APP/7.10] and secured by the draft DCO.</p>
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Other Environmental Topics

<p>Community response 49</p>	<p>Concerns that noise from the construction site and traffic to from and during operating hours will have a detrimental impact on the quality of life to residents in close proximity to the proposed site and this impact will be harmful to the business that deals in boarding pets.</p> <p>Concerns regarding impacts on property prices.</p>	<p>Temporary construction compounds have been located so they are not in close proximity to sensitive receptors. Whilst noise may be audible for period, the level at receptors is not considered to be significant as stated in Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration [EN010131/APP/3.1]. As such, property prices will be unaffected and there are no significant effects on health and quality of life as stated in Chapter 14: Human Health [EN010131/APP/3.1].</p> <p>Construction noise levels will be controlled through the use of embedded mitigation and the use of the CEMP. A Framework CEMP has been submitted as part of the DCO Application [EN010131/APP/7.3].</p>
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Other Issues

<p>Diana Eyre Educational Trust</p>	<p>Requests that they do not receive two copies of all mail regarding consultation, and that mail titled "The Official Custodian For Charities" be amended to the Secretary, whose home address is given as the contact on the Charity Commissioners website.</p>	<p>Comment noted and mailing lists and databases were updated to reflect this instruction. A response to confirm request had been actioned was provided on 18/11/22.</p>
<p>Marine Management Organisation</p>	<p>Note that no previous engagement with the MMO has been made. Seeking to get in contact with the consents team. Looking to understand the extent of the project which would take place in the UK marine Areas as defined in</p>	<p>The MMO was consulted by the Applicant during Stage 2 consultation but no response was received. The Applicant has made contact with the MMO since this response to discuss.</p>

	Section 42 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.	Deemed Marine Licence provisions are included within the Draft Proposed DCO [[EN010131/APP/6.1] submitted with this Application.
Gas Networks Plc (Southern Gas Networks)	State that Gate Burton Lincolnshire falls outside of SGN's area of operation, and that Cadent are the network operator to contact.	Cadent Gas was notified as a Statutory Undertaker.
Treswell with Cottam Parish Council	Offer of an open meeting where local residents and parish councillors meet to ask questions and discuss the targeted consultation.	An open meeting was held on 29 November at Treswell Village Hall. Residents and parish councillors were invited by Treswell with Cottam Parish Council.

10.7 Conclusion

10.7.1 In summary, this chapter provides detail on the targeted consultation undertaken as a result of a number of localised changes to the indicative Order Limits that had been consulted on from 22 June 2022 to 05 August 2022.

10.7.2 The Applicant considers it has fully complied with paragraphs 73-77 of the PA 2008 DCLG pre-application guidance. In context of the PA 2008 DCLG pre-application guidance it was considered that the Scheme remained the same Scheme as was consulted on during earlier statutory consultation as set out in **Chapter 6**.

10.7.3 The Applicant adopted a strategy whereby targeted consultation was delivered to provide the opportunity for the following consultees to provide any views and comments on the additional areas identified:

- Section 42(1)(a), 42(1)(aa) and (b) consultees
- Section 42(1)(d) consultees – persons having an interest in land affected by the additions to the indicative Order Limits
- Local communities in vicinity of the localised changes

10.7.4 In accordance with Section 45 of the PA 2008, the Applicant held targeted consultation on localised changes to the Scheme from 03 November to 13 December 2022 – a consultation period of 41 days which exceeds the minimum period of 28 days required. The consultation period was extended in acknowledgement of postal strikes planned for November 2022 to ensure all parties had a period of over 28 days to respond.

11. Ongoing Consultation Activities And Statements Of Common Ground

11.1 Overview

- 11.1.1 Throughout the development process, the Applicant has engaged with stakeholders outside of the non-statutory and statutory consultation.
- 11.1.2 This included the direct engagement with a number of stakeholders to discuss their responses to the statutory consultation and the drafting of Statements of Common Ground to develop agreement on key issues.

11.2 Local Planning Authorities And Statutory Environmental Bodies

- 11.2.1 The Applicant has continued to engage with the Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) outside of the non-statutory and statutory consultations. Draft Statements of Common Ground with the Host Authorities have been submitted with the Application. Please see the following documents for details of engagement, summary of discussions and where agreement has or has not
- West Lindsey District Council and Lincolnshire County Council (see **[EN010131/APP/4.3A]**).
 - Bassetlaw District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council (see **[EN010131/APP/4.3B]**).
- 11.2.2 The Applicant will continue its commitment to engage the LPAs following the submission of the DCO application.
- 11.2.3 The Applicant has also engaged with the statutory environmental bodies throughout preparation of the application. Draft Statements of Common Ground have similarly been prepared for these bodies, including full lists of engagement carried out, topics discussed and initial areas of agreements/disagreement. The bodies for whom Statements of Common Ground have been prepared prior to application submission include:
- Natural England (see **[EN010131/APP/4.3C]**).
 - Historic England (see **[EN010131/APP/4.3D]**).
 - Environment Agency (see **[EN010131/APP/4.3E]**).
 - Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board (see **[EN010131/APP/4.3F]**)
 - Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board (see **[EN010131/APP/4.3G]**)

11.3 Other Engagement

11.3.1 Beyond those parties above, further engagement (email and/or phone calls and/or meetings) has been had with:

- Parish Councils including:
 - Knaith Parish Council members
 - Treswell and Cottam Parish Council members
 - Marton and Gate Burton Parish Council
 - South Leverton Parish Council
 - Torksey Parish Council
 - Brampton Parish Meeting
 - Willingham By Stow Parish Council
- Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
- Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
- Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service
- Relevant highways authorities
- Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production (STEP) Fusion Programme
- Marine Management Organisation
- Canal and River Trust
- The Forestry Commission
- The Crown Estate
- RAF
- Relevant statutory undertakers and utilities including:
 - Anglian Water
 - National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET)
 - National Grid Electricity Distribution (NGED) – formerly known as WPD
 - Uniper
 - EDF
 - Network Rail
 - Northern Power Grid
 - BT Openreach
 - West Burton Energy
 - Severn Trent Water Ltd

11.3.2 The Applicant has also engaged with those with land interests.

11.3.3 In addition, the Applicant had frequent engagement with the developer of Cottam Solar Project and West Burton Solar Project, to look at ways to work together across the solar schemes. This engagement included face to face meetings, virtual meetings, phone calls and meetings to explore ways to minimise impacts, adopt consistent processes and deliver the best grid connection solution. The Applicant has also engaged with the developer of Tillbridge Solar Project.

11.4 Conclusion

11.4.1 In summary, the Applicant has engaged with numerous stakeholders outside of the non-statutory and statutory consultation throughout the development process.

11.4.2 Draft Statements of Common Ground with the Host Authorities have been submitted with the Application. Please see the following documents for details of engagement, summary of discussions and where agreement has or has not

- West Lindsey District Council and Lincolnshire County Council (see **[EN010131/APP/4.3A]**).
- Bassetlaw District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council (see **[EN010131/APP/4.3B]**).

11.4.3 Draft Statements of Common Ground have similarly been prepared for statutory environmental bodies, including full lists of engagement carried out, topics discussed and initial areas of agreements/ disagreement. The bodies for whom Statements of Common Ground have been prepared prior to application submission include:

- Natural England (see **[EN010131/APP/4.3C]**).
- Historic England (see **[EN010131/APP/4.3D]**).
- Environment Agency (see **[EN010131/APP/4.3E]**).
- Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board (see **[EN010131/APP/4.3F]**)
- Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board (see **[EN010131/APP/4.3G]**)

12. Conclusion

12.1 Compliance With Advice And Governance

12.1.1 The Applicant has undertaken an iterative consultation process which complies with, and exceeds, the requirements of the PA 2008, the MHCLG (now known as DLUHC) guidance on the pre-application process (March 2015), as well as relevant advice from PINS.

12.1.2 **Table 12.1** sets out how the Applicant has complied with MHCLG guidance on the pre-application process (March 2015)

Table 12-1 – Compliance with MHCLG guidance on the pre-application process (March 2015)

Para	Requirement	Evidence of compliance
17	When circulating consultation documents, developers should be clear about their status, for example ensuring it is clear to the public if a document is purely for purposes of consultation.	Documents produced as part of the consultation clearly stated their status. Letters issued to consultees as part of the s42 and s47 consultations set out that they contained details of statutory consultation. The status of the Project Information Booklet is set out in its page 2, and the status of the Project Feedback Form on its page 1. The Document Navigation Booklet provides a summary of the documents the Applicant consulted on page 3. Copies of these documents can be found in Appendix E-9, E-10 and E-6 respectively.
18	Early involvement of local communities, local authorities and statutory consultees can bring about significant benefits for all parties.	The Applicant engaged early with local communities, local authorities, and statutory consultees, including a round of non-statutory consultation from 11 January to 18 February 2022. Early engagement is summarised in Chapter 4 .
19	The pre-application consultation process is crucial to the effectiveness of the major infrastructure consenting regime. A thorough process can give the Secretary of State confidence that issues that will arise during the 6 months examination period have been identified, considered, and – as far as possible – that applicants have sought to reach agreement on those issues.	<p>The Applicant has conducted a thorough consultation process which has allowed it to identify, consider and, as far as possible, seek to reach agreement on issues likely to arise during the examination.</p> <p>The early engagement and non-statutory consultation set out in Chapter 4 provided the opportunity to identify and consider issues early in the development of the scheme.</p> <p>The statutory consultation set out in Chapters 6 and 7 built on this understanding and further identified and considered issues likely to arise.</p> <p>Tables 9-3 and 9-4 in Chapter 9 of the Consultation Report provide accounts of the feedback received during statutory</p>

		consultation and gives evidence on how the issues raised have been taken into account by the Applicant.
		Where appropriate, the Applicant is progressing Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs) with relevant statutory consultees to demonstrate areas of agreement and matters under discussion.

20	Experience suggests that, to be of most value, consultation should be: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Based on accurate information that gives consultees a clear view of what is proposed including any options;• Shared at an early enough stage so that the proposal can still be influenced, while being sufficiently developed to provide some detail on what is being proposed; and• Engaging and accessible in style, encouraging consultees to react and offer their views.	<p>For non-statutory consultation and statutory consultation, the Applicant shared information at an early enough stage to allow the proposal to be influenced, while being sufficiently developed to provide some detail on what is being proposed. In each consultation, the Applicant developed a clear scope for what could be influenced by consultees. For the non-statutory consultation, this was to support design development and the process of environmental impact assessment by gathering feedback from consultees on the initial Scheme for Gate Burton Energy Park. This is set out in sections 4.4.5 and 4.4.6.</p> <p>For the statutory consultation, this was to feed back on the Scheme design, and the initial outcomes of the EIA as set out in the PEI Report. For each consultation, the Applicant published an information booklet written in an engaging and accessible style, setting out what it was possible to influence at that stage, providing accurate information that gave consultees a clear view of what was proposed, and encouraging them to react and offer their views.</p> <p>A copy of the Consultation Information Booklet produced for the non-statutory consultation is included in Appendix B. A copy of the Project Information Booklet produced for the statutory consultation is included in Appendix E-9.</p>
25	Consultation should be thorough, effective and proportionate. Some applicants may have their own distinct approaches to consultation, perhaps drawing on their own or relevant sector experience, for example if there are industry protocols that can be adapted. Larger, more complex applications are likely to need to go beyond the statutory minimum timescales laid down in the PA 2008 to ensure enough time for consultees to understand project proposals and formulate a response.	<p>The Applicant has conducted a thorough, effective and proportionate consultation. The period provided to comment for consultation under s42, s47, and s48 of the PA 2008 was greater than the 28 calendar days required to be provided for comments as prescribed by s45(2) of the PA 2008. The Applicant has also been conscious of the need to be sufficiently flexible to respond to the needs and requirements of consultees. As set out in section 6.3.58, the Applicant provided a variety of means to respond to the statutory consultation including completing a feedback form online, completing and returning a hard copy of the</p>

	<p>Many proposals will require detailed technical input, especially regarding impacts, so sufficient time will need to be allowed for this. Consultation should also be sufficiently flexible to respond to the needs and requirements of consultees, for example where a consultee has indicated that they would prefer to be consulted via email only, this should be accommodated as far as possible.</p>	<p>feedback form, submitting comments by letter, or submitting comments by email. The Applicant also provided a variety of means of finding out about the proposal, including virtual and in-person and online public consultation events, and accepting enquiries by Freephone, email or Freepost. Details of this are set out in Section 6.3 of Chapter 6.</p>
26	<p>The PA 2008 requires certain bodies and groups of people to be consulted at the pre-application stage, but allows for flexibility in the precise form that consultation may take depending on local circumstances and the needs of the project itself. Sections 42 – 44 of the PA 2008 and Regulations set out details of who should be consulted, including local authorities, the Marine Management Organisation (where appropriate), other statutory bodies, and persons having an interest in the land to be developed. Section 47 in the PA 2008 sets out the applicant's statutory duty to consult local communities. In addition, applicants may also wish to strengthen their case by seeking the views of other people who are not statutory consultees, but who may be significantly affected by the project.</p>	<p>The Applicant has identified and consulted with parties prescribed by s42, s43, and s44 of the PA 2008, as well as the local community as prescribed in s47 of the PA 2008 and defined in the SoCC. Details of how the Applicant consulted in accordance with each of these sections of the PA 2008 are set out in Chapters 6 and 7. In addition, the Applicant sought the views of a range of groups which were not statutory consultees but were deemed to have a potential interest. Details of these groups are set out in section 6.3.9 and Appendix E-2 of this report.</p>
27	<p>The PA 2008 and Regulations set out the statutory consultees and prescribed people who must be consulted during the pre-application process. Many statutory consultees are responsible for consent regimes where, under section 120 of the PA 2008, decisions on those consents can be included within the decision on a Development Consent Order. Where an applicant proposes to include non-planning consents within their Development Consent Order, the bodies that would normally be responsible for granting these consents should make every effort to facilitate this. They should only object to the inclusion of such non-planning consents with good</p>	<p>Statutory consultees were engaged with early in the development of the Scheme. Early engagement is set out in Table 2-2 of this report. These bodies continued to be engaged in the period between this and the statutory consultation as set out in Chapter 11 of this report. They were then consulted under s42 of the PA 2008 as set out in Chapter 7. In addition, the Applicant sought the views of a range of groups which were not statutory consultees but were deemed to have a potential interest. Details of these groups are set out in section 6.3.9 and Appendix E-2 of this report.</p>

	<p>reason, and after careful consideration of reasonable alternatives. It is therefore important that such bodies are consulted at an early stage. In addition, there will be a range of national and other interest groups who could be make an important contribution during consultation. Applicants are therefore encouraged to consult widely on project proposals.</p>	
29	<p>Applicants will often need detailed technical input from expert bodies to assist with identifying and mitigating the social, environmental, design and economic impacts of projects, and other important matters. Technical expert input will often be needed in advance of formal compliance with the preapplication requirements. Early engagement with these bodies can help avoid unnecessary delays and the costs of having to make changes at later stages of the process. It is equally important that statutory consultees respond to a request for technical input in a timely manner. Applicants are therefore advised to discuss and agree a timetable with consultees for the provision of such inputs.</p>	<p>The Applicant sought technical input from relevant expert bodies at each stage of the Scheme development. This included through the early engagement set out in Table 2-2 and the ongoing engagement set out in Chapter 11, Section 11.2 and 11.3 as well as during the statutory consultation as detailed in Chapter 7.</p>
38	<p>The role of the local authority in such discussions should be to provide expertise about the make-up of its area, including whether people in the area might have particular needs or requirements, whether the authority has identified any groups as difficult to reach and what techniques might be appropriate to overcome barriers to communication. The local authority should also provide advice on the appropriateness of the applicant's suggested consultation techniques and methods. The local authority's aim in such discussions should be to ensure that the people affected by the development can take part in a thorough, accessible and effective consultation exercise about the proposed project.</p>	<p>The Applicant engaged early with host local authorities to seek expertise on these issues. This included through the early engagement set out in Table 2-2 and the ongoing engagement set out in Chapter 4, Section 4.2. This included engagement on community consultation methods, and the Applicant shared a draft of the SoCC on an informal basis before consulting with the host authorities formally as set out in Chapter 5, Section 5.2 of this report. As prescribed by s47 of PA 2008, the Applicant prepared a SoCC setting out how it proposed to consult, about the proposed application, people living in the vicinity of the land and consulted with each local authority that is within s43(1) of the PA 2008 on the SoCC. The regard that the Applicant had to responses received as part of this consultation is set out in Appendix C-5</p>

41	Where a local authority raises an issue or concern on the Statement of Community Consultation which the applicant feels unable to address, the applicant is advised to explain in their consultation report their course of action to the Secretary of State when they submit their application.	The regard that the Applicant had to responses received from local authorities as part of the consultation on the draft SoCC is set out in Appendix C-5
50	It is the applicant's responsibility to demonstrate at submission of the application that due diligence has been undertaken in identifying all land interests and applicants should make every reasonable effort to ensure that the Book of Reference (which records and categories those land interests) is up-to-date at the time of submission.	The Applicant has diligently sought to identify all land interests and ensure that the Book of Reference [EN010131/APP/6.6] remains up to date. Details of this are set out in Section 7.5 of Chapter 7 of the Consultation Report [EN010131/APP/4.1] and the Book of Reference [EN010131/APP/6.6] .
54	In consulting on project proposals, an inclusive approach is needed to ensure that different groups have the opportunity to participate and are not disadvantaged in the process. Applicants should use a range of methods and techniques to ensure that they access all sections of the community in question. Local authorities will be able to provide advice on what works best in terms of consulting their local communities given their experience of carrying out consultation in their area.	The Applicant has adopted an inclusive approach to consultation to ensure that different groups have the opportunity to participate and are not disadvantaged in the process. The SoCC included proposals to support the participation of underrepresented and marginalised groups in the consultation, and the Applicant incorporated local authority feedback on this subject into the SoCC. Details of compliance with the approach set out in the SoCC are included in Table 5-3 , and details of the regard the Applicant had to local authority comments on this area are included in Appendix D-3
55	Applicants must set out clearly what is being consulted on. They must be careful to make it clear to local communities what is settled and why, and what remains to be decided, so that expectations of local communities are properly managed. Applicants could prepare a short document specifically for local communities, summarising the project proposals and outlining the matters on which the view of the local community is sought. This can describe core elements of the project and explain what the potential benefits and impacts may be. Such documents should be written in clear, accessible, and non-technical language. Applicants should consider making it available in formats appropriate to the needs of people with	For each consultation, the Applicant published an information booklet written in an engaging and accessible style, setting out what it was possible to influence at that stage, providing accurate information that gave consultees a clear view of what was proposed, and encouraging them to react and offer their views. A copy of the Consultation Information Booklet produced for the non-statutory consultation is included with Appendix B . A copy of the Project Information Booklet produced for the statutory consultation is included in Appendix E-9 . A copy of the Targeted Consultation Information Leaflet produced for targeted consultation is included in Appendix I-6 . These were supplemented by consultation materials designed to present consultation information in other, interactive formats. At the statutory consultation, this included a virtual exhibition and webinars. Copies of

	disabilities if requested. There may be cases where documents may need to be bilingual (for example, Welsh and English in some areas), but it is not the policy of the Government to encourage documents to be translated into non-native languages.	consultation materials were available in alternative formats on request.
57	The Statement of Community Consultation should act as a framework for the community consultation generally, for example, setting out where details and dates of any events will be published. The Statement of Community Consultation should be made available online, at any exhibitions or other events held by applicants. It should be placed at appropriate local deposit points (e.g. libraries, council offices) and sent to local community groups as appropriate.	As set out in Chapter 5 the Applicant included a framework for community consultation in the SoCC, including where details and dates of events would be published. The SoCC was made available on the Scheme website from 8 June 2022. Printed copies of the document were also lodged and available at document inspection locations set out in Table 6-2 from 8 June 2022.
58	Applicants are required to publicise their proposed application under section 48 of the PA 2008 and the Regulations and set out the detail of what this publicity must entail. This publicity is an integral part of the public consultation process. Where possible, the first of the 2 required local newspaper advertisements should coincide approximately with the beginning of the consultation with communities. However, given the detailed information required for the publicity in the Regulations, aligning publicity with consultation may not always be possible, especially where a multi-stage consultation is intended.	The Applicant publicised the proposed application under s48 of the PA 2008 as set out in Table 6-9 . The dates of these insertions coincided as closely as possible with the start of consultation given the publication schedules of the relevant local newspapers.
68	To realise the benefits of consultation on a project, it must take place at a sufficiently early stage to allow consultees a real opportunity to influence the proposals. At the same time consultees will need sufficient information on a project to be able to recognise and understand the impacts.	For both the non-statutory public consultation and statutory consultation, the Applicant shared information at an early enough stage to allow the proposal to be influenced, while being sufficiently developed to provide sufficient information on what is being proposed to enable consultees to recognise and understand its impacts. Appendix B provides a report on the Non-statutory Feedback. Tables 9-3 and 9-4 set out the issues raised and the Applicant's response to consultees under s42 and s47 respectively. In each consultation, the Applicant developed a clear scope for what could be influenced by consultees. For the non-statutory consultation, this was to support design development and the process of

environmental impact assessment by gathering feedback from consultees on the initial Scheme for Gate Burton Energy Park PEIR. The purpose of the consultation was to seek the views of statutory consultees and the public on the Scheme; the potential short and long-term impacts of the Scheme during construction, operations, and decommissioning; the contribution the Scheme could make to the local community; and the initial outcomes of the EIA as set out in the PEI Report.

For each consultation, the Applicant published a booklet written in an engaging and accessible style, setting out what it was possible to influence at that stage, providing accurate information that gave consultees a clear view of what was proposed, and encouraging them to react and offer their views. A copy of the booklet produced for the non-statutory consultation is included with **Appendix B**. A copy of the booklet produced for the statutory consultation is included in **Appendix E-9**. A copy of the leaflet produced for targeted consultation is included in **Appendix I-6**.

72 The timing and duration of consultation will be likely to vary from project to project, depending on size and complexity, and the range and scale of the impacts. The PA 2008 requires a consultation period of a minimum of 28 days from the day after receipt of the consultation documents. It is expected that this may be sufficient for projects which are straightforward and uncontroversial in nature. But many projects, particularly larger or more controversial ones, may require longer consultation periods than this. Applicants should therefore set consultation deadlines that are realistic and proportionate to the proposed project. It is also important that consultees do not withhold information that might affect a project, and that they respond in good time to applicants. Where responses are not received by the deadline, the applicant is not obliged to take those responses into account.

The period provided to comment for consultation under s42, s47, and s48 of the PA 2008 was 45 days, significantly greater than the 28 calendar days required to be provided for comments as prescribed by s45(2) of the PA 2008.

73	Applicants are not expected to repeat consultation rounds set out in their Statement of Community Consultation unless the project proposals have changed very substantially. However, where proposals change to such a large degree that what is being taken forward is fundamentally different from what was consulted on, further consultation may well be needed. This may be necessary if, for example, new information arises which renders all previous options unworkable or invalid for some reason. When considering the need for additional consultation, applicants should use the degree of change, the effect on the local community and the level of public interest as guiding factors.	The Applicant conducted targeted statutory consultation in relation to minor changes to the Order limits from 03 November 2022 to 13 December 2022 as set out in Chapter 10 .
77	Consultation should also be fair and reasonable for applicants as well as communities. To ensure that consultations is fair to all parties, applicants should be able to demonstrate that the consultation process is proportionate to the impacts of the project in the area that it affects, takes account of the anticipated level of local interest, and takes account of the views of the relevant local authorities.	The Applicant has sought to ensure that the consultation process is proportionate to the impacts of the project in the area that it affects, takes account of the anticipated level of local interest, and takes account of the views of the relevant local authorities. Prior to both the non-statutory and statutory consultation, the Applicant engaged with relevant local authorities to seek their views on whether its proposals for consultation were proportionate and took into account the likely level of local interest. Details of the regard the Applicant had to local authority comments are included in Appendix C-5 .
84	A response to points raised by consultees with technical information is likely to need to focus on the specific impacts for which the body has expertise. The applicant should make a judgement as to whether the consultation report provides sufficient detail on the relevant impacts, or whether a targeted response would be more appropriate. Applicants are also likely to have identified a number of key additional bodies for consultation and may need to continue engagement with these bodies on an individual basis.	As set out in Chapter 11 , the Applicant continued to engage with a number of stakeholders following the close of consultation, particularly where it felt agreeing a SoCG was likely to be helpful.

12.1.3 The Applicant has also considered the advice given in the Planning Inspectorate's Advice note fourteen: Compiling the Consultation Report. Details of compliance with this text is included in **Table 12.2**.

**Table 12-2 – Compliance with Planning Inspectorate’s Advice Note Fourteen:
 Compiling the Consultation Report**

Advice	Evidence of compliance
<p>Format and content of the Consultation Report: Introductory text</p>	
<p>Introductory text should provide an overview including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – • A summary of the consultation – activities undertaken; and – • a table or timeline summarising – both statutory and non-statutory – consultation in chronological order. 	<p>This is provided in Section 2.4, with a summary of pre-application consultation activity set out in chronological order in Table 2-2.</p>
<p>This section should explain the relationship between any initial strategic options stage, any subsequent non-statutory consultation that may have taken place, and the statutory consultation carried out under the PA 2008.</p>	<p>Chapter 3 outlines the EIA consultation, Chapter 4 non-statutory consultation and Chapters 6 and 7 the statutory consultation.</p>
<p>Many Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) evolve over an extended period of time with previous proposals that may have been consulted on then abandoned; in which case, a brief description of any historic consultation activity, including any information available about the scale and nature of the response at that time, would be of interest. A detailed planning history of the site is not necessary in this report.</p>	<p>Chapter 3 outlines the EIA consultation, Chapter 4 non-statutory consultation and Chapters 6 and 7 the statutory consultation.</p>
<p>Format and content of the Consultation Report: Multi-stage consultations</p>	
<p>Where the pre-application consultation included more than one stage of statutory consultation then it is usually helpful to reflect this in the structure of the report. In this way, each stage of consultation can be presented and explained chronologically in a separate chapter or section of the report, including any non-statutory consultation that took place. This can also include separate summary schedules of consultation responses.</p>	<p>Chapter 4 outlines the non-statutory consultation and Chapters 6 and 7 the statutory consultation.</p> <p>Chapter 10 provides a summary of the targeted consultation.</p>
<p>Format and content of the Consultation Report: Duty to consult (s42)</p>	
<p>The report should include a list of all persons and bodies that were consulted, and when they were consulted.</p>	<p>A list of persons and bodies consulted under s42(1)(a) and (b) is provided in Appendix F-1. A full list of land interests consulted under s42(1)(d) during the statutory consultation which took place from 22 June to 5 August 2022 can be found in Appendix F-2. All those consulted as part of the targeted consultation</p>

	which took place initially from 03 November to 13 December 2022 are listed in Appendix I-13
The list of the prescribed organisations should follow the order they are presented in Schedule 1 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (the APFP Regulations). Any variations between the Applicant's list of Prescribed Consultees and the list of organisations set out in Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations should be robustly justified.	This has been adhered to as set out in Appendix F-1 .
A short description of how s43 of the PA2008 has been applied in order to identify the relevant local authorities should be included. This could be supported by a map showing the site and identifying the boundaries of the relevant local authorities.	This is set out in Section 7.3 of the Consultation Report [EN010131/APP/4.1] and Figures 4 and 5 .
The Applicant must demonstrate that diligent enquiry was undertaken to identify persons under s44 of the PA2008 and to ensure that an up to date Book of Reference is submitted. In that context, it is useful to set out the methodology for identifying persons in Category 3 (those who may make a relevant claim).	The Applicant has diligently sought to identify all land interests and ensure that the Book of Reference [EN010131/APP/6.6] remains up to date. Details of this are set out in Chapter 7, Section 7.5 of the Consultation Report [EN010131/APP/4.1] and the Book of Reference [EN010131/APP/6.6] .
The Consultation Report should explain how many persons with an interest in land were consulted, under which category and when.	A full list of land interests consulted under s42(1)(d) during the statutory consultation period of 22 June to 5 August 2022 as well as subsequent targeted statutory consultation from 3 November to 13 December 2022 can be found in Appendix F-2 and I-8 .

Format and content of the Consultation Report: Duty to consult the local community (s47)

The Secretary of State needs to be satisfied that the Applicant has complied with the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) preparation process. Evidence should be submitted as part of the Consultation Report which shows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- • Which local authorities were consulted about the content of the draft SoCC;- • what the local authorities' comments were;- • confirmation that the local authorities were given 28 days to	This is provided in Chapter 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Section 5.2.4 sets out which local authorities were consulted about the content of the draft SoCC;- Appendix C-4 provides copies of the local authorities' comments;- Section 5.3.1: confirmation that the local authorities were given 28 days to provide their comments; and- Section 5.3.6: provides a summary of how the Applicant had regard to the local authorities' comments.- Appendix C-5 details how the Applicant had regard to local authorities' comments
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– provide their comments; and
 – • a description about how the Applicant had regard to the local authorities' comments.

<p>Applicants should make the SoCC available for inspection online. Evidence that this has been done should be provided in the Consultation Report, for example, a screen shot of the relevant webpage showing the published SoCC (including the full website address and relevant telephone number for enquiries as required by the 2020 Regulations) and confirmation that the public could access the webpage free of charge.</p>	<p>The SoCC was made available on the consultation website as set out in Chapter 5, Section 5.4.</p>
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<p>Copies of the published SoCC notice as it appeared in the local press should be provided along with confirmation of which local newspapers it was published in and when.</p>	<p>A copy of the published SoCC as it appeared in local newspapers is included in Appendix D-2</p>
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Format and content of the Consultation Report: Duty to publicise (s48)

<p>A scanned copy of the s48 notice as it appeared in the local and national newspapers and journals, clearly showing the publication's name and date of publication, should be included in the report.</p>	<p>Table 8.1 summarises the publication of s48 notices. Copies of the s48 notices are in Appendix G.</p>
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<p>Applicants should provide confirmation that the s48 notice was sent to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) consultation bodies at the same time as the notice was published.</p>	<p>Chapter 3, Section 3.3 confirms the s48 notice was sent to the EIA consultation bodies. These bodies are set out in Appendix F-1.</p>
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Format and content of the Consultation Report: Non-statutory consultation and engagement

<p>Applicants may have been engaged in non-statutory consultation eg early consultation with statutory bodies may have been undertaken when identifying options and in advance of statutory consultation under the provisions of the PA2008. Applicants may also have been engaged in non-statutory consultation that takes place after the statutory consultation following changes made to the project.</p>	<p>The Applicant undertook pre-consultation engagement as outlined in Chapter 4, Section 4.2.</p> <p>The Applicant also conducted targeted statutory consultation from 3 November 2022 to 13 December 2022. This is summarised in Chapter 10.</p>
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<p>In circumstances where statutory consultees were informed of non-material changes to the project, this should also be reported. It would also be helpful to provide a brief rationale about why the</p>	<p>The Applicant conducted targeted statutory consultation from 3 November 2022 to 13 December 2022. This is summarised in Chapter 10.</p>
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changes were considered to be nonmaterial and an explanation of how consultees were informed. Where only some consultees were selected to be informed about a change, please justify the approach taken.

Any consultation not carried out under the provisions of the PA2008 should be clearly indicated and identified separately. Applicants should describe the non-statutory consultation that took place to the same level of detail as the statutory consultation.

The Applicant conducted non-statutory consultation from 11 January to 18 February 2022. This is summarised in **Chapter 4**.

If targeted consultation takes place, please explain the nature and purpose of the consultation.

The Applicant conducted targeted statutory consultation from 03 November 2022 to 13 December 2022. The nature and purpose of the statutory consultation is clearly summarised in **Chapter 10**.

Format and content of the Consultation Report: EIA Regulations consultation

Consultation undertaken as part of the EIA process is separate to that required under the PA2008 e.g. statutory consultation on a Scoping Report following a Scoping Request to the Secretary of State. Applicants may wish to draw attention to consultation responses received under the EIA process, but any reference to that consultation should be addressed separately from the statutory consultation carried out under the provisions of the PA2008.

The consultation which the Applicant undertook under EIA regulations is set out in **Chapter 3**.

Format and content of the Consultation Report: Report appendices

Appendices should be used to provide evidence that demonstrates compliance with the requirements of the PA2008. Careful consideration should be given to the structure and logic of the appendices so that they can be clearly signposted in the main body of the report. A helpful approach is to have separate appendices for each element of statutory consultation and publicity. Where multiple stages of consultation took place then it may be helpful to have a separate appendix for each stage, subdivided into the different strands of consultation.

The appendices for the report have been structured logically and clearly and they are signposted at the beginning of the **Consultation Report [EN010131/APP/4.1]** and then throughout the text.

Evidence of non-statutory consultation should be assembled chronologically in a separate appendix.

Evidence of the non-statutory consultation is included chronologically in the Stage 1 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report included within **Appendix B**.

If a large volume of consultation responses were received and reported on, then it usually makes sense to include the summary response tables in an appendix or appendices. A chronological approach which demonstrates the journey through the consultation is usually easier for the reader to understand and navigate.

A summary of issues raised by s42 consultation responses is available in **Appendix H**. This provides the summary responses broken down by topic. Further detail can be found in **Table 9-3** and **Table 9-4**.

Reporting statutory consultation responses

It is necessary to demonstrate compliance with section 49 of the PA2008 by providing evidence that consultation responses have been taken into account during the preparation of the application.

Table 9-2, 9-3 and **9-4** demonstrate the Applicant has complied to s49 of the PA 2008 by providing an account of issues raised and the Applicant's response to them.

Reporting statutory consultation responses: Issues-led approach

If the level of response was significant it may be appropriate to group responses under headline issues. Care must be taken to ensure that in doing this the responses are not presented in a misleading way or out of context from the original views of the consultee.

Chapter 9, Section 9.2 summarises the key themes identified through the consultation feedback, grouping together responses about similar topics.

An explanation of the process by which consultation responses were grouped and organised (coded) is helpful, including any safeguards and cross checking that took place to ensure that the responses were grouped appropriately.

Chapter 9, Section 9.2 sets out the Applicant's framework for recording responses from s42 consultees. **Section 9.4** outlines the Applicant's approach in collating responses from s47 consultees.

Reporting statutory consultation responses: Summary of responses

A summary of the individual responses received should be provided and categorised in an appropriate way.

Tables 9-2, 9-3 and **9-4** provide a summary of individual responses received during statutory consultation.

The summary of the responses should identify comments that are relevant (directly or indirectly) to changes made to the project during the Pre-application stage.

Tables 9-2, 9-3 and **9-4** identify comments that are relevant to changes made during the Pre-application stage.

It is also necessary to explain why responses have led to no change, including where responses have been received after

Where applicable, **Tables 9-2, 9-3** and **9-4** explain why responses have led to no change.

deadlines set by the Applicant.

Virtual consultation methods

If virtual consultation methods were planned, then this should be reflected in the SoCC. In the usual way, the relevant local authorities will have been consulted about this and their feedback reported in the Consultation Report.

The SoCC, as shown in **Appendix D-1**, clearly reflects that virtual consultation methods would be utilised during statutory consultation. The relevant local authorities' feedback is summarised in **Chapter 5, Section 5.3**. Copies of the local authorities' responses are included in **Appendix C-4**.

Where virtual consultation methods were deployed as a reaction to external circumstances then it is important that the views of the relevant local authorities are captured in the Consultation Report. If no review and update of the SoCC took place under the provisions of the PA2008, then this should be justified in the Consultation Report with reference to the views of the relevant local authorities about the approach adopted.

The SoCC, as shown in **Appendix D-1**, clearly reflects that virtual consultation methods would be utilised during statutory consultation. The relevant local authorities' feedback is summarised in **Chapter 5, Section 5.3**. Copies of the local authorities' responses are included in **Appendix C-4**.

In general, where virtual consultation methods are planned then the SoCC should explain any mitigation measures put in place for digitally disadvantaged members of the community e.g. the use of telephone surgeries.

The SoCC, as shown in **Appendix D-1**, clearly reflects that virtual consultation methods would be utilised during statutory consultation, but that in-person events and alternatives including the phonenumber and Deposit Inspection Locations would be available for digitally disadvantaged members of the community.

Data protection and redaction guidance

Applicants must ensure that the Consultation Report complies with data protection legislation eg personal data of individuals is treated appropriately.

Table 5-3 summarises the commitments made in the SoCC and how the Applicant fulfilled them provides confirmation that all data was managed within General Data Protection Regulation guidelines.

12.2 Conclusion

12.2.1 In conclusion, the Applicant considers that it has met the statutory requirements of the pre-application process. This report describes the phased consultation process undertaken by the Applicant in accordance with the PA 2008 and the SoCC issued for the statutory consultation stage.

12.2.2 At each stage of consultation, the Applicant has considered and complied with relevant advice and guidance. The information included in **Table 12-1 and 12-2** supports this through direct reference to MHCLG's and the Planning

Inspectorate's guidance on the pre-application process, specifically advice note 14.

- 12.2.3 The Applicant carried out an iterative consultation process across two stages of consultation and a targeted consultation, with key changes summarised in **Chapter 9, Section 9.3**.
- 12.2.4 Consultation responses to each stage of consultation have been carefully documented and considered as part of the iterative development of the Scheme, with stakeholders playing a key role in the design of the proposals.
- 12.2.5 During the consultation period, the Applicant actively sought and had regard for feedback provided by stakeholders, and has made changes where possible as documented in this Consultation Report. A summary of the changes made to the Scheme as a result of consultation is set out in **Chapter 9, Section 9.3** of this report.
- 12.2.6 As well as preparing this report, the Applicant has set out how it has complied with guidance and advice on consultation in the **Section 55 Checklist [EN010131/APP/1.1]** that is also part of the DCO application.

References

Her Majesty's Stationery Office (HMSO) (2011) The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (as amended by The Town and Country Planning and Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2018). Available at: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/572/pdfs/uksi_20170572_en.pdf and http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/695/pdfs/uksi_20180695_en.pdf

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