Gate Burton
ENERGY PARK

Gate Burton Energy Park
Applicant Responses to Relevant Representations

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Gate Burton Energy Park Limited

Prepared for:

Gate Burton Energy Park Limited

Prepared by:

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1. Introduction

1.1.1 The Development Consent Order (DCO) application for the Gate Burton Energy Park was submitted on 27 January 2023 and accepted for Examination on 22 February 2023. The period when Interested Parties (IPs) could submit Relevant Representations (RR) on the project extended from 1 March until 12 April 2023. The RRs received were published on the Planning Inspectorate website on 17 April 2023. All RRs are available here: Gate Burton Energy Park project overview (planninginspectorate.gov.uk).

1.1.2 A total of 291 responses were received during the RR period. Table 1.1 lists the prescribed consultees who submitted a RR. 253 RRs were received from individual and community respondents. No RRs were received by the Planning Inspectorate after the closure of the RR on 12 April 2023.

1.1.3 This document sets out the Applicant's responses to points made in RRs. To increase the conciseness of this document similar points have been grouped together and summarised. Where responses are direct quotes, these are shown in italics. In all other instances please refer to the RRs for the full representations made.

Table 1.1: List of Prescribed Consultees who Submitted Relevant Representations

Reference number	Organisation
RR-015	Anglian Water Services
RR-023	Brattleby Parish Council
RR-024	Burton by Lincoln Parish Council
RR-025	Cammeringham Parish Council
RR-026	Canal & River Trust
RR-043	Cottam Solar Project
RR-065	EDF Energy (Thermal Generation) Limited
RR-079	Exolum Pipeline Systems Ltd c/o Fisher German
RR-080	Fillingham Parish Meeting
RR-082	Forestry Commission
RR-092	Glentworth Parish Council
RR-099	Hemswell Cliff Parish Council
RR-100	Historic England
RR-141	Kexby Parish Council
RR-143	Knaith Parish Council
RR-148	Lincolnshire County Council
RR-149	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
RR-165	Marton and Gate Burton Parish Council

RR-175	Ministry of Defence, Defence Infrastructure Organisation, Safeguarding Department
RR-190	National Grid Electricity Distribution (East Midlands) plc
RR-191	National Grid Electricity Transmission plc
RR-192	National Highways
RR-193	Natural England
RR-194	Network Rail Infrastructure Limited
RR-203	North Kesteven District Council
RR-204	Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
RR-242	Scampton Parish Council
RR-251	Springthorpe Parish Meeting
RR-270	The Environment Agency
RR-271	The Woodland Trust
RR-273	Tillbridge Solar Limited
RR-280	UK Health Security Agency
RR-281	Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board
RR-282	Upton Parish Council
RR-285	Weightmans LLP on behalf of Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) Plc
RR-287	West Burton Solar Project
RR-288	West Lindsey District Council
RR-290	Willingham by stow Parish Council

1.1.4 RR comments and the Applicant's responses can be found in **Table 2-1**. The reference number column in **Table 2-1** refers to the reference given to the RRs in the Examination Library. Where more than 50 responses were received making the same point, these responses are listed as '50+ responses' rather than providing all reference numbers.

1.1.5 All application documents have a reference number [APP/x.y], where the last two numbers are the application document number. All documents are presented in numerical order in the Guide to the Application (the Guide) **[APP-003/1.3].** The number stays the same when the document is updated, with the 'version' being updated as shown in the Guide. This referencing style is used where a document is referenced without the need to reference a particular version of a document, the document reference zz/x.y] is used where 'z' is the reference given to the document in the Examination Library and 'x.y' is the document number in the Guide.

1.1.6 For ease of reference, a table of acronyms used in this document is provided in Table 1-2.

Table 1.2 Acronyms used in this document

Acronym	Definition
AGLV	Area of Great Landscape Value
ALC	Agricultural Land Classification
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
BMV	Best and most versatile
BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain
BSMP	Battery Safety Management Plan
BSSS	British Society of Soil Science
CCC	Climate Change Committee
CDC	Cottam Development Centre
CCTV	Close-Circuit Television
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
CLLP	Central Lincolnshire Local Plan
CO2	Carbon Dioxide
CoP	Code of Practice
CRT	Canal and Rivers Trust
CTMP	Construction Traffic Management Plan
DCO	Development Consent Order
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
DEMP	Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMF	Electric and magnetic fields
EPR	Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations
EN-3	Draft National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy
ES	Environmental Statement
FRS	Fire and Rescue Service
FRELP	Full Recovery End-of-Life Photovoltaic
FTE	Full Time Employment
GHG	Green House Gas
GW	Gigawatt
Ha	Hectare
HDD	Horizontal Direct Drilling

HGV	Heavy Goods Vehicle
IBC	Intermediate Bulk Containers
IDB	Internal Drainage Board
IMEA	Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment
IP	Interested Party
Km	Kilometre
kV	Kilovolt
LCA	Landscape Character Area
LCC	Lincolnshire County Council
LEMP	Landscape Ecological management Plan
LGV	Light Goods Vehicle
LIR	Local Impact Report
LLCA	Local Landscape Character Area
LLFA	Lead Local Flood Authority
LRA	Land Research Associates
m^2	Square metres
m	metre
MPH	Miles per hour
MoD	Ministry of Defence
MW	Megawatt
MWp	Megawatt peak
NCC	Nottinghamshire County Council
NETS	National Electricity Transmission System
NGED	National Grid Electricity Distribution
NGET	National Grid Electricity Transmission
NKDC	North Kesteven District Council
NPS	National Policy Statement
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure project
OS	Ordnance Survey
oSMP	Outline Soil Management Plan
OLEMP	Outline Landscape Ecology Management Plan
PEI	Preliminary Environmental Information
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
PINS	The Planning Inspectorate

PRA	Priority Regeneration Area
PRoW	Public Rights of Way
PV	Photovoltaic
RAF	Royal Air Force
RPA	Root Protection Area
RR	Relevant Representation
SRN	Strategic Road Network
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems
UK	United Kingdom
UKHSA	United Kingdom Health Security Agency
WEEE	Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WHO	World health Organisation
WLDC	West Lindsey District Council
WSI	Written Schemes of Investigation
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

2. Applicant's Comments on Relevant Representations

Table 2-1 Applicant's Comments on Relevant Representations

Ref. No.	IP Name	Comments from Relevant Representations	Response to Relevant Representation
2.1	**Principles of Solar Development and Amount of Electricity Generated**		
Over 50 reps	Individual respondents	Objects to and queries the efficiency and reliability of solar technology due to: • Reduced generating potential during cloudy days; • Reduced generation during winter months (when demand is higher); • Do not generate a high percentage of their maximum capacity in reality (e.g. 'In the UK, solar panels produce on average around 11% of their rated output'); • Do not have a high capacity per acre of land (e.g. suggested 5 acres required for 1MW of output); • Irradiancy levels at the Gate Burton site; and • Contribution to national requirements. Some respondents stated that the economic performance of solar energy was worse than that of other technologies such as wind and wave technology. Some respondents stated the Scheme may require additional energy storage or backup generation systems to ensure a consistent and reliable energy supply.	Draft National Policy Statement (NPS) EN-1 (March 2023) paragraph 3.3.20 states that the Government's: *'analysis shows that a secure, reliable, affordable, net zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar.'* This states the Government's confidence that the future electricity system can operate with predominantly wind and solar energy and is based on analysis of electricity systems, including key features of both technologies such as their operation during different weather and seasonal conditions. **Electricity generation on cloudy days/ during winter** The Applicant accepts that the uncontrollable nature of the weather means that solar generation is variable. Variability can be mitigated by developing larger generation capacities, developing projects with generation profiles which are complementary to each other (as shown in Figures 8-1 and 8-2 of the **Statement of Need [APP-004/2.1]**), developing integration technologies such as battery storage and developing assets which are more geographically dispersed, therefore connecting to different parts of the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS). Solar Photovoltaic (PV) panels do not need direct sunlight to generate electricity. Whilst cloudy conditions can reduce total output compared to that of a clear day the Scheme is still expected to generate significant outputs of low carbon electricity at such times. The Scheme will still operate in winter months without direct sunlight and in reduced daylight hours. Section 7.7 of

Ref. No.	IP Name	Comments from Relevant Representations	Response to Relevant Representation
			the **Statement of Need [APP-004/2.1]** describes how overplanting the Scheme will enhance the generation output of the scheme at such times compared to a scheme which is not overplanted. The assumed Load Factor (the ratio of total energy used over a specific period of time to the total possible energy available within that period) for solar in the UK is 11%. This takes into account factors including weather conditions, location and site design. In consideration of these factors, the Scheme will achieve a comparative annual generation per hectare for onshore wind, as shown in Table 7-1 of the **Statement of Need [APP-004/2.1].** The benefits of the Scheme in terms of electricity generated and emission reductions have been estimated taking into account the load factor. To ensure system adequacy from renewable generators, a large portfolio of interconnected assets from as broad as possible a range of technologies and geography may be beneficial. If consented, the Scheme will therefore be one element of this diverse system. Wind and solar are mutually compatible technologies as the weather and climatic conditions in which they generate most of their electricity often occur at different times. Solar farms generate more electricity in the summer months when it is lighter, and days are longer. Wind farms generate more electricity when it is windy, which is more frequent in the winter months. There is a seasonality to both electricity demand and renewable electricity generation. Meeting UK summer demand for electricity from wind alone (when UK winds are seasonally weaker) would require an over-provision of wind capacity relative to that required to meet winter demand (when UK winds are seasonally stronger). Building greater capacities of renewable generation will incur higher development costs and may cause more environmental impacts than building lower capacities, but it is important to ensure that capacities are sufficient to always meet reasonably expected demand. Solar parks can neatly “fill the gap” during summer months without delivering significant over-generation in winter periods. See the Statement of Need **[APP-004/2.1]** (section 8.8) for more information on this point.

Ref. No.	IP Name	Comments from Relevant Representations	Response to Relevant Representation
			It is also important to note that solar generation is economically efficient in the UK as shown in Figure 10-3 of the **Statement of Need [APP-004/2.1]**. **Solar Panel Efficiency: Installed Capacity and Electricity Generated** In terms of efficiency of output, some representations have suggested that solar panels are 'inefficient' because the amount of electricity generated is a low percentage of a panel's installed capacity and that this is leading to the developer over-estimating the benefits of the Scheme. The installed capacity of a solar park indicates its nominal power output under Standard Test Conditions. Installed capacity does not describe how much electricity is produced at a particular solar park in a specified period because the key drivers of output at any time, are prevailing weather conditions and the time of day / seasonality. Therefore, the Applicant discusses the benefits of the Scheme in relation to the expected annual generation of the Scheme, not installed capacity. Calculations of the benefits of the Scheme have been undertaken considering all factors mentioned here, including expected solar irradiation incident at the site, degradation rate of panels over time, seasonal factors and weather. To help visualise the significant benefits brought forwards by the scheme, the annual electricity output of the scheme has also been converted into an equivalent number of properties, the annual energy demands of which could be generated by the Scheme. As set out in the Planning, Design and Access Statement paragraph 4.3.4 **[APP/2.2]**, draft NPS EN-3 (March 2023) paragraph 3.10.8 states that: *'Along with associated infrastructure, generally a solar farm requires between 2 and 4 acres for each MW of output.'* The area covered by Work Number 1 (the solar panels and balance of solar system plant) is approximately 476 hectares or 1,176 acres. This would indicate approximately 2.2 acres of land for each MW of capacity based on 531MW of installed capacity. The Scheme is therefore within the range set out in Draft NPS EN-3 and is at the more efficient end of the spectrum. The Applicant therefore respectfully disagrees

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with respondent statements that the Gate Burton scheme represents an inefficient use of land and statements suggesting that the Gate Burton scheme would use 5 acres of land per MW of installed capacity are incorrect. The Scheme presents a much more efficient use of land than suggested.

The electricity generated by the Scheme will depend on the final layout of the Scheme and the detailed technology choice, but the minimum yield from the Scheme based on the indicative layout proposed at ES Figure 2.4 **[APP-033/3.2]** is predicted to average 449,800MWh per annum[1]. This would provide a significant contribution to the decarbonisation of the electricity grid. Electricity generated by the Scheme will be low cost, predictable and will not be reliant on volatile fossil fuel markets, thus the Scheme will support British energy security of supply and affordability, as well as reducing electricity costs for consumers. The Scheme will also incorporate a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), which can store electrical energy when it is not needed and release it when it is needed. Electricity storage of this nature enables further decarbonisation of the National Grid and increases security of supply as more renewable energy facilities are connected to the grid.

Irradiation Levels

The East Midlands where the Scheme is proposed to be located also has attractive levels of irradiation (as shown in Figure 7-4 of the Statement of Need **[APP-004/2.1]**). The combination of this and the large flat areas of open land in the local area, make it a highly suitable location for solar PV development.

Contribution to National Need

As demonstrated in Section 10.3 of the Statement of Need **[APP-004/2.1]** solar is also economically attractive in the UK when compared to many other forms of conventional and renewable energy including both onshore and offshore wind. Size remains important and maximising the generating capacity of schemes improves their economic efficiency, so bringing power to

[1] Based on 26.986 TWh of electricity generated over 60 years. See section 6.4 of Chapter 6 of the Environmental Statement for assumptions made **[EN010106/APP-15/3.1]**.

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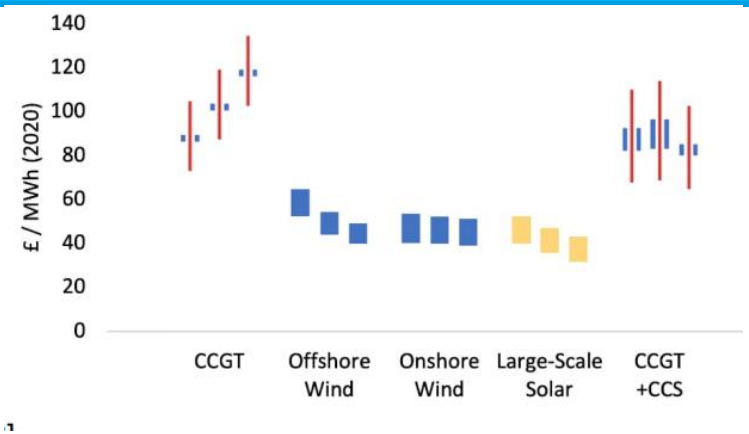
			market at the lowest cost possible. Larger solar schemes can deliver more quickly and at a lower unit cost than multiple independent schemes which make up the same total capacity, bringing forward carbon reduction and economic benefits in line with government policy (see Section 10.4 of the Statement of Need **[APP-004/2.1]**). The Scheme, as a leading large-scale solar scheme in Great Britain, represents c. 2% of the additional solar generation capacity projected as required by 2030 in those of National Grid's Future Energy Scenarios that are compatible with Net-Zero. In this context, the Scheme is an essential stepping stone towards the future of efficient decarbonisation through the deployment of large-scale, technologically and geographically diverse low-carbon generation assets. The Applicant therefore makes the case that the Scheme plays an important role in delivering a diversified portfolio of renewable generation sources to decarbonise the electricity system while maintaining security of supply and affordability for consumers.
144	Laura Smith	Solar energy will increase energy prices	The Scheme proposes a substantial infrastructure asset, which if consented will deliver large amounts of cheap, low-carbon electricity during its operational lifetime. As shown in the Figure below (replicated from Figure 10-3 of the Statement of Need **[APP-004/2.1]**), solar technology is one of the cheapest electricity generation technologies to deploy and the cost of generating electricity from solar is highly competitive with (or cheaper than) all other major sources of low-carbon electricity. Section 10.2 of the Statement of Need **[APP-004/2.1]** describes how solar power lowers the market price of electricity by displacing more expensive forms of generation and delivers benefits for electricity consumers. **Figure 1 - Levelised cost of energy consumption**

Ref. No.	IP Name	Comments from Relevant Representations	Response to Relevant Representation
			
178, 231	Individual respondents	Other technologies would be better, including: • Wind (because it takes up less land) • Small nuclear reactors would be a better use of the grid connections at Cottam and West Burton • Large scale nuclear is better than solar	The statement that wind requires less land than solar is not correct (see Statement of Need Section 7.6 **[APP-004/2.1]**). The Statement of Needs explains that the renewable energy hub indicates that 10 (High generation density) – 16Ha (Low generation density) of land is required per turbine (each with a capacity of 6MW) for onshore wind, which is 1.6-2.6 hectares (4-6.4 acres) per MW of installed capacity. In comparison, the same source states that UK solar uses between 0.8 hectares (2 acres) (High density) and 1.6Ha (4 acres) (Low density) of land per MW of installed capacity. The figure for Gate Burton Energy Park, using the full area of the Order limits within the Solar and Energy Storage Park element of the Scheme is 1.2 hectares per MW, requiring a smaller area than onshore wind. However, as recognised by EN-1 paragraph 3.320 above, both technologies are required as part of a diverse energy mix. The Applicant accepts that nuclear currently provides the largest capacity of dispatchable low-carbon power generation in Great Britain. One new nuclear development is currently under construction (Hinkley Point C is currently forecast to operate commercially near to the end of this decade) but no other nuclear developments have yet secured full consents and funding such that construction can commence. Other than Hinkley Point C, new nuclear will not

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			contribute to decarbonisation of the electricity system in the 2020s and potentially into the 2030s. Section 5.3 of the Statement of Need **[APP-004/2.1]** provides evidence which shows that actions during the 2020s will be critical to meet the 2050 Net Zero target, and although nuclear may have a role to play in energy supply in the future, simply put, waiting for nuclear to deliver is no longer an option in the fight against climate change.
2.2	**Design Parameters for the Gate Burton Scheme**		
072, 80, 164, 260	Individual respondents	Objects to the proposed 40/60 year lifespan of the Scheme.	To maximise the benefits of the Scheme in terms of energy generation and carbon emission reductions, the lifetime of the Scheme has been assessed as 60 years. Each project makes its own assumptions regarding project lifetimes and the Applicant cannot comment on why other developers may use different timeframes.
001, 009, 208	Individual respondents	A 40/60/70 year timeframe is a long time and should not be considered as temporary	For clarification, to maximise the benefits of the Scheme in terms of energy generation and carbon emission reductions, the lifetime of the Scheme has been assessed as 60 years, not 40 or 70. 60 years is this timescale that has been assessed in the Environmental Statement and this full timescale has been assessed when considering impacts. Further, in considering the oral submissions made by interested parties at the issue specific hearing on the draft DCO **[APP-215**] regarding the need for a mechanism to secure a 60-year temporal limit, the Applicant has updated the draft DCO at Deadline 1 to amend Requirement 19 to ensure that decommissioning must take place no later than 60 years following the date of final commissioning of the authorised development. Therefore, the Scheme cannot continue indefinitely and is therefore temporary. The Scheme is also reversible after its lifetime and in that respect is a long term, temporary use.

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016, 028, 033, 083, 084, 091, 103, 116, 118, 119, 120, 130, 159, 208, 239, 250, 256, 276	Individual respondents	Objects to the 4-metre/ 4.5 metre/ 9 metre panel size	The maximum panel height would be 3.5 metres. This maximum panel height is set out in the Outline Design Principles **[007/2.3]** with Requirement 5 in the draft Development Consent Order **[APP-215/6.1]** requiring the detailed design of the Scheme to be in line with the Outline Design Principles.
032, 041, 066, 121, 231	Individual respondents	Objects to the 3m height of security fencing.	Security fencing of 3m in height is required to protect the site from unauthorised access, including to address concerns other respondents have had over crime. Planting has been incorporated within the Outline Landscape Masterplan to screen the fencing to reduce the landscape and visual impact. The planting proposed as part of the Scheme is shown on the Outline Landscape Masterplan and associated management regime in the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan **[APP-231/7.10].**
066, 121, 262	Individual respondents	Objects to the 5m height of CCTV poles.	All CCTV poles will be located within the fence line. The optimum height of the CCTV poles are 5 metres, allowing for a greater visibility splay. Shorter CCTV poles will require more cameras to be placed at more frequent intervals around the site. The actual height of the CCTV poles will be determined during detailed design. The CCTV will be trained on the perimeter of the site, with the only exceptions being at gated entrances to detect vehicles or personnel approaching.

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042, 066, 121, 171, 231	Individual respondent	Concerns about CCTV operation including: • Impact on privacy of surrounding properties and walkers • What will footage be used for? • Concerns over source of cameras, e.g. Chinese made cameras are being removed from sensitive sites	As stated in Chapter 2 The Scheme **[APP-011/3.1]** CCTV is required around the perimeter of the operational areas of the site to observe internal movement within the site only (not externally), therefore this will not affect the privacy of surrounding properties or walkers. CCTV footage is required to minimise the potential for damage to occur within the site through criminal activity. The cameras will be purchased from a reputable supplier, so there should be no cause for concern regarding the source of the cameras.
072, 078, 083, 118, 284	Individual respondents	States the Scheme may increase crime in the community.	Gate Burton Energy Park is part of the Low Carbon group of companies, with a track record of over a decade in the development, construction, operation, and maintenance of more than 1.3GW of operational solar farms. These solar farms are spread across more than 135 sites in the UK, encompassing both Low Carbon's own projects and those owned by third parties. The crime experienced by Low Carbon to date across these sites is very low. The use of perimeter fences, CCTV, SmartWater (traceable dye), anti-tamper devices on the solar panels and infra-red perimeter alarms all act as deterrents to crime. If the CCTV cameras pick up an intruder, the Applicant's Operations and Maintenance team are called, the key holding service are called and a security guard is sent to site. The police are called immediately if the intruder is unauthorised.
269	The Carter Family	Crime prevention needs to be considered. The fields to our east and west are currently cultivated for arable crops. The land is ploughed after harvest and gets very wet and boggy in the winter. This assists with security as it deters infiltration by unauthorised persons and vehicles. However, when the access strips at the edge of the development site are left untouched, we will be more vulnerable to break-in and theft. It is important to have obstacles such as fences and locked gates incorporated into the perimeter design to prevent unauthorised ingress to the solar site and its access strips. The developer has agreed to block accesses to field C7 with locked gates (designated 8/07 and 8/08 on sheet 8 of	Gate Burton Energy Park is part of the Low Carbon group of companies, with a track record of over a decade in the development, construction, operation, and maintenance of more than 1.3GW of operational solar farms. These solar farms are spread across more than 135 sites in the UK, encompassing both Low Carbon's own projects and those owned by third parties. The crime experienced by Low Carbon to date across these sites is very low. The use of perimeter fences, CCTV, SmartWater (traceable dye), anti-tamper devices on the solar panels and infra-red perimeter alarms all act as deterrents to crime. If the CCTV cameras pick up an intruder, the Applicant's Operations and Maintenance team are called, the key holding service are called and a security guard is sent to site. The police are called immediately if the intruder is unauthorised.

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		EN010131/APP/5.3). There is however still an issue with field C11 as its western edge is currently without any hedging or fencing and consequently open to ingress. This part of the site's perimeter, i.e., where the site abuts the shared accessway to our property, needs to be fenced to prevent unauthorised access to field C11 (which would allow unauthorised entry to other parts of the site, including field C10 which is adjacent to our property).	Fencing and tree and shrub belt planting are proposed along the western and southern edges of field C11 as shown on Sheet 3 of 6 of the Outline Landscape Masterplan presented in Annex A of the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan **[APP-231/7.10].** The Applicant has conducted a full review of all proposed accesses to seek ways to reduce the environmental impact of the scheme and identify environmental enhancements. As part of this review, the Applicant proposes to remove access 'F' at Marton Road to the southeast of the C11 land parcel. This access was proposed for the operational period only and this area of the site can instead be accessed using access 'E' off Marton Road, with vehicles then travelling through the site to access this area. The location of these accesses is shown in Figure 5.1 of the Planning, Design and Access Statement (Part 2) **[APP-006/2.2].** Removal of the Marton Road access F would enable planting across the current access point, providing continuous screening across the southern boundary of C11. This change would be beneficial from a landscape and visual impact perspective, as well as addressing concerns raised by the Carter Family about unauthorised access to this field from the south. The western side of field C11 will include fencing around the solar arrays but the Applicant will also agree to install locked gates to prevent unauthorised access into field C10.
171	Michael Dover	*'I vehemently object to the Gate Burton Energy project and the siting of the construction site on Kexby Lane, this construction site will take a great deal of traffic 12 hours a day including HGV. However it is sited opposite residential housing and businesses. It is also adjacent to the communities sewage pumping station and a watercourse. developers plan to tear down an ancient hedgerow and part of a wood to facilitate an entry to the site. Diagonally opposite is a business that has vehicles arriving most of the day and parking on the road. This road is a 60 MPH rural road the proposed entry is at the end of*	The Kexby Lane Construction compound is a secondary compound that is required in this location to provide a site office, mobile welfare units, generators, canteen facility, a fenced area for storage and waste skips and space for short-term parking, storage, download and a turning area. This compound will only facilitate construction within the area of the Scheme north of Kexby Lane, which is a small area of the Scheme. The presence of a compound in this location will avoid construction vehicles and workers crossing Kexby Lane from the south.

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		a downhill 1km straight and vehicles often exceed the national limit. An entry to the field already exists some 300M west. The necessity to demolish the hedgerow would be diminished a natural apron off the road exists. This would be a better entry it would lessen the threat of pollution to the watercourse and save trees and hedgerows. There was no answer given to the enquiry of this sites longevity'	As stated within Chapter 3: Alternatives **[APP-012/3.1]** throughout the design process efforts have been made to reduce the impact of the Scheme on residential amenity, including introducing buffer areas around properties to reduce impacts, landscaping to screen views and elements that generate more impacts such as siting the BESS and construction compounds away from properties. As discussed with Lincolnshire County Council and set out in ES Chapter 13 Transport and Access **[APP-022/3.1]**, the majority of construction vehicles will travel to/from the proposed primary access point on the A156. A peak total of approximately 20 vehicles are expected to use the Kexby Road North access daily, approximately 12 staff vehicles, 5 HGVs and 3 LGVs. The Framework CTMP (Appendix 13-E) **[APP-167-168/3.3]** includes an HGV routing plan which shows that use of local roads will be minimised as far as possible. As shown on Figure 2-2 of the ES **[APP-031/3.2]** following feedback from statutory consultation, panels have been set back from homes on the north side of Kexby Lane and further landscaping proposed in their place to reduce the landscape and visual impacts. This area where panels will not be located is shown in Appendix A of the revised Outline Design Principles document submitted at Deadline 1 with this report. The proposed removal of vegetation along Kexby Lane is required to accommodate two access points and to achieve sufficient visibility splays to/from these access points. The Applicant has received confirmation from Lincolnshire County Council that utilising the speed survey information they are willing to implement the absolute minimum stopping sight distance values along Kexby Lane, this would introduce an overall reduction in hedgerow removal related to the southern access point compared to that set out in the submitted Application. The Applicant will be updating the Examination with a technical note covering the proposed changes to this access at Deadline 2.

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			The Framework CEMP **[APP-224/7.3]** includes provisions for habitat re-instatement following construction and measures to minimise hedgerow loss, including along Kexby Lane. As it is a B-road, the B1241 is considered suitable, both in terms of its classification status and geometry for accommodating HGV movements. Low numbers of HGVs are proposed to use the B1241 on route to the Kexby Lane (north), Kexby Lane (south) and Marton Road accesses. In total 22 HGVs (44 movements) are expected per day on Kexby Lane during the 'worst case' construction peak period within a predominantly 9am-5pm (8 hour) window, equating to under 6 movements per hour. Although the road has a 60mph (derestricted) speed limit our survey shows average speeds on the route are significantly lower than this. In terms of pollution to the water course this will be mitigated through measures contained within the Framework CEMP **[APP-224/7.3].**
2.3	**Grid Connection Corridor**		
026	Canal and River Trust	We note that in the Application documents 2.2 (Planning, Design & Access Statement) at paragraph 3.4.6, the applicant states that they are working on shared grid connection routes with Cottam Solar Project (EN010133, accepted for examination 10 February) and West Burton Solar Project (EN010132, application submitted 21 March). The Trust is also aware of the Tillbridge Solar Farm (EN010142) which is at an early stage (application due Q4 2023) but is proposing a cable crossing at a similar location on the river. We welcome a joint working approach with all these schemes to ensure efficiency in the consenting process and to limit the potential for short and long term economic, environmental and social impacts on the navigation and its users.	We welcome Canal and River Trust (CRT)'s acknowledgements of efforts made to reduce cumulative impacts. The Applicant is liaising with CRT along with the developers of Cottam, West Burton and Tillbridge solar farms to agree protective provisions, including most recently an all parties meeting on 14 July 2023. In the meantime, the Applicant has included a placeholder for protective provisions for the benefit of the CRT at Part 11 of Schedule 15 of the updated DCO submitted at Deadline1, which it expects to update with agreed protective provisions early in Examination. Progress on negotiations is reported in the Statement of Common Ground between the Applicant and CRT submitted at Deadline 1 **[4.3l]**.

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043	Cottam Solar Project	Cottam Solar Project Limited is the undertaker for the Cottam Solar Project DCO (PINS reference EN010133). The DCO application for the Cottam Solar Project was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 12 January 2023 and accepted for Examination on 9 February 2023. Cottam Solar Project Limited wishes to register as an Interested Party for the Gate Burton Energy Park DCO Examination, as it may wish to participate in the Examination given the proximity of the two schemes, the commonality of certain stakeholders and the potential for similar or cumulative environmental effects and coordination of mitigation measures. Protective provisions for the benefit of Cottam Solar Project Limited have also been included within the draft DCO for the Gate Burton Energy Park. The Examining Authority for the Gate Burton Energy Park DCO Examination may also wish to direct related questions to Cottam Solar Project Limited.	Agreed. The Applicant is continuing to work with Cottam Solar Project Limited as the projects progress. For example, the Applicant, Cottam Solar Project limited and the undertakers for the West Burton Solar Project and Tillbridge Solar Project have entered into a commercial agreement to ensure various obligations on each party in relation to their cooperation throughout the Examination(s) of each DCO application. This cooperation agreement is provided in Appendix C of the interrelationships report submitted at Deadline 1. The Applicant has also included protective provisions for the benefit of Cottam at Part 4 of Schedule 15 of the draft DCO **[APP-215/6.1**].
065	EDF Energy (Thermal Generation) Limited	The wider Cottam Site has been designated in the draft Bassetlaw Local Plan as a "Priority Regeneration Area," and EDF wish to ensure that the regeneration of the site is facilitated in line with the Council's requirements and ambitions. It is therefore imperative that the proposed cable route does not sterilise development land or detract from future development plans.	The Cottam Site has been identified as a Priority Regeneration Area in the draft Local Plan for mixed use development but is not allocated for employment or residential uses. The draft Local Plan recognises that the site has a legacy of contamination and Policy ST6 states that it *'will be safeguarded from development which would jeopardise the comprehensive remediation, reclamation and redevelopment of the whole site'.* Given that works around the Cottam site are limited to the new substation in a bay at the existing Cottam Substation and the installation of a cable to enter the site from the west, it is considered that the proposed Scheme does not conflict with Policy ST6. No planning application has yet been submitted for development on the site and no planning policy documents provide design principles or masterplans of the site. In November 2022 EDF submitted a Hearing Statement to the Examination in Public for the Bassetlaw Local Plan on Matter 4 – Priority Regeneration Area. This statement was also accompanied by a Vision and Delivery

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			Statement for the Priority Regeneration Area, dated February 2020. The latter document contains a masterplan showing how the site might be developed. The Vision and Delivery Statement shows that the area where the Order limits for the Scheme overlap is not identified for development of residential, employment or leisure uses so would not appear to impact the proposed uses. Instead, the area is shown in the masterplan as being earmarked for 'potential allotments/ sports/ amenity provision', with the substation that the Scheme would connect to identified as a 'existing operational site to be retained'. Whilst a small part of the potential green space would be required for the access to the substation, once the Scheme is operational the majority of land in this area could still be used for the purpose identified in the masterplan. Therefore, the Scheme does not appear to conflict with EDF's plans for this area. The area of the PRA that is affected would be used for an underground cable and access to the substation. Other routes for these uses may have a greater impact on the masterplan. The final easement width required will affect a narrow corridor entering the substation from the west for the cable and access. The Applicant is in discussions with EDF Energy regarding protective provisions and this will require close working over the final location of the cable route.

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072, 094, 247, 248	Individual respondents	Raises concerns on the potential adverse impacts that underground cabling would have on: - ecological receptors - access to residential areas - the loss of trees and hedgerows - noise impacts	The potential for the underground cabling to result in adverse environmental impacts has been minimised by careful optioneering of the cable route to avoid ecological receptors, residential areas and existing trees and hedgerows as far as possible. Mitigation measures to avoid or reduce potential adverse impacts during the construction phase (including due to underground cabling) will be implemented by the CEMP. A Framework CEMP has been submitted as part of the DCO Application **[APP-224/7.3].** The measures contained within the Framework CEMP are secured via Requirement 12 in the draft DCO **[APP-215/6.1**]. Following actions to reduce and mitigate potential adverse impacts on ecological receptors (including trees and hedgerows) and residential receptors including impacts related to noise and access, the ES concludes no significant effects on these receptors.
2.4	**Alternatives and Site Selection**		
Over 50 reps	Individual respondents	Suggests solar PV panels should be placed away from agricultural land including on the roofs of dwellings, businesses, adjacent to the national highway network and/or over car parks.	**Rooftop Solar** The Applicant agrees that solar on rooftops can contribute to the renewable energy mix for the UK. The Total Installed Capacity of solar installed through the Feed-in Tariff scheme was 5.14 GW since April 2010[2]. This quantum is despite changes to enable installation of solar panels without planning applications for many buildings and financial incentives. Comparatively, the four solar DCO applications currently accepted by PINS for Examination would provide over 2 GW, alone providing 40% of the total rooftop solar quantum installed nationally under the Feed-in Tariff scheme.

[2] Ofgem (2022). Feed-in Tariff (FIT): Annual Report 2021-2022. Available at: https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications/feed-tariff-fit-annual-report-2021-22

Ref. No.	IP Name	Comments from Relevant Representations	Response to Relevant Representation
			The British Energy Security Strategy supports a near 5-fold increase in deployment of solar technology in the UK from 14 GW at present to 70 GW by 2035. This target is set recognising the abundant source of solar energy in the UK and that solar panels have reduced in cost by 85% over the last ten years. However, there are constraints that slow, or in some cases prevent, the rolling out of rooftop solar at scale. These constraints can be categorized into three separate areas: physical; legal and scalability. For instance, a roof may not be strong enough to take a solar installation and may need to be replaced; the roof may not provide the right pitch or may have features that prevent installation; there may be a landlord and tenant who are not aligned on using the roof space and, ultimately, the biggest roofs are likely to be of single MW scale. To deliver the 56 GW required by 2035 would require the installation of 56,000 of these large single MW schemes. Each scheme would require its own connection but connections may not always viable, especially in urban areas if electricity systems are congested Section 7.6 of the Statement of Need **[APP-004/2.1]** demonstrates that in order to meet National Grid's projections of required solar capacity in 2050, a significant proportion of total UK land used by industrial or commercial units would be required. Given the likelihood of at least some of the constraints described above reducing the viability of at least some rooftop schemes, it is clear given the required increase in UK solar capacity that both rooftop and large-scale solar projects need to be delivered. **Adjacent to the Highway Network** The Applicant recognises the potential value of solar schemes that could be delivered along and adjacent to the national highway network. Large ground mounted solar schemes are being developed on sites near the highway.

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			The potential to locate solar within the highway boundary itself is limited by the need to keep areas free for visibility purposes and to minimise glint and glare risks. Grid connection availability, orientation, ground topology and proximity to other developments may also limit the capacity of solar generation which could be installed adjacent to the highway network. The Applicant therefore believes that it is highly unlikely that developments adjacent to the national highway network would bring forward sufficient generation capacity to meet the national need described in Section 7.4 of the Statement of Need. In the context of the urgent need for large capacities of solar generation, the presence of viable sites alongside the highway or other locations does not suggest a reduced need or benefit to the Gate Burton Energy Park. As acknowledged in draft EN-1 paragraph 4.2.23 (March 2023): *'The Secretary of State 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, 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.'* **Car Parks** Similarly, solar panels are being developed on car parking facilities. However, given the urgent need to meet solar generation capacity targets, such development could supplement large scale solar rather than be a substitute for it.
Over 50 reps.	Individual respondents	Suggests solar PV panels should be located on brownfield land and/or queries why brownfield sites were not considered. Note that brownfield land locations are encouraged by policy.	Low Carbon does consider brownfield sites for potential development. However, those sites need to be in a location where the grid network exists and can accommodate an electricity generation project. The Applicant's site selection process considered the availability of brownfield land for potentially siting the Scheme. This is set out within Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution **[APP-012/3.1]**. This process

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			concluded that no suitable brownfield land of a sufficient size or location has been identified which could be available to be included as part of the Scheme or provide an alternative site. Specific brownfield sites mentioned by Interested Parties are explored below.
001, 066, 068, 072, 088, 090, 121, 128, 143, 153, 164, 247	Individual respondents	States the battery storage and on-site substation should be located in an alternate location such as closer to the point of connection to the National Electricity Transmission System or on brownfield land.	The On-Site Substation must be on the same site as the solar panels as it is required to transform electricity at 33kV from the site to 400kV for transmission using the cable route to the Cottam National Grid Substation. Given the amount of electricity generated, and the distance to the Cottam National Grid Substation, it would not be practical to transport electricity generated at 33kV. Because the BESS stores electricity at a low voltage, it makes sense for it to be connected before electricity is transformed to 400kV for transmission along the new cable corridor. If the BESS were located at Cottam Substation or another point along the cable route, an additional Substation would be required to transform the electricity from 400kV to 33kV for storage and back to 400kV for transmission. This would result in additional development (with associated additional impacts/ land requirements) as well as increasing costs. The Applicant's site selection process considered the availability of brownfield land for potentially siting the Scheme, which is set out in Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution **[APP-012/3.1]**. However, this concluded that no suitable brownfield land of a sufficient size or location has been identified which could be available to be included as part of the Scheme. With regard to locating the BESS at the NETS Cottam substation, in addition to the requirement for an additional Substation, this location would not be appropriate because the site is located partially in Flood Zone 2 and surrounded by Flood Zone 3.

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152, 228, 231, 243, 262, 263	Individual respondents	Proposes the former Cottam power station as an alternative site.	The Cottam Power Station site is located partially in Flood Zone 2 and surrounded by Flood Zone 3 (see ES Figure 9.2 **[AS-003/3.2]**). The only areas that are not within the Flood Zone at the power station are the National Grid Substation, which is remaining in use, and two small areas between the cooling towers and the River Trent. The Gate Burton site is almost wholly in Flood Zone 1 so is sequentially preferred from a flood risk perspective. 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. The PRA is shown alongside the Order limits in ES Figure 3.6 **[APP-040/3.2]**. Policy ST6 states that the site will be safeguarded from development which would jeopardise the comprehensive remediation, reclamation and redevelopment of the whole site. Therefore, whilst the impact of the cable connection and access would have minimal impact on development of the PRA, placing large scale solar on the site would. The whole PRA comprises 348 hectares of land and this includes areas of agricultural land and green/ blue infrastructure, so is not solely brownfield land. As shown in ES Figure 3.6 **[APP-040/3.2]** a significant proportion of the site between the cooling towers and the River Trent is part of the Cottam Wetlands Local Wildlife Site and Trent Bank. Part of the southern boundary of the PRA forms the setting of the Fleet Plantation Scheduled Monument. The draft Bassetlaw Local Plan (paragraph 5.4.14) also states that *'The Site is being promoted by the land owner but has a legacy of contamination due to its historical uses associated with a coal fired power station and associated infrastructure. Although the Council supports the site's remediation and positive re-use, there is still a lot of work to do prior to the full remediation of the site.'* Finally, some of the PRA remains in use, particularly the National Grid Substation.

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			Overall, the PRA associated with Cottam Power Station is significantly smaller than the Gate Burton site, with the developable area reduced further once constrained areas like the LWS and retained substation are removed. The flood risk associated with the site would also mean it is not preferred over the Gate Burton Site and the contamination issues could affect feasibility, speed of delivery and cost. Overall, it cannot provide a site that would generate the same amount of electricity and it is not a preferred site in environment or planning terms.
228	Richard Green	Proposes the former High Marnham power station as an alternative site.	Land adjoining the former High Marnham Power Station in Nottinghamshire is subject to a full planning permission application for the construction and operation of a Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Farm with other associated infrastructure including sub stations, security cameras, fencing, storage containers, access tracks and landscaping. Full planning permission was granted with conditions on 6 January 2023 and therefore the Scheme could not be sited at the former High Marnham Power Station. The proposed High Marnham solar scheme would have a capacity of approximately 42 MW, which is less than 10% of the capacity at the proposed Gate Burton site.
248, 276	Individual respondents	Proposes RAF Scampton, RAF Kirton and RAF Hemswell as alternative sites.	RAF Scampton is identified in the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (CLLP) under Policy S75 as an opportunity area for mixed use development. At the time of writing, the Home Office, supported by the Ministry of Defence, is working on proposals which will see the current site at RAF Scampton used for suitable accommodation for asylum seekers[3]. The former RAF Hemswell site has now been developed into the Hemswell Cliff Business Park and is allocated under Policy S29 of the CLLP[4] as a Strategic Employment Site. Development of the site for solar would therefore conflict with the CLLP.

[3] Home Office (2023). RAF Scampton asylum accommodation (accessible). Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-accommodation-factsheets/factsheet-raf-scampton-asylum-accommodation-accessible

[4] Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (2023). Central Lincolnshireire Local Plan – Adopted April 2023. Available at: https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-04/Local%20Plan%20for%20adoption%20Approved%20by%20Committee.pdf

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			The former RAF Kirton site in North Lincolnshire houses a gliding club which currently occupies and uses the former runways (PA/1997/1543), the Hurricane Business Park and recreational facilities including land for Airsoft events and Zombie experience (PA/2017/440). As such, the Scheme could not be developed on these sites. The sites are all also smaller than the Gate Burton site so could not deliver the same amount of solar capacity, and are located further from the grid connection point.
221	Phillip Taylor	The overall schemes are spread out a long way from the Power Station grid connection point with miles of cable required. It does beg the question why so far away? Is it because the land is cheaper to obtain by taking advantage of Tennent Farmers	The Applicant cannot comment on the site selection process undertaken for other schemes (Cottam Solar Project, West Burton Solar Project and Tillbridge Solar). However, the proposed location for the Gate Burton Energy Park resulted from the Applicant's four-stage process which is provided in Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution of the ES **[APP-012/3.1].** As established in Chapter 3, proximity to and capacity of an available grid connection is key to the viability of a solar farm and battery storage project. This is because the further a solar farm is from the point of connection, the less efficient transmission to the grid becomes and the connection becomes considerably more costly, thus impacting its viability. The proposed site at Gate Burton was within a viable distance from the grid connection point at Cottam Power Station, with the nearest point of the site at Willingham Road only 4.5km from the grid connection point and the furthest point of the site being 7.5km from the connection. The route of the grid connection itself has been subject to an optioneering process which is set out in Appendix 3-A: Grid Connection Corridor Appraisal of the ES **[APP-115/3.3]**. As discussed in Appendix 3-A, proposed connection route (Corridor C1) was selected as it provided the best balance of minimising impacts on the environment and the local community whilst meeting the technical and constructability feasibility requirements.

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002, 013, 018, 030, 040, 056, 067, 080, 083, 090, 097, 125, 157, 205, 231, 247, 248, 249, 260	Individual respondents	Suggest wind turbines (offshore and onshore), small nuclear and/or tidal generation should be considered as an alternative to solar PV development.	The Scheme proposes a substantial infrastructure asset, which if consented will deliver large amounts of affordable low carbon electricity during its operational lifetime. The Applicant does not make the case that solar alone will provide full decarbonisation, energy security and affordability of energy supplies to UK consumers, but does make the case that solar is an essential generation technology for the UK to deploy alongside other low-carbon technologies. For example, Paragraph 8.8.6 of the Statement of Need **[APP-004/2.1]** states that "Generation Dependability [a measure which addresses system security and affordability] s improved when diverse RES [Renewable Energy Sources] technologies are deployed alongside each other in the same electricity system". This point is demonstrated further in Figures 8-1 and 8-2 of the Statement of Need **[APP-004/2.1]**, which show that wind and solar are mutually compatible technologies as the weather and climatic conditions in which they generate most of their electricity often occur at different times. Solar farms generate more electricity in the summer months when it is lighter and days are longer. Wind farms generate more electricity when it is windy, which is more frequent in the winter months. Section 5.4 of the Statement of Need **[APP-004/2.1]** provides evidence that beyond Hinkley Point C, new nuclear will not contribute to decarbonisation in the UK until at least the 2030s. Table 5-2 of the Statement of Need Statement of Need **[APP-004/2.1]** provides evidence that no larger-scale wave / tidal energy generation schemes are yet to be deployed. The UK benefits from substantial renewable energy resources, and areas of flat open land which receives high levels of solar irradiation, such as the East Midlands, where the Gate Burton Energy Park is proposed to be located.

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			The Applicant therefore makes the case that the Scheme plays an important role in delivering a diversified portfolio of renewable generation sources to decarbonise the electricity system while maintaining security of supply and affordability for consumers.
044, 068, 080, 143, 272	Fillingham Parish Meeting, Knaith Parish Council, Individual respondents	Objects to and/or queries the site selection process undertaken by the Applicant including the justification for choosing a greenfield site.	The Applicant's site selection process is set out Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution **[APP-012/3.1].** 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 that were identified as potentially suitable to accommodate a proposed solar development following Stage 2 were further refined through analysis of 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 the Environmental Impact Assessment process alternatives have been considered to maximise benefits of the Scheme and minimise adverse environmental and social impacts.
289	William Lockwood-Geck	States the site selected will require a large amount of additional infrastructure including transmission lines and substation	The Scheme is situated in the East of England where a significant amount of pre-existing transmission infrastructure is located. This has reduced the need for significant amounts of new overhead infrastructure required to connect the generator to the transmission system. A new on-site substation is proposed to the west of the railway line within the area shown in ES Volume 2: Figure 2-4 **[APP-033/3.2],** with the indicative dimensions being a footprint of up to 220m x 130m in plan and up to 13m in height. The Scheme uses the existing substation at the former Cottam Power Station to connect to the NETS. Minor modification work is proposed within the footprint of the existing substation.

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			The connection between the onsite substation and the Cottam Substation will be underground, comprising of one 400kV cable circuit. Further information on the components of the Scheme can be found in the Outline Design Principles **[APP-007/2.3]**.
263	Susan Bycroft	Suggests the use of tracking panels.	The Applicant undertook technical reviews of fixed tilt and tracking systems during design stages and concluded a fixed tilt system would be optimal for this particular project as it would reduce the project footprint and generate more renewable energy overall per acre than a tracking system on the same site. At present, the Applicant determined that on this site solar PV tracking systems would generate more energy per solar PV panel, but each PV panel requires greater land area. This would result in a lower overall power capacity per acre, meaning more land is needed for the same PV power plant capacity or grid connection. The Applicant assessed that fixed solar PV panels would generate more energy at the Scheme than would tracking panels at present, given the land available.
040, 224, 239, 256	Individual respondents	Queries whether the availability of willing landowners or land value drove the site selection process.	The Applicant's site selection process is set out Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution **[APP-012/3.1]**. 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. At

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			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. In regard to land ownership, elements of the site selection process were influenced by the presence of willing landowners and the recognised need to identify land that landowners are able to/ would wish to remove from agricultural production. The Statement of Reasons **[APP-218/6.4]** and Compulsory Acquisition Schedule **[APP-29/6.5]** sets out the latest status of negotiations with landowners and demonstrates that this criterion has been met. Voluntary land agreements are in place with the landowners for the Solar and Energy Storage Park and are being progressed with all landowners within the wider Order limits. Compulsory acquisition powers are being sought through the DCO as a backstop and will only be exercised if it is not possible to rely on voluntary agreements for a component of the Scheme.
2.5	**Decommissioning**		
072, 080	Fillingham Parish Meeting, Individual respondent	Queries whether the applicant will be obligated to undertake the decommissioning of the Scheme and return the land to its previous use.	The Applicant has committed to decommission the Scheme after a period of 60 years from final commissioning of the authorised development and this is secured by Requirement 19 of the draft DCO. The Requirement to decommission the Scheme requires a decommissioning and environmental management plan (DEMP) to be submitted and approved by the relevant planning authorities in advance of decommissioning commencing. That plan must be in accordance with the framework DEMP submitted with the application **[APP-226/7.3]**. If the undertaker does not comply with the terms of the DCO then there are enforcement provisions included in the Planning Act 2008 which would enable the relevant planning authorities to secure compliance.

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077, 083, 098, 105, 164, 215, 245, 289	Individual respondents	Raises concern regarding the responsibility for decommissioning, the safe disposal of PV panels and BESS	The Applicant has committed to decommission the Scheme and this is secured by Requirement 19 of the draft DCO. As stated in Chapter 2 **[APP-011/3.1]** when the operational phase ends all PV modules, mounting poles, inverters and transformers would be removed and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at the time. Buried medium voltage cables would either be removed or left in situ. The majority of the Solar and Energy Storage Park would be returned to the landowner after decommissioning and will be available for its original use. The future of the substations and associated control buildings would be agreed with the relevant Local Planning Authority and National Grid prior to commencement of decommissioning. A Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan will include timescales and transportation methods and would be agreed in advance with the relevant Local Planning Authority. A framework DEMP has been submitted with the application **[APP-226/7.3].**
066, 121, 147	Individual respondents	Raises concerns on the environmental impacts associated with decommissioning.	The environmental impacts associated with decommissioning have been assessed within each technical chapter presented within the Environmental Statement **[APP-010 to 026/3.1]**.
016, 058, 084, 118, 223, 233	Individual respondents	Queries how components of the Scheme will be disposed of following decommissioning and whether any components will be recycled.	As stated in Chapter 2 **[APP-011/3.1]** when the operational phase ends all PV modules, mounting poles, inverters and transformers would be removed and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at the time. Buried medium voltage cables would either be removed or left in situ. The majority of the Solar and Energy Storage Park would be returned to the landowner after decommissioning and will be available for its original use. The future of the substations and associated control buildings would be agreed with the National Grid and the relevant Local Planning Authority prior to commencement of decommissioning. A DEMP will include timescales and transportation methods and would be agreed in advance with the relevant Local Planning Authority. A framework DEMP has been submitted with the application **[APP-226/7.3].**

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2.6	**Traffic, Transport and Access**		
Over 50 reps.	Individual respondents	These representations raise issues regarding the impact of the Scheme on: a) the local road network; b) congestion; c) increased journey times; d) damage to the existing road network; e) vehicular impacts on residential amenity including noise, pollution and health; f) impacts on local businesses; g) impacts on non-motorised users; h) the potential for road widening to accommodate abnormal loads during construction; i) traffic impacts on biodiversity along verges; j) incomplete traffic survey information; k) unsuitability of the local road network for construction vehicles, particularly due to their narrow, rural nature.	Construction traffic has been assessed in Chapter 13: Transport and Access **[APP-022/3.1**] which concludes no significant effects as a result of the Scheme, including with respect to congestion and driver delay, as well as non-motorised users e.g. severance, pedestrian amenity and fear & intimidation. A Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been developed and is provided as ES Volume 3: Appendix 13.E **[APP-167 to 168/3.3]**. 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 condition survey at various locations which includes sections of carriageway within the vicinity of the proposed access points, as well as the abnormal vehicle route for the transformer to the Solar and Energy Storage Park, covering the route between the A15/A1500 roundabout and the proposed site access on the A156. The road condition survey would be carried out pre-construction, during construction and post-construction to identify any defects that arise to highways assets/ verges during the construction phase of the Scheme for reinstatement. Chapter 14: Human Health **[APP-023/3.1]** 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. Impacts on businesses are assessed under ‘local amenities and land use’ in Chapter 12: Socio-economics and Land Use **[APP-021/3.1].** No adverse effects are expected upon businesses during construction or operation of the

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			Scheme. Positive effects include the creation of employment through both the construction and operational phases. In terms of non-motorised users, measures are included within the CTMP **[APP-167 to 168/3.3**] and Outline Public Rights of Way (PRoW) Management Plan **[APP-229/7.8]** to safely manage construction vehicles and potential interactions with PRoW users and non-motorised user movements on routes. In terms of the potential for road widening to accommodate abnormal loads during construction, swept paths have 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 **[APP-167 to 168/3.3**]) which is secured through the DCO. The proposed site access on the A156 will be designed to accommodate construction vehicles (by widening the existing informal field access). Vegetation clearance and potential carriageway widening will also be required on Headstead Bank to accommodate construction vehicles travelling to/ from the Grid Connection Corridor. No carriageway widening or amendments are expected to be required outside of the Order limits in support of the Scheme. For the transportation of the transformer for the substation, which will require the use of a 65.8m abnormal vehicle, the pedestrian footways at the A156/ A1500 junction will be temporarily closed and protected where necessary. Any damage to existing pavement infrastructures such as kerb lines or tactile paving will subsequently be reinstated to the satisfaction of the Local Authority. It is expected that this turning movement will be of a limited number (i.e. to deliver the transformer, with the vehicle to be dissembled to take the form of a standard vehicle prior to departure) and conducted under supervision by the Police, with temporary traffic management in place to ensure that road and footway users do not interact with this turning

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			manoeuvre. This turning manoeuvre will also be planned to avoid peak times, to limit disruption to road users. A number of traffic surveys were carried out in March and April 2022 in support of Chapter 13: Transport and Access **[APP-022/3.1].** The study area for the surveys, which included 16 road links and five junctions, was submitted for agreement with LCC and NCC as the local highway authorities, to form the basis for the assessment work. The traffic survey information included details of vehicle volumes, types and speeds, as well as queue lengths at junctions, providing data for the forecast development peak hours, as well as across 24 hours. The traffic survey information is therefore considered to be complete for the purposes of the assessment work carried out in Chapter 13: Transport and Access **[APP-022/3.1**]. Regarding the unsuitability of local roads for construction vehicles; with the exception of the vehicles travelling to/ from the Grid Connection Corridor in Nottinghamshire, 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 using solely the A-road and B-road network. Further details are contained within Chapter 13: Transport and Access **[APP-022/3.1**]. The Framework CTMP (Appendix 13-E **[APP-167 to 168/3.3**]**)** includes an HGV routing plan which shows that local roads and nearby villages will be avoided where possible.
171		Objects to traffic impact due to damage to road surface of construction vehicles. Note current surfacing is poor in places.	The CTMP **[APP-167 to 168/3.3**] contains mitigation to avoid and/or reduce impacts, relating to construction traffic during construction. This includes a commitment to undertake a road condition survey at various locations which includes sections of carriageway within the vicinity of the proposed access points, as well as the abnormal vehicle route for the transformer to the Solar and Energy Storage Park, covering the route between the A15/A1500 roundabout and the proposed site access on the A156. The road condition survey would be carried out pre-construction, during construction and post-construction to identify any defects that arise to highways assets/ verges during the construction phase of the Scheme for reinstatement.

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032, 040, 072, 083, 093, 282	Individual respondents and Parish Councils	Objects to the cumulative impact on traffic from the proposed NSIP schemes.	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 **[APP-025/3.1].** No significant adverse effects are predicted from traffic for the scheme individually or when considered alongside other schemes. The Applicant has re-assessed this conclusion in the light of additional information produced for the West Burton and Cottam DCO applications and in the Tillbridge Preliminary Environmental Impact Assessment. This assessment is presented in a Technical Note in Appendix D to the Report on the Interrelationships with other NSIPs report **[8.2]** submitted at Deadline 1. It concludes that there are no changes to the assessment or conclusions as a result of further information.
118, 171, 208	Individual respondents	Operational traffic The panels need regular cleaning, and this will be a constant disruption. Concerns that construction traffic levels will reoccur every 10-15/ 30 years when panels are replaced	The Applicant respectfully disagrees that activity during the operational phase will be 'a constant disruption'. As stated within Chapter 2: The Scheme **[APP-011/3.3]** during the operational phase, activity on the Solar and Energy Storage Park will be limited and would be restricted principally to vegetation management, equipment maintenance and servicing, periodic replacement of components, periodic fence inspection, and monitoring to ensure the continued effective operation of the Scheme. In terms of traffic levels during the operational phase, as stated in Chapter 13: Transport and Access **[APP-022/3.3]** there will be up to 15 arrivals and 15 departures expected daily. The majority of these trips would be associated with operational staff primarily travelling to and from the site by four-wheel drive vehicles and medium/large vans, with occasional HGVs. Given the 60-year operational life of the Scheme, it is acknowledged that there will be a requirement for periodic replacement of some or all of the Solar and Energy Storage Park elements. At this stage, the level of vehicle trips associated with component replacement (e.g. batteries and panels) is expected to be considerably lower than the level of vehicle trips generated during the peak construction phase. For example, even in the instance that full panel replacement is required, this would be programmed in stages over a much longer period than the construction phase (when the panels will be installed more rapidly). This approach would maximise the number of panels

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			which are kept 'live' at any given time and avoid compromising the electricity generating capacity of the Scheme. Otherwise, components would be replaced as and when required throughout the operational lifetime of the scheme (60-year period).
066, 121	Elaine Jessie Hawkins, John Christopher Hawkins Elaine Jessie Hawkins, John Christopher Hawkins	Queries the impacts of glint and glare on air, road and river traffic.	A Glint and Glare Assessment is provided within Appendix 15-D to the ES **[APP-173 to 175/3.3]**. Air, road and river users were considered as receptors. The assessment concluded no significant effects on these receptors as a result of the Scheme.
130, 134, 135	Individual respondents	Concerns about impact of construction traffic on safety of pedestrians, cyclists, horses, wildlife and other traffic	An assessment of the potential effects relating to construction traffic including on severance, driver delay, and accidents & safety is carried out within Chapter 13: Transport and Access **[APP-173 to 175/3.1]** 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 public rights of way will be maintained during construction, with only temporary local diversions required to ensure safe segregation between public rights of way users and construction activities. The location of the public rights of way, and those that would need to be diverted or managed during construction, are presented on the Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans **[APP-210/5.3].**
026	The Canal and River Trust	*'We note from the Application document 4.1 (Consultation Report) that the use of the River Trent for the transportations of freight to site has been ruled out on the basis of the number of expected HGV loads per day. The Trust considers that this*	Comment noted. The Applicant does not intend to use the River Trent to transport freight to the site. However, if this were to change, the Canals and Rivers Trust's interests would be protected by the Protective Provisions in the Draft DCO, which remain under discussion between the parties.

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		explains the current approach, but would wish to ensure, through the protective provisions, that if the waterway is proposed for commercial use in connection with the project the Trust would have oversight of this. For instance, a river crossing by boat might be desired for monitoring/ease of communications between the two sides of the River Trent during construction (the distance by road is approx. 14 miles), which would need temporary jetties and an agreed method for crossing the main navigational route.'	A Statement of Common Ground has been prepared with the Canals and Rivers Trust and provides an update on discussions **[4.3l].**
066, 121	Elaine Jessie Hawkins John Christopher Hawkins	The impact on the road network locally with many thousands of HGV journeys over the period of construction, is immeasurable in terms of disruption to local businesses and residents, the other issue is the bridge access across the River Trent, both at Dunham Toll bridge and Gainsborough bridge which are vital transport links and consideration must be given as to the long term damage that may be caused by this massive increase in HGV traffic. The transformers alone require huge vehicular capacity. Are the bridges of sufficient strength to carry such weights? The extended construction period of 2+ years includes for 12 hour working days over 5 days and reduced hours on a Saturday in a relatively quiet rural area, will cause immense disruption and the 400 construction workers will add considerable load to the existing rural road network on a daily basis during the commute to work.	Construction traffic has been assessed in Chapter 13: Transport and Access **[APP-022/3.1]** which concludes no significant effects as a result of the Scheme. Impacts on businesses are assessed under 'local amenities and land use' in Chapter 12: Socio-economics and Land Use **[APP-021/3.1]**. There are no impacts expected upon businesses during construction or operation of the Scheme. Regarding the unsuitability of local roads for construction vehicles, 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 using solely the A-road and B-road network. Further details are contained within Chapter 13: Transport and Access **[APP-022/3.1].** The Framework CTMP (Appendix 13-E **[APP-167 to 168/3.3])** includes an HGV routing plan which shows that local roads and nearby villages will be avoided where possible, as well as mitigation to avoid and/or reduce impacts, relating to construction traffic including the delivery of materials during construction. The main routes which will be used by HGVs (excluding abnormal loads) to travel to/ from the Solar and Energy Storage Park as well as the Grid Connection Corridor include the A156 and the A631 to the north, as well as the A156 and the A57 to the south. A maximum of 30 HGVs (60 two-way

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			HGV movements) are expected to travel via the A156 to/ from the north per day, of which only a proportion would be expected to travel via the A631 and the Gainsborough bridge to/ from the west. In addition, whilst a maximum of 30 HGVs (60 two-way HGV movements) are expected to travel via the A156 to/ from the south per day, those travelling to/ from the Solar and Energy Storage Park would travel via the A47 to/ from the east to avoid the Dunham Toll bridge. Only HGVs associated with the Grid Connection Corridor would be expected to travel via the Dunham Toll bridge, which would be a much lower volume of movements (up to 12 HGVs per day). No transformer or cable drum abnormal loads will use the Gainsborough bridge or Dunham Toll bridge. This is highlighted by the Abnormal Load Routing plan (ES Figure 13-6 **[APP-105/3.2]**) which identifies the key routes as the M180, A15, A1500 and A156, as well as the A57 to/ from the west. This route has been assessed by an expert haulage company (see Annex D in ES Appendix 13-E **[APP-168/3.3]**).
080	Fillingham Parish Council	The largest road near Fillingham is a “B” road, and most others are single-track roads, which are wholly unsuitable to the large volumes of traffic movements necessary to construct and decommission the Gate Burton Energy Park.	Regarding the unsuitability of local roads for construction vehicles, 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 using solely the A-road and B-road network. Further details are contained within Chapter 13: Transport and Access **[APP-022/3.1].** The Framework CTMP (Appendix 13-E **[APP-167 to 168/3.3])** includes an HGV routing plan which shows that local roads and nearby villages will be avoided where possible, as well as mitigation to avoid and/or reduce impacts, relating to construction traffic including the delivery of materials during construction. This includes the B1398 near Fillingham.
148	LCC	*‘The Highway Authority considers that the assessment within the Transport and Access Chapter is appropriate and provides a reasonable estimate of HGV and car traffic associated with the development during construction and shows that the impact will be within acceptable levels on the highway network. There is also a cumulative assessment (13.13) which includes the other solar farms proposed in the area, due to their locations different minor roads are used for access, so the cumulative impact is*	Noted.

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		acceptable. The assessment is based on working hours (Winter 08:00-18:00 / Summer 07:00-19:00) which mean workers will travel to/from the site outside peak network hours, this will be covered by the proposed requirement in the Draft DCO - Construction Traffic Management Plan (Schedule 2, Condition 14).'	
ALALAL192	National Highways	*'In relation to the Gate Burton Solar Project, our principal interest is in safeguarding the A1, A46 and M180 trunk roads. Although the SRN is outside the Order Limits, it is understood that construction traffic will be routed via the SRN. As such, we reserve the right to make written representations if an impact of construction traffic on the SRN is identified, or if changes to the application are made which result in impacts to the SRN.'*	This is acknowledged and understood. Chapter 13: Transport and Access **[APP-022/3.3]** demonstrates that there are no effects on the strategic road network as a result of the Scheme. It should also be noted that as part of the EIA Scoping Opinion which is held in ES Volume 3: Appendix 1-B **[APP-110/3.3]**, National Highways confirmed that they had no comments given that the site is located a significant distance away from the motorway and trunk road network (letter dated 1 December 2021). Nonetheless, further discussions can be held with National Highways to review the findings of Chapter 13: Transport and Access **[APP-022/3.3]** if necessary.
204	Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	The main issue that is of interest to the Hospital is the potential for pressures/delays on the local road network/infrastructure within the vicinity of the site during construction, as this could impact healthcare service delivery.	Construction traffic has been assessed in Chapter 13: Transport and Access **[APP-022/3.1]** which concludes no significant effects as a result of the Scheme, and therefore construction traffic should not impact healthcare service delivery.
269	The Carter Family	We were concerned by the statement in EIA Scoping Report (para 2.3.5) that *"it is proposed to use the network of minor roads around the site for some deliveries, subject to suitability of these roads to carry HGVs".* We would strongly object to any use of the Willingham to Marton minor road which is single track with few passing places (and is difficult enough already for horse riders, cyclists and pedestrians without any additional traffic). This road is clearly signed as "Unsuitable for HGVs" and is in a terrible state of repair. Also, the verges are very soft and, with vehicles needing to use them when meeting oncoming traffic, these verges get badly churned up when wet (leading to	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 **[APP-167 to 168/3.3]**) includes an HGV routing plan which shows that local roads and nearby villages will be avoided where possible. The access on the Willingham to Marton minor road was only proposed to be used during the operational phase. The Applicant intends to remove this access from the scheme at Deadline 2 in response to comments raised, to reduce the environmental impacts of the access and enable advance planting in this area. In terms of traffic levels during the operational phase, as stated in Chapter 13: Transport and Access **[APP-022/3.3]** there will be up to 15 arrivals and

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		smaller vehicles becoming bogged down). The road is totally unsuitable for any additional traffic. PEI Report para 13.6.3 mentioned an "A156 Access Option, South" which would have involved a one-way loop via Clay Lane and Willingham Road. We are pleased to see this option seems to have been discarded as it would have routed construction traffic along dangerous, single-track roads with blind bends and concealed summits (and with very few passing places). Indeed, Willingham Road is clearly signed as "Unsuitable for HGVs".	15 departures expected daily. The majority of these trips would be associated with operational staff primarily travelling to and from the site by four-wheel drive vehicles and medium/large vans, with HGVs rarely accessing the site once it is operational.
177	Morris Family	*'Transportation & Access Fig. 2-3 details the proposed plans for the Construction Access. The A156 North option runs parallel with our heritage listed Parkland and the Beanland's wood with a 'Construction Compound' detailed at the top of the hill bordering our '18 acre' pastureland and garden used for horse grazing. Section 6. 9. 26 explains the following "Converting the internal construction routes to maintenance routes, to allow operational vehicles to access all areas of the Solar and Energy Storage Park via the proposed access points during the operational phase". This would mean traffic causing significant disruption during the construction phase followed by disruption for the entire lifetime of the 60 year scheme to the Beanlands wood, parkland, '18 acre' pastureland and the grade II listed Rose cottage property of which it runs parallel with. We would ask you please clarify the plans for the A156 North access road and the 'Construction Compound' after the construction phase. Construction Compound & Access Road Effect on Rose Cottage Pastureland & Gardens.'*	Construction traffic has been assessed in Chapter 13: Transport and Access **[APP-022/3.1]** which concludes no significant effects as a result of the Scheme. A Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been developed and is provided as ES Volume 3: Appendix 13.E **[APP-022/3.3].** 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 condition survey at various locations which includes sections of carriageway within the vicinity of the proposed access points, as well as the abnormal vehicle route for the transformer to the Solar and Energy Storage Park, covering the route between the A15/A1500 roundabout and the proposed site access on the A156. The road condition survey would be carried out pre-construction, during construction and post-construction to identify any defects that arise to highways assets/ verges during the construction phase of the Scheme for reinstatement. As stated within Chapter 2: The Scheme **[APP-011/3.3]** during the operational phase, activity on the Solar and Energy Storage Park will be limited and would be restricted principally to vegetation management, equipment maintenance and servicing, replacement of components, periodic

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			fence inspection, and monitoring to ensure the continued effective operation of the Scheme.
291	Woodside Pet Care	*'Access to the construction entrance of the solar farm has been identified metres away from our business entrance. This would mean a total disruption to our customers accessing our business whilst construction lasting several months took place. Temporary traffic lights, construction traffic and machinery metres away from the project is certainly not welcoming for our clients.'*	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. Further details are contained within Chapter 13: Transport and Access **[APP-022/3.1].** In comparison to the A156, significantly fewer construction vehicles will utilise the B1241 Kexby Lane to access the secondary construction compounds, with up to 35 construction vehicles per day for the southern access and up to 20 construction vehicles per day for the northern access. No abnormal indivisible loads will travel on the B1241 thereby reducing the potential impact of construction vehicles on this part of the network. In addition, the proposed site accesses on the B1241 Kexby Lane will be more than 200m away from the business entrance. The Framework CTMP (Appendix 13-E) **[APP-167 to 168/3.3]**) 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 and cycle amenity, fear and intimidation, as well as accidents and safety is carried out within Chapter 13: Transport and Access **[APP-022/3.1]** of the ES which concludes that the Scheme is not expected to result in any significant effects with the proposed embedded mitigation in place. Design development since the PEIR stage has resulted in the removal of panels from a large area of the field opposite the Woodside Pet Care property along with additional screening planting, and therefore no construction machinery will be in close proximity to the property.

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177	Morris Family	*Impact on Rose Cottage* *"The internal access road and 'Construction Compound' bordering the '18 acre' pastureland also poses a significant threat to the safety and wellbeing of the horse stock kept there."*	Construction will be managed via the CEMP. A Framework CEMP has been submitted as part of the DCO Application **[APP-224/7.3]** and details the measures employed to secure the site (as set out in Section 2.10), such as fencing remaining in place for the duration of the construction period.
		"Secondly, [we object to] the plans articulated in fig. 2-3 which advocate for an internal road directly bordering our Rose Cottage property and '18 acre' pastureland with a 'Construction Compound' at the top of the hill bordering our land. This access plan would mean an internal road used both for the construction period and operational phase that runs 2m along the entire stretch of our boundary with the development."	As shown on Figure 2-4 of the ES **[APP-033/3.2]** an internal access road is proposed from the A156 to the substation and BESS. While this is intended to be used during construction and operation; during operation, this would be used infrequently to facilitate maintenance and repairs as necessary.

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		"On our second point of disagreement regarding the access roads, we believe the current proposed internal access road plan that goes parallel next to the '18 acre' pastureland and gardens will cause long term damage to the tranquillity and value of the listed II Gate Burton Hall property, parkland and woods, along with the grade II Rose Cottage property. The significant, continuous, noise, dust and vibration pollution caused by the construction phase, along with the operational phase, risks damaging the wellbeing and safety of the horses kept in the '18 acre' pastureland. Not only risking the safety of the horses themselves, but also our family looking after them. We fail to see another example across the whole project of a house and its garden directly bordering the PV panels, as well as a busy internal road as it is with Rose Cottage and its 18 acre pastureland. Especially considering its Grade II listed status as part of the Gate Burton Estate. We would refer back to our suggestion of extending the buffer zone from Clay Lane through to the construction compound at Fox Covert Wood. We would also suggest extending the internal access road from the A156 north entrance to the top of the hill, through the hedge to connect with the proposed road next to Fox Covert wood, thus bypassing the need to use the track next to the '18 acre' pastureland and Rose Cottage property. This would ensure some distance between the entirety of the construction activity from the Rose Cottage property and '18 acre' pastureland. Limiting the noise, dust and vibration pollution and better ensuring the wellbeing of the horse stock."*	As stated above, mitigation measures to avoid or reduce potential adverse impacts during the construction phase (including noise, vibration and dust) will be implemented by the CEMP. Likewise, during operation measures to reduce effects during this phase would be managed via an Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP), a framework of which is included in the DCO Application **[APP-225/7.4]**. The additional panel free zone between Gate Burton assets and Burton Wood provides further offset of panels from listed buildings at Gate Burton. Rose Cottage is not a statutorily listed building. The location of the main access point on the A156 has been carefully selected due to its status as an A-road and central location within the site. Other options (such as upgrading Clay Lane) were considered but discounted due to greater effects on amenity. The location of access roads have been carefully designed to provide offsets wherever possible. The main access road between the A156 and the substation and BESS (as shown on Figure 2-4 of the ES **[APP-033/3.2]**) is located approximately 100m from the boundary of the 18 acre site and more than 300m from the Rose Cottage property at the closest point.

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2.7	**Flood risk and water environment**		
026, 040, 072, 083, 107, 120, 159, 164, 171, 208, 223, 228, 240		These representations query and/or object the flood risk associated with the Scheme, including the potential impacts of flooding on residential receptors. The Scheme has no provision for additional drainage,	A Flood Risk Assessment is provided in Appendix 9-D of the ES **[APP-142/3.3]** which concludes that there would be no increase in flooding from any source, given implementation of Appendix 9-C: Outline Drainage Strategy **[APP-139 to 141/3.3]** and the mitigation measures outlined in Chapter 9: Water Environment **[APP-018/3.1]**. Refer to Chapter 9 for a full assessment of impacts to the water environment during the construction and operational stages. An Outline Drainage Strategy is provided in Appendix 9-C **[APP-139 to 141/3.3].** Surface water runoff across the Solar and Energy Storage Park will be discharged to ground through the use of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) to provide attenuation (both in terms of storage capacity and water quality treatment). No new direct connections to watercourses are proposed.
057	Denise Gatliffe	Queries the potential impact of flooding on residential receptors.	A Flood Risk Assessment is provided in Appendix 9-D of the ES **[APP-142/3.3]** which concludes that there would be no increase in flooding from any source, given implementation of Appendix 9-C: Outline Drainage Strategy **[APP-139 to 141/3.3]** that includes appropriate allowances for climate change and the mitigation measures outlined in Chapter 9: Water Environment **[APP-018/3.1]**. Refer to Chapter 9 for a full assessment of impacts to the water environment during the construction and operational stages.
171	Michael Dover	*'I strongly object to Gate Burton Energy project because of the probable increase in surface water flood risk. Properties adjacent to the project lie in an area accessed by the environmental agency as a high risk of surface water flooding. Some properties in the recent past have suffered internal flooding whilst others encounter external flooding. Plans to cover this area with Solar PV panels would increase the flood risk due to the increased and concentration pooling onto a clay*	A Flood Risk Assessment is provided in Appendix 9-D of the ES **[APP-142/3.3]** which concludes that there would be no increase in flooding from any source, given implementation of Appendix 9-C: Outline Drainage Strategy **[APP-139 to 141/3.3]** that includes appropriate allowances for climate change and the mitigation measures outlined in Chapter 9: Water Environment **[APP-018/3.1]**. Refer to Chapter 9 for a full assessment of impacts to the water environment during the construction and operational stages.

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		substrate with a slow permeable rate from panel runoff during periods of heavy rain. Particular note of flooding is mentioned in the Gainsborough planning plan of 2017'	
017, 080, 231	Anthony Edward Fields, Fillingham Parish Council, Roy Clegg	Increased water run-off from PV panels and the compaction of the soil from construction of the Scheme would increase surface water run-off and have the potential to increase flooding in the vicinity of the Scheme.	A Flood Risk Assessment is provided in Appendix 9-D of the ES **[APP-42/3.3]** which concludes that there would be no increase in flooding from any source, given implementation of Appendix 9-C: Outline Drainage Strategy **[APP-139 to 141/3.3]** and the mitigation measures outlined in Chapter 9: Water Environment **[APP-018/3.1].** Refer to Chapter 9 for a full assessment of impacts to the water environment during the construction and operational stages.
289	William Lockwood-Geck	States the Scheme may impact local water resources due to the requirement for water for the cleaning and cooling of PV panels.	With regard to operational panel cleaning, this is anticipated to be undertaken using a truck mounted system with a rotating 'car-wash' type brush. It is anticipated that water would be brought to site in 1 m^3 (one tonne/1,000 litres (l)) Intermediate Bulk Containers (IBCs). Individual IBCs would be mounted on the rear of the tractor to provide water supply during cleaning. Based upon cleaning water usage on similar schemes it is estimated that the cleaning of each panel will require 250 millilitres (ml) of water per panel per cycle and that, assuming cleaning of all panels is required, the total volume of cleaning water per cleaning cycle would be 204,277 litres (204 m3). A two-year cleaning cycle is expected. No permanent operational water connection to mains supply is required for this purpose and given the anticipated water requirement for cleaning, any impact on local water resources would be considered negligible.
026	The Canal and River Trust	*'The Trust welcomes measures in the Application document 3.1 (Environmental Statement Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation) and document 7.3 (Framework Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)) which seeks to prevent silt and contaminants entering watercourses through the use of sediment/silt/traps/temporary dams and engineers overseeing HDD works to ensure an adequate depth is used. We consider the proposed power in the draft DCO for the undertaker to discharge water should, in respect of the River*	Comment noted. The Applicant has reviewed the protective provisions provided by the CRT and has engaged with the undertakers of Cottam Solar Project, West Burton Solar Project and Tillbridge Solar Project to agree an aligned approach to streamline the discussions with the CRT. The protective provisions were returned to the CRT on behalf of the Applicant and the other developers on 20 June 2023 and an all-parties meeting took place on 14 July 2023 to discuss the interactions between the schemes and the River Trent. [The Applicant is confident that agreement will be reached in this respect during the course of the Examination. In the meantime, the Applicant has included a placeholder for protective provisions for the benefit of the CRT at

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		Trent, be subject to the Trust's consent and this, is provided for in the draft protective provisions.'	Part 11 of Schedule 15 of the updated DCO submitted at Deadline1, which it expects to update with agreed protective provisions early in Examination.
148	LCC	*'The Surface Water Flood Risk is also appropriately addressed at this outline stage in the ES; and suitable mitigation measures proposed in the CEMP. More detail would be needed on areas of the site which are proposed to be made impermeable and these could be conditioned using suitably worded requirements. Again, the Draft DCO includes an appropriate requirement (Schedule 2, Condition 10) to address this.'*	Noted
269	The Carter Family	*'There is a watercourse running along the entire boundary between our property and field C7 of the solar site, i.e. along the full length of our western boundary. We are concerned that this watercourse is not shown in any of the application documents. We have received informal confirmation from the developers that the watercourse will be included in their maintenance plans (i.e. that they will be responsible for regular checking and dredging) but it seems remiss that this watercourse has been omitted from the formal plans submitted as part of the planning application.* *Perimeter fencing needs to be set back from boundaries to allow access for hedge cutting, tree surgery and maintenance of watercourses. An access strip of 6 metres width will be needed for hedge and tree maintenance with a wider strip (circa 10 metres) for watercourse maintenance.* *Frequent monitoring of the state of the watercourses within the solar site (and the watercourses along boundaries with neighbouring properties such as ours) will be essential and this needs to carried out by the site operator. We need commitment from the project team to put in place a programme for regular monitoring and maintenance of the watercourses, including*	Appropriate allowances for access for watercourse maintenance have been included in Chapter 9: Water Environment **[APP-018/3.1**] that are conservative due to slightly different easements required by regulatory authorities (Environment Agency, Internal Drainage Board, Lead Local Flood Authority). These are included in the statement of common grounds with the regulators. Existing watercourses, ditches and drainage lines within the site will be managed in accordance with Appendix 9-C Outline Drainage Strategy (**APP-139 to 141/3.3**). The location of the ditch running alongside the boundary of Field C7 is noted. Access by the property owner to this ditch will be maintained. With regard to surface water runoff, a Flood Risk Assessment is provided in Appendix 9-D of the ES **[APP-142/3.3]** which concludes that there would be no increase in flooding from any source, given implementation of Appendix 9-C: Outline Drainage Strategy **[APP-139 to 141/3.3]** that includes appropriate allowances for climate change and the mitigation measures outlined in Chapter 9: Water Environment **[APP-018/3.1].** An Outline Drainage Strategy is provided in Appendix 9-C **[APP-139 to 141/3.3]**. Surface water runoff across the Solar and Energy Storage Park will be discharged to ground through the use of sustainable drainage

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		culverted sections, for the entire period of operation of the solar farm, i.e. from commencement of construction in 2025 until eventual decommissioning. *Watercourses are currently dredged every 2 - 3 years but this may need to be done more frequently if run off is increased – this could occur due to "rain shadow" from the solar panels preventing rainfall from reaching much of the ground currently available for soakaway (it is currently arable farmland so soakaway is excellent, with minimal run off). The permeability of the ground may also be affected by grazing and/or general compaction, again leading to increased run off.* *As we understand it, we are situated on the watershed that divides the Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board's extended area from the Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board's extended area. Both of these drainage boards, as well as the Environment Agency, will be keen to ensure that the developer of the solar site takes responsibility for maintaining the various watercourses to avoid creating any flood risk.'*	systems (SuDS) to provide attenuation (both in terms of storage capacity and water quality treatment). No new direct connections to watercourses for surface water drainage are proposed. As such, monitoring of surface watercourses through the operational stage of the development has not been proposed at this stage. However, it is important that during the Scheme operation phase that there is regular inspection and maintenance of the drainage systems, proposed SuDS and watercourse crossings. This will be carried out in accordance with good practice guidance. The drainage system will be designed in accordance with current guidance to ensure that the potential for siltation and blockages is minimised under normal operation. If there is any evidence of excessive erosion or sedimentation associated with new structures further actions will be considered to remedy that impact in as sustainable a way as possible. The maintenance and monitoring requirement for the drainage system is secured via the Outline Drainage Strategy (ES Volume 3: Appendix 9-C **[APP-139 to 141/3.3].**
270	The Environment Agency	*'Whilst the photovoltaic panels will be sequentially located in flood zone 1, our interpretation is that some will be located in flood zone 3. Whilst likely to be negligible, there should be a consideration and calculation of the cumulative loss of floodplain volume from the posts supporting the photovoltaic panels and whether this loss needs to be reasonably compensated for as part of the proposals.* *The cross-section drawing (Annex E) provided in the ES, Volume 3, Appendix 2- B: Grid Connection Construction Method Statement (EN010131/APP/3.3) should be updated to demonstrate that an 8 metre distance from the launch and reception pits to the landward side of each bank will be maintained. The crossing should also be at least 1.5 metres*	The layout has been amended in the north eastern corner with panels removed from flood zones 2 and 3; those associated with Padmoor Drain. This is to ensure a sequential approach has been taken to the location of infrastructure within the site. This has been documented within the final Statement of Common Ground between the applicant and the Environment Agency submitted at Deadline 1 **[4.3E].** The distance from the launch and reception pits to the landward side of each bank will be greater than 8m as shown by the Avoidance Areas **[APP-114/3.3]**. Adherence to the Avoidance Areas is set out within the Framework CEMP **[APP-224/7.3]** which is secured via DCO Requirement 12. The directional drill will be a minimum of 2m below the riverbed to comply with IDB requirements. The cross sections in ES Appendix 2-B **[APP-114/3.3]** are examples of typical sections, are illustrative and have therefore not been

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		below the riverbed and 10 degrees perpendicular to the direction of the flow in the main river.'	updated on the basis that the offsets requested are secured within the DCO, including in the Outline Design Principles that have been updated for Deadline 1 **[2.3]**.
281	Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board	*'Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board OBJECTS to the proposals. Reason;- Proposed hedge, tree and scrub planting is shown on the submitted documents within the maintenance access strip adjacent to a number of Board maintained watercourses preventing or obstructing access. All Fencing, planting and solar panels need to be relocated 9m from the top of the bank as agreed following the initial consultation with the Board and the draft Statement of Common Ground between the parties.* *EN010131-000418-EN010131 APP 7.10 Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan • Outline Landscape Masterplan Sheet 1 of 6 o The Board maintained 0404 - Causeway Drain is on the eastern edge of the site, it is not clearly identified as an IDB maintained watercourse. Proposed hedge, tree and scrub planting is shown adjacent to the watercourse, within the 9m Byelaw distance (from the top of the bank), preventing access for maintenance* *Outline Landscape Masterplan Sheet 3 of 6. The Board maintained Padmoor Drain (20400) is on the eastern edge of the site, it is not clearly identified as an IDB maintained watercourse* *Proposed hedge planting is shown adjacent to the watercourse, within the 9m Byelaw distance (from the top of the bank), preventing access for maintenance.'*	Buffers of 10m have been applied throughout the Scheme design around all watercourses and ponds across the Solar and Energy Storage Park, within which there would be no development, except where watercourse crossings for access tracks are required. It is proposed that this 10m buffer is applied from the centre of each watercourse as shown on Ordnance Survey mapping, to avoid uncertainty over how to define the watercourse margin which may vary with flow. However, the IDB watercourses (Padmoor Drain and Causeway Drain) will have a buffer of 9m measured from the top of bank as agreed within the Statement of Common Ground with Upper Witham IDB **[EN010131/APP/4.3G]**. This will maintain access for future maintenance.

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291	Woodside Pet Care	*'The property is in a high flood area. So much so, the business premises had to be raised out the ground to prevent any risk to flooding with live animals on the premises when planning was granted. We have spoken to several flooding experts regarding the proposed solar farm, and they have warned that there is evidence to prove solar farms do cause flooding. We have flooded 3 times in 10 years and manage to keep water away from the live animal units. How can we protect ourselves against the addition risk with acres of solar panels adding to this flooding issue?'*	A Flood Risk Assessment is provided in Appendix 9-D of the ES **[APP-142/3.3]** that acknowledges the existing flood risk issues affecting properties on Kexby Lane (refer for Paragraph 4.4.5). The draft NPS EN-3 (Renewable Energy Infrastructure) indicates that '*As solar PV panels will drain to the existing ground, the impact will not in general be significant'.* The implementation of Appendix 9-C: Outline Drainage Strategy **[APP-139 to141/3.3]** ensures that includes appropriate allowances for climate change and the mitigation measures outlined in Chapter 9: Water Environment **[APP-018/3.1]** demonstrates that flood risk will not be increased. Chapter 9 provides a full assessment of impacts to the water environment during the construction and operational stages.
270	The Environment Agency	*'The Environment Agency would only permit the construction of new culverts where it has been demonstrated why culverting is both necessary and the only reasonable and practicable alternative. If it were to be demonstrated that culverts are necessary then we would welcome the WFD Assessment's statement (page 18) that "The addition of culverts will as a minimum require length for length watercourse enhancement as mitigation, and this will be described in a WFD Mitigation and Enhancement Strategy (to be developed post consent)". The WFD Mitigation and Enhancement Strategy should consider what impacts culverting would have on aquatic mammals, fish and eel species with key receptors clearly identified to those working on-site. Preconstruction, during and post-construction monitoring should inform the implementation of mitigation measures and its effectiveness. However, this document does not appear to be referenced in Schedule 2 (Requirements) so we would request further information on how submission of this document will be secured through the DCO…* *The Outline Design Principles document considers whether a culvert or open span bridge will be used for new ditch crossings. It concludes that this would be decided on a site-specific basis. We agree that culverts/culvert extensions should be designed to*	An assessment of the impact of culverts on the water environment was provided in Chapter 9: Water Environment **[APP-018/3.1**] and in WFD terms in Appendix 9-A: Water Framework Directive Assessment ES Volume 3 **[APP-137/3.3].** Further consultation was undertaken with the Environment Agency on 6 June 2023 with specific regard to the screening process that was undertaken for determining where open span bridges or culverts were required. The Environment Agency have since reviewed the screening approach in more detail. The Environment Agency provided an updated Statement of Common Ground on 20 June 2023 and noted in their comments with regard to culverts that, "*We agree that the WFD Assessment contains the required level of detail and correctly identifies watercourses which could be impacted and proposes the relevant mitigation*". A signed Statement of Common Ground has been submitted at Deadline 1 **[4.3E]**.

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		maintain connectivity along watercourses for aquatic species and riparian mammals. We support length-for-length watercourse enhancements to mitigate any detrimental impacts, and to ensure compliance against WFD objectives.	
270	The Environment Agency	*'As part of the WFD Mitigation and Enhancement Strategy, temporary and permanent sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) should be designed and integrated, with clear links to site plans and risk procedures in a detailed drainage plan.'*	An Outline Drainage Strategy is provided in Appendix 9-C **[APP-139 to 141/3.3]**. 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. 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 **[APP-139 to 141/3.3]**. SoCG agreements are being sought with the Upper Witham **[EN010131/APP/4.3G]** and Trent Valley IDBs **[EN010131/APP/4.3G]** following DCO application to agree monitoring and maintenance requirements and responsibilities for watercourses.
270	The Environment Agency	*'Measures to avoid sediment entering the watercourses should be confirmed within the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and we welcome being a specific consultee on the detailed plan under Schedule 2, Requirement 12 (1). Excess sediment impacts upon oxygen levels and nutrient conditions which can negatively impact upon the aquatic environment.'*	Noted. Measures relating to surface water management during construction, including management of sediment, runoff laden with sediment and accidental spillages are outlined in both Chapter 9: Water Environment **[APP-018/3.1]** and the Framework Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) **[APP-224/7.3]**. These will be included in the final CEMP.
270	The Environment Agency	*The scheme should not negatively impact upon future river restoration projects. It is unclear whether underground infrastructure cabling could limit these plans. The applicant should refer to the Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Opportunity*	The Applicant has reviewed the Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping Project 1 for The Trent Valley alongside the Central Lincolnshire Green Infrastructure Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping and its relationship to

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		Mapping Project for The Trent Valley to see proposed habitat creation and enhancement works to better consider the impact the schemes infrastructure may have.'	the Scheme and the BNG Assessment submitted as part of the DCO application **[APP-230/7.9]**.
2.8	**Public Rights of Way**		
001, 080	7000 Acres, Fillingham Parish Council	The local network of footpaths, roads and bridleways provides routes for recreation and exercise, including cycling, walking, running and horse-riding. These will be lost should the Scheme be consented.	The Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans **[AS-006 to 007/210]** and Public Right of Way Management Plan **[APP-229/7.8]** show that no public right of way will be closed either during construction or operation. However, in order to ensure safe separation between construction activities and those members of the public wishing to travel on the public right of way network, a number of public rights of way, notably on the transmission cable installation route, will be temporarily diverted during construction. However, these routes will be reinstated onto their original alignment following construction. The Traffic Management Plans **[APP-167 to 168/ 3.3]** outlines areas of the local road network where traffic management may be required to facilitate safe access / egress for construction vehicles. The duration and extents of these traffic management areas will be agreed with the respective Local Authority. However, it is anticipated that pedestrian connectivity and footways will remain open for use.
148	LCC	*'The Council will make comments in relation to Public Rights of Way in the LIR.'*	Noted
193	Natural England	*'There are no National Trails, Open Access Land or Coast paths within the Order limits; as such, no impacts to these features are likely. If temporary diversion of a ProW is required during construction we recommend this diversion should be in place before any construction works take place within the vicinity, to ensure the route remains accessible at all times.'*	Comment noted. 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

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			construction phase. Further details are set out within the Outline PRoW Management Plan **[APP-229/7.8]**).
017, 041, 055, 067, 072, 084, 090, 091, 098, 131, 143 153, 159, 163, 224, 231, 239	Individual respondents	The recreational use of PRoW will have adverse landscape and visual impact resulting from the Scheme. PRoW may be closed for up to 36 months during construction.	Effects on views from PRoW as a result of construction, operation and decommissioning of the Scheme are set out in Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity **[APP-019/3.1]**. Adverse visual effects during construction and decommissioning (some of which are significant) would be experienced from PRoW proximal to the Solar and Energy Storage Park and Grid Connection Route. During Operation once new and strengthened hedgerows and tree and shrub belt planting has reached semi-maturity, this will screen or filter the Scheme in the majority of views; however a small number of significant effects remain at Year 15 for the Solar and Energy Storage Park. Views from PRoWs along and across the Grid Connection Corridor and the wider PRoW network will experience no significant effects during operation. 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 **[APP-229/7.8]**).
2.9	**Cultural Heritage**		
RR-001	7000 Acres	Objects to the insufficient mitigation of the Scheme's impact on heritage assets.	Noted. The Applicant has worked hard to reduce the impacts on cultural heritage. This includes provision of design avoidance measures and embedded mitigation incorporated into the Scheme design, which will avoid and/or reduce potential significant effects to heritage assets. Avoidance measures used in the development of the Scheme relevant to cultural heritage include:

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			• Designing the site boundary to exclude all designated heritage assets • Retention of all non-designated historic buildings within the site with no physical impacts to those buildings proposed; • The siting of the BESS and on-site substation in an area of the site with reduced visibility limits visual intrusion into the setting of heritage assets; • The use of a buried cable for the Grid Connection Corridor is proposed in order to remove potential impacts on the setting of heritage assets caused through the introduction of an overground cable; and • The routing and siting for the Grid Connection Corridor was influenced by the identification of potentially significant below ground archaeological remains along the route corridor, with the route selected to avoid significant archaeological remains as far as practicable. With regard to the setting of heritage assets and historic landscape, the embedded mitigation includes: • The use of panel free buffer zones within the settings of heritage assets, including a 100m buffer area to the east of the non-designated Gate Burton park and a panel exclusion zone between the park boundary and Burton Wood. During construction this panel free area will not be used for any construction-related activities or laydown areas. • A buffer area around the non-designated Clay Farm and Siding Farm. During construction these panel-free areas will not be used for any construction-related activities or laydown areas. • A buffer area in the vicinity of Heynings Priory scheduled monument, to retain its connection with a probably associated building identified in the geophysical survey in Field 45 and to retain its landscaped setting within a ‘bowl’ of lower-lying boggy ground. During construction this panel free area will not be used for construction-related activities except for a route of access that runs north-south along the eastern boundary of the field. • Appropriate and sensitive screening to minimise the visual intrusion of the Scheme, while avoiding, as far as practicable, obscuring or intruding

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			upon important views and relationships between heritage assets or significantly altering historic design intention. • Screening is shown on the Indicative Site Layout Plan in ES Volume 2: Figure 2-4 **[APP-033/3.2].** Mitigation by planting will be undertaken within two work packages, Work No. 5, Landscaping and biodiversity enhancements and Work No. 9, Areas of habitat management and biodiversity enhancement measures. Work No. 5(d) includes new native hedgerows; existing hedgerow enhancement gapping up and infill planting; and new native woodland buffer planting to reinforce existing woodland and tree belts. Any mitigation planting has taken into consideration the historic landscape character as appropriate, and most of the proposed new boundary planting within the Site follows boundaries shown on the relevant Enclosure and tithe maps, and historic OS maps. Planting as mitigation to screen views has been limited to avoid the creation of new impacts; rather, it has been used to enhance existing screening and/ or futureproof against the loss of existing planting, as appropriate. • All new planting undertaken within Work Nos. 5(d) and 9 would be implemented and managed in accordance with the Outline Landscape Ecology Management Plan (OLEMP) **[APP-231/7.10].** The operational design of the scheme has included the use of infrared sensors on task-specific maintenance and operational lighting rather than permanent lighting. This avoids impacts caused through changes to the setting of heritage assets at night. The Applicant has included avoidance and embedded mitigation measures in respect of archaeological sites within the Grid Connection Corridor and the Solar and Energy Storage Park. Further details can be found in ES Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage **[APP-016/3.1].**
RR-080	Fillingham Parish Council	The heritage assets of Fillingham and the character of the area would be adversely impacted by the Scheme.	Fillingham is approximately 7.5km east of the Scheme and the closest cultural heritage assets in Fillingham (listed buildings at the western edge of the village) are approximately 7.3km from the Scheme at the closest point.

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			As set out in Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage **[APP-016/3.1]** a 3km study area from the Solar and Energy Storage Park was considered in the cultural heritage assessment for designated assets. A wider 5km study area was also considered for the designated assets of the highest significance (scheduled monuments; Grade I and Grade II* listed buildings and Registered Parks and Gardens). This study area was used to provide historical and archaeological context and to identify designated heritage assets with the potential to be affected by the Scheme. The study area extent was agreed with statutory consultees through the EIA Scoping process. Those assets potentially affected by the Scheme (as identified through the study area) were taken forward for assessment in the ES chapter. Fillingham is more than 2km from the maximum area of study and there is no potential for significant effects to heritage assets in that area as a result of the Scheme.
100	Historic England	*'We note the scheme has it appears addressed the setting of designated heritage assets and known monuments of equivalent importance through design (layout and deployment of green space) in particular at Heynings Priory Scheduled Monument and Gate Burton Hall (Grade II*). With regards to buried archaeological remains it is important that risk of avoidable / unmitigated damage to sensitive remains is well managed in proportion to their importance. This can be achieved through layout, deployment of green space and construction options for cabling and panel mounting etc. Archaeological risks can thus be well addressed with a sound understanding of where archaeological sensitivity and importance lies across the site and cable corridor. We refer you in the first instance to the expertise of local authority archaeological advisors. It is they who will (should DCO be granted with appropriate requirements) advise upon the acceptability of written schemes of investigation (WSI) and their accordance with a robust overall archaeological strategy secured through DCO submission. Combined cable connection corridors with other Solar NSIP have the potential to minimise*	Noted. We appreciate how Historic England has worked positively with the Applicant to design a Scheme that Historic England is now happy with.

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		cumulative impacts in archaeologically sensitive areas, which we would welcome.'	
004, 061, 073, 090	Individual respondents	Objects to the cultural heritage impacts associated with the Scheme.	Noted. The Applicant has worked hard to reduce cultural heritage impacts and it is noteworthy that both the County Archaeologist and Historic England have no objections to the scheme. No significant residual effects are predicted on heritage assets during construction, operation or decommissioning of the Scheme.
072, 090, 264	Individual respondents	Objects to the potential cumulative impacts on cultural heritage .	A cumulative assessment of the impact on cultural heritage assets was undertaken in the ES, as set out in Section 7.13 of Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage **[APP-016/3.1].** It is concluded that while the Cottam and West Burton solar projects will contribute to cumulative impacts on the setting of certain assets, this is not considered to be greater than the assessed level of impact reported in the chapter for the Gate Burton project in isolation.
001, 020, 057, 128, 131, 143, 153, 154, 159, 183, 208, 240, 244, 248, 282	Individual respondents	The Scheme will adversely impact upon the setting of heritage assets in Gate Burton and views from those assets, including Gate Burton Hall, the Chateau, St Helen's Church and the parkland setting.	Embedded design mitigation strategies have been incorporated into the scheme design to lessen or remove significant effects on heritage assets at Gate Burton. In consultation with Historic England, this included extending the embedded mitigation proposed at PEI Report stage 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 and other assets at Gate Burton. In so doing, the Scheme design now provides appropriate mitigation of the impact to the Grade II* listed Gate Burton Hall, non-designated park and other assets at Gate Burton.
208		*'There are earthworks which are the remains of a medieval village at Gate Burton and history dictates there are most likely further archaeological remains hidden beneath the extensive*	The updated Scheme design contains a panel free zone between Gate Burton non-designated park and Burton Wood, this will retain archaeological assets in situ within this panel free area. The assets at Gate Burton have been considered in their own right, as well as a complex of related features.

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		areas of farmland where the proposed solar project is to be sited.'	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. 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 **[APP-016/3.1]**. Mitigation strategies have been identified and agreed with the Local Planning Authority Archaeological Advisors which include embedded design mitigation to reduce or avoid the impact on assets of high importance.
177	Morris Family	Object to impact of Scheme on Gate Burton, including its numerous heritage assets. Paragraph numbers reference the PEIR. '*Therefore our opposition to the current proposals falls under two arguments, firstly the significant irreparable damage that the unreasonably close proximity of the PV panels will make to the whole village over the entire scheme operational period.'*	
177	Morris Family	Object to impact of Scheme on Gate Burton, including its numerous heritage assets. Paragraph numbers reference the PEIR. Issues and queries raised include: 1. *'We believe that as a high value heritage asset (table 7-1 main report), more consideration should be taken into the high level of impact that will be imparted on the [Burton Wood] woodland, as the PV panels will no doubt dramatically change the 'elements of setting that would result in harm to the asset and our ability to understand and appreciate its significance' (table 7-2 main report).'*	The updated Scheme design contains a panel free zone between Gate Burton non-designated park and Burton Wood (as illustrated on Figure 2-4 of the ES **[APP-0.33/3.2]**).

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177	Morris Family	*2.* Why do ancient woodlands only receive 5m more of a border from the intrusive PV panels than other non-designated woodland (fig. 2-4 sheet 1)?	A minimum offset of solar infrastructure from ancient woodland is set at 15m. This is considered an appropriately sufficient distance to mitigate effects on ancient woodland. This is in accordance with guidance produced by Natural England and the Forestry Commission (2022) called 'Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions'. The guidance states: *"the proposal should have a buffer zone of at least 15 metres from the boundary of the woodland to avoid root damage"*.
177	Morris Family	*3.* Significant effects will be imparted on the archaeological assets of the medieval settlement of Gate Burton (6. 3. 10). The archaeological significance of the Gate Burton village is evidenced in the main PEI report by the possible Roman fort located in Gate Burton MLI50544 with Roman coins found at MLI50595 (7. 7. 7 main report). The report also details the site of a medieval settlement at Gate Burton MLI50512, and the site of a former medieval parish MLI51371.	The updated Scheme design contains a panel free zone between Gate Burton non-designated park and Burton Wood, this will retain archaeological assets in situ within this panel free area. The assets 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. 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 **[APP-016/3.1].** Mitigation strategies have been identified and agreed with the Local Planning Authority Archaeological Advisors which include embedded design mitigation to reduce or avoid the impact on assets of high importance. As a result of the revised design and embedded mitigation, no significant effects are predicted on the archaeological assets of the medieval settlement of Gate Burton.
177	Morris Family	*4.* Most significantly, the village contains the two Grade II* post medieval assets of the Burton Chateau (1064085) and Gate Burton Hall (1359458) along with the associated grade II listed Walled Garden (1472727) both located only 220 metres from the DCO site (7. 7. 39 main report).	The formal boundary of the DCO site has not altered significantly since the PEI stage; however the inclusion of the additional panel free zone between Gate Burton non-designated park and Burton Wood effectively moves the Scheme further from these assets, with no panels present to the east of the assets, between them and Burton Wood (as illustrated on Figure 2-4 of the ES **[APP-033/3.2]).** The closest panels to Gate Burton Hall and its walled garden would now be at a distance of approximately 350m to the north-east of the assets. There is no intervisibility between this area and the assets at Gate Burton Hall. This provides appropriate mitigation of the impact to the

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			Grade II* listed Gate Burton Hall, non-designated park and other assets at Gate Burton. No significant effects are predicted on these assets.
177	Morris Family	5. *'The Grade II listed assets of St Helen's Church (1064087) and The Old Rectory (1359457) both of which will have direct visibility of the PV panels under the current proposals.'*	The updated Scheme design contains a panel free zone between Gate Burton non-designated park and Burton Wood, this provides a panel free zone to the east of St Helen's Church and The Old Rectory which provides appropriate mitigation of the impact. No significant effects are predicted on these assets.
177	Morris Family	6. *'The heritage listed 18th century Gate Burton Park (MLI98360) which inspired works of art by J.C. Nates are currently included in the scheme with plans to fit PV panels to a significant part of the parkland.'*	Gate Burton Park is not statutorily listed; it is a non-designated heritage asset. The parkland comprises a formal designed parkland garden and a wider landscape setting that, whilst forming part of the parkland, was a farmed landscape. Embedded mitigation in the form of panel free exclusion zone is provided as appropriate mitigation of the impact of the Scheme on the non-designated park. The resultant impact of the Scheme upon the non-designated park, including its wider farmed elements, is assessed in the ES, Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage **[APP-0.16/3.1]** which reports a minor adverse significance of effect. This is considered to be not significant.
177	Morris Family	7. Also concerns about impact on Gate Burton as a result of construction noise, visibility of the PV panels (including from site clearance).	The impact of the construction, operation and decommissioning of the scheme upon the assets within Gate Burton is assessed in the ES, Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage **[APP-016/3.1]** which reports a minor adverse or neutral significance of effect upon these assets. This is considered to be not significant.
177	Morris Family	8. *'We appreciate the mitigation work you have done thus far detailed in table 7-4 of the main report to mitigate the effects of the scheme. However, the current close proximity of the PV panels, which currently sit 220 metres from most of the listed buildings and heritage assets, will impart long term effects on the historic nature of the properties and landscapes. We would ask you reconsider certain elements of the proposals to further mitigate the damage that this PV panel placement will cause.'*	The updated Scheme design contains a panel free zone between Gate Burton non-designated park and Burton Wood (as illustrated on Figure 2-4 of the ES **[APP-033/3.2]**).

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177	Morris Family	*9.* Why is Gate Burton situated only 50m from the development, while other residential areas are protected by large buffer stretches?	The location and extent of buffer areas shown on Figure 2-4 of the ES **[APP-033/3.2]**, has been informed by a range of environmental and planning considerations and therefore different scales of buffers are shown. For example, the large triangular buffers to the west of field B6 and north of field B7 are primarily included to provide offset from the scheduled monument to the north; however, this has been combined with proposed planting along the northern perimeter to further screen views from Knaith.
177	Morris Family	Impact on Rose Cottage *1. 'The border of the development is directly neighbouring our Rose Cottage property with an internal road 2m over the hedge from the '18 acre' Rose Cottage pastureland and gardens (Figure 2-3). PV panels also cover the entire stretch of the '18 acre' pastureland and garden, with no buffer. This will cause significant noise, dust and vibration pollution and ruin the tranquillity of the Rose Cottage property. Having a significant effect on property valuation and quality of life.*	As shown on Figure 2-4 of the ES **[EN010131/APP-033/3.2]** hedgerow screening is proposed along the western edge of Field A8 and A11 which would assist in screening views of the Scheme from Rose Cottage. **Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity** of the ES **[EN010131/APP-019/3.2]** considers the effect on visual amenity from Viewpoint 15 (which represents views from Gate Burton Estate looking east) and is the closest receptor assessed to Rose Cottage. The assessment concludes a minor adverse visual effect during construction (which is not considered significant), reducing to negligible after 15 years of operation (also not significant). The Rose Cottage property is approximately 200m from the closest field of solar panels (to the east in Field A11) and more than 300m from the main access road between the A156 and the BESS.
177	Morris Family Morris Family	Conclude that due to heritage assets, ancient woodland and Area of Great Landscape Value the development is unreasonably close to the village of Gate Burton. 'We believe the neighbouring fields bordering Burton Wood and around the village instead should be included in your heritage setting buffer. We would suggest making this buffer an extension of the current one, going from Clay Lane to the proposed construction compound next to Fox Covert wood. This would keep the PV panels sufficiently out of visibility for Gate Burton village and Rose Cottage (with its '18 acre' pastureland and gardens that currently border the PV panels and internal road), as well as protecting the heritage of the village and landscape.'	The formal boundary of the DCO site has not altered significantly since the PEI stage; however the inclusion of the additional panel free zone between Gate Burton non-designated park and Burton Wood effectively moves the Scheme further from these assets, with no panel present to the east of the assets, between them and Burton Wood (as illustrated on Figure 2-4 of the ES **[APP-033/3.2]**). This also reduces the extent of land affected within the Area of Great Landscape Value.

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057	Denise Gatliffe	Objects to the potential adverse impacts on heritage assets in Knaith.	The assets at Knaith have been considered in their own right, as well as a complex of related features and this includes built heritage, archaeological assets and historic landscape. This has included detailed desk-based research and geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation. This is presented in Appendix 7-A Cultural Heritage Desk-based Assessment **[APP-117/3.3]** and summarised in Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage **[APP-016/3.1]**. Mitigation strategies have been identified and agreed with the Local Planning Authority Archaeological Advisors which include embedded design mitigation to reduce or avoid the impact on assets of high importance. The impacts to assets in Knaith are assessed as resulting in neutral and negligible significances of effect. These are considered to be not significant.
148	LCC	The evaluation phases are complete and the Council have agreed the mitigation strategy. Other than agreeing the wording of any requirements connected to cultural heritage issues the Council does not anticipate raising any specific issues on cultural heritage through the examination.	The Applicant appreciates how LCC has worked positively with the Applicant to agree the methodology for assessments and Scheme changes to reduce cultural heritage impacts.
2.10	**Landscape and Visual Impact**		
Over 50 reps.	Individual respondents	Objects to the individual impact of the scheme regarding: a) adverse impact on the rural landscape character; b) adverse impact residential amenity; c) industrialisation of the landscape; d) Size and scale of the Scheme; e) Loss of visual amenity; f) Adverse visual impact on heritage assets g) Lack of mitigation to screen larger and taller elements of the Scheme.	Please refer to Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity of the Environmental Statement (ES) **[APP-019/3.1],** associated Appendices 10-A to 10-H included in ES Volume 3 **[APP-144 to 151/3.3]** as well as Figures 10-1 to 10-23 included in ES Volume 3 **[APP-060 to 095/3.3**] for a detailed assessment of landscape and visual effects including photomontages.
Over 50 reps.	Individual respondents	Objects to the cumulative impact on landscape including cumulative impacts on: a) rural landscape character;	Please refer to Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity of the Environmental Statement (ES) **[APP-019/3.1]**, associated Appendix 10-H included in ES Volume 3 **[APP-151/3.3]** as well as Figures 10-11 to 10-15

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		b) residential amenity; c) industrialisation of the landscape; d) size and scale of the scheme'; e) loss of visual amenity; f) adverse visual impact on heritage assets g) lack of mitigation for landscape and visual impacts.	**[APP-074 to 078/3.3]** and Figure 10-17 included in ES Volume 3 **[APP-083 to 086/3.3]** for the assessment of cumulative effects.
021, 038, 066, 068, 072, 080, 090, 098, 121, 136, 163, 159, 164, 262	Individual respondents	Objects to the impact the 3.5m panel size will have on the landscape from residential receptors and would not be adequately screened from residential receptors.	The panel height will be up to a maximum of 3.5m as described in ES Volume 1, Chapter 2: The Scheme **[APP-041/3.1].** 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. 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 are 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 **[APP-046/3.1]**.
011, 066, 103, 121, 153, 247, 262	Individual respondents	Objects to the size and massing of the Substation and Battery Energy Storage System	The substation will include transformers, switchgear and metering equipment required to facilitate the export of electricity to the National Grid. The Substation will convert the electricity to 400 kV for onward transmission to Cottam Substation via the Grid Connection Cable. The BESS is designed to provide peak generation and grid balancing services to the electricity grid. It will do this primarily by allowing excess electricity generated from the solar PV panels to be stored in batteries and dispatched when required. It may also import surplus energy from the electricity grid.

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			From a visual point of view, the colour of the various components will be muted in keeping with the prevailing surrounding environment. This will reduce the prominence of the proposed built structures in available views, particular in middle and long distance views. The Applicant's response is that the substation equipment and dimensions are defined by the 400kV connection voltage (which is optimized to reduce power transmission losses) and the transformer capacity. The Applicant's assessment of the Battery Energy Storage System equipment is based on size and capacities available today, without assumptions regarding future energy density technological breakthroughs which could reduce the size and/or number of containers required. The Applicant selected the location of the substation and Battery Energy Storage partially due to the presence of existing woodland (Long Nursery, Quilter's and Burton), existing hedges and railway to mitigate the visual impact for neighbours.
024, 032, 044, 066, 067, 072, 083, 084, 092, 108 121, 123, 206, 239, 248, 256, 262, 272,	Individual respondents	Objects to the Scheme being located in an Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) as identified by the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan.	Section 10.9 of ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity **[APP-019/3.1]** includes an assessment of effects on the Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) at construction and operation. It concludes that the level of effects will be minor adverse on the AGLV during construction and operation.

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092	Glentworth Parish Council	Objects to the potential impacts of the Scheme on the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.	The western edge (at North Willingham) of the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is located at approximately 30km distance from the eastern edge of Gate Burton (near Willingham by Stow). There will be no perceptible visibility between the Scheme and the AONB due to intervening topography and the effects of distance. Photomontage / Viewpoint 7 and C4 are located at Tillbridge Lane Viewpoint, which is an elevated viewpoint approximately 9.6km southeast of Gate Burton Energy Park. There is no change expected in this view due to intervening vegetation and topography. The western edge of the AONB is located another 20km further to the east. Considering the intervening cliffs at Scampton, Ingham, Fillingham and Glentworth, which are approximately 20-40m higher than the solar farm site, intervisibility between Gate Burton Energy Park and the AONB is not anticipated.
012, 171, 178, 188	Individual respondents	The area along the development is of historic interest and value known as the Lincoln Cliff / Jurassic Ridge with currently outstanding views across the Trent Valley and is a designated Area of Great Landscape Value. Concerns also raised on impact on Burton Cliff, Lincoln Edge to east of site and B1398 Lincoln Cliff Road.	Section 10.9 of ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity **[APP-019/3.1]** includes an assessment of effects on the Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) at construction and operation. It concludes that the level of effects will be minor adverse on the AGLV during construction and operation. Visual effects along the elevated sections of the B1398 in particular at Tillbridge Lane Viewpoint near Scampton and between Ingham and Glentworth have been assessed in ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity **[APP-019/3.1]**. The Scheme along the B1398 is indicated in Photomontages 7, C4 and C5, refer to Figures 10-11, 10-12, 10-16 and 10-17 included in ES Volume 3 **[APP-074,075,079 to 086/3.3]**, and Appendix 10-E and 10-F included in ES Volume 3 **[APP-148 to 149/3.3]**
171	Michael Dover	Concern over impact on Lincoln Cathedral and Lincoln Castle.	The western towers of Lincoln Cathedral are located approximately 15.5km southeast from the south-eastern boundary of Gate Burton Energy Park. The cooling towers and stacks of Cottam and West Burton Power Stations are visible in the far distance during clear weather conditions from the viewing platform of the central tower and the viewing gallery between the western towers. Associated train tracks, low ancillary buildings (up to 4-6m high) are

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			not distinguishable or visible at all due to intervening vegetation and the effects of distance. This will also apply to the solar farm and its 3.5m (highest edge) above ground level panels. Sections of the solar farm will theoretical be visible from the towers of Lincoln Cathedral. The towers of the Cathedral can be seen from locations within the Gate Burton Energy Park (refer to Cumulative Photomontage C1-1 for example). Potential visibility for the naked human eye from Lincoln Cathedral will be negligible and not significant.
159, 208	Individual respondents	Requests adequate screening with mature tree planting as mitigation. Also raised issue of planting taking 15 years to grow Is unacceptable.	Careful consideration of the locations of any proposed planting has taken place, including offsets to maintain openness of views, using planting to screen infrastructure, reinforcing existing vegetation and strategic planting to mitigate any potential effects of glint and glare on sensitive receptors. In addition, areas of advanced planting are 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 **[APP-019/3.1]**.
072, 163, 189, 262, 272	Elizabeth Clare Garbutt, Mark Prior, Mrs Vanda Colman	Objects to the proposed mitigation screening.	The Scheme design has focussed on mitigating by design as a first principle, by sequentially locating infrastructure behind natural screening barriers and therefore reducing the need for additional screening. Where necessary, screening has been targeted to reinforce existing vegetation, followed by additional planting in selected locations. In addition, areas of advanced planting are 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 **[APP-019/3.1]**.
026	The Canal and River Trust	*'The Trust is satisfied that the applicant has considered the impact of the solar panels on the navigational safety of the River Trent in Application document 3.3 (Glint and Glare Assessment Appendix 15-D) at paragraph 6.100. This concludes that the same vegetation and topography screening the A156 will screen views from the River Trent of the Scheme as a commercial waterway and leisure boating route.*	Comment noted. The Applicant has reviewed the protective provisions provided by the CRT and has engaged with the undertakers of Cottam Solar Project, West Burton Solar Project and Tillbridge Solar Project to agree an aligned approach to streamline the discussions with the CRT. The protective provisions were returned to the CRT on behalf of the Applicant and the other developers on 20 June 2023 and an all-parties meeting took place on 14 July 2023 to discuss the interactions between the schemes and the River Trent. [The Applicant is confident that agreement will be reached in this respect

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		Application document 3.1 (ES Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual) states that no permanent above ground structures are proposed on either side of the River Trent as part of the directionally drilled cable crossing and that during the construction period there are likely to be temporary construction compounds that will be removed on completion of the works. We consider the best means of considering the impact of temporary constructions on navigational safety and ecology of the waterway is through the attached protective provisions.'	during the course of the Examination. In the meantime, the Applicant has included a placeholder for protective provisions for the benefit of the CRT at Part 11 of Schedule 15 of the updated DCO submitted at Deadline1, which it expects to update with agreed protective provisions early in Examination.
006, 017, 032, 040, 054, 055, 072, 083, 084, 098, 109, 159, 164, 289	Individual respondents	Objects to the glint and glare impacts of the Scheme including impacts on: • Residential communities; • aviation • Ecology; • Agriculture; • Equestrian uses; • Cumulative impacts	Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics includes an assessment of Glint and Glare **[APP-024/3.1]** which includes residents, aviation, road, rail, and users of the River Trent as receptors. In terms of equestrian users there are no bridleways within the site boundary and therefore this was not considered within the assessment. Ecology and agriculture receptors were also not considered as they are not sensitive receptors to glint and glare. Careful consideration of the locations of any proposed planting has taken place, including reinforcing existing vegetation and strategic planting to minimise any potential effects of glint and glare on sensitive receptors. As stated in Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics **[APP-024/3.1**], cumulative effects are considered unlikely to arise for glint and glare.
148	LCC	*1 'The Council considers by reason of its mass and scale, the proposed development would lead to significant adverse effects upon landscape character and visual amenity. The development has the potential to transform the local landscape by altering the character on a large scale. This landscape change also has potential to affect wider landscape character, at a regional or county scale, by replacing large areas of agricultural or rural land with solar development, affecting the current openness, tranquillity and*	*Please note that the submissions made by LCC in this matter have been numbered to help the cross referencing of the responses by the applicant.* (1) **ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity [APP-019/3.1]** assesses and describes the effects of the Scheme on the landscape character and the visual amenity. Section 10.11 Residual Effects and Conclusions, states the remaining effects following the establishment of proposed landscape mitigation measures. The assessment concludes that there will be direct and significant alterations

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		agricultural character, that are identified as defining characteristics of the area. The Council are particularly concerned about the landscape character effects through changes to the land use over a large area.	to the local landscape character, where the Gate Burton Energy Park will be located and indirectly on sections of adjoining local landscape character. However, the assessment concludes that the wider landscape character, including at regional or county level, will not be affected.
		2 The scale and extent of development would also lead to significant adverse effects on views from receptors, changing from views within an agricultural or rural landscape to that of a landscape containing large scale solar development. From close range views, the development has been identified in the LVIA as resulting in a significant change to high and medium sensitivity receptors, including several from within the AGLV within and to the north and north west of the site. Long range, open and panoramic views across the low lying Till Vale from elevated land to the east, including from within The Ridge Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) to the east are also a concern, which while of a long range, would potentially include views down onto large areas of solar development, with larger elements, such as the sub-station, being particularly conspicuous in this low lying landscape.	(2) The Scheme design has focussed on mitigating by design as a first principle, by sequentially locating infrastructure behind natural screening barriers and therefore reducing the need for screening. Where necessary, screening has been targeted to reinforce existing vegetation, followed by additional planting in selected locations. In addition, areas of advanced planting are 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 [APP-019/3.1].**
		3 The cumulative landscape and visual effects of the proposed development are also of concern, particularly when assessed alongside the proposed Cottam, West Burton and Tillbridge Solar sites. The mass and scale of these projects combined would lead to adverse effects upon landscape character and visual amenity over an extensive area. The landscape character of the local, and potentially regional area, may be completely altered, particularly when experienced sequentially while traveling through the landscape.	(3) The cumulative impact assessment in contained in **ES Volume 3: Appendix 10-H [APP-151/3.3]** and summarised in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, Section 10.12 [APP-019/3.1].** In summary, the cumulative assessment identified at worst minor adverse effects on landscape during construction for the following projects: West Burton Solar Project, Cottam Solar Project, Cottam Power Station demolition, and Stow Park Road Residential Development. During operation, cumulative effects from the Scheme and Cottam Solar Project or Tillbridge Solar Farm are considered Minor adverse. Cumulative effects with West Burton Solar Project are Moderate adverse which is considered significant. West Burton Solar Project, Cottam Solar Project, Tillbridge Solar Farm and the Scheme has as a combined cumulative impact on landscape of Moderate adverse, which is considered significant.
		4 The submission has provided detailed information in regards to the impact upon, or protection of, existing trees, hedgerows and other important vegetation. However at this stage no	

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		check on consistency between plans and documents has been carried out, such as the Indicative Site Layout Plan, Tree Removal and Protection Plan, Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan and Outline Landscape Masterplan. In particular it would be beneficial to clarify the extents of any hedgerow removals to ensure the LVIA fully assesses these changes, and also where removed hedgerows may be replanted or potentially translocated. The Outline Landscape Masterplan (Fig 10-24) for example indicates extensive areas as: "Existing hedgerow along proposed cable route and A156 access route. Any hedgerow removal to install cable or enable construction to be replaced. Exact location to be determined": this doesn't appear to be fully reflected in the assessment or other plans. Any hedgerow removal has the potential to open up views and change the character of the area by removing a key feature that will take time to replace.	**Cumulative Landscape Effects (with West Burton Solar Farm only)** *Overall Effects at Operation: Moderate and Significant* As a result of proximity between ID9, addition of the Scheme will locally increase influence of solar farms within LLCA 06/LLCA 07 and in the northern extents of LLCA 08 and LLCA 09 around Marton. Addition of the Scheme, albeit with a limited extent of intervisibility will extend large-scale solar farms and reinforce solar use and infrastructure as a landscape component. There will be an increased magnitude of change for LLCA 05 and LLCA 06, in particular, which is assessed as medium magnitude on both and of moderate significance cumulatively.
		5 *The wider highways elements of the scheme do not appear to be fully considered in the LVIA beyond increased traffic during construction and decommissioning phases, despite the potential adverse effects on the rural landscape these may have, including potential vegetation loss, urbanisation or visual amenity through any required improvements. Highways works are proposed on several publicly accessible roads and lanes as indicated on the Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans (APP5.3), and the Abnormal Vehicles Route Access Swept Paths (within 3.3 Environmental Statement Appendix - Chapter 13-Eb Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan) show areas requiring vegetation removal for access to site. It would be beneficial to clarify the extents of the wider highways works and what these works would entail and if further works to existing vegetation are required to facilitate this.*	**Cumulative Landscape Effects (with West Burton, Cottam and Tillbridge Solar Farms)** *Overall Effects at Operation: Moderate and Significant* The Scheme will potentially introduce four solar farms within or partially within the 5km study area. At the County and District Landscape Character Area scale all four schemes will lie within the Trent Valley LCA. Although inter-visibility between the schemes will be limited and views in combination typically dominated by the closest solar farm, others are likely to be visible as a distant but discernible element in the view. The relatively flat nature of the landform (albeit rising to the Willingham ridgeline) is such that no elevated views of the footprint of the solar farms will be obtained. Experience of them as an element influencing landscape character will typically be in sequence through repeated views from footpaths or roads. The scale of addition to the landscape of the Trent Valley LCA assuming each scheme includes mitigation through hedgerow or other planting is

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		6 *The proposal would evidently deliver landscape and ecological improvements through mitigation areas and planting. However, this will be dependent upon the information set out in the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan and Figure 10-23: Outline Landscape Masterplan, which should be further explored, and assume would be refined at the detailed design stages and subject to appropriately worded requirements to capture this.'*	such that solar farms will be a notable localised element rather than a key characteristic. The Trent Valley LCA will not be defined by solar farms or become a "solar farm landscape" in which they are the defining characteristic. Locally at the scale of LLCA 06/LLCA 07 and LLCA 08 solar farms will represent a medium magnitude of change through addition and longevity such that effects on landscape character will be of moderate significance. (4) The extent of hedgerow and tree removal known at ES stage has been indicated in the **Figure 10-21** in **ES Volume 3 [APP-093/3.3]**. The Outline Landscape Masterplan with proposed mitigation planting is included in **Figure 10-23** in the same Volume. It is acknowledged that the vegetation removal required along the cable corridor is not indicated in the above drawings as the exact location of the cable alignment is not specified at this stage. The majority of vegetation to be removed will be reinstated either at or close to the original position so landscape and visual impacts of any removal would be temporary. The effects of vegetation removal and reinstatement along the cable corridor at construction / decommissioning and operation has been considered in the assessment of likely impacts and effects contained **ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, Section 10.9 [APP-019/3.1],** and is based on an assumption considering the worst case scenario, i.e. vegetation removal along the full width of the cable corridor as well as the reinstatement of the vegetation pattern. (5) The wider highway works have been considered in the assessment based on the information available at ES stage. The vegetation removal at individual access points will depend on the extent of the required visibility splays. These are being refined in continuing consultations with the planning authorities in order to minimise environmental impacts whilst protecting highway safety. Upon completion of these consultations, the vegetation removal plan and the outline landscape masterplan will be updated together with other technical notes and made available for consideration.

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			(6) Comments noted.
193	Natural England	*'10.8.19 Chapter 10 'Landscape and Visual Amenity' states that the proposed development is not located within, or within the setting of, any nationally designated landscapes. As a result, Natural England has no specific comments to make on the landscape implications of this development. The examining authority should have regard for the landscape character of the area; and we welcome the references and consideration made to Natural England's National Character Areas through the document. Natural England notes due regard has been given to the consideration of the importance of cumulative landscape impacts from the development and hope that the applicant will continue to liaise with other developers on this.'*	The Applicant welcomes Natural England's recognition of efforts made to reduce cumulative landscape impacts. Joint working is continuing between developers to reduce cumulative effects.
269	The Carter Family	*'This scheme, if approved, will result in our property, Sandy Barr Cottage, being almost surrounded by the proposed solar site. Our narrow north-south strip of land, unchanged for centuries, will have long eastern and western boundaries adjoining the site. We will also have a shorter northern boundary adjoining the site. In total we will share a continuous boundary with the solar site of some 900 metres.* *The extensive views over open countryside were a key feature in choosing Sandy Barr Cottage for our retirement. These views will be affected by the siting of the solar panels and we will also be more vulnerable to noise and glint/glare than most other properties in the vicinity of the site. Additionally, there are potential issues with flood risk, fire risk and security.* *Nevertheless, we understand the need for a balance in land use (protecting both food security and energy security) and we are*	As per the comment, the Applicant has put considerable effort into mitigating the impacts of the Scheme on Sandy Barr Cottage by incorporating a number of measures into the design including offsets to ensure the existing character of views from this property are maintained. In terms of tree planting, there is an existing hedge with trees which surrounds the property, however, there is no additional tree planting proposed following consultations with the Carter family as it would alter / obstruct existing views from the property into the surrounding areas further. Instead, we propose additional hedgerow planting is to fill-in gaps or to strengthen the existing hedgerows around the property boundary only. In terms of glint and glare, Sandy Barr Cottage is represented by residential receptors 68 and 69 within the Glint and Glare Assessment [APP-173]. At Receptor 68 (next to Marton Road), it was assessed that there are sufficient buildings and vegetation to the east and west of the receptor to screen views of the Scheme where glint and glare is possible. Therefore, there would be

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		not unsupportive of the idea of a solar project, providing efforts are made to mitigate the adverse impacts on neighbouring properties such as ours. Following site visits to Sandy Barr Cottage, the developer has responded positively to many of our concerns, adapting the layout in some respects. This is welcomed, however there are some outstanding matters in need of further clarification. *To minimise loss of visual amenity, set-back of the solar panels is important to us. In recognition of this, the developer has added a buffer zone, designated as a "lapwing field habitat", to the south-west of our property (in field C7). There is also a smaller, triangular wedge-shaped offset in the north-eastern part of field C7. A similar triangular wedge offset has also been added to the east of our property, in field C10, however it is still important to protect our distant views to the north-east (towards Willingham village and church) and to the south-east (towards the prominent landmark of Stow Minster). Screening with the planting of tree saplings was proposed but the height of the trees after several years growth would eventually obscure our views beyond the solar panels. Now that the solar panels are to be set back from our boundaries, these distant views should still exist. We would therefore object to any tree planting* *Glare & Glint* *We are concerned about glare and glint from the panels. This is of particular concern to us as it could unsettle our equines. The glare and glint study appears to have assessed the effects of glare and glint in the immediate vicinity of our dwelling but not in other parts of our land where our animals may be grazing or being exercised. We must therefore request a more complete assessment of how exactly we will be affected.* *Our hay fields*	no impact. At Receptor 69 (Sandy Barr Cottage) there is likely to be sufficient buildings and vegetation east and west of the receptor. Therefore, there will only be filtered views from the receptor into the Scheme, this is assessed as low impact. In terms of the impact of glint and glare on equines at the property, taking into account the above conclusion and the incorporation of panel setbacks, it is considered that there will no impact from glint and glare on horses using the fields. On the hay meadow point, as per consultations with the residents at Sandy Barr Cottage, there is no planting proposed in the vicinity of the property beyond filling in gaps in existing hedgerows and therefore there should be no negative impact on air flow as a result of the Scheme.

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		Most of our land is devoted to growing meadow hay for our equines. As well as sunshine and warmth, we need a good air flow for ripening and drying our annual hay crop. Although the solar arrays are now set back with the addition of wedge shaped offsets, it is important that any planting in these set-back areas does not impede the air flow into our northernmost hay field (i.e. the air flow from fields C7 and C10 of the solar site).'	
291	Woodside Pet Care	We pride ourselves, and advertise that animals have beautiful countryside views whilst in our care. Many of our clients in fact use us for those views as, like us they want their animals to have a quiet stay with natural living feel in the countryside, with no noise and vibration of heavy construction traffic. If this view were to change, and the outlook would be on acres of solar panels, this is not what we have promised our clients and would risk losing custom, and also gaining new customers.	Offsets have been included within the Scheme design to move panels further from properties as shown on **Figure 2-4 Indicative Site Layout Plan [APP-033/3.2]**. This includes an offset of panels and other infrastructure from residential properties bordering the site at Kexby Lane, therefore reducing visual effects from Viewpoint 10 as well reducing the adverse amenity effects from construction and operational activity. Planting is also proposed along the boundary of the panels in this location, to screen views from Viewpoint 10, whilst still maintaining the openness of the view with a large triangular offset area of species rich grassland adjacent to Viewpoint 10.
177	Morris Family	*Impact on Rose Cottage:* *"The construction compound itself appears to be a vast setup. The 10-36m^3 above ground fuel tank (2. 5. 24 main report) has an unspecified height, but this will no doubt be tall, and located at the construction compound bordering the Rose Cottage property and gardens obscuring views for the duration of the construction phase. With 70% of staff and 62% of HGV/LGV totalling 169 vehicles utilising the site as access what mitigation is being taken to ensure the Rose Cottage property is insulated from the noise, dust and vibration pollution that will be caused as a result? (table 13-1 & 2main report) We are extremely concerned by these access road and construction compound plans. This would significantly damage the tranquillity and value of the property and surrounding landscape with constant noise,*	The construction compound is approximately 400m north of the Rose Cottage property. Mitigation measures to avoid or reduce potential adverse impacts during the construction phase (including noise, vibration and dust) will be implemented by the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). A Framework CEMP has been submitted as part of the DCO Application **[APP-224/7.31]** which details the mitigation measures proposed. For example, use of screening locally around significant noise producing plant and activity will be undertaken. Noise complaints, if received, would also be monitored and reported to the Applicant for immediate investigation and action. A dust management plan must also be developed and implemented by the contractor for the construction works and this must be agreed with the local authority.

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		dust and vibration pollution and extensive visibility for the listed Rose Cottage property. Due to the construction compound being proposed at the top of the A156 North option being the 'Main Contraction Compound' Rose Cottage and Gate Burton village would bear the disruption of the construction phase more than any other residential area in the DCO. The extremely close proximity of the 'Main Construction Compound' to the Rose Cottage property and gardens would make living next to the compound extremely undesirable."	
		"The property and gardens would also be faced with direct visibility of the 3.5m high PV panels situated 2m from the gardens, 2.5m to 3m high fencing and the 11 metre high BESS storage site substation (fig. 10-11 VP15). Any mitigation proposed to obscure this view would take many years to accomplish as evidenced by your 2035 projection. We believe this is quite unreasonable considering the grade II listing placed on the Rose Cottage property."	Efforts have been made to reduce views wherever possible. This includes extensive planting as shown on Figure 2-4 of the ES **[APP-0.33/3.2]**. Rose Cottage itself is approximately 200m from the closest infrastructure at the site. Rose Cottage is not a statutorily listed building.
2.11	**Fire and Battery Safety**		
Over 50 reps.	Individual respondents	Concern regarding risks from chemicals within the batteries as part of the Battery Energy Storage System.	Health and Safety is a core principle for the Applicant whose group company is both an asset owner and operator. 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 Fire and Rescue Service 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

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			design 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. The Applicant has embedded mitigation within the Scheme design and has included an Outline Battery Fire Safety Management Plan in its DCO application **[APP-222/7.1]**. This outline plan sets out how the Scheme proposes to mitigate and manage the potential fire risk posed by the BESS.
Over 50 reps.	Parish Councils and Individual respondents	Concerns regarding fire risks relating to infrastructure within the Solar Energy Park including the potential risks to the local community. Some raised concerns about distance between BESS and nearest properties/ villages. Includes concerns over water used to put out a battery fire being polluted and flowing into watercourses and/ or causing air pollution. Also concerns of impacts to ecological receptors.	Health and Safety is a core principle for the Applicant whose group company is both an asset owner and operator. 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. The proposed system has many lines of defence to help prevent a fire. On an annual basis an independent fire risk assessment is carried out. Insulation monitoring and arc fault monitoring will detect low grade faults before they are close to a fire risk. There is a fusing and protection at string level, string combiner box level, inverter level, switchgear level and substation level that will cascade in depending on the original location of the fault causing the fire. Equipment is built to contain a fire, especially the inverters and the substation. If a fire was to occur for example at an inverter, the fire will be contained to this specific inverter. The site boundaries and inter-row spaces provide a natural fire gap for containment of fire. There is a separation between combustible material and non-combustible material. Fire retardant cables are used. Regular testing and groundskeeping also help to minimise the likelihood of a fire.

Ref. No.	IP Name	Comments from Relevant Representations	Response to Relevant Representation
			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 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. The Applicant has embedded mitigation within the Scheme design and has included an Outline Battery Fire Safety Management Plan in its DCO application **[APP-222/7.1]**. This outline plan sets out how the Scheme proposes to mitigate and manage the potential fire risk posed by the BESS.
032, 105, 120, 171, 208, 231	Individual respondents	Concerns over ability of local fire brigade to deal with a battery fire due to: - Lack of training - Lack of equipment - Lack of capacity - Nature of battery fires *'There is no recognised way of putting it [a battery fire] out as it does not need oxygen it is called thermal runaway and releases highly toxic gases such as Hydrogen Fluoride, Hydrogen Cyanide and many more. The only thing the fire brigade can do is flood it with water which also then turns to highly corrosive acid'* (120)	The Applicant has engaged with the Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Searches to advise on design and a safety management plan and to provide the emergency services with relevant information if requested. 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.
148	LCC	Having reviewed the application documents from a Fire Safety perspective the Council is content that the details appear to	The Applicant has engaged with the Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Searches to advise on design and a safety management plan and to provide the emergency services with relevant information if requested. The Applicant

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		satisfy the requirements set out in the County Fire Officer standard response to the pre-application stage of the process. However, without further specific details, e.g. detailed plans etc. the response is based very much on the details within the application documents. Request to continue to be engaged and views sought during the examination and reserve the right to comment on specific details of the fire strategy including drafting of suitably worded requirements to ensure the correct level of information is available and assessed before any development commences. This also includes any requirement for Hazardous Substance Consent for the battery storage facility if this is considered necessary to be included in the Development Consent Order.	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. A separate technical note for Hazardous Substance Consent has been sent to Lincolnshire County Council to explain why this consent is not required. A copy of this Technical Note is provided in Appendix A to this Report.
231, 247, 269	Individual respondents	Raises queries and concerns regarding on site mitigation relating to fire and battery safety including availability of water supply and spacing between containers.	The Applicant intends to either build their own water supply to the Battery Energy Storage System, connecting into Anglian Water's 7" AC water main located in the A156 or provide tanks on site. The Applicant has been in discussions with the Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service who have advised that a water supply with a flow of 1900 litres per minute or 32 litres per second would be required to put out a battery fire should this occur. Sufficient space has been allowed for in the BESS area for these tanks should this be the option selected. Discussions with Anglian Water are ongoing and progress on discussions on a mains supply will be reported in future iterations of the Statement of Common Ground with Anglian Water, the first iteration of which is provided at D1 **[4.3J].** To retain flexibility, the current application documents allow for either option to be pursued.
231	Roy Clegg	States that the Environment Agency, the Health and Safety Executive and the fire and rescue services should be statutory consultees in relation to fire and battery safety. States a safety assessment is done prior to consent in relation to the transportation, storage, recycling and disposal of the BESS.	The Health and Safety Executive and Environment Agency have requested to be removed as consultees from requirement 6 of Schedule 2 of the draft DCO and this has been actioned for Deadline 1. An Outline Battery Safety Management Plan **[APP-222/7.1]** is included within the DCO application which includes a description of the measures to be implemented to ensure all safety requirements are met. A detailed Battery

Ref. No.	IP Name	Comments from Relevant Representations	Response to Relevant Representation
			Safety Management Plan (BSMP) will be submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authorities and local fire and rescue services. This must be substantially in accordance with the Outline Battery Safety Management Plan **[APP-222/7.1]** which is secured by requirement 6 of Schedule 2 of the draft DCO. With regard to other environmental and safety aspects, the Framework CEMP **[APP-224/7.3]**, Framework OEMP **[APP-225/7.4]**, and Framework DEMP **[APP-226/7.5]**, secure the mitigation measures required throughout the lifetime of the Scheme. Local authorities, the local fire and rescue services, and Health and Safety Executive has been consulted during EIA Scoping and Statutory Consultation, to allow integration of their feedback into the design for which consent is being sought. This consultation will carry on during detailed design post-consent, as required in particular by the Outline Battery Safety Management Plan **[APP-222/7.1]**. Health and safety of the site would also be managed by the contractor and site operator through management plans, required by law to be in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Regulations.
269	The Carter Family	States the glare & glint study should be extended to assess potential fire risks affecting tinder-dry grass, whether due to the reflection of sunlight from the solar panels or other factors.	Any solar reflections would be at ground-level and will likely only occur when the sun is very low in the sky (i.e. at dusk and dawn), which is also when the sun's energy is lowest, so any reflection of light (or associated heat) will be a tiny fraction of the initial energy from the sun light (and heat) already experienced in daylight. There is not expected to be any heating effect that could cause fires as there has been no evidence to date of any solar panels causing fires. It is proven to be perfectly safe to stand, unprotected, immediately next to operational panels without light or heat effects. Furthermore, the solar panels are situated in a way which will not cause solar reflections to be concentrated to one specific point which could cause a heating effect, rather the solar reflection will be scattered in various directions with any light/heat dissipating rapidly. For a heating effect to occur the solar panels would need to be orientated in a specific shape to concentrate all reflections onto one point, much like how a microscope works or how the windows on the Walkie Talkie building concentrate light in specific areas.

Ref. No.	IP Name	Comments from Relevant Representations	Response to Relevant Representation
291	Woodside Pet Care	We have several emergency procedures in place for emergencies. We have seen several solar farms catch fire on the news recently, and worrying is the fire services stating that they can't put these fires due to the equipment in use on the solar farms. How possibly could we plan for a fire evacuation plan on the scale of a solar farm, so close to the business premises surrounded by panels?	The Applicant has engaged with the Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Searches to advise on design and a safety management plan and to provide the emergency services with relevant information if requested. 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. The system has many lines of defence to help prevent a fire. On an annual basis an independent fire risk assessment is carried out. Insulation monitoring and arc fault monitoring will detect low grade faults before they are close to a fire risk. There is a fusing and protection at string level, string combiner box level, inverter level, switchgear level and substation level that will cascade in depending on the original location of the fault causing the fire. Equipment is built to contain a fire, especially the inverters and the substation. If a fire was to occur for example at an inverter, the fire will be contained to this specific inverter. The site boundaries and inter-row spaces provide a natural fire gap for containment of fire. There is a separation between combustible material and non-combustible material. Fire retardant cables are used. Regular testing and groundskeeping also help to minimise the likelihood of a fire.
2.12	**Climate Change and Carbon Emissions**		
148	LCC	The Council will make comments on the conclusions reached in respect of sustainability benefits and contribution this makes to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the Councils Local Impact Report (LIR) and written submissions.	Noted.
016, 030, 031, 040,	Individual respondents	Objects to the embodied carbon emissions associated with the scheme including construction, operation and decommissioning of the scheme and particularly in the manufacturing and transportation of components from distant locations.	The Applicant sources 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.

Ref. No.	IP Name	Comments from Relevant Representations	Response to Relevant Representation
066, 073, 083, 091, 093, 103, 117, 121, 142, 153, 163, 207, 224, 228, 253, 254, 262, 272, 277, 289			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. 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 over 8 times the emissions generated in the construction and operation of the Scheme. In terms of decommissioning, it is considered that recycling routes are generally available for all materials at present, and when the time comes for decommissioning the Scheme there will be even greater opportunities for recycling, not least because the market will have expanded to meet demand as PV installations increase.
013, 040, 080, 224	Fillingham Parish meeting and individual responders	Objects to the details regarding the energy and decarbonisation benefits associated with the Scheme.	The Applicant has undertaken a lifecycle GHG impacts assessment in accordance with the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) guidance for assessing GHG emissions and evaluating their significance within Environmental Impact Assessment. This assessment assesses the impact of GHG emissions arising over the lifetime of the Scheme on the climate, therefore it is considered that the conclusion presented within Chapter 6: Climate Change **[APP-015/3.1]** that the overall GHG impact of the Scheme is beneficial and significant is appropriate.
018, 040 056, 072, 081,	Individual respondents	Objects to the 15 year or 25 year replacement rates of PV panels 2-3 times during the project lifespan	The Waste and Recycling Section within Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics **[APP-024/3.1]** 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 approximately 30 years of operation **[APP-024/3.1 Table 15-12].** Recycling routes are generally available for these materials at present. When the time

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164, 284			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. The company "Recycle Solar", based nearby in North Lincolnshire, reports that 90% of the glass and 95% of the semiconductor materials in end-of-life PV panels can be extracted for use in new PV panels **[APP-024/3.1].**
024, 197	Burton by Lincoln Parish Council and Individual respondent	States the loss of agricultural land may increase carbon emission through the transportation of food	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]. A large proportion of the land is farmed for crops used for industrial processes, alcohol production, bioethanol, fish pellets, fish food and biofuel and is not actually producing food for human consumption.

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

Ref. No.	IP Name	Comments from Relevant Representations	Response to Relevant Representation
111, 200	Individual respondent	Solar panels create a microclimate. *'Solar panels are reflecting the solar light and increasing the temperature at the ground level, and causing light reverberation and increase in global warming. The Photovoltaic Heat Island Effect cause by Larger solar power plants increase local temperatures and cause thermic pollution the dry up the ground and increase risk of wildfires.'* Also concern of impact of microclimate on flora and fauna	Chapter 6: Climate Change of the Environmental Statement **[APP-015/3.1]** 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 **[APP-015/3.1]**
2.13	**Land Use and Agricultural Land**		
Over 50 reps	Individual respondents	Objects to the use of agricultural land including the associated loss of food production. Includes objections to loss of best and most versatile land and 3b land.	Agricultural land will not be lost on a permanent basis, except for potentially the estimated 2 ha for the substation and planting (see ES Chapter 12 para 12.7.10 **[APP-021/3.1]**). This is a worst case scenario as it is possible that the BESS and substation will also be removed in decommissioning. The majority of the site is subgrade 3b "moderate" quality land. Within the Solar and Energy and Storage Park a total of 80.4 ha is subgrade 3a, which is Best and Most Versatile (BMV). This amounts to 11% of the site. The majority of the Solar and Energy Storage Park is subgrade 3b "moderate" quality land.

Ref. No.	IP Name	Comments from Relevant Representations	Response to Relevant Representation
			A large proportion of the land is farmed for crops used for industrial processes, alcohol production, bioethanol, fish pellets, fish food and biofuel and is not actually producing food for human consumption. 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[6].
Over 50 reps.	Individual respondents	Objects to the cumulative impact on agricultural land of the scheme alongside West Burton, Cottam and Tillbridge solar schemes.	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 **[APP-025/3.1]**. Further information will be provided at Deadline 1.
130, 155, 178, 179, 188, 221, 223, 227, 234, 236, 241	Individual respondents	Object to the impact on food security due to loss of agricultural land. Concerns raised about need to produce food in UK and not rely on imports, particularly in the wake of the situation in Ukraine. E.g. *'Over the previous 40 years we have gone from producing 78% of our own food down to 64% and the cost of importing food is increasing all the time.'*	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. 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. A large proportion of the land is farmed for crops used for industrial processes, alcohol production, bioethanol, fish pellets, fish food and biofuel and is not actually producing food for human consumption. 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[7].

[6] ONS (2011) Census 2011: Households (Tenure)
[7] ONS (2011) Census 2011: Households (Tenure)

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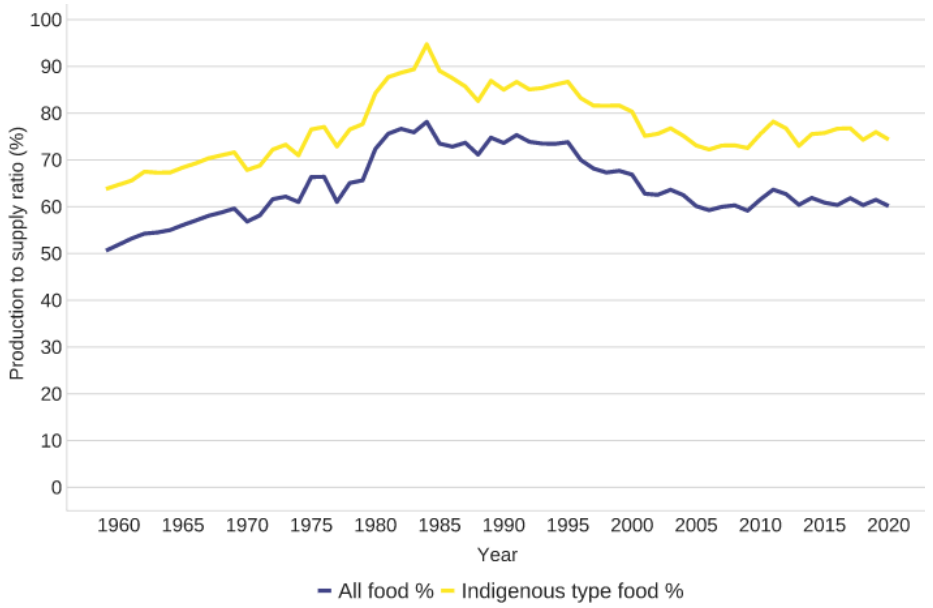
The Government's position is that ***"the UK has a large and highly resilient food supply chain. Our high degree of food security is built upon supply from diverse sources: strong domestic production as well as imports through stable trade routes"*** (Defra Press Release 6 December 2022.

The Government Food Strategy (2022) sets out objectives to "***broadly maintain the current level of food we produce domestically***".

Overall, the UK produces about 60% by value of the food we eat, but that rises to about 74% of the food we can grow or rear in the UK, as shown below (graph taken from the UK Food Security Report 2021).



Ref. No.	IP Name	Comments from Relevant Representations	Response to Relevant Representation
			The reasons for the graph are many and varied. The UK remains largely self-sufficient in terms of cereals, meat, eggs, milk and many of the fruits and vegetables suited to our climate.
076, 091, 150, 231, 265	Individual respondents	Raises concerns regarding the impact on soil quality associated with the Scheme.	An Outline Soils Management Plan has been submitted as part of the application **[APP-233/7.12]**. This will be developed into a Soils Management Plan post-consent to ensure correct handling and restoration of soils, and onsite reuse of any surplus soils stripped from areas of permanent development (where possible). There is ongoing research into how soil quality improves 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.
012, 072, 118, 178, 231	Individual respondents	Concerns raised about Applicant's Agricultural Land Classification Survey including: - Soil quality tests should have been conducted over months rather than a single test. - Calculating field yields per annum would have been useful to determine whether fields still beneficial for food production - ALC is very outdated and does not take into account modern farm practices and advancement in machinery	As set out within Appendix 12-C **[APP-162/3.3]** the Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) was carried out by Land Research Associates who have over 29 years' experience in conducting ALC surveys. The survey was in accordance with MAFF (1988) guidelines which is the current methodology for ALC. The ALC is based on the long term physical limitations of land for agricultural use. The ALC methodology is based on climate, site and soil characteristics and the important interactions between them. The current use, or intensity of use, does not affect ALC grade. There is no requirement or need to spread an ALC survey over months. In order to ensure that the ALC survey mapping was as accurate as possible, where soil conditions were found to vary (different soil type/higher land quality grade), additional samples were carried out to confirm the coverage of higher quality land in order to accurately draw boundaries between BMV and lower quality land.

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			The current agricultural use, or intensity of use, does not affect ALC grade. Yield mapping data does not, therefore, have a role in ALC. From the Applicant's knowledge of the site, a large proportion of the land is farmed for crops used for industrial processes, alcohol production, bioethanol, fish pellets, fish food and biofuel and is not actually producing food for human consumption. In terms of the MAFF guidance being outdated, this is the current industry guidance, which is supported by Natural England, and therefore the ALC survey has been completed in accordance with this current methodology.
120	John Bamford	We urgently need an independent soils survey. The developer states that the land is not the best and most versatile when in fact we only have their word for it, I have lived and worked in the area for over 30 years in the countryside and know many farmers and farm workers. They have quoted many locations within the proposed sites that have land as good as grade 2, even on the heaviest clay land they are getting grain yields averaging 12 tons per hectare, 50% above the national average. This is due to moisture retention in the drier summer months we have now.	The soil survey was completed by Land Research Associates (LRA) who have over 29 years' experience in conducting ALC surveys. The ALC Report presented in Appendix 12-C **[APP-162/3.3]** is an objective assessment by an experienced soil scientist who is a member of the British Society of Soil Science (BSSS). BSSS Code of Conduct requires that all members discharge their professional responsibilities with integrity and due scientific and technical competence.
012, 013, 027, 056, 066, 084, 098, 121, 208, 255	Individual respondents	Queries how and whether the land will be returned to agricultural use. Who will fund decommissioning and make sure it happens in 60 years time?	The Applicant has committed to decommission the Scheme after a period of 60 years from final commissioning of the authorised development. This is secured by Requirement 19 of the draft DCO. The Requirement to decommission the Scheme requires a decommissioning and environmental management plan (DEMP) to be submitted and approved by the relevant planning authorities in advance of decommissioning commencing. That plan must be in accordance with the framework DEMP submitted with the application **[APP-226/7.3]**. If the undertaker does not comply with the terms of the DCO then there are enforcement provisions included in the Planning Act 2008 which would enable the relevant planning authorities to secure compliance.

Ref. No.	IP Name	Comments from Relevant Representations	Response to Relevant Representation
148	LCC	The potential impacts on agricultural land both in respect of this scheme and cumulatively with other NSIP solar projects that are emerging/known about in Lincolnshire will be raised in the LIR and written submissions.	Noted
193	Natural England	In chapter 12 'Socio-Economics and Land Use' of the ES, 12.7.8 Table 12-12 illustrates the ALC of the land occupied by the proposed Gate Burton Energy Park whilst Table 12-13 displays the ALC of the Grid Connection Corridor. A non detailed ALC survey has been used, but we acknowledge that where the semi-detailed survey identified a change in ALC 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. The scheme components are mainly placed away from the highest quality agricultural land. At the Gate Burton Energy Park, subgrade 3a land comprises 11% or approximately 73.6ha of the land within the gate Burton Energy Park. Subgrade 3b covers approximately 548.9ha which makes up the majority of the land (84%). To properly inform an assessment of potential impacts all elements of the project, permanent infrastructure; temporary solar PV arrays; and other mitigation and enhancement options (i.e. BNG areas) should be shown by the addition of a table showing the ALC grade and proportion of all areas of permanent and non permanent units across the full DCO limits would be helpful. At the Grid Connection Corridor, the majority of land is made up of estimated BMV land at 74.8ha (43%). The grade of this land has been estimated through a desk review, Estimated subgrade 3b land covers 58.4ha (34%) and non-agricultural land accounts for 38.8ha (23%) of the Corridor. It is stated that	A breakdown showing the ALC grade and proportion of all areas of permanent and temporary units across the full DCO limits will be submitted at Deadline 2. The Applicant has minimised its impact on agricultural land in regards to the policies outlined in EN-1 and EN-3. There would be a permanent loss of approximately 2 ha of BMV land as a result of the Scheme. The majority of the Solar and Energy Park (approximately 88%) comprises Grade 3b agricultural land or non-agricultural land. The remaining land is Grade 3a land, although some of that land (1% of the overall site) is BMV land that will be retained in agricultural use. Some agricultural use can continue on most BMV land following construction alongside the solar panels and the impact on almost all agricultural land is reversible when the Scheme is decommissioned. The impact on BMV land has been minimised through locating permanent development on lower quality land where possible. It will be further minimised through implementation of the Soils Resource Management Plan to protect soils (see **[APP-233/7.12]** for the Outline Soils Resource Management Plan). The Outline Soils Resource Management Plan has been updated at Deadline 1 to address comments raised. The Grid Connection Corridor is likely to contain areas of BMV land. However, as agricultural uses of the land can continue following installation of the underground cable there would be no effect on the availability of best and most versatile land after construction. The Applicant has considered the Planning Practice Guidance for Renewable and Low Carbon Energy (June 2015). The Applicant considers that this guidance is capable of being an important and relevant matter, although the weight applied to it would be limited due the age of the document and

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		soil surveys were not considered necessary to inform the ES as the area could return to agricultural use following construction of the cable route. However, soil surveys will be necessary post consent to inform the construction and ensure that the cable route is restored to its current ALC grade. Natural England advise that this should be made a requirement of the DCO, along with restoration of the cable trenches to their ALC grade prior to operation of the scheme, to ensure the impacts along the cable route are only temporary as described. Approximately 2 ha of BMV land is expected to be permanently lost due to construction of the substation and planting. The areas of permanent planting i.e. tree and shrub belt planting, and proposed or strengthened hedgerow are shown on the site layout which can be found at Figure 2-4. The proposed species rich grassland is considered to be temporary loss as this could be returned to agricultural land (e.g. sheep grazing) during the operational phase once the grass has established. During the life of the proposed development, it is likely that there will be a reduction in agricultural production over the whole development area. Furthermore, if not time limited as described, the proposed development has the potential to lead to the permanent reduction in agricultural production. This should be considered whether this is an effective use of land in line with the National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) and Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3), which encourages the Applicant to seek to *'minimise impacts on the best and most versatile agricultural land (defined as land in grades 1, 2 and 3a of the Agricultural Land Classification) and preferably use land in areas of poorer quality (grades 3b, 4 and 5) except where this would be inconsistent with other sustainability considerations'*.	because it was not written to guide decision making on DCO applications. Notwithstanding the above, the Applicant would make the following points in terms of compliance with this guidance: • Whilst no areas of suitable brownfield or previously developed land were identified by the Applicant, the majority the Solar and Energy Park (approximately 88%) comprises Grade 3b agricultural land or non-agricultural land. • The Applicant has committed to decommission the Scheme after a period of 60 years from final commissioning of the authorised development . This is secured by Requirement 19 of the draft DCO. The Requirement to decommission the Scheme requires a decommissioning and environmental management plan (DEMP) to be submitted and approved by the relevant planning authorities in advance of decommissioning commencing. That plan must be in accordance with the framework DEMP submitted with the application **[APP-226/7.3]**. • The Applicant has fully considered the Scheme's visual impact individually and cumulatively with other schemes, with a full assessment of the landscape and visual effects provided in Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity of the Environmental Statement (ES) **[APP-019/3.1]**, associated Appendices 10-A to 10-H included in ES Volume 3 **[APP-144 to 151/3.3]** as well as Figures 10-1 to 10-23 included in ES Volume 3 **[APP-060 to 095/3.3]**. • The Glint and Glare assessment included within Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics **[APP-024/3.1]** assesses the impact of the Scheme on aviation and concludes no significant effects. • The Applicant considered the use of tracking panels but opted for fixed tilt design because it was considered a more efficient use of land for this particular site and design. • The Applicant has considered the need for and impact of security measures such as lights and fencing with further details included in ES Chapter 2: The Scheme **[APP-011/3.1]**. Planting has been incorporated within the Indicative Landscape Masterplan to screen

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		We would also draw to your attention to Planning Practice Guidance for Renewable and Low Carbon Energy (March 2015) (in particular paragraph 013) and advise you to fully consider BMV land issues in accordance with that guidance. It should be noted that whilst arable reversion to grassland has been shown to benefit Soil Organic Matter, this benefit will only extend to the duration of the reversion, i.e., during the operational phase and restricted to those areas of land currently under cultivation. However, there could be a disbenefit to the soil resource due to unknowns as a result of the solar development infrastructure. It is currently unclear as to what impact the solar panels may have on the soil properties such as carbon storage, structure and biodiversity. For example, as a result of changes in shading; temperature changes; preferential flow pathways; micro-climate; and vegetation growth caused by the panels. Therefore, it is unknown what the overall impact of a temporary solar development will have on soil health. It is considered that as the solar panels would be secured to the ground by steel piles with limited soil disturbance, they could be removed in the future with no permanent loss of agricultural land quality likely to occur, provided the appropriate soil management is employed and the development is undertaken to high standards. Consequently, Natural England would advise that any granting of planning permission should be made subject to requirements to safeguard soil resources and agricultural land. The potential impact on agricultural land and BMV land could be lessened if the proposed development was time limited. General guidance for protecting soils during development is also available in Defra's Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites, and should the development proceed, we recommend that relevant parts of this	the fencing to reduce the landscape and visual impact. Further information is available within ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity **[APP-019/3.1]**. The Framework CEMP **[APP-224/7.3]** has been prepared to avoid and/or reduce environmental impacts from lighting. • The Applicant has worked hard to reduce the impacts on cultural heritage. This includes provision of design avoidance measures and embedded mitigation incorporated into the Scheme design, which will avoid and/or reduce potential significant effects to heritage assets. Further details of the impacts on cultural heritage and the avoidance and embedded mitigation measures can be found in ES Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage **[APP-016/3.1]**. • The Applicant has fully considered the generating potential of the Scheme with location factors such as irradiancy and topography considered in the site selection process as detailed in ES Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution **[APP-016/3.1]**. In terms of the disbenefit to the soil resource due to unknowns as a result of the Scheme, for soils within the areas of solar panel development, the most significant impact will be the replacement of arable land management (annual cultivation, trafficking by harvest vehicles, application of fertiliser and pesticide and exposure of bare soil surface vulnerable to erosion) with a perennial green cover for a period of 60 years. The benefits of this change in management for soil health are substantial. The benefits of reverting arable land to pasture are well understood. This has been researched within Defra project SP08016. Table 1 in the summary report for the Defra project is very clear, that reverting arable land to pasture is very effective for benefit to soil organic matter and highly beneficial on environmental impact. There is no plausible reason why the soil resource at a solar farm, with cultivation suspended and a year round green cover, would not experience a recovery to a higher equilibrium of soil organic matter than that under the prior arable management. The soil organic matter and wider environmental impact benefits of reverting arable land to pasture

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		guidance are followed, e.g., in relation to handling or trafficking on soils in wet weather. The British Society of Soil Science has published the Guidance Note 'Benefitting from Soil Management in Development and Construction' which sets out measures for the protection of soils within the planning system and the development of individual sites, which we also recommend is followed. Natural England welcomes the preparation of an outline Soil Management Plan (oSMP) which has been prepared and submitted with the application. We have made some specific comments on the oSMP below: • A map of Topsoil units should be a requirement of the SMP and retained to ensure topsoil units are restored to their original location. The stockpiled soils should be labelled and protected from trafficking and damage. Any soil stockpiles in place for more than 6 months need to be seeded. • Under decommissioning, Natural England consider that a specific requirement for restoration of agricultural land occupied by the site to its former ALC grade, where appropriate, should be secured through the SMP. This would comprise an example of implementing good practice to assure restoration of the land to the baseline ALC grade, minimising the potential loss of soil functions. • Specific soil sampling along the cable route should be made a requirement of the DCO, to ensure operations and restoration are correctly informed and the cable route is restored to its current ALC grade. • Tall vegetation / crops should be cleared prior to topsoil stripping.	are sufficiently well established that farmers can receive a Countryside Stewardship payment of £321 per hectare per year for adopting this land management (Countryside Stewardship Grant SW7: Arable reversion to grassland with low fertiliser input). The design life of the Scheme is expected to be 60 years and decommissioning is secured by Requirement 19 of the draft DCO. When the operational phase ends, the Solar and Energy Storage Park will be decommissioned. All PV modules, mounting poles, inverters and transformers would be removed and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at the time. Buried medium voltage cables would either be removed or left in situ. The majority of the Solar and Energy Storage Park would be returned to the landowner after decommissioning and will be available for its original use. The future of the substations and associated control buildings would be agreed with the relevant Local Planning Authority prior to commencement of decommissioning. Requirement 19 on the draft DCO requires that a Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan should be prepared and submitted to the relevant planning authority for approval prior to decommissioning. Reference to Defra's Construction Code of Practice for Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites is included within the Outline Soil Management Plan **[APP-233/7.12]** and will be applied throughout the construction of the Scheme. The Outline Soil Management Plan **[APP-233/7.12]** has been updated to include the comments in the response. Reference to the British Society of Soil Science guidance has also been added. In terms of the comment 'Specific soil sampling along the cable route should be made a requirement of the DCO'. As per subsequent discussions with Natural England (see revised Statement of Common Ground **[4.3C]** submitted at Deadline 1) soil sampling will be undertaken within the grid

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		• Areas of the site which are not to be stripped or used for stockpiling, haul routes or compounds must be clearly marked by signs and barrier tape and protected from trafficking and construction. • The scope of the SMP should be expanded to include the soil management of the land under any proposed areas for Biodiversity Net Gain , and aftercare. Although there is no soil movement proposed in these areas, soil trafficking may occur and therefore mitigation measures need to be in place to minimise the potential impact on the soil resource. • Whilst the method proposed for the installation of the solar PV arrays does not involve any digging or soil mixing, there is the risk of soil damage due to trafficking, especially when the soils are wet. The physical loosening of compacted soils may only provide temporary alleviation, while actively damaging the soil's biological capability to recover and maintain its structure in the long-term, with frequent cultivation often a factor associated with poorly structured soils. Therefore, compaction should be avoided as far as possible in the first instance. Any decompaction or remediation activities should be done when the soils are in a suitably dry condition. A key mitigation measure to minimise the potential detrimental impact of construction activities on the soil resource is to ensure that the grass sward is fully established (i.e., no bare ground), prior to the installation of the panels and associated infrastructure. This should be specified in the SMP.	connection corridor. A pre-construction condition survey is included within the Outline SMP, and therefore is secured by Requirement 17 of the DCO. The updated Outline Soil Management Plan has also been submitted at Deadline 1.
120	John Bamford	Lincolnshire is the UK Food Valley and Lincolnshire had the largest crop output of the ITL2 regions within the East Midlands in 2021. This was an increase of £299 million (30%) from 2020 to £1,280 million in 2021… In total the food chain provides 24% of jobs throughout Greater Lincolnshire (as compared with just 13% nationally) and 21% of its economic output (7% nationally). The future of the food chain is therefore absolutely vital to	Comment noted. It is agreed that some agricultural land will be taken out of arable production temporarily for 60 years. Land affected permanently by the development (such as construction of the substation) will be limited to small areas. Impacts to BMV have been avoided by siting permanent infrastructure outside of areas of good quality agricultural land. Chapter 12: Socio-economics and Land Use **[APP-021/3.1]** includes a breakdown of permanent and temporary losses for the different types of land use within the proposed

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		Lincolnshire and its population, and we are strategically important to national food security. Boasting more Grade 1 agricultural land than any other LEP in England, the Greater Lincolnshire agri-food sector will double its contribution to the economy by 2030 through an ambitious programme of investment in productive capacity, skills and knowledge to drive an increase in high- value- added sales to UK and export markets.	development (including the Grid Connection Corridor), broken down by ALC area (ha) and percentage. It should be noted that a large proportion of the land is farmed for crops used to produce bioethanol or biomass and is not actually reaching the food chain.
203	North Kesteven District Council	North Kesteven District Council wishes to register its interest in making submissions in relation to agricultural land impacts; including cumulative agricultural land impacts alongside other NSIP-scale solar projects in Lincolnshire. Our comments are likely to relate to Doc 3.1 Volume 1, Chapters 12 and 16 of the Environmental Statement.	Comments noted. The Applicant contacted North Kesteven District Council (NKDC) on 24 April 2023 and 23 May 2023 following their Relevant Response to progress discussions ahead of the Examination. No response has been received to date.
2.14	**Local economy and community benefits**		
Over 50 reps.		Objects to the adverse impacts on local businesses and local employment including agricultural employment. Including impact on tenant farmers.	An assessment of the impact of the Scheme on local business and local employment including agricultural jobs is presented within Chapter 12: Socio-economics and Land Use **[APP-021/3.1]**.
		Some respondents commented that employment generated would be temporary in nature and questioned what mitigation is in place for loss of employment.	It is estimated that there are 1.5 existing FTE jobs in the DCO site related to agricultural activities that would be lost. Therefore, the 'existing employment' has been assessed as up to 2 jobs lost.

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			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. There will be up to 14 permanent FTE staff during the operational phase. 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. The Applicant has developed an Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan **[APP-228/7.7]** which is secured by Requirement 18 of the draft DCO and aims to identify and maximise opportunities for local communities.
001	7000 Acres	Queries how the Scheme will contribute to the local development plan's socio-economic objectives.	The Applicant has developed an Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan **[APP-228/7.7]** which aims to identify and maximise opportunities for local communities and is secured by Requirement 18 of the draft DCO.
006	Alice Prior	Objects to the impact on equestrian facilities.	Consultation will be undertaken with equestrian groups on the timings and duration of construction activities. As set out in the Framework CEMP **[APP-224/7.3]** which is secured by Requirement 12 of the draft 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.
Over 50 reps.	Individual respondents	Objects to the potential adverse impacts on tourism in Lincolnshire. Specific concerns were raised about the impact on:	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.

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		- Small lodges, b&bs and hotels - Fishing holiday parks - Shops	The building has been renovated and now provides accommodation for 2 people. The impact of the Scheme during the construction period will be negligible on this receptor and no impact 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 schemes) and may benefit from it during the construction period through an increase in occupancy. 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.
208	Patricia Mitchell	*'Furthermore, as the crow flies, the Low Carbon proposed solar development will be extremely close to the Lea Fields Crematorium. Throughout the construction period and beyond there will be noise (and disruptive traffic delays) as the A156 is the only road leading directly to the Crematorium and is en-route to the solar development site'.*	Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration includes Lea Fields Crematorium as a receptor. Noise levels at the Crematorium are assessed to be below the threshold that may cause disturbance, and therefore are non-significant. In terms of traffic delays, measures are included within Appendix 13-E Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) **[APP-167 to 168/3.1]** to manage construction traffic.
001, 025, 038, 047, 068, 073, 128,	Individual respondents	Queries whether the Scheme will provide community benefits including: - localised energy supply benefits - reduction in local energy bills - funding for domestic solar installations - provision of fibre broadband	Community benefits are not relevant and important matters in determining DCO applications and consequently are not a focus of the Application documents. However, all of the Applicant's group companies' projects come with a community benefit.

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152, 269, 277, 290		Some objections to limited community benefits.	The Applicant has held meetings with various Parish Councils and also Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire Community Foundations to explore how such benefit could be administered and what initiatives it might support. We feel this should be a decision for local communities and we are keen to continue to facilitate the discussions around this.
001, 031	7000 Acres, individual respondent	States the Scheme will result in separation of communities.	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. The impacts on local communities and residential properties have been assessed in **Chapter 12: Socioeconomics and Land Use [APP/3.1]**. The chapter concludes that there will be no significant effects on local communities.
118	John and Anne Parkin	Concern regarding the cumulative impact of construction workers on local facilities, particularly medical services.	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 summarised in Chapter 16: Cumulative Effects and Interactions of the ES **[APP-025/3.1]**.
148	LCC	Based on the Economic impacts section of the Socio Economic chapter, from a Growth perspective, what is assessed, and the mitigation measures proposed appear reasonable. Although what is included in the ES looks reasonable, the Council would expect appropriate energy related benefits to the local communities and economy provided and the Council would welcome the opportunity to explore these through the examination.	Community benefits are not relevant and important matters in determining DCO applications and consequently are not a focus of the Application documents. Notwithstanding this all of the Applicant's group companies' projects come with a community benefit. The Applicant has held meetings with various Parish Councils and also Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire Community Foundations to explore how such benefit could be administered and what initiatives it might support. We feel this should be a decision for local communities and we are keen to continue to facilitate the discussions around this.
180	Mrs Joanne Elizabeth Birch	Raises suggestions for community benefits including maximising the health of land under PV panels, restoring soil	Community benefits are not relevant and important matters in determining DCO applications and consequently are not a focus of the Application

Ref. No.	IP Name	Comments from Relevant Representations	Response to Relevant Representation
		after decommissioning and integration of the Scheme into the natural environment.	documents. Notwithstanding this all of the Applicant's group companies' projects come with a community benefit. The Applicant has held meetings with various Parish Councils and also Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire Community Foundations to explore how such benefit could be administered and what initiatives it might support. We feel this should be a decision for local communities and we are keen to continue to facilitate the discussions around this.
2.15	**Public Health**		
Over 50 reps.		Objects to the adverse health impacts (including cumulative impacts) on the community including physical as a result of the Schemes construction, operation and decommissioning. Some respondents query whether the Applicant has considered mitigation for the above impacts.	Chapter 14: Human Health **[APP-023/3.1]** 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 (including cumulatively). In terms of disruption during the construction and operational phase there are measures set out in the Framework CEMP **[APP-224/7.3]** and Framework OEMP **[APP-225/7.3]** to reduce or avoid impacts during the construction and operational phase, respectively.
073, 143, 159	Knaith Parish Council, Margaret Fields	Queries if the applicant has undertaken research to assess the health impacts on residential receptors as a result of the Scheme.	The legislation and guidance set out in the ES, Chapter 14: Human Health **[APP-023/3.1]** 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.
250	Sophie Dhokia	States some research as shown solar PV development to be potentially radioactive.	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.

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			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. 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 in EMF strength based on distance from the source (2015, Clean Energy Results). 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 **[APP-011/3.1]** and Figure 2-4 **[APP-033/3.2]** include the relevant offsets and mitigation proposals.
148	LCC	The Council will make any relevant public health comments through the LIR.	Noted
280	UK Health Security Agency	UKHSA/OHID have previously raised concerns regarding the use of the HUDU/ WHIASU methodology within the Population and Human Health chapter, as it doesn't include an assessment of significance for those elements scoped in and as required under the EIA Regulations. Upon review of the results of the applicant's assessment, we recognise that in this instance any additional assessment of significance is unlikely to significantly alter the findings. In terms of Electromagnetic Fields (EMF), UKHSA requested at the Section 42 stage, that justification should be provided within the ES to demonstrate that the potential for health impacts from EMF would not be significant. Though this have been included	The assessment of potential effects on Health and Wellbeing as presented in ES Chapter 14: Human Health and Wellbeing **[APP-023/3.1]** was undertaken based on guidance on assessment methodology set out within DMRB Document LA112 – Population and Human Health. This sets out requirements for assessing and reporting the environmental effects on health and wellbeing determinants from construction, operation and maintenance of highways projects. It provided a methodological framework for the assessment of human health effects in respect of other linear infrastructure projects in the absence of more specific guidance for energy infrastructure projects. As the DMRB Document LA112 guidance did not provide a methodology for assessing the significance of outcomes or effects, the potential health effects during construction and operation were identified in the ES using the criteria provided in Table 14-1 of ES Chapter 14: Human Health and Wellbeing **[APP-023/3.1]** to determine positive, negative and

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		in the ES (Chapter 14.8.2), it remains unclear how the judgement was reached. The usual requirement for 400 kV cables is to provide a calculation or measurement of the maximum fields directly above the cable. More information is available in "Power Lines: Demonstrating compliance with EMF public exposure guidelines A voluntary Code of Practice"	neutral outcomes. More information on the methodology for the assessment of health and wellbeing effects is provided within section 14.6 of ES Chapter 14: Human Health and Wellbeing **[APP-023/3.1]**. Notwithstanding that there was an absence of methodology to determine the significance of effects in respect of health and wellbeing, the assessment of impacts presented in the ES is considered by the Applicant to be robust and appropriate on this basis. The potential harmful effects of electric and magnetic fields (EMFs) on health is an area that has been extensively researched for over four decades with many thousands of papers published on the issue. This research has not established any health effects at levels below the national guidelines which have been applied to the development of this Scheme. These national guidelines and standards have been developed considering the body of scientific research which is reviewed by independent authoritative scientific organisations such as the World Health Organisation (WHO). The 400kV grid connection cable is proposed to be underground. Therefore, the potential sources of EMF that might act in-combination with other sources are removed. As the Applicant has ensured that all of the proposed cables comply with the policies set by Government on the advice of their independent advisors, this ensures that health concerns are properly and adequately addressed. It is on this basis that it can be confirmed that the Scheme would have no significant adverse impact in respect of human health arising from EMF.
118	John and Anne Parkin	In the context under health within the EIA, two quotes taken from the Public Health England document Spatial Planning for Health 2017 are misleading in the context of health towards a bias around climate change (sustainable environment) and the benefits of their project. These references are all about how the natural environment affects people's health and wellbeing, especially mental health.	The two quotes referred to are included at para 1.2.16 and para 1.2.17 of the ES Appendix 14-A: Health and Wellbeing Legislation and Policy **[APP-169/3.3]**. They are referenced within a summary of the document "Spatial Planning for Health: An evidence resource for planning and designing healthier places (2017) (Public Health England)", which identified five aspects of the built and natural environment which can be influenced by local planning policy and that Public Health England (now UK Health and Security

Ref. No.	IP Name	Comments from Relevant Representations	Response to Relevant Representation
			Agency) therefore consider to be important determinants of public health. The two quotes each correspond to text in the document on the two of the five aspects that the Applicant identifies as being most relevant to the Scheme, namely 'neighbourhood design' and 'natural and sustainable environment'. The quotes both refer to how local planning policy can have a positive influence on each of these aspects respectively. The purpose of the inclusion of the quotes in the summary by the Applicant is to evidence why the two aspects are relevant considerations in an assessment of health and wellbeing. Their inclusion is not an assertion that the Scheme will have health and wellbeing benefits. As summarised within Section 14.11 of ES Chapter 14: Human Health and Wellbeing **[APP-023/3.1]** the Scheme will have both positive, negative and neutral outcomes in respect of health and wellbeing across the different stages of development.
2.16	**Ecology and Biodiversity**		
Over 50 reps	Fillingham Parish Council; individual respondents.	Objects to the impacts of the Scheme on ecology and biodiversity during construction, operation and decommissioning. Objects to the impact of the Scheme on species including: - Skylarks and other ground nesting birds - Partridge Grasshopper Warblers; - Brown Hares; - Stoats; - Shrews; - Emperor Moths; - Green-winged orchids; - Migratory avian species; - Pollinating species; - Badgers;	The Scheme will provide a net gain in biodiversity and individual significant ecological beneficial effects. There are no significant adverse effects for the Scheme on ecological receptors so the Scheme overall is considered to benefit ecology. The Scheme has been so successful in avoiding impacts on Protected Species that no Protected Species licences are required for the Scheme. This is very unusual for NSIPs. **Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation [APP-017/3.1**], and **Appendices 8-C to 8-L [APP-127 to 136/3.3]** provide details of the extensive biodiversity surveys undertaken, following best practice guidance, to establish the presence of habitats and species. The results of these surveys have then been used to inform the Scheme design, which has carefully sought to avoid and minimise adverse impacts to habitats and species during all phases of the Scheme. These embedded measures within the Scheme design are set out in section 8.9 of **Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation [APP-017/3.1]** and detailed for each habitat and species in Table 8-10.

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		- Birds of prey (e.g. nesting kestrels) including whether panels will prevent them hunting due to prey hiding under panels and glare; - Owls; and - Deer. Object to destruction of trees, hedgerows, grasses and follow on impacts on insects, mammals and birds.	The **Framework CEMP [APP-224/7.3], Framework OEMP [APP-225/7.4]**, and **Framework DEMP [APP-226/7.5]**, secure the mitigation measures required throughout the lifetime (construction, operation and decommissioning) of the Scheme, including mitigation for ecology and biodiversity. For example, the Framework CEMP 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. The **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (OLEMP) [APP-231/7.10]** 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. 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. A detailed assessment of the potential impacts of the Scheme on biodiversity are set out in section 8.10 of **Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation [APP-017/3.1**]. This assessment concludes that with appropriate mitigation there will be no significant adverse effects on biodiversity. With the enhancement measures included within section 8.11 of **Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation [APP-017/3.1]** the Scheme will generate beneficial effects for broad-leaved (ancient) woodland, hedgerows, terrestrial

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			invertebrates, reptiles and amphibians, breeding and non-breeding birds, bats, Badger and other mammals, such as Brown Hare and Hedgehog). **Appendix 10-I: Arboricultural Impact Assessment [APP-052/3.3]** and **[APP-053/3.3]** provides an assessment of the direct and indirect impacts of the Scheme on trees, along with any mitigation measures. The Tree Protection and Removal Plan (TPRP) presented in Annex B of the document identifies trees to be removed and how retained trees are to be successfully protected. Tree loss will be mitigated with a robust and high-quality scheme of new tree planting as detailed in **Figure 10-23: Indicative Landscape Masterplan [APP-095/3.2]** which represents an opportunity to increase the quality, impact, diversity and resilience of the local tree stock.
Over 50 reps.	Individual respondents	Objects to the cumulative impact of the solar NSIP schemes on ecology and biodiversity.	The **Cumulative Effects and Interactions chapter [APP-025/3.1]** 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. This concluded no significant cumulative effects on ecology and biodiversity based on the assumption that sufficient mitigation will be provided for the Scheme and Cottam and West Burton projects. In addition, the Applicant has worked with Cottam Solar Project and West Burton Solar Project to reduce overall environmental effects, including reducing effects on known ecological sensitive areas. The Report on the Interrelationships with other NSIPs submitted at Deadline 1 **[8.2]** confirms that the conclusions of the Gate Burton ES ecology chapter remain correct when the final ESs have been reviewed for the Cottam and West Burton projects and after reviewing the PEIR for Tillbridge.
163	Mark Prior	Queries the methodology and accuracy of the Applicant's ecological surveys.	The Applicant has undertaken extensive field surveys to establish the presence of habitats and species relevant to the Scheme, as set out in section 8.6 of **Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation [APP-017/3.1**], to ensure full compliance with all relevant wildlife legislation and

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			policy. This is detailed in full in section 8.3 of **Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation [APP-017/3.1**] and **Appendix 8-A [APP-125/3.3]**. Specific methodology for each ecological survey undertaken is set out in ecological **Appendices 8-C to 8-L [APP-127 to 136/3.3].** In addition, all survey work and reporting has been undertaken by competent experts, as set out in Table 3 of **Appendix 1-D: Statement of Competence [APP-112/3.3].**
012, 013, 016, 057, 072, 096, 117, 118, 130, 153, 161, 171, 186, 221, 231, 239, 252, 254, 255, 258, 279, 289	Individual respondents	Objections relating to biodiversity and habitat severance resulting from the Scheme's security fencing and cumulatively with the other NSIPs. One respondent claimed there would be over 50 miles of fencing over the four solar projects. Risk of hedgehogs, foxes, deer and badgers dying due to becoming enclosed by fencing or being affected by a reduced ability to move around the landscape. This includes being forced onto roads with an increased risk of collision with vehicles. Also risk that deer will damage ancient woodland/ crops, affecting other species, because of reduced area they can use.	The **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (OLEMP) [APP-231/7.10]** 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 used by wildlife, e.g., hedgerows, field margins, etc., will be retained and in many instances enhanced, through additional planting and strengthening of hedgerows, areas of scrub and broad grass margins. The management of these habitats will also seek to maximise their biodiversity value. This will increase the connectivity between habitats areas for wildlife and create broader and more resilient linkages across the landscape. As stated within **Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation [APP-017/3.1]** the fence will be a 'deer fence', up to 3m in height and will include gaps in the base to allow mammals, including small deer, badger, brown hare and hedgehog, to continue to move across the Scheme. As such, there will be no reduced ability for mammal species to continue to move around the landscape, nor risk of becoming 'trapped' within fenced areas. Existing areas of woodland and many of the hedgerows will sit outside of the security fencing, ensuring that larger mammals such as deer, can continue to move across the landscape.
110	Jeffrey John Summers	Objects to the potential for non-native and/or poisonous species to establish themselves as a result of the Scheme	As stated in the **Framework CEMP [APP-224/7.3]** a 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

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			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. The **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (OLEMP) [APP-231/7.10]** sets out the prescriptions for habitat creation and management. This includes areas of new grassland planting, where there will be the requirement to manage the establishment and remove and/or treat undesirable weed species.
026	The Canal and River Trust	The Application document 3.1 (Environmental Statement Volume 1, Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation) notes in relation to sediment mobilisation from directional drilling beneath the River Trent that fish will be protected through the DCO process and particular seasons will be avoided. Application document 7.3 (CEMP) includes at page 19 Table 3-4 Water Environment a commitment to carry out water quality monitoring of potentially impacted watercourses to ensure that pollution events can be detected against baseline conditions. We consider the best means of ensuring that the survey, design and construction methodology protects the ecology of the waterway from sediment release during directional drilling beneath the River Trent is through the attached Protective Provisions. The Trust recognises the methodology for the protections of biodiversity and ecology found on our dredging tips adjacent to Work No 4b and welcomes further survey work on this land to further inform the Applicant of necessary mitigation measures in respect of this works package. The Trust would be able to consider the detailed design of those works through the CoP and protective provisions.	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 [APP-129/3.3]**), along with targeted aquatic surveys, which has informed the ecological appraisal and impact assessment. 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. No further survey work is proposed on the land covered by the dredging tips, which is to the north of (and outside of) the Order Limits in the vicinity of the River Trent. See Statement of Common Ground with CRT **[4.3l]** for further detail on discussions on this topic and others related to the River Trent.
098	Helen Mitchell	Concerns over whether grass and or other plants will be able to grow underneath the vast area of panels	An **Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) [APP-231/7.10]**, 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

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			works associated with the Gate Burton Energy Park. Table 4 and 5 of the **Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) [APP-231/7.10]** details the indicative mix for 29.78 ha of new species rich grassland which will be planted below the solar arrays. A detailed plan for the establishment and management of the grassland mosaic will be developed for the five-year establishment maintenance period. The aim of establishment maintenance will be to encourage development of a diverse sward of grasses and herbs. There are many sources of guidance, e.g., Natural England TIN101 (2011)[8] and BRE (2014)[9], which now widely recognise the biodiversity potential of solar schemes, including the ability of being able to create grasslands in fields containing panels. For example, BRE (2014) recognise that solar farms present an excellent opportunity for biodiversity. As the panels are set on piles there is minimal disturbance to the ground and because they are raised off the ground the area over-sailed and in shade is reduced. This leaves the majority of the field utilised for solar farm development still accessible for plant growth and potentially for wildlife enhancements. As demonstrated by the **Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment [EN010131/APP/7.9]**, and secured by the **Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) [APP-231/7.10]**, with the addition of the extensive undeveloped areas across the Scheme, there will be a significant biodiversity net gain.
262	Stuart James Menzies	Objects to the impact cable trenching will have on ecology and biodiversity	The Scheme has been designed to avoid significant adverse effects on ecology. No significant residual effects on ecology are predicted during construction of the Scheme. All construction methods will be presented in more detail within the final CEMP which will be secured through the DCO, in accordance with the **Framework CEMP [APP-224/7.3]**, submitted as part of the DCO Application.

[8] Natural England (2011). Solar parks: maximising environmental benefits (TIN101). Available at: [ARCHIVED CONTENT] Solar parks: maximising environmental benefits - TIN101 (nationalarchives.gov.uk)
[9] Building Research Establishment (BRE, 2014). BRE National Solar Centre – Biodiversity Guidance for Solar Developments. Available at: NSC-Biodiversity-Guidance.pdf (bregroup.com)

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			Mitigation measures to avoid impacts to protected and notable species are included within the **Framework CEMP [APP-224/7.3]**. For example, a 15m buffer will be implemented from woodland habitats and no construction activities will be permitted to protect trees and woodland. In addition, the Applicant has worked with Cottam Solar Project and West Burton Solar Project to reduce the overall environmental effects, including reducing effects on ecologically sensitive areas.
149	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust	*'We have been in communication with West Lindsey District Council and the Cottam Solar Farm communications team regarding this application several times previously. More details of our concerns surrounding this development can be found in our previous comments on this application. To summarise, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust consider the main issues and impacts of this development to be those affecting the habitats and species both on site and the areas surrounding the site, and how negative effects felt here will degrade the integrity of the ecological networks of the wider landscape. A brief overview of our main points of concern: - Ecological site designations considered within, adjacent to or near the site boundary - Construction traffic negatively impacting locally and nationally designated road verges - Ensuring habitat enhancement proposals for less ecologically valuable elements along land parcel boundaries are provided, as well as plans to improve habitat connectivity - Using the surface water flooding maps to best create permanent and temporary wetland habitat - Risks to ecological corridor functionality as a result of the development - Injury or death to various species if moving parts of tractor arrays are included in the design - Potential collision risks for birds associated with reflective solar panels - Retention of all trees showing bat roost potential, and the planting of successor trees to secure perpetuity of connectivity and habitat provision - Wide buffers around watercourses with evidence of water vole or otter presence - Native hedgerow and tree retention and*	We note that this comment refers to Cottam Solar Farm. However, for completeness, the Applicant has addressed the comments made by Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust. A workshop was held with Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust and Natural England in August 2022 which discussed: • Approach to ecological survey work and baseline conditions; • The evolution of the Scheme design to avoid and/or minimise impacts to important ecological features; and • Habitat creation and enhancements. **Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation [APP-017/3.1]** identifies sites designated for nature conservation, relevant to the Scheme and provides further assessment of the potential impacts of the Scheme on these sites. No road verges designated for biodiversity are present in the study area. The Grid Connection Corridor follows the least sensitive route, where possible. It will cross Cow Pasture Lane Drains Local Wildlife Site (LWS) via non-intrusive methods to avoid direct and indirect impacts to this LWS. 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 [APP-224/7.3],** secured through the DCO. **Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation [APP-017/3.1]** concludes there will be no significant effects on sites designated for nature conservation**.**

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		associated buffer zones - Retention, buffering, enhancement and connection of existing native woodland - Use of structural grassland and scrub mosaic margins to create 'soft' woodland edges - Species-rich grassland habitat creation and enhancement - Establishing a habitat mosaic within each land parcel and subsequent management - Achieving a minimum of 10% Biodiversity Net Gain as a result of this development which would be supported by an appropriate post-intervention habitat monitoring and management plan for a minimum period of 40 years to match the scheme lifetime.'	The **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (OLEMP) [APP-231/7.10]** 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. This has been informed by existing topography and landscape features and has considered surface water mapping and drainage when proposing new areas of habitat creation, such as wet grassland. 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 will include gaps in the base to allow mammals, including small deer, badger, brown hare and hedgehog, to continue to move across the Scheme. The Scheme is not seeking consent for tracked arrays, so there will be no moving elements. As such, there is no risk of injury or death to wildlife. There is no evidence from the UK that birds are at risk of collision with panels and this potential impact was scoped out of the assessment at an early stage. The extent of vegetation loss is presented in **Appendix 10-G: Arboricultural Impact Assessment [APP-150/3.3]** and **Figure 10- 21: Vegetation Removal Plan [APP-093/3.2**]. As stated in the **Framework CEMP [APP-224/7.3]**, a 15m buffer will be implemented from woodland habitats where no construction activities will be permitted. These buffers have been incorporated into the Scheme design to protect trees and woodland and will also protect any bat roosts (if present). **Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation [APP-017/3.1]** concludes that there will be no loss of trees (or other structures) that support or have the potential to support bats. As stated in the **Framework CEMP [APP-224/7.3],** 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

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			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. Set-backs of a minimum of 10m from the centreline of the watercourse is considered sufficient to mitigate for potential hazards such as chemical and soils spills into watercourses and avoid potential direct impacts to watercourses and species such as Otter and Water Vole. The **Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) [APP-231/7.10]** provides details of how habitat will be enhanced, created, managed and maintained for the lifetime of the Scheme (60 years). This includes specific habitat creation and management prescriptions for each habitat type. When designing the Scheme, the Applicant has carefully considered the proposed green infrastructure, to ensure that ecological connectivity is maintained and enhanced across the Scheme. A key element of the green infrastructure is to provide structural diversity to the vegetation and habitats. This will be achieved in a number of ways, depending upon the desired outcome, but will include, natural regeneration buffers around existing woodlands, hedgerow re-enforcement with management aimed at allowing hedgerows to grow taller and wider and species-rich grassland creation alongside existing hedgerows and woodlands. As set out in the **Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) [APP-231/7.10]** and demonstrated through the **Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment [APP-230/7.9]**, the Scheme will deliver significant biodiversity net gain and includes an appropriate habitat monitoring and management plan.
159, 208	Individual respondents	Concerns over wildflower planting The Company informs us that there will be wild flowers growing under the panels - unless these are well managed it will turn into an area full of weeds.	An **Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) [APP-231/7.10]**, 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.

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		Wildflower meadows naturally grow best in soil that has low fertility and low nutrients not on BMV land.	A detailed plan for the establishment and long-term management of the grassland mosaic will be developed and is described in the **Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) [APP-231/7.10]**. The aim of establishment maintenance will be to encourage development of a diverse sward of grasses and herbs.
193	Natural England	*'Internationally Designated Sites* *We agree that as set out in Section 8.7.2 Chapter 8: 'Ecology and Nature Conservation' of the Environmental Statement (ES) that there are no statutory sites of international importance within the Zone of Influence (ZoL) as set out in Section 8.5.5. 4.1.3 and concur with the conclusion in Document Reference: EN010131/APP/7.2 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' that there will be No Significant Effects to European Sites either from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Scheme or in combination with other plans and projects.* *Nationally Designated Sites* *Section 8.7.2 Chapter 8: 'Ecology and Nature Conservation' states that there are two sites statutorily designated for their biodiversity value within the ZoI set out in Section 8.5.5. These sites are presented in Table 8-5. The locations of these statutory sites, relevant to the scheme, are presented in Figure 8-1. The sites are: - Ashton's Meadow SSSI - Lea Marsh SSSI The proposed development does not trigger the Natural England Impact Risk Zones of the identified designated sites and we agree that they are there are no connectivity or impact pathway concerns. We consider that, due to the nature of the development and measures to be implemented within the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), significant impacts to be unlikely.* *Protected species*	The Applicant acknowledges Natural England's agreement that there will be No Likely Significant Effects to European Sites and significant impacts to nationally designated sites are unlikely. The Applicant has provided Natural England with further clarification to support the conclusions set out in **Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation [APP-017/3.1]**, that no protected species licences are required. Natural England confirmed on 17 July 2023 that they agree no Protected Species licences are required for the Scheme, unless pre-commencement surveys identify species in locations not identified to date. This position is recorded with the Statement of Common Ground with Natural England submitted at Deadline 1 **[4.3C]**. The Applicant notes and welcomes Natural England's response regarding BNG.

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		Section 8.9 of Chapter 8: 'Ecology and Nature Conservation' of the ES states, that to comply with relevant wildlife legislation, pre-construction surveys will be undertaken to support the baseline survey findings. Natural England recognise that Protected Species Licences may be required in due course but up until this point we have not been engaged in LoNI or draft Protected Species Licences. 5 We would be happy to engage and work with the applicant and the examining authority on any required Protected Species Licences. Aside from these comments, our advice at this stage is limited to our Standing Advice. *Biodiversity Net Gain* *Habitat data, required to calculate the biodiversity net gain or net loss, has been collected in the Phase 1 habitat survey and updated, as necessary, through subsequent surveys as well as condition assessments to ensure a comprehensive baseline of data for the BNG assessment.* *Natural England acknowledge the submission of the 'Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment' (EN010131/APP/7.9). Natural England has no statutory role in verifying this assessment. Natural England can make no specific comments at this stage of the actual enhancement proposals.* *Section 4.1.1 of the assessment report predicts that the project will result in a net gain of 70.95% for area-based habitats, 37.24% for hedgerows and a net gain of 14.22% for rivers. This is in exceedance of the intended 10% mandatory gain and is welcomed. The outputs of the metric will be dependent on all retained and enhanced habitats meeting the target conditions, subject to the criteria outlined within Natural England's Biodiversity Metric 3.1 'User Guide and Technical Note'. We are pleased to note that habitats will be monitored to ensure correct establishment and growth, and remedial action taken if this does*	

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		not proceed as expected. Detailed of monitoring prescriptions and intervals, For the purposes of BNG Condition Assessments, post-construction surveys will also be undertaken in years 2, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30, are specified in section 4 of the outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) and Natural England would expect expedient measures taken if targets are not met. *Natural England welcomes that Section 10.8.19 Chapter 10 'Landscape and Visual Amenity' states that Gate Burton Energy Park has been designed to integrate with the local green infrastructure network.'*	
231	Roy Clegg	The Developers claim they will achieve biodiversity net gain, but they give no details how exactly this will be achieved, other than to set aside some land for 'mitigation'. Biodiversity improvements can only be achieved through careful design and on-going management, with each area requiring a bespoke approach rather than a 'one-size fits all'.	A BNG assessment is included as part of the DCO application **[APP-230/7.9].** The assessment includes the anticipated percentage of biodiversity net gain that is proposed for the Scheme alongside indicative habitat management and delivery mechanisms. DEFRA's Biodiversity Metric 3.1 has been used to quantify gains and demonstrate developmental benefits. The **Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) [APP-231/7.10]** provides details of how habitat will be enhanced, created, managed, monitored and maintained for the lifetime of the Scheme (60 years) and is bespoke to this project and site characteristics. The Outline LEMP is secured through Requirement 7, in Schedule 2 of the draft DCO **[APP-215/6.1]**.
072, 083, 093, 117	Individual respondents	Queries whether and how the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain will be achieved.	A BNG assessment is included as part of the DCO application **[APP-230/7.9].** The assessment includes the anticipated percentage of biodiversity net gain that is proposed for the Scheme alongside indicative habitat management and delivery mechanisms. Requirement 8 on the draft DCO **[6.1]** requires that a biodiversity net gain strategy is submitted and approved by the relevant planning authority prior to commencement of development and this strategy must be substantially in accordance with the Outline LEMP **[APP-231/7.10]**.

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270	The Environment Agency	*'We would encourage the applicant to achieve at least a 10% biodiversity net gain (BNG) across the scheme instead of the 'no net loss in biodiversity' that is stated within the BNG Assessment. This scheme presents an opportunity to restore and create key habitat linkages whilst delivering BNG. We would like to see the applicant consider linking existing fragmented habitat and local wildlife sites.* *The BNG Assessment must refer to the Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping Project 1 for The Trent Valley alongside the Central Lincolnshire Green Infrastructure Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping. These documents will underpin BNG and Local Nature Recovery plans.* *In the BNG Assessment it states that '95% of the solar array footprint within the proposed fence lines have been categorised as UKHab habitat 'Grassland – Modified grassland' with the remaining 5% allocated within the metric as 'sealed surface' to take into account array infrastructure'. The applicant should consider whether grassland is the most appropriate habitat to be created and explore options for woodland or wetland creation where appropriate. We would welcome an increase in hedgerow and woodland creation above that already proposed.'*	The Applicant has reviewed the Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping Project 1 for The Trent Valley alongside the Central Lincolnshire Green Infrastructure Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping and its relationship to the Scheme and the BNG Assessment submitted as part of the DCO application **[APP-230/7.9]**. These documents would be taken into account in the development of the BNG strategy required in Requirement 8 of the draft DCO. The solar array footprint is where the solar panels will be co-located with grassland to increase efficiency – as this will sit below the solar panels it is the most suitable habitat here and will establish in the shaded environment. Woodland / wetland creation would not be co-located within the arrays.
270	The Environment Agency	*'The Eels (England and Wales) Regulations 2009 (Part 4) state that if the passage of eels is impeded or likely to be impeded then the Environment Agency may serve notice to require you to take specific action to rectify this.'*	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 [APP-129/3.3**], along with targeted aquatic surveys, which has informed the ecological appraisal and impact assessment.

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118	John and Anne Parkin	*'We are concerned that cable routes cross an area designated 'opportunity for ecological improvement' as noted on the biodiversity mapping for this area, which was drawn up by the County Council. We are concerned that these projects go against the vision that West Lindsey District Council set out for this area in their Green Strategy document.'*	Areas identified as opportunities for ecological improvement, will not be impeded by the temporary nature of works within the cable route corridor. Once the cable is laid, these areas will still be available and suitable for any identified ecological improvement.
2.17	**Woodland and planting**		
082	Forestry Commission	*'We have assessed the plans and note that there are several woodlands that while they do not form part of the site, they are surrounded by it. In particular Burton Ancient Woodland, Quilters and Long Nursery, with Bracken Screed, Jubilee Plantation, Broom Hills, Park Wood and Park Plantation being surrounded on three sides. We are pleased to note there are no plans for tree removals, and that appropriate buffer zones, and root protection areas will be in put in place for all woodlands, including fencing and no direct lighting of the woodlands. With the beneficial impacts of increased planting of woodland and natural regeneration areas. We do however, have concerns regarding the cumulative impacts of Gate Burton, Cottam & West Burton solar farms when considered together in the landscape. There is an increased chance that several woodlands while being protected, will become isolated in their landscape. Lincolnshire being the least wooded county in England, this is of particular concern. However, there is the opportunity to seek to enhance ecological networks on a larger landscape scale, increasing connectivity through enhanced planting to create larger blocks of woodland (ideally over 5ha). Specifically, in relation to Burton Wood ASNW, which is approximately 100m from Quilters, which in turn is less than 300m from Long Nursery. These three woodlands are currently isolated in their landscape, whereas they could be linked*	When designing the Scheme, the Applicant has carefully considered the proposed green infrastructure, to ensure that ecological connectivity is maintained and enhanced across the Scheme. As noted by the Forestry Commission, the position of Burton Wood, Quilters Wood and Long Nursery Wood are currently isolated in the landscape by existing agricultural land use and practices. **Figure 10-23 in Annex A of the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (OLEMP) [APP-231/7.10]** illustrates the habitat creation and specific management prescriptions for each habitat type and shows how the Scheme will enhance ecological connectivity between Burton Wood, Quilters Wood and Long Nursery Wood. The prescriptions pertinent to the three woodland parcels are summarised below, along with a signpost to relevant section of the **OLEMP [APP-231/7.10]** which provides further detail: • Natural Regeneration Buffer to Woodland (Section 3.7). An area 15m wide adjacent to Burton Wood will be encouraged to naturally regenerate. This will increase biodiversity of the ancient woodland, importantly protecting the soils of the adjacent buffer and allowing the natural colonisation of woodland plants. This will provide an opportunity to observe the gradual structural transition from grassland to canopy woodland habitats, while providing additional buffering to the existing woodland. • Hedgerows (Section 3.4). Existing hedgerows provide important wildlife corridors. Hedgerows will be allowed to grow tall and wide (minimum of

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		together to improve their resilience, connectivity and biodiversity. In the planting around Burton Wood, it is especially important to consider the species and provenance of new trees and woodland to maintain the ecological value of ancient woodland but also to establish a more resilient treescape which can cope with the full implications of a changing climate. Ensure that in planting new trees and woodland biosecurity is robust to avoid the introduction of pests and diseases.'	3m high), with infilling where gaps currently exist. Any new sections of hedgerow planted will be in double staggered rows and use native species of local provenance (see Table 2). This enhancement of the existing hedgerow network, particularly between woodland parcels will improve ecological connectivity and wildlife corridors. • Grassland (Section 3.6). Species rich grassland corridors alongside existing hedgerows and woodlands, will establish a of diverse sward of grasses and herbs, benefiting a wide range of biodiversity. This will promote enhanced ecological connectivity across the Scheme, providing stronger and more resilient links between existing habitat parcels. The Applicant considered that the measures outlined above and set out in the **OLEMP [APP-231/7.10]** provide an enhanced ecological link between these three woodland parcels, which will improve their resilience, connectivity and biodiversity. This also applies to the other woodland parcels mentioned by the Forestry Commission.
193	Natural England	*'Five areas of ancient woodland were identified within 2km of the site. These are:* • *Burton Wood* • *Stag Wood* • *Thurlby/Castors Wood* • *An unnamed ancient woodland (includes replanted woodland); and* • *Lea Wood* *Appendix 8 5.2.4 states that all ancient woodland will be retained with buffers of a minimum of 15m. Given this, Natural England concur with the conclusion that no woodland is likely to be directly affected by the proposal. Further, no indirect impacts are likely during construction or operation, with appropriate mitigation formalised in the CEMP. The DCO should stipulate these requirements and highlight that Burton Wood is located within the site boundary. Aside from*	Burton Wood is excluded from the Order limits and that is secured by the Works Plans **(AS-004** and **AS-005)** which do not include Burton Wood within the red line boundary for the Scheme. The Applicant welcomes Natural England's agreement on the lack of impacts on woodland and that mitigation in the CEMP is appropriate.

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		these comments, our advice at this stage is limited to our standing advice.	
271	The Woodland Trust	*'There are several veteran trees located on site, which although have been afforded buffer zones in line with Natural England and Forestry Commission's Standing Advice, we note that T37 and T54 are shown to have works proposed within the buffer zone. We understand that scheme amendments are proposed at these locations, but for clarity, we ask that the Tree Protection and Removals Plan is revised to demonstrate where these amendments to accommodate veteran buffer areas have occurred.'*	Veteran trees located within the Site are shown on the Tree Protection and Removals Plan, within **Annex D of Appendix 10-I: Arboricultural Impact Assessment of the Environmental Statement [APP-153/3.3]**. T37 is located on Sheet 3 of the plan, with the Root Protect Area (RPA) partially overlapping with a proposed access track. T54 is located on Sheet 7 of the plan, with the RPA partially overlapping with a proposed high voltage cable. The location of infrastructure shown on the Tree Protection and Removals Plan is indicative and subject to detailed design; therefore a revision of the plan is not proposed. However, commitments made to secure veteran trees are included within Table 3-14 of the **Framework Construction Environmental Management Plan [APP-124/3.3]**, where for example it states, *"Access tracks will be micro-sited to avoid the Root Protection Area (RPA) of all veteran trees"*. The mitigation measures identified in the Framework Construction Environmental Management plan are secured through Requirement 12 of the **Draft DCO [APP-215/6.1]**.
2.18	**Glint and Glare**		
152, 239, 240	Individual respondents	Glare from the solar panels has been shown to kill birds. Glare from panels will prevent birds of prey from hunting.	**Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation of the Environmental Statement [APP-017/3.1]** identifies bird species recorded as part of the detailed baseline surveys (Table 8-8), with an assessment of potential impacts undertaken in section 8.10. Where required, the Scheme has delivered appropriate mitigation (Table 8-10). The assessment concludes there will be no significant residual effects on birds. There is no evidence that current PV panel technology results in glint and glare effects that could kill birds or prevent birds of prey from hunting.
240	Sara Burton	Concerned about impact of glint and glare on aviation	The Glint and Glare assessment included within Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics **[APP-024/3.1]** assesses the impact of the Scheme on aviation and concludes no significant effects. It should be noted that there

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			are solar panels on roofs at airports e.g., Heathrow Terminal 2, and Gatwick super hangar which do not have an impact on the operation of the airport.
2.19	**Construction period and methods**		
028, 032, 040, 061, 084, 107, 143, 153, 159, 183, 284	Individual respondents	Objects to the cumulative impacts during the construction periods of the NSIP schemes. Raises concerns regarding impacts on: - Ecology and biodiversity; - Health and wellbeing; - Noise; - Dust; - Traffic; - Community health and wellbeing; - Lighting	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 summarised in Chapter 16: Cumulative Effects and Interactions of the ES **[APP-025/3.1].** 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 **[APP-012/3.1]**. Other commitments are outlined in Chapter 16: Cumulative Effects and Interactions **[APP-025/3.1]**. A document reporting particularly on the interrelationships between the four NSIP solar projects in the area has been submitted at Deadline 1 **[8.2]**, with future iterations planned to further document measures to assess and reduce cumulative effects.
093, 233	Individual respondents	Queries the extent of the construction period	Subject to being granted consent and following a final investment decision, construction is anticipated to start in 2025 and will require an estimated 24 to 36 months. The Scheme is therefore anticipated to be operational from 2028.
026	Canal and River Trust	*'As with other NSIPs that include works that interface with the Trust's network, any parts of the Project with the potential to affect the River Trent should be carried out in accordance with the Canal & River Trust Third-Party Works Code of Practice (CoP). DCOs for these NSIPS have included an express obligation obliging the applicant to have regard to the CoP in the detailed survey, design, construction and approval of the*	Comment noted. The Applicant has reviewed the protective provisions provided by the CRT and has engaged with the undertakers of Cottam Solar Project, West Burton Solar Project and Tillbridge Solar Project to agree an aligned approach to streamline the discussions with the CRT. The protective provisions were returned to the CRT on behalf of the Applicant and the other developers on 20 June 2023 and an all-parties meeting took place on 14 July 2023 to discuss the interactions between the schemes and the River Trent.

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		relevant works. The PPs enclosed with this representation contain the appropriate wording. *The extent of the potential impacts from development adjacent to, or under, navigational waters could reach far beyond the crossing point proposed. Ensuring that the development is appropriately located and controlled on land adjacent to the Trust's network is crucial to limit the potential risk to the users of the river and the associated economic, environmental and social consequences.* *Through the CoP, developers engage with the Trust's engineers who are specialists in navigation safety, the protection and safeguarding of the riverbed and the ecology of the waterway. It is essential that the proposals incorporate appropriate measures to protect the users of the river before, during and after construction for all the temporary and permanent works affecting the waterway, including surveying and sampling within the waterway. Engaging the Trust's engineers ensures the appropriate measures are taken.* *The protective provisions and use of the CoP will deal with all of the Trust's concerns relating to:* • *Horizontal Directional Drilling and surveys* • *Discharge water, into and prevention of siltation etc. of the river* • *Noise and Vibration* • *Ecology and Biodiversity in the river* • *Lighting during construction* • *Landscape and Visual Impact* • *Use of the River Trent for Works Traffic.*	The Applicant is confident that agreement will be reached in this respect during the course of the Examination. In the meantime, the Applicant has included a placeholder for protective provisions for the benefit of the CRT at Part 11 of Schedule 15 of the updated DCO submitted at Deadline1, which it expects to update with agreed protective provisions early in Examination. The depth of the HDD beneath the River Trent is to be confirmed during the detailed design. For the purposes of the application, the depth within which the direction drill will be remains at >2m and <25m from the bottom of the riverbed. Progress on discussions in this regard are reported in the Statement of Common Ground between the Applicant and CRT submitted at Deadline 1 **[4.3I]**.

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		In terms of Work No 4b, relating to the cable crossing of the River Trent, we welcome that this would be undertaken via trenchless techniques with the Application document 2.3 (Outline Design Principles) confirming that the crossing beneath the River Trent is proposed by the Horizontal Direct Drilling (HDD). On page 6 it states that "The HDD depth will be a maximum of 25m below the bottom of the riverbed and a minimum of 2m below the bed in order to prevent risk of any scour exposing cable." This would suggest a different approach from Cottam Solar Project where 25m below the ground surface is proposed. The Trust considers surveys are necessary to inform the appropriate depth of the directional drill beneath the River Trent. This would inform the design process and prevent the mobilisation of silt from the riverbed which would have potentially detrimental impacts on the navigational safety of the River Trent and it's ecology. *We look forward to ensuring that all survey work of the River Trent, including ground investigations, is carried out with full consideration for navigational safety within this commercial waterway and reviewing the technical drawings of the proposal in relation to the riverbed. We propose that this would be in accordance with the mechanisms contained in the protective provisions. Similarly, we look forward to working with the applicant in relation to the launch and reception areas for the river crossing, ensuring appropriate measures are put in place to protect and safeguard our assets.'*	
2.20	**Materials, Minerals and Waste**		

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021, 061, 062, 073, 093, 103, 118, 130, 135, 143, 159, 163, 164, 171, 178, 208, 240, 254, 262, 277	Individual respondents	Raises concerns regarding the manufacture of components in China or elsewhere, including: - Ethical concerns relating to human rights abuses in the supply chain; - Geopolitical issues; and - Unproven quality of materials produced	As seen in many other industries today, the world's supply of solar panels predominantly comes from companies based in China, followed by the wider Asia-Pacific region. However, as with many other global goods there are moves within both the EU and the USA to increase manufacturing capabilities to decrease the reliance on one region. Until such time that other manufacturers can provide sufficient panels in volume, the Applicant's modules supply may continue to include select suppliers from China and the wider Asia-Pacific region. While doing so, the Applicant applies the highest possible levels of transparency and sustainability throughout the value chain and continue to proactively strive for improvement on this issue through work at Low Carbon and collaboration with industry partners, such as Solar Energy UK. For example, in a recent agreement with one of the Applicant's suppliers, TRINA, the Applicant paid a premium to ensure the panels for their solar farms were manufactured with traceability and confirmed to be free from any forced labour. The panels are also sourced from renewables-powered facilities. The Applicant visits the sites where the panels are manufactured and receive a paper audit trail with full traceability on the sourcing of the products. The Applicant condemns and opposes any abuse of human rights, including forced labour, and supports efforts to strengthen supply chain traceability and sustainability.
178, 223	Individual respondents	Concerns over need for rare or finite materials in manufacture of batteries and solar panels including rare earths, lithium and silicon. Includes concerns over fact that these materials are required for other purposes.	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 (FRELP) process is recognised as one of the most advanced PV waste recycling process currently developed. The FRELP 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

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			are expected to improve. See section 6.4 of Chapter 6: Climate Change **[APP-015/3.1]**.
040, 083, 118	Individual respondents	Concern over waste generated when solar panels are replaced, particularly as solar panels improve. Waste when replaced during operation and following decommissioning. Detrimental impact on landfill sites.	The Waste and Recycling Section within Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics **[APP-024/3.1]** 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.
148	Lincolnshire County Council (LCC)	*'When considering the nature and characteristics of the proposals, the Council is satisfied that there would be negligible impact in terms of any sterilisation of mineral resources. Therefore, the Council have no mineral safeguarding objections to the proposal.'*	Noted
2.21	**Draft Development Consent Order (DCO) and Protective Provisions**		
015	Anglian Water Services	*'Anglian Water Services Limited (Anglian Water) is the statutory undertaker for water and sewerage services in the application area. Jacobs UK Limited is supporting Anglian Water as an Interested Party in this examination.* *Anglian Water has already discussed the protective provisions with the applicant which they have included in Schedule 15 Part 4 of the draft DCO (For the Protection of Anglian Water Services Limited). In addition, with respect to Schedule 2 (requirements) of the Draft DCO, we note that under paragraph 10 (1) Anglian Water is listed as a consultee for any Local Planning Authority discharge of requirements in relation to drainage plans and*	The Applicant can confirm that the interests contained within the book of reference only relate to rights regarding apparatus and do not relate to any above ground land holdings. The Applicant is working with Anglian Water regarding protecting their apparatus with protective provision agreements and has included a draft set of protective provisions at Part 6 of Schedule 15 of the draft DCO [**APP-215**]. The protective provisions are in almost final form and the Applicant is confident that agreement will be reached before the end of Examination. The Applicant would welcome the opportunity to enter into a SoCG with Anglian Water Services and has submitted a draft SoCG to the Examination at Deadline 1 **[4.3J]**.

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		surface water discharge. Any impacted Anglian Water assets need to be identified and either diverted or protected. In terms of the book of reference, Anglian water is listed in 15 plots, all of these plots are for rights in respect of apparatus which is assumed to relate to pipeline assets rather than any Anglian Water above ground land holdings. If this is the case, all of this can be covered in the protective provision agreements. *Anglian Water notes that the Environmental Statement submitted with the application advises the following with respect to the demand on Anglian Water services:* *• During construction it is assumed that an estimated 2,200m3 of water (1,700m3 for welfare and 500m3 for wheel washes) will be required during construction to support welfare facilities onsite and other uses. The water will either be transported to the Order limits by road from an existing nearby licenced water abstraction source and stored on site in tanks of up to 10m3 capacity (10,000 litres) or connected through a mains connection located on the A156.* *• Should there be a fire in the BESS Compound, then water would be obtained from a mains connection at the A4156. It has been determined that a supply of 1,900 litres per minute of water would be required. Given that this supply would be for an emergency event for which the probability of occurrence would be low given best practice management of the Scheme, it is assumed that this would not have a significant impact on Anglian Water's potable water resource. At the time of writing (January 2023), a Point of Connection (PoC) application is being progressed with Anglian Water for this connection and to confirm the availability of supply. Should this approach not be suitable, then tanks of water would be located within the Solar and Energy Storage Park to store the necessary volume needed for firefighting purposes within the BESS Compound.*	

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		• During operation, there will be welfare facilities associated with the Scheme for up to 14 permanent full time equivalent (FTE) members of staff. Given the low daily occupancy only small volumes of foul drainage will be generated. Wastewater from permanent welfare facilities will consist of a self-contained independent non-mains domestic storage and/or treatment system. An alternative where this is not possible, would be for a self-contained foul drainage system to a septic tank or similar. These tanks would be regularly emptied under contract with a registered recycling and waste management contractor. As there would be no discharge of foul water to a watercourse, and no discharge to the public foul sewer is anticipated, no further assessment of foul waste from the Scheme is proposed. We note that in the Scoping Opinion (see ES Volume 3: Appendix 1-B [EN010131/APP/3.3]), the Planning Inspectorate was content to scope this impact out on the basis that foul water would not be connected to a mains foul drainage system. Anglian Water will discuss this further with the applicant and agree a Statement of Common Ground in due course to agree the following. *• For construction activities until a promoter or other non-household developer enters into an agreement with AWS it cannot be assumed that a supply will be available.* *• The availability of water for firefighting purposes sits outside the non-household water supply regulatory position and so would be provided by AWS provided of course that the developer funds the connection and agrees this is for firefighting only unless the connection agreement is in place for the construction &/or operational phases.* *• Its not evident if a water supply is required for operational phases. As the summary is silent on this and no wastewater connection is required AWS will need to seek confirmation that no ongoing supply for welfare purposes is required during the operational phase.'*	

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026	Canal and River Trust	*'There are a number of provisions within the draft DCO which would impact the Trust as navigation authority for the River Trent. The draft DCO was not shared with the Trust as part of a pre-application consultation. On first review, we have concerns with article 16 (discharge of water); article 19 (authority to survey and investigate land); article 20 (compulsory acquisition of land); article 22 (compulsory acquisition of rights); article 25 (acquisition of subsoil); article 30 (temporary use of land); article 31 (statutory undertakers). We have not yet ascertained whether the disapplication of legislation proposed by article 6 and schedule 3 impacts the Trust's responsibilities. The Explanatory Memorandum (Application document 6.1) indicates the legislation relates to river navigation, fisheries and water in the vicinity of the Order Limits. We welcome further explanation from the applicant about the legislation to be disapplied, particularly whether and if so, how it impacts the trust.* *The draft DCO does not contain any specific Protective Provisions (PPs) for the Trust. The Trust noes that other statutory undertakers have been afforded PPs within schedule 16. Following the acceptance of the Application for examination, we have asked the applicant if they would be willing to include PPs but have not yet received a response. Due to the similarities, we propose draft PPs to mirror those annexed to our RR for Cottam Solar Project DCO. To aid the examination we have prepared a set of protective provisions which would resolve and satisfy our principal concern. The PPs have been adapted from Keadby 3 Order 2022 (made 7/12/2022)'*	As noted above, the Applicant has reviewed the protective provisions provided by the CRT and has engaged with the undertakers of Cottam Solar Project, West Burton Solar Project and Tillbridge Solar Project to agree an aligned approach to streamline the discussions with the CRT. The protective provisions were returned to the CRT on behalf of the Applicant and the other developers on 20 June 2023 and an all-parties meeting took place on 14 July 2023 to discuss the interactions between the schemes and the River Trent. The Applicant is confident that agreement will be reached in this respect during the course of the Examination. In the meantime, the Applicant has included a placeholder for protective provisions for the benefit of the CRT at Part 11 of Schedule 15 of the updated DCO submitted at Deadline1, which it expects to update with agreed protective provisions early in Examination. In relation to article 6 and schedule 3 of the draft DCO, the Applicant is not aware of any provisions which directly impact the CRT in its role as navigation authority. As explained in the Explanatory Memorandum [**APP-216**], Article 6 only disapplies the legislation listed in Schedule 3 in so far as the provisions still in force are inconsistent with the powers in the Order and the inclusion of protective provisions will offer sufficient protection for the CRT. The Applicant is also willing to discuss any other specific concerns the CRT has with the draft DCO if further details are provided. So far engagement between the parties is focused on agreeing protective provisions which the Applicant anticipates will resolve CRT's concerns.
065	EDF Energy (Thermal Generation) Limited	*'EDF are responsible for third-party critical infrastructure on the site (a make-up and purge line which supplies the CDC, a 400kV underground electricity cable and gas pipeline owned by Uniper, underground and overground cables owned by National Grid, cables owned by Western Power Distribution and potable water supplies). Any infrastructure or operations associated with*	This comment is noted. The Applicant has included protective provisions for the protection of electricity, gas, water and sewerage undertakers at Part 1 of Schedule 15 of the draft DCO. The Applicant is also engaged in negotiations with EDF and is currently awaiting a copy of EDF's proposed set of protective provisions and supplementary agreement(s), which the Applicant will then review. The Applicant is eager to reach agreement with EDF and is confident

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		the Project must protect this third-party infrastructure and be undertaken in full compliance with the terms of existing legal agreements and obligations. *EDF will require protective provisions to be included within the draft DCO for the Project to ensure that its interests are adequately protected and to ensure compliance with relevant safety, decommissioning and third-party obligations. Additionally, EDF recommend that a pre-commencement requirement be imposed under the DCO, if granted, related to the approval of the final cable routing and that EDF be a named consultee for subsequent discharge of such a requirement. EDF is liaising with the Promoter in relation to the proposed route and such protective provisions, along with any supplementary agreements which may be required.'*	that agreement will be reached in this respect during the course of the Examination. The Applicant disagrees with the recommendation for a pre-commencement requirement to be added to the DCO, related to the approval of the final cable routing. To the extent that the final proposed cable route may affect EDF infrastructure, the protective provisions are the appropriate mechanism for EDF to propose any pre-commencement requirements that they consider necessary to afford them with sufficient protection. In the meantime, the Applicant will continue to engage with EDF in relation to the proposed cable route, protective provisions and supplementary agreement(s).
079	Exolum Pipeline Systems Ltd c/o Fisher German	*'It appears from the plans submitted by the applicant that their proposed development is to be constructed within close proximity to two Exolum high pressure fuel pipelines. Such works would require consent from Exolum and, in this instance, consent would not be granted as the proposed development would restrict access to the pipeline, both for routine maintenance and in an emergency situation. We must therefore object to the planning application. My client must be consulted to ensure the proposal has no impact on their apparatus.'*	Comment noted. The Applicant has included protective provisions for the protection of electricity, gas, water and sewerage undertakers at Part 1 of Schedule 15 of the draft DCO. Subsequently, the Applicant has been provided with a copy of Exolum's proposed set of protective provisions, which the Applicant reviewed and returned on the 26 June 2023 with comments. The Applicant is eager to reach agreement on the form of the protective provisions with Exolum and is confident that agreement will be reached in this respect during the course of the Examination. In the meantime, the Applicant has also included a placeholder for protective provisions for the benefit of Exolum at Part 12 of Schedule 15 of the updated DCO submitted at Deadline1.
190	National Grid Electricity Distribution (East	*'The application includes land in or upon which NGED may have assets and which may include (but are not limited to) high voltage electricity cables. NGED is currently reviewing the draft Order setting out the Authorised Development to establish the extent to which their apparatus and interests are affected. 4. While NGED will continue to seek to have positive engagement*	Comment noted. The Applicant has included protective provisions for the benefit of National Grid Electricity Distribution (East Midlands) plc at Part 7 of Schedule 15 of the draft DCO **[APP-215]** and will continue to engage with NGED to seek to reach agreement on the form of provisions. The Applicant most recently sent the final form protective provisions on 2 June 2023 and

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	Midlands) plc	*with the applicant in relation to the project, NGED needs to ensure that the wider powers being sought in the Order will not have a detrimental impact on NGED's electricity network and its duties under the EA 1989. This includes ensuring acceptable terms of any proposed protective provisions. 5. NGED is therefore making this representation as a holding objection to the application until an asset protection arrangement has been agreed between the parties. No formal agreement has yet been concluded and accordingly we are lodging this representation to protect NGED's position pending conclusion of an appropriate agreement. Once NGED is satisfied that its network is protected, we will notify the Planning Inspectorate promptly and withdraw the objection.'*	comments were received on 17 July 2023 which the Applicant is considering. The Applicant hopes to submit an agreed set at Deadline 2.
191	National Grid Electricity Transmission plc	*'National Grid will require appropriate protection for retained apparatus including compliance with relevant standards for works proposed within close proximity of its apparatus. National Grid's rights of access to inspect, maintain, renew and repair such apparatus must also be maintained at all times and access to inspect and maintain such apparatus must not be restricted. Further, where the Applicant intends to acquire land or rights, or interfere with any of National Grid's interests in land or National Grid's apparatus, National Grid will require appropriate protection and further discussion is required on the impact to its apparatus and rights. Further detail is set out below. National Grid infrastructure within/in close proximity to the proposed Order Limits National Grid owns or operates the following infrastructure within or in close proximity to the proposed Order Limits for the Project: Electricity Transmission NGET has a substation and high voltage electricity overhead transmission lines within or in close proximity to the proposed Order Limits including Cottam 400kV Substation. The substation and overhead lines form an essential part of the electricity transmission network in England and Wales. The details of the electricity assets are as follows: Substations • Cottam 400kV Substation • Associated cables • Associated fibre cable •*	Comment noted. The Applicant has included protective provisions for the benefit of National Grid Electricity Transmission plc at Part 9 of Schedule 15 of the draft DCO and will continue to engage with National Grid to seek to reach agreement on the form of provisions. The Applicant most recently issued an updated draft of the protective provisions on 22 June 2023 and is awaiting comments from NGET. The Applicant is confident that agreement will be reached in this respect during the course of the Examination. The Applicant entered into a Bilateral Connection Agreement for a connection into the Cottam National Grid Substation in March 2021, as described in the Grid Connection Statement **[APP-232/7.11]**. The Applicant will continue to engage with NGET in relation to its connection agreement and other related commercial arrangements as necessary and appropriate.

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		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 • 4ZM 400kV Bicker Fen - Spalding North - West Burton Bicker Fen - Walpole - West Burton • 4VK 400kV Cottam – Eaton Socon – Wymondley 2 Protection of National Grid Assets As a responsible statutory undertaker, National Grid's primary concern is to meet its statutory obligations and ensure that any development does not impact in any adverse way upon those statutory obligations. As such, National Grid has a duty to protect its position in relation to infrastructure and land which is within or in close proximity to the draft Order Limits. As noted, National Grid's rights to retain its apparatus in situ and rights of access to inspect, maintain, renew and repair such apparatus located within or in close proximity to the Order Limits should be maintained at all times and access to inspect and maintain such apparatus must not be restricted. National Grid will require protective provisions to be included within the draft Development Consent Order (the "Order") for the Project to ensure that its interests are adequately protected and to ensure compliance with relevant safety standards. National Grid is liaising with the Applicant in relation to such protective provisions, along with any supplementary agreements which may be required. National Grid requests that the Applicant continues to engage with it to provide explanation and reassurances as to how the Applicant's works pursuant to the Order (if made) will ensure protection for those National Grid assets which will remain in situ, along with facilitating all future access and other rights as are necessary to allow National Grid to properly discharge its statutory obligations. National Grid will continue to liaise with the Applicant in this regard with a view to concluding matters as soon as possible during the DCO Examination and will keep the Examining Authority updated in relation to these discussions. Compulsory Acquisition Powers in respect of the Project As	

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		noted, where the Applicant intends to acquire land or rights, or interfere with any of National Grid's interests in land, National Grid will require further discussion with the Applicant. National Grid reserves the right to make further representations as part of the Examination process in relation to specific interactions with its assets but in the meantime will continue to liaise with the Applicant with a view to reaching a satisfactory agreement. Connections The Project proposes a connection to Cottam 400kV Substation. In relation to the connection National Grid is working with the Applicant to enter into connection agreements and other commercial arrangements at the relevant time. Further updates will be provided in the Statement of Common Ground.'	
194	Network Rail Infrastructure Limited	The Promoter seeks authority and powers in the draft Order for new rights to be compulsorily acquired over the following plots on the Railway and land owned by Network Rail: 1. 19209 square metres of railway line (plot 3-2); 2. 15147 square metres of railway line (plot 5-11); 3. 14326 square metres of railway line (plot 6-3); 4. 95 square metres of private road (clay lane) under railway line Gainsborough Lea Road to Saxilby (plot 6-6); 5. 7236 square metres of railway line (plot 6-8); 6. 44502 square metres of agricultural land and hedgerows (north of Golddale Plantation, Gate Burton) (plot 10-15); and 7. 5242 square metres of railway line (West field to Saxilby) and verges (Cottam) (plot 15-11) Network Rail wishes to ensure that the Scheme will not have a detrimental impact on the operation of the Railway and that the safety of the Railway is maintained during the construction, operation and ongoing maintenance requirements of the Scheme. As the Promoter proposes to compulsorily acquire new rights to be exercised in close proximity to the Railway, Network Rail wishes to object to the making of the Order on the ground that the rights sought might interfere with the safe and efficient operation of the Railway. In order for Network Rail to be in a position to withdraw its objection Network Rail will require adequate protective	Comment noted. The Applicant appreciates the need to secure the safe operation of the railway and there are discussions underway between the Applicant and Network Rail to seek to agree protective provisions and any necessary commercial agreements. The protective provisions are almost in agreed form and the Applicant most recently provided updated protected provisions to Network Rail on 3 July 2023 and is awaiting a response. The Applicant is eager to reach agreement with Network Rail and is confident that agreement will be reached in this respect during the course of the Examination. In the meantime, the Applicant has included protective provisions for the benefit of Network Rail at Part 10 of Schedule 15 of the updated DCO submitted at Deadline1.

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		provisions and/or requirements to be included within the Order and an agreement with the Promoter to ensure that the new rights sought are exercised in regulated manner to prevent adverse impacts to the Railway. Network Rail is continuing to review the Promoter's plans, draft Order and application documents, and will continue to work constructively with the Promoter to clarify any issues raised. The Examining Authority and the Secretary of State will need to be satisfied that railway safety and operations will not be compromised by the making of the Order.	
270	The Environment Agency	We note that the applicant wishes to disapply the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 (EPR) and includes this in the DCO (Part 2 Principal Powers) in Article 6(1)(h). As currently drafted this Article seeks to disapply Regulation 12 in its entirety, meaning that the requirement for all types of environmental permit is disapplied. We are unable to agree to this and will only agree to disapply the requirement for a flood risk activity permit once we can reach an agreement regarding the Protective Provisions for the Environment Agency in Schedule 15 Part 8. We are unlikely to agree to the disapplication of other environmental permits under the 2016 Regulations, including a water discharge activity – also see section 6.0 below regarding this. Accordingly, we request that Article 6(1)(h) is amended to read: “regulation 12 (requirement for environmental permit) of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016, in respect of a flood risk activity permit only”. We have reviewed the proposed protective provisions (Schedule 15, Part 8) for the protection of the Environment Agency. We do not accept the current wording and will work with the applicant to agree the wording.	The Applicant has amended Article 6(1)(h) in the updated draft DCO submitted at Deadline 1 to be in respect of flood risk activity permits only and has provided protective provisions for the benefit of the Environment Agency at Part 8 of Schedule 15 of the draft DCO. The Applicant has included protective provisions for the benefit of the Environment Agency at Part 8 of Schedule 15 of the draft DCO **[APP-215]** and will continue to engage with the Environment Agency to seek to reach agreement on the form of provisions. The Applicant most recently provided updated protected provisions to the Environment Agency on 3 July 2023 and is awaiting a response. The Applicant is eager to reach agreement with the Environment Agency and is confident agreement will be reached in this respect during the course of the Examination. The protective provisions in Part 8 of Schedule 15 of the draft DCO will be updated to reflect the agreed protective provisions once finalised. The Applicant also notes the Environment Agency’s comment that it does not agree to the disapplication of sections 24 (restrictions on abstraction) and 25 (restrictions on impounding) of the Water Resources Act 1991. The Applicant has removed these proposed disapplications in the updated draft DCO submitted at Deadline 1. The Applicant welcomes any comments regarding the disapplication of the local legislation listed in Schedule 3 of the DCO, should any specific

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		As referred to above, the disapplication of The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 for work on or near a main river or sea defence (flood risk activity) is the only activity we will agree to disapply (subject to agreement regarding Protective Provisions). The applicant should make it clear that any reference made to The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 within the DCO text is related to flood risk activities only and that any additional permits for water abstraction or discharge would still need to be applied for. We do not agree to the disapplication of sections 24 (restrictions on abstraction) and 25 (restrictions on impounding) of the Water Resources Act 1991. As referred to in paragraphs 4.2 and 5.2, we will not agree to the disapplication of the requirement for any environmental permit, other than a flood risk activity permit in exchange for agreed protective provisions. We are considering the disapplication of local legislation listed in Schedule 3 of the DCO. If we have any concerns about this, we will endeavour to include comments in our written representations. The Environment Agency wishes to be a specific named consultee in respect of Schedule 2, Requirement 7 (landscape and ecological management plan); and Requirement 19 (decommissioning and restoration). We welcome our inclusion as a consultee to Requirement 6 (battery safety management plan); Requirement 12 (construction environment management plan); and Requirement 13 (operational environmental management plan). We would request that for the avoidance of doubt the words “following consultation with the Environment	concerns arise, and will respond to any concerns raised in the written representation of the Environment Agency. The Applicant has added the Environment Agency as a named consultee for Requirement 7 (landscape and ecological management plan); and Requirement 19 (decommissioning and restoration) in the updated draft DCO submitted at Deadline 1. In relation to the Requirements where the Environment Agency is listed as a named consultee, the Applicant does not propose to amend the DCO further as it respectfully disagrees that there is any doubt as to whether the Environment Agency must be consulted. The existing wording in Requirements 6(4), 12(1) and 13(1) of Schedule 2, requiring consultation with the Environment Agency, is standard wording and is consistent with other recent solar DCOs including the Cleve Hill Solar Park Order 2020 and the Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023. The Applicant respectively disagrees that the timescales at paragraph 3(3) of Schedule 16 need to be amended. The 15 working day period is well precedented, as it is the same period in the recent Longfield Solar Farm DCO application and is longer than the period in the recent Sunnica Energy Farm DCO application. The Applicant also does not propose to amend the 10 working day period at paragraph 4(2)(c) to 20 working days. This approach is precedented as the Secretary of State has recently accepted the existing 10 working day time period in the recently made Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023. The Applicant has added in a definition of ‘working day’ in Paragraph 1 ‘Interpretation’ of Schedule 16 as ‘any day other than a Saturday, Sunday or English bank or public holiday’ in the updated draft DCO submitted at Deadline 1.

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		Agency" are inserted after "relevant planning authority". This will give us an opportunity to comment on the detailed mitigation and management schemes, secured post consent, to ensure adequate protection and enhancement of the environment. Schedule 16: Procedure for Discharge of Requirements – We have concerns that the procedure outlined in this section of the DCO will not provide sufficient time for adequate consultation to take place for the discharge of Requirements. Paragraph 3(3) states that where "consultation with a requirement consultee is required, the relevant planning authority must issue the consultation to the requirement consultee within five working days of receipt of the application, and must notify the undertaker in writing specifying any further information the relevant planning authority considers necessary or that is requested by the requirement consultee within five working days of receipt of such a request and in any event within 15 working days of receipt of the application". If the relevant planning authority does not issue the consultation until day 5, this would only provide the consultee with 10 working days to respond. The Environment Agency requests that this is amended to 20 working days to provide sufficient consultation timescales that align with those in the Development Management Procedure Order 2015, i.e. 21 days (equivalent to 15 working days) in addition to the 5 working days allocated for the relevant planning authority to issue the consultation. Similarly with Paragraph 4 appeals, (2)(c) should be amended to allow representations to be submitted within 20 working days. We would also request that for the avoidance of doubt 'working day' is included in Paragraph 1 'Interpretation' as 'any day other than a Saturday, Sunday or English bank or public holiday'.	

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273	Tillbridge Solar Farm	Tillbridge Solar Limited proposes to include protective provisions for the benefit of Gate Burton Energy Park Limited within its development consent order and requests that Gate Burton Energy Park Limited includes reciprocal protective provisions for the benefit of Tillbridge Solar Limited within the development consent order.	The Applicant welcomes the proposed inclusion of protective provisions for the Applicant's benefit within the anticipated Tillbridge Solar Project development consent order. The DCO application for Tillbridge Solar has not yet been made however Statutory Consultation has now commenced. The parties will continue discussions particularly in respect of the interface between the two projects, and the Applicant expects it will be able to update its draft DCO with reciprocal protective provisions for the benefit of the Tillbridge project during the course of the examination. The Applicant notes that this intention is agreed in clause 5.5 of the cooperation agreement entered between the parties, which can be found at Appendix C of the interrelationship report submitted at Deadline 1 **[8.2]**.
285	Weightmans LLP	Areas shown within the proposed development boundary have a direct impact on Northern Powergrid's existing critical national infrastructure which serve significant numbers of customers in the local and wider area, and the rights for these assets are essential in maintaining an uninterrupted power supply to the customers we serve. The proposed development seeks to interfere with Northern Powergrid's existing primary substation, pylons, overhead cables, underground cables and access and servicing rights. Each of these are vital for Northern Powergrid's existing operations. The accompanying compulsory purchase order for the development seeks to acquire land and interests which, if acquired, would adversely affect Northern Powergrid's ability to use, access and maintain its substation. It is not necessary to acquire these interests where an agreement between the parties would be more appropriate.	The Applicant, having conducted a detailed review of the Book of Reference, can confirm it is not seeking to acquire any land permanently or temporarily or rights over land which is owned by Northern Powergrid. There are a number of instances where Northern Powergrid have rights and apparatus within land contained within our Order Limits. The applicant is therefore seeking to agree protective provision with Northern Powergrid, negotiations for this are currently being undertaken. The Applicant most recently provided updated protected provisions to Norther Powergrid on 22 June 2023 and is awaiting a response. The Applicant is eager to reach agreement with Northern Power grid and is confident agreement will be reached in this respect during the course of the Examination.
287	West Burton Solar Project Ltd	West Burton Solar Project Limited wishes to register as an Interested Party for the Gate Burton Energy Park DCO Examination, as it may wish to participate in the Examination given the proximity of the two schemes, the commonality of certain stakeholders and the potential for similar or cumulative environmental effects and coordination of mitigation measures. Protective provisions for the benefit of West Burton Solar	Agreed. The Applicant is continuing to work with West Burton Solar Project Limited as the projects progress. For example, the Applicant, West Burton Solar Project limited and the undertakers for the Cottam Solar Project and Tillbridge Solar Project have entered into a commercial agreement to ensure various obligations on each party in relation to their cooperation throughout the Examination(s) of each DCO application. This cooperation agreement is provided in Appendix C of the interrelationships report submitted at Deadline

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		Project Limited have also been included within the draft DCO for the Gate Burton Energy Park.	1 **[8.2]**. The Applicant has also included protective provisions for the benefit of West Burton at Part 5 of Schedule 15 of the draft DCO **[APP-215/6.1]**.
288	West Lindsey District Council	WLDC will provide detailed comments on the draft DCO. The key issues for focus will include: - The scope of the authorised development; - The schedule and drafting of 'requirements'. WLDC expect their views on the drafting and approvals process for DCO requirements in particular to be given significant weight in their role of ensuring that the impacts upon local environment and communities are minimised, and as an approving and enforcement authority.	Noted.
2.22	**Compulsory Acquisition**		
027, 031	Individual respondents	Objects to compulsory acquisition as an incentive for land agreements	The Applicant has been committed to working with landowners to acquire all rights needed for the scheme by agreement. The Applicant will continue to seek to negotiate voluntary terms with land interests through out examination and post consent. The Applicant has listened to impacted landowners and has looked to put appropriate mitigation measures in place where practicable to minimise the impact of the Scheme. Compulsory purchase is intended as a means of last resort, the Applicant intends only to exercise these powers where necessary.
250	Sophie Dhokia	Queries who will own the land following decommissioning.	The Applicant has been working with the main site landowners and has agreed terms which will allow the applicant to construct and operate the Solar and Energy Storage Park whilst the ownership of the land will remain with those parties. Therefore it is expected that during both the life of the scheme and after decommissioning ownership will stay with the landowner. The Applicant is currently in negotiations with those parties affected by the cable route to acquire easements in that land which will mean that the

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			ownership will still stay with them, and the Applicant is seeking rights to construct and maintain the cable route from the Solar and Energy Storage Park Site to the Cottam National Grid Substation via the Grid Connection Corridor.
065	EDF Energy (Thermal Generation) Limited	EDF owns the Cottam Power Station, a coal-fired power station in close proximity to the proposed Order Limits, through which part of the proposed cable corridor of the Project will run. The station ceased generating in 2019 and EDF has responsibility for the safe decommissioning and demolition of the power station assets. Cottam Power Station houses critical live infrastructure for both National Grid and the adjacent Cottam Development Centre ("CDC"), which is also owned and operated by Uniper. The Book of Reference ("BoR") identifies plots 1/2, 2/4, 17/5, 17/6, 17/7 and 17/8 (the "EDF Plots") as land owned by EDF over which compulsory acquisition powers to permanently acquire land and acquire new rights are sought. To safeguard EDF's interests, and the safety and integrity of the ongoing decommissioning and continuing operations, EDF objects to the inclusion of the EDF Plots in the DCO and the compulsory powers in respect of such plots. EDF will require appropriate protection to ensure that the Project does not jeopardise continuing operations (including those of CDC) or site decommissioning and demolition. EDF's rights of access to inspect, maintain, renew and repair such infrastructure must also be maintained at all times and access to inspect and maintain such apparatus must not be restricted.	The Applicant is working with EDF regarding protective provisions and agreeing appropriate terms for the land required for the Scheme.
036	Christopher Ash	I live within 100m of the proposed scheme, have received statutory notices about possible compulsory purchase, and I'm very concerned about visual impact and construction disruption to my daily life and quiet enjoyment of my residential property.	The Applicant has put in place a number of visual screening measures to mitigate the impacts of the Scheme, along with a detailed Framework Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) **[APP-224/7.3]**.that was submitted as part of the Environmental Statement in the DCO Application and secured via the draft DCO.

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			Mr Ash is within the Book of Reference as a Category 2 interest as he has in respect of rights granted by a Conveyance dated 31 January 1977 in land located north and east of Park Plantation, Knaith.
068	Eleonore Middleton	Queries who will own the site long term and whether it will be sold for further development following decommissioning.	The agreement with the landowners is for a leasehold arrangement. It is the Applicant's intention to own and manage the Scheme during construction, operation and decommissioning. Following decommissioning, the agreements with the landowners require the Applicant to make good any damage caused by the Scheme.
077	Emma Hill	My husband and I purchased a field near to where we live, unbeknown to us this field is on the grid connection corridor for the proposal , a meeting was had with representatives from the solar companies we informed them they wasn't welcome on our land. We put planning permission in for two agricultural buildings and a yard with a view to start a new business (west lindsey application number 145882) they put an objection in We have been granted planning permission and had a lot of support from our community. on the map it looks like they are still intend to go through our field where we have planning granted for the agricultural buildings, as you can imagine the worry and sleepless nights our family have had over this, if the proposal goes ahead this will devastate us as a growing agricultural business, I reiterate what my husband says we will fight this to the bitter end , I don't give permission for them to come on my land , This new venture is meant to be a happy time but we have this black cloud over our lives , I feel the government should protect us and our land .	Noted. The Applicant has undertaken a robust site selection process for the Grid Connection Corridor, as demonstrated by Chapter 3: Alternatives and Site Selection of the ES [**APP-012/3.1]** including working with the other proposed energy projects (Cottam Solar Park and West Burton Solar Park) to collaboratively seek to minimise the impacts of the cable routes. This area was selected as part of the preferred corridor.
196	Nicholas Hill	I have been granted planning permission (west lindsey application number 145882) for two agricultural buildings and yard for my new agricultural business, i had great support for my planning application ,please read the comments and documentation relating to this application. My new agricultural	Please see response above.

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		business (agricultural buildings and yard) are directly on the grid connection corridor and at it's narrowest point , if the proposal goes forward it could wreck my new agricultural business. I will not allow this to happen and will have no choice but to fight this proposal to the bitter end! Please understand the devastating impact this proposal will have if it's granted on mine and my family's lives and surely many others. Gate burton energy park objected to my planning permission and (Redacted) and were happy to tell me about compulsory purchase and the powers they have , This company in my opinion are not to be trusted.	
243	Shaun Kimberley	My name is Shaun Kimberley and my wife and I own a 7 acre field on the Notts/Lincs border that is about to be destroyed by this project. Several companies wish to lay power cables through it for the West Burton & Cottam Solar Projects. We have worked extremely hard over the last 10 years to finally get our dream property and land, to be able to be self sufficient, to have our horses at home (so we aren't paying livery costs) and to make it easier on Emma's worsening health (back injury). We moved into our property at the end of January last year and completed on this land separately on 19 Apr 22. The property and land were being sold together, however we were forced into splitting it for the mortgage company, ultimately buying the land with cash £60k (almost all of our savings). This field is used for grazing and hay. For grazing it is used for up to 7 broodmares (who are pregnant at this time) and any number of youngsters (from 6 months to 3 years old). For the hay we will regularly get 2 cuts a year from it producing over 100 large round bales of hay to feed our horses. We feel as though these companies have us over a barrel and we have absolutely no say about what happens to our land, and comments like "you'll still have your land" keep cropping up. However, this is not the point - it is our land, it is our only bit of land! We've worked hard in the military to have everything as close to perfect as we can and it is just ludicrous that someone can come along and just take it from us. It is where our horses are housed, we want to build a	The Applicant is committed to seeking to mitigate the impacts of the Scheme on all landowners and are currently in negotiations with Mr Kimberley's representatives regarding voluntary acquisition of rights over his land. The "Compensation Code" allows for disturbance claims to be submitted, allowing for losses that arise directly and as a natural and reasonable consequence of the works. Should the works require the temporary relocation of horses, reasonable costs of the deposition of land, could be considered as part of their compensation claim. The Applicant has committed to mitigating construction impacts via the Framework Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) **[APP-224/7.3]** which is secured by Requirement 12 of the draft DCO.

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		barn on it, we wanted to develop the land to create a business (permissions pending), ALL of this now has to be put on hold whilst we wait for our land to be destroyed by trenches, bore holes, diggers and everyman and his dog coming onto our field. We have now also been advised to find livery for 9 horses (we increased our number of horses when we got our own land), but we own a total of 11 (2 are with a friend on a temporary basis). Depending on the longevity of this issue we will have 7 pregnant mares due between March and July next year (2023), if we don't have our land this will require a specialist livery such as at Brackenspa Stud, including associated transporting costs. It is probably safe to say that we will not find livery for 11 horses in one place. Will they pay for full livery - as driving to 2 or 3 places every morning to care for them is not physically possible? We are seriously concerned for the welfare of our horses if we're forced to move them and in turn Emma's own health as she tries to maintain them away from our own land. We are angry, frustrated, upset and now feeling like we are at a complete loss. Emma and I do normally support renewable energy projects, but this one seems to be in a rush to get finished and force things through, regardless of the impact to the local area and the individuals involved. We wish to formally object to this project.	

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285	Weightmans LLP	Areas shown within the proposed development boundary have a direct impact on Northern Powergrid's existing critical national infrastructure which serve significant numbers of customers in the local and wider area, and the rights for these assets are essential in maintaining an uninterrupted power supply to the customers we serve. The proposed development seeks to interfere with Northern Powergrid's existing primary substation, pylons, overhead cables, underground cables and access and servicing rights. Each of these are vital for Northern Powergrid's existing operations. The accompanying compulsory purchase order for the development seeks to acquire land and interests which, if acquired, would adversely affect Northern Powergrid's ability to use, access and maintain it's substation. It is not necessary to acquire these interests where an agreement between the parties would be more appropriate.	The Applicant, having conducted a detailed review of the Book of Reference, can confirm it is not seeking to acquire any land from Northern Powergrid. There are a number of instances where Northern Powergrid have rights and apparatus within land contained within our Order Limits. The applicant is therefore seeking to agree protective provision with Northern Powergrid, negotiations for this are currently being undertaken.

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2.23	**Consultation**		
001, 017, 031, 032, 040, 054, 066, 083, 073, 080, 086, 118, 119, 121, 131, 135, 153, 159 164, 171, 172 174, 231, 239, 262, 272, 291	Individual respondents	Objects on the level of detail provided during consultations, including information provided on: - Scale of the Proposed Development; - Glint and Glare impacts; - Panel height; - Traffic impacts; - Location of components; - Use of agricultural land - Construction of the Grid Connection Corridor; - Engagement with local planning authorities Some respondents queried whether all community groups including the young and elderly had been consulted.	The Applicant was required to prepare a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) and this set out how the local community would be consulted about the Scheme, in accordance with section 47 of the PA 2008. Under section 47, the Applicant was also required to consult local authorities regarding the SoCC. Responses were received from Lincolnshire County Council, West Lindsey District Council and Bassetlaw District Council. The Applicant made a number of changes to the SoCC following consultation with the local authorities, the details of which are outlined in Section 5.3 of the Consultation Report **[APP-189/4.1]**. As detailed in Section 5.5 of the Consultation Report, the Applicant fully adhered to and implemented the contents of the SoCC. Furthermore, 13 Adequacy of Consultation responses were received by PINS during the acceptance period of the submitted application, all of which either confirmed the Applicant complied with its statutory consultation duties or had no comment to make. As defined by Regulation 12 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, the Applicant is required to set out in its SoCC of how it intends to publicise and consult on preliminary environmental information (PEI) relating to the Scheme. Regulation 12(2) states that the purpose of the PEI Report is to provide sufficient information to enable stakeholders to develop an informed view of the likely significant effects of the development (and of any associated development). Whilst there is no prescribed format of the PEI Report, the Applicant provided a compilation of the environmental information available at the point in time the PEI Report was produced. This included the environmental effects associated with a number of identified topics including: - Climate Change; - Cultural Heritage; - Ecology and Biodiversity; - Water Environment; - Landscape and Visual Amenity; - Noise and Vibration; - Socio-Economics and Land Use; - Transport and Access; - Human Health and Wellbeing;

			- Other Environmental Topics; and - Cumulative Effects and Interactions. The Applicant is therefore of the view its consultation was conducted in accordance with Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the PA 2008 and Regulation 12 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 and provided more detail than what would be sufficiently required to enable stakeholders to develop views regarding the Scheme's proposals. The Applicant provided information on all matters listed during statutory consultation and is not clear how the information provided was considered to be inadequate.

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2.24	**Mitigation**		
288	West Lindsey District Council	A key concern for WLDC will be, should the Gate Burton Energy Park be consented, the mechanisms that will mitigate and control the impacts of the scheme. These concerns will extend beyond mitigation for the application itself, to the cumulative impacts with other projects. Such impacts will be significant and experienced during the construction, operation and decommissioning stages. WLDC will also seek to ensure that all impacts on the environment and communities are mitigated and controlled and not solely those deemed significant in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment. WLDC expect the applicant to deliver measures that mitigate all impacts to ensure that the overarching impact of the project is mitigated as far as possible. WLDC will expect to see well developed codes of practice and control documents prior to the determination of the DCO applications to ensure that the impacts in solus and cumulatively with other projects is controlled at that decision stage. Due to the determination of the three projects on broadly the same timeline, the acceptability of each one will be dependent on achieving effective and co-ordinated controls for each one. WLDC will also seek clarification on the mechanisms in place to ensure the retention and maintenance of mitigation post-decommissioning.	A cumulative assessment is presented within each of the technical Chapters 6-15 **[APP-015 to 025/3.1]** which 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. A summary of cumulative effects is included in Chapter 16: Cumulative Effects and Interactions **[APP-025/3.1]**. In terms of disruption during the construction and operational phase there are measures set out in the Framework CEMP **[APP-224/7.3]** and Framework OEMP **[APP-225/7.3]** to reduce or avoid impacts during the construction and operational phase, respectively. The Applicant is working with Cottam Solar Project and West Burton Solar Project to maximise opportunities for reducing overall environmental and social effects. Measures already 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 **[APP-012/3.1].** Other commitments are outlined in Chapter 16: Cumulative Effects and Interactions **[APP-025/3.1]**.

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2.25	**Ministry of Defence (MoD) Safeguarding**		
175	MoD	*The application site area occupies the statutory safeguarding zone surrounding the East 1 WAM Network and RAF Scampton. The application site area is washed over by the East 1 WAM Network, which contributes to aviation safety by feeding into the air traffic management system in the Eastern areas of England. There is the potential for development to impact on the operation and/or capability of this new technical asset which consists of nodes and connecting pathways, each of which have their own consultation criteria and the statutory height and bird strike safeguarding zones surrounding RAF Scampton, which lies approximately 10.6km away. After reviewing the application documents and performing the necessary assessments, I can confirm the MOD has no safeguarding objections to this proposal. The MOD must emphasise that the advice provided within this letter is in response to the data and information detailed within the developer's document, submitted in support of application EN010131, as referred to in the notice of acceptance letter dated 2nd March 2023, received from Gate Burton Energy Park Limited. Any variation of the parameters (which include the location, dimensions, form, and finishing materials) detailed may significantly alter how the development relates to MOD safeguarding requirements and cause adverse impacts to safeguarded defence assets or capabilities. In the event that any amendment, whether considered material or not by the determining authority, is submitted for approval, the MOD should be consulted and provided with adequate time to carry out assessments and provide a formal response.*	Noted
2.26	**Noise**		

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041, 068, 098, 159, 177, 171, 200, 209, 240, 262, 274, 289	Individual respondents	Objects to noise impacts related to the Scheme during construction, operation and maintenance. Including from road traffic as well as construction works. Impact on residents in particular.	A full noise and vibration assessment is provided in Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration **[APP-020/3.1]** of the ES which concludes no significant effects. This assessment 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 **[APP-020/3.1]**. Measures to manage construction traffic are included within Appendix 13-E: Framework CTMP **[APP167-168/3.3]**. In terms of the construction works, 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. 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 **[APP-224/7.3]**. In terms of the operational phase, as part of embedded mitigation measures, the distance between noise sources and receptors has been maximized as far as reasonably practicable. Measures to minimise potential adverse effects associated with the operational phase are outlined in the Framework OEMP **[APP-225/7.4]**.
291	Woodside Pet Care	In addition to this upheaval to the front of the property, the noise levels and quality of care will certainly be exceeded what is recommended by our licencing conditions outlined by the local authority and the department for environment food and rural affairs in regards to animals boarding. Animals need prolonged periods of peace and quiet so they do not get stressed while boarding with us. How can this be adhered to with construction metres away from the units?	Comment noted. In terms of the distance of the Scheme to the property on Kexby Lane, as part of the design development process, Figure 2-4 Indicative Site Layout **[APP-033/3.2]** has been amended to remove panels from homes on the north side of Kexby Lane and further landscaping proposed in their place to reduce the environmental impact (including noise impact).
118	John and Anne Parkin	The impacts on health have not been properly assessed. Noise travels in quiet areas and the sound of fans will be detrimental.	The assessment of health impacts has been prepared in accordance with the legislation and guidance set out in Chapter 14: Human Health **[APP-023/3.1]**. This includes the HUDU criteria which identifies the likelihood of

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			neutral, positive or negative health effects drawing on the findings from other relevant chapters, including noise. In terms of the sound of fans, as part of the design development process, Figure 2-4 Indicative Site Layout **[APP-033/3.2]** 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.
026	The Canal and River Trust	In response to the Trust's pre-application comments regarding noise and vibration as they affect the River Trent, the Trust welcomes that noise monitoring is proposed as set out in the Application document 7.3 (CEMP). We note that this document does not refer to navigational safety either with regards to noise, or vibration during the proposed directional drilling. These matters should be considered as noise could affect navigation safety and the riverbanks and bed may be adversely affected by vibration causing silt mobilisation. We consider the best means of achieving this is through protective provisions.	The potential for noise impacts on users of the river are not considered within Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration **[APP-020/3.1]** 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 (including mitigating the risk of siltation). These measures are outlined in the Framework CEMP **[APP-224/7.3]**.
269	The Carter Family	We would expect measures to be put in place to avoid excessive noise during construction. Noise in our immediate vicinity would be unsettling for our horses when being schooled/ridden in the manège (which is adjacent to the perimeter of the solar site). Such noise would be dangerous for the rider and may also result in additional vet's bills.	Consultation will be undertaken on the timings and duration of construction activities via a community liaison officer as secured by the Framework CEMP **[APP-224/7.3]**.
177	Morris Family	*Impact on Rose Cottage* *"The constant noise pollution caused by the Construction Compound and traffic (even during the operational phase) will have a effect on the wellbeing of the young horses and foals are kept in these fields. We would suggest reading the 'The Impact of Noise Anxiety on Behaviour and Welfare of Horses from UK*	Consultation will be undertaken with equestrian groups on the timings and duration of construction activities. As set out in the Framework CEMP **[APP-224/7.3]** 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.

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		and US Owner's Perspective' (MPDI, 2022, Riva et al.) Which summarises that 'several anxiety behaviours during noisy events, including sweating, trembling and escape attempts, which may cause severe accidents for the horse and the rider/handler' this would be even more damaging with the sustained nature of traffic running up to 169 vehicles a day, this level of construction activity will no doubt cause significant noise, vibration and dust pollution. This will cause significant agitation to the horses which could lead to the aforementioned symptoms, risking the safety of both the horses, construction workers and horse handlers…"	
2.27	**Lighting, dust and air quality**		
041, 068	Individual respondents	Objects to dust impacts related to the Scheme.	The air quality chapter within Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics **[APP-024/3.1]** concludes that no significant effects are likely as a result of Scheme. Measures to reduce dust impacts are included in the Framework CEMP **[APP-224/7.3]**.
S262	Stuart James Menzies	Objects to the impacts on air quality resulting from the Scheme.	The air quality chapter within Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics **[APP-024/3.1]** concludes that no significant effects are likely as a result of Scheme. Measures to reduce dust impacts are included in the Framework CEMP **[APP-224/7.3]**.
072, 118, 231, 262	Individual respondents	Objects to the potential adverse impacts caused by the Scheme's proposed lighting. Currently there is minimal light pollution and security lighting will be a nuisance.	Any lighting during construction and decommissioning will be directional and task-specific to avoid light spill. These measures are included within the Framework CEMP **[APP-224/7.1]** and Framework DEMP **[APP-226/7.5**]. 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

Ref. No.	IP Name	Comments from Relevant Representations	Response to Relevant Representation
			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 **[APP-225/7.4].**
026	The Canal and River Trust	The Application document Application document 7.3 (CEMP) sets out the methods to avoid light spill into adjacent habitats and the approach set out in paragraph 2.6.3 is supported by Application document 3.1 ES Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation). However the CEMP does not consider lighting with regards to the navigational safety of the River Trent as a commercial waterway. We consider the best means of ensuring navigational safety is not affected by site lighting is through the attached protective provisions.	Comment noted. The Applicant has reviewed the protective provisions provided by the CRT and has engaged with the undertakers of Cottam Solar Project, West Burton Solar Project and Tillbridge Solar Project to agree an aligned approach to streamline the discussions with the CRT. The protective provisions were returned to the CRT on behalf of the Applicant and the other developers on 20 June 2023 and an all-parties meeting took place on 14 July 2023 to discuss the interactions between the schemes and the River Trent. The Applicant is confident that agreement will be reached in this respect during the course of the Examination. In the meantime, the Applicant has included a placeholder for protective provisions for the benefit of the CRT at Part 11 of Schedule 15 of the updated DCO submitted at Deadline1, which it expects to update with agreed protective provisions early in Examination.
2.28	**Funding**		
231	Roy Clegg	States the applicant should secure funding for decommissioning to ensure the land is returned to its original states. States approval for the Scheme should be conditional on the landowner being made responsible for the identified decommissioning.	The Applicant has committed to decommission the Scheme after a period of 60 years from final commissioning of the authorised development . This is secured by Requirement 19 of the draft DCO. The Requirement to decommission the Scheme requires a decommissioning and environmental management plan (DEMP) to be submitted and approved by the relevant planning authorities in advance of decommissioning commencing. That plan must be in accordance with the framework DEMP submitted with the application **[APP-226/7.5]**. If the undertaker does not comply with the terms of the DCO then there are enforcement provisions included in the Planning Act 2008 which would enable the relevant planning authorities to secure compliance.

Ref. No.	IP Name	Comments from Relevant Representations	Response to Relevant Representation
284	Victoria White	States the ownership of the developer leads to overseas responsibility and control of the Scheme.	It is the Applicant's intention to own and manage the project during construction, operation and decommissioning.
2.29	**Examination process**		
Over 50 reps.	Individual respondents and Parish Councils	States the 4 solar NSIPs in Lincolnshire should be considered as one application. Main concern was that impacts could be underestimated if applications are not considered together Some respondents commented that the four applications are all joined by cabling. Also some respondents object to decision being taken nationally. .	The Scheme meets the criteria to be a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project as set out in the Planning Act 2008 and there is therefore no flexibility over how the project is consented. Local authorities are, however, central to the NSIP process. The four Schemes are being promoted by three different developers, with more than one connection point, on separate sites with different landowners. Whilst there are some sections of cable routes that can be shared to reduce cumulative impacts, the projects do not use the same cables and elements of all routes differ. Therefore, whilst we agree that the cumulative impacts of all schemes should be considered, they are separate projects requiring separate applications. The cumulative impacts of all four solar NSIP schemes are considered in the respective Environmental Statements for each application and these impacts will be considered during the Examination and decision making for the Gate Burton application. Therefore, the schemes do not need to be considered in one application or Examination for these matters to be fully and properly considered during the decision-making process.
148	LCC	Highlights number of DCO projects in Lincolnshire, which may result in six other examinations taking place in the County at the same time as this one. In addition a second wave of potential DCO projects are now commencing their pre-application stage. The Council wishes to be fully involved in all these examinations but has only limited resources and personnel and therefore requests that careful and sensitive attention is given to the examination timetables to ensure that hearings and deadline	The Applicant has engaged with PINS to suggest how the Examination of Gate Burton may be coordinated with the other projects in Lincolnshire, although section 87(1) of the Planning Act 2008 is clear that it is for the Examining Authority to decide how to examine the application. The Applicant has assessed cumulative effects in each chapter of the Environmental Statement (as relevant), including Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity **[APP-019]**. The Applicant has also addressed the

Ref. No.	IP Name	Comments from Relevant Representations	Response to Relevant Representation
		dates take into account those of other project that will be under examination at the same time. Related to this is the expectation that three examinations will be taking place simultaneously for other solar projects in this same geographical area as Gate Burton. The Council's initial landscape observations, set out above, already notes the significant cumulative impact of these projects in the landscape. The Council has repeatedly flagged up to the Planning Inspectorate that it would be beneficial for a method of hearing evidence related to cumulative impacts from these projects, which includes landscape and highway impacts at the very least, to be identified in advance of the first examination. However, to date this has not occurred. Therefore, unless such a mechanism is set out in advance of the preliminary meeting, the Council will make submissions at the meeting of its position on this. The Council's preferred approach is to ensure that the cumulative impacts are heard in a holistic way rather than individually through single examinations.	potential for effect interactions and cumulative effects in a standalone Chapter 16: Cumulative Effects and Interactions [**APP-025**]. The Applicant has provided the necessary information to ensure cumulative effects are properly considered and is confident that this can be achieved within the current Examination process. The Applicant has submitted a report on the interrelationships between the three projects to provide a clear location for all information on the four projects **[8.2].**
288	West Lindsey District Council	The cumulative impacts of Gate Burton Energy Park with the Cottam Solar Project, West Burton Solar Project and Tillbridge Solar Project will be a key concern for WLDC… It is essential that consistent information and evidence is presented at all three examinations to enable a fair and consistent recommendation (and decision) to be made. Tillbridge Solar Project is expected to be submitted in Q4 2023, with more detailed project information becoming public prior to the Gate Burton Energy Park project being determined, including its 'acceptance' for examination. WLDCs view is that all current environmental information must be before a decision maker at the point a decision is made, and the emergence of the Tillbridge Solar Project should be accounted for in cumulative assessments. Cumulative impacts of concern will relate to construction, operational and decommissioning impacts across	Comment noted. Tillbridge Solar Farm is included within the Cumulative Effects Assessment that can be found within Chapter 16: Cumulative Effects **[APP-025/3.1]** in addition to Cottam and West Burton solar farms.

Ref. No.	IP Name	Comments from Relevant Representations	Response to Relevant Representation
		a range of matters including, inter alia, landscape and visual effects, land use (loss of agricultural land), public access and recreation, noise, traffic and transport, cultural heritage and ecology	

3. Applicant's Comments on Procedural Deadline A (PDA) Submissions

Ref No.	IP Name	Comments from PDA Submission	Response to PDA submission
PDA	Individual respondents	Raises accessibility issues for Interested Parties attending Examination hearings in Lincoln.	The Applicant thanks parties for their comments regarding the venue for Examination hearings. The decision on the venue is taken by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), with the Applicant researching, booking and paying for venues as agreed with PINS. PINS produces a venue requirements checklist setting out requirements for hearing venues. This checklist limits the number of venues that can be used. Following receipt of this checklist, the Applicant developed a shortlist of potential venues that adhere to the requirements. This included the size and facilities of the hearing room, availability of syndicate rooms, parking and location accessibility and IT capabilities. This list included the following venues: – The Epic Centre (Lincolnshire Showground); – The Lincoln Hotel; – Thonock Park; – Best Western Plus West Retford Hotel; – Think Tank University of Lincoln; – DoubleTree Hilton, Lincoln; – Bishop Grossteste University; and – The Drill, Lincoln. Lincolnshire County Council was consulted on the list of venues and their views incorporated into the list of venues sent to PINS for consideration.

Following enquiries made by the Applicant, with the exception of the DoubleTree Hilton, the venues contacted either did not have availability on the 4 and 5 July 2023, were too small or did not syndicate rooms.

The choice of using the DoubleTree by Hilton Lincoln was based on these requirements. The venue had availability over three full days, with sufficient size to host over 70+ visitors. It also had the technology available to facilitate audio visual production equipment and on-site refreshment facilities.

The venue being located in Lincoln was deemed appropriate as it has good public transport links for people travelling by train and bus, with the national hubs of Lincoln Central Station and Lincoln Central Bus Station located in the city centre, both of which are within a 15-minute walk from the DoubleTree by Hilton Lincoln. It is best practice to select venues accessible by public transport to ensure venues are accessible for those without a car.

A venue suggested by the community was Lincolnshire Showground. The Applicant confirms that this venue was not available for the hearings at the beginning of July. Whilst we would consider the Lincolnshire Showground a suitable venue, we would note that is located 4 miles to the north of the venue selected (i.e. not significantly nearer the site) and does not have the same public transport accessibility.

For those driving, the Hilton was located an approximately 30-minute drive away from the Gate Burton Energy Park site area, with chargeable parking available on-site and at Lucy Tower car park - a 3-minute walk away from the venue.

Following the issues raised by parties at PDA, the Applicant is looking at alternative venues for further Examination hearings. The Applicant is looking forward to proactively working with all parties to find a suitable venue.

PDA-008	Knaith Parish Council	Queries whether chemicals will be involved in the cleaning of solar PV panels and how waste water from cleaning will be disposed.	With regard to operational panel cleaning, this is anticipated to be undertaken using a truck mounted system with a rotating 'car-wash' type brush. It is anticipated that water would be brought to site in 1 m^3 (one tonne/1,000 litres (l)) IBCs. Individual IBCs would be mounted on the rear of the tractor to provide water supply during cleaning. Based upon cleaning water usage on similar schemes it is estimated that the cleaning of each panel will require 250 millilitres (ml) of water per panel per cycle and that, assuming cleaning of all panels is required, the total volume of cleaning water per cleaning cycle would be 204,277 litres (204 m3). A two-year cleaning cycle is expected. No permanent operational water connection to mains supply is required for the purposes of cleaning and given the anticipated water requirement for cleaning, any impact on local water resources would be considered negligible.
PDA-008	Knaith Parish Council	Queries whether hedgerows can be used in place of security fencing.	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. It is considered that hedgerows cannot be used in place of security fencing as hedgerows do not afford the same level of protection as security fencing. It would also take time for hedgerows to become established. However, careful consideration of the locations of any proposed planting has taken place, to screen security fencing where practicable, to reduce the visual impact. Further information is available within ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity **[APP-019/3.1]**. 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 **[APP-231/7.10]**.
PDA-008	Knaith Parish Council	Queries whether trees will be felled for the construction of PV panels.	The Scheme has been designed to avoid the removal of existing trees and hedgerows as far as practicable. Some removal and pruning of mature trees may be required to facilitate vehicle access during construction, and for the construction of the Grid Connection Corridor. The extent of

			vegetation loss is presented in Appendix 10-G: Arboricultural Impact Assessment **[APP-150/3.3]** and Figure 10- 21: Vegetation Removal Plan **[APP-093/3.2]**.
PDA-008	Knaith Parish Council	Queries if the land underneath PV panels will be used for grazing.	The Scheme has minimised impacts on agricultural uses by considering the potential for continued agricultural use, such as sheep grazing, at the Solar and Energy Park.
PDA-008	Knaith Parish Council	Queries if drainage systems, ditches and dykes have an impact on residential receptors.	An Outline Drainage Strategy is provided in Appendix 9-C **[APP-139 to 141/3.3]**. 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). It is considered that the drainage systems incorporated into the Scheme will not have an impact on residential receptors. A Flood Risk Assessment is provided in Appendix 9-D **[APP-142/3.3]** which indicates that there would be no increase in flooding from any source, given implementation of the Outline Drainage Strategy C **[APP-139 to 141/3.3]** and the mitigation measures outlined in Chapter 9: Water Environment **[APP-018/3.1]**. Refer to Chapter 9 for a full assessment of impacts to the water environment during the construction and operational stages.
PDA-008	Knaith Parish Council	Queries the reasoning for the panel exclusion zone.	The solar panel exclusion zones as illustrated in pink on Figure 2-4 of the ES **[APP-033/3.2]**, show where no panels are proposed. There are several reasons for this; for example, the area east of Gate Burton is to exclude panels as part of the heritage setting buffer, and land in the vicinity of the A156 access point is for construction access and laydown, with no panels proposed.
PDA-008	Knaith Parish Council	Queries if cables will be above or below ground.	As established in the Outline Design Principles **[APP-007/2.3]**, electrical cables within the Solar PV Array Works Areas will be secured to the PV Mounting Structures, the Balance of Solar System, or will be underground. No new overhead lines will be constructed. Underground cable circuits will avoid root protection areas of trees and hedgerows, except where hedgerow crossing is required.

			The Grid Connection Corridor will comprise one 400kV cable circuit, approximately 7.5km in length. The Grid Connection Cables between the Onsite Substation (Work No. 3 on the Works Plans **[AS-004 to 005/5.2])** and Cottam Substation will be underground.
PDA-008	Knaith Parish Council	Queries if re-wilding has been considered to mitigate potential adverse impacts.	The Scheme has included natural regeneration buffers (considered embedded mitigation in the design); for example the 15 metre offset from Burton Wood will be allowed to naturally regenerate. The Applicant has set out how habitats will be enhanced, created, managed, monitored and maintained for the lifetime of the Scheme (60 years), in the **Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) [APP-231/7.10]**.
PDA-008	Knaith Parish Council	Queries whether the following community benefits could be provided: • Provision of a recreational sports field in Knaith; • Improved broadband speeds; • Local residents provided with a zero tariff electricity supply; • Funding for local projects; • Support for climate change intiatives in the locality.	It is noted that community benefit cannot be considered a material planning consideration. Notwithstanding this all of the Applicant's group companies' projects come with a community benefit. The Applicant has held meetings with various Parish Councils and also Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire Community Foundations to explore how such benefit could be administered and what initiatives it might support. We feel this should be a decision for local communities and we are keen to continue to facilitate the discussions around this.
PDA-013 and 0-14	7000 Acres	States the applicant has not applied a cautious and worst-case approach in applying the Rochdale Envelope.	We disagree; the Applicant has applied a worst-case approach in applying the Rochdale Envelope. 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. Details of the parameters used, in accordance with the Rochdale Envelope, are detailed in Chapter 2: The Scheme **[APP-011/31]**.
PDA-013 and 0-14	7000 Acres	States the Applicant not provided evidence of the scale of hedgerow and tree removal.	Existing hedgerows with trees, woodland and mature trees within the Solar and Energy Storage Park will be retained wherever possible except where removal is necessary to enable the construction of the Scheme as indicated on the Figure 10-21:

			Vegetation Removal for Solar Energy Storage Park (within ES Volume 2 **[APP-093/3.2]**).
PDA-013 and 0-14	7000 Acres	States current wording of dDCO allows applicant to remove trees and hedgerows *"without checks or balances".* *7000 Acres state "the dDCO should be revised to state that any lopping, pruning, felling or removal of hedgerows, trees or shrubs should be in accordance with the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan."*	The Applicant has included protection for trees and hedgerows throughout the application. For example, Article 38 of the draft DCO authorises the felling or lopping of any tree or shrub (38(1)). It is not blanket authorisation however as the undertaker must reasonably believe the works to be necessary to prevent obstruction etc. of the authorised development, a danger to persons or obstructing vehicles (38(1)(a) to (c)). In addition, no unnecessary damage must be caused (38(2)). Similar protections are found in the wording of article 39 of the draft DCO. Further, the Requirements operate as a control, specifically the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan **[APP-231/7.10]** which is secured via Requirement 7 of Schedule 1. E.g. para. 2.3.19 of the OLEMP states: *"Where an impact to hedgerows is anticipated in the vicinity of the Grid Connection Corridor and site access route from the A156, where possible these existing areas of hedgerow will be coppiced rather than removed to facilitate works. Where this is not possible, any impacted area of hedgerow will be replanted where feasible upon completion of construction"* The Applicant has also updated article 38 of the draft DCO at Deadline 1 to add greater specificity and to make reference to a new Schedule 17, which corresponds to the general powers in Articles 38 and 39. This sets out details of the specific hedgerows to be removed, by reference to the Vegetation Removal Plan [**APP-093/3.2**] which has also been updated at Deadline 1.

			The Applicant has also updated the draft DCO at Deadline 1 to require the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan to be submitted for approval before any site clearance (including vegetation removal, demolition of existing buildings and structures) and advanced planting to allow for an early establishment of protective screening to ensure works to hedgerows and trees are only carried out in accordance with the LEMP approved by the relevant planning authority.
PDA-013 and 0-14	7000 Acres	States substantially should be removed from wording of LEMP: The landscape and ecological management plan must be substantially in accordance with the outline landscape and ecological management plan.	The Applicant disagrees. This wording is necessary to provide an appropriate level of flexibility required at the detailed design stage and is well precedented, including in the recently made Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023.
PDA-013 and 0-14	7000 Acres	States there is insufficient evidence for the ExA to conclude if the BESS is associated development or aim of application itself if used to import and trade energy with National Grid.	The Applicant addressed these concerns in detail at the issue specific hearing on the draft DCO [**APP-215/6.1**]. In summary, the appropriate tests for "associated development" are set out within the '*Planning Act 2008: associated development applications for major infrastructure projects'* (DCLG Guidance, April 2013). There is a direct relationship between the associated development and the principal development; the BESS supports the operation of the solar farm and it is not an aim in itself; it is proportionate and is not solely included only as an additional source of revenue. As such, the Applicant is confident that the tests for associated development are met. For more information see the Applicant's written summary of its oral submissions made at the issue specific hearing, as submitted at Deadline 1.
PDA-013 and 0-14	7000 Acres	• States following details regarding the BESS are unclear: ○ *Any indications as to the total power of the BESS (rated in megawatts)* ○ *Any indications as to the storage capacity and duration of storage (rated in megawatt hours)*	The Applicant addressed these concerns in detail at the issue specific hearing on the draft DCO [**APP-215/6.1**]. Please see the Applicant's written summary of its oral submissions made at the issue specific hearing, as submitted at Deadline 1. Appendix 2-A of the Environmental Statement: BESS and Substation Description [**APP-113/3.3**] describes the parameters of the BESS.

		○ *Sufficient evidence regarding the network and how the PV cells will be connected to the BESS.* ○ *Any explanations over the energy balancing role of the BESS and energy import from the National Grid. These features are briefly discussed in publicity material but not in the dDCO, so will they be a feature of the BESS?*	
PDA-013 and 0-14	7000 Acres	States storage limit of the BESS should be limited to ensure it is "proportionate to the nature and scale of the principal development."	The capacity of the BESS is not sought to be capped but is proportionate to the anticipated generation capacity based on the parameters, which have been assessed and are secured in the draft DCO [**APP-215/6.1**]. The Applicant has based its Application and these design parameters on the basis of current technology and current supply chain, although there is a possibly that this develops between the draft DCO being granted and the Scheme being constructed. Ultimately if the parameters secured under the draft DCO are found to be acceptable, then increased renewable energy output from the solar PV panels would be of additional benefit. Therefore, there needs to be sufficient flexibility with regards to the BESS, so that the battery storage can remain proportionate to any increased electricity generation. Please see the Applicant's written summary of its oral submissions made at the issue specific hearing, as submitted at Deadline 1, for more detail.
PDA-013 and 0-14	7000 Acres	propose that the dDCO could limit the BESS in the following ways: o Power - "The BESS within the scheme shall not exceed [XXX] MW of power output as calculated by the sum of the stated power output on any included battery cells." o Capacity – "The BESS within the scheme shall not exceed [XXX] MWh of capacity as calculated by the sum of the stated capacity on any included battery cells."	Responded to above.

		o Use - “The BESS within the scheme shall only be charged using power generated by the principal development constituted by Schedule 1 Work No. 1.” o The land available for Schedule 1 Work No 2 could be constrained in area and volume.	
PDA-041	Michael Hare	Raises concerns of possible flooding of *property “as the solar farm will occupy the farmland to the west and north of my garden with a drainage dyke running along the western border. I have been in discussion with Low Carbon (Gate Burton Energy Park Limited) for the last year or so regarding the potential for flooding caused by changes they might wish to make to the site drainage. A number of mitigation options have been suggested by their flood team to protect my property, but it is now clear that these will only be considered when detailed drainage plans are drawn up after planning consent has been granted. At that point Low Carbon could choose to do nothing.”*	A Flood Risk Assessment is provided in **Appendix 9-D [APP-142/3.3]** which indicates that there would be no increase in flooding from any source, given implementation of measures set out in **Appendix 9-C: Outline Drainage Strategy [APP-139/3.3]** and **Chapter 9: Water Environment [APP-018/3.1]**. The Applicant has to mitigate the development and its impacts up and down stream, to ensure the Scheme does not result in adverse consequences on others. The Applicant will continue to engage with Mr Hare regarding mitigation options during the detailed design phase.
PDA-037	Tracey Gjertsen	States project will take years to complete and will be replaced by the “Gate Burton Nuclear development”.	Subject to being granted consent and following a final investment decision, construction is anticipated to start in 2025 and will require an estimated 24 to 36 months. The Scheme is therefore anticipated to be operational from 2028. The Applicant is aware of the proposed STEP prototype fusion energy plant at the former coal-fired power station in North Nottinghamshire. This is a separate application by a different developer and will not impact the development of the Gate Burton Energy Park should development consent be granted by the Secretary of State. Development Consent is granted only for the Application as proposed and not any alternative use such as for nuclear power.
PDA-031	Richard Farley	States the Applicant should be forced to compensate all those with affected properties.	The draft DCO ensures that the appropriate compensation mechanisms are in place, should the Applicant seek to exercise any powers of compulsory acquisition authorised by the Order.

PDA-031	Richard Farley	Objects to no requirement to undertake mitigation work in advance or ensure there is adequate screening prior to commencement.	Areas of advanced planting is being undertaken 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 **[APP-0193.1]**. 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 **[APP-231/7.10].**
PDA-066	Nigel John Sneath	Queries the efficiency of panels including in temperatures above 25c.	Peak solar output occurs during the summer months, regardless of how hot temperatures can be. Clearer skies, longer days and more sunlight add up to mean that significantly more power is produced overall during the summer. Photovoltaic panels are typically warranted rated to function from -40 to +85°C, with performance falling by 0.34 percentage points per °C over, compared to standard conditions at 25°C. So even at 85°C power output would only be around 20% lower, all other things being equal.[10]
PDA-061	Mark Robert Prior	Suggests the Applicants use of the Rochdale Envelope is being used to not provide detailed evidence of the Scheme's impacts. States there are examples in the application where the Applicant has not complied with the requirements of the Rochdale Envelope	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. Details of the parameters used, in accordance with the Rochdale Envelope, are detailed in Chapter 2: The Scheme **[APP-011/31]**.

[10] Solar Energy UK and Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (2023). 'Untapped potential' of commercial buildings could revolutionise UK solar power. Available at: 'Untapped potential' of commercial buildings could revolutionise UK solar power • Solar Energy UK

Appendix A: Technical Note on Hazardous Substances Consent

Gate Burton
ENERGY PARK

Gate Burton Energy Park
EN010131

Hazardous Consent Technical Note
May 2023

Gate Burton Energy Park Limited

Prepared for:

Gate Burton Energy Park Limited

Prepared by:

AECOM Limited

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1. Gate Burton Energy Park - Hazardous Substances Consent Technical Note

1.1.1 This technical note has been prepared in response to comments from Lincolnshire County Council in relation to the need for Hazardous Substances Consent (HSC) for the proposed battery energy storage system (BESS). This technical note sets out the policy context and the Applicant's position on HSC.

1.2 Legislation and Policy Context

1.2.1 The presence of hazardous substances on, over, or under land at or above set threshold levels (Controlled Quantities) requires HSC under the Planning (Hazardous Substances) Act 1990 (Ref. 1) ('the P(HA)A'), subject to limited exceptions. The Planning (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2015 (Ref. 2) (the 'P(HS)R') are the most recent regulations which then set out the lists of substances and controlled quantities.

1.2.2 The obligation to obtain HSC is set out in section 4 of the P(HA)A which states: *"The presence of a hazardous substance on, over or under land requires the consent of the hazardous substances authority"* (s.4(1), emphasis added), unless the *"aggregate quantity"* of the substance falls below the prescribed quantity for that substance (s.4(2)). The P(HA)A provides that the Hazardous Substances Authority (HSA) is the District Council (s.1), although the Secretary of State has the power to prescribe hazardous substances and various other matters through regulations (s.5 and 7). Section 12(2B) of the P(HA)A also enables development consent orders (DCO) to include a direction that HSC be deemed to be granted as part of the DCO.

1.2.3 The categories and thresholds of hazardous substances that require HSC are set out in Schedule 1 of the P(HS)R:

- Part 1: sets out the different categories of hazardous substances to which the P(HS)R apply and the controlled quantities for those substances.
- Part 2: provides a list of specific named hazardous substances and the controlled quantities for these substances.
- Part 3: includes a third category of hazardous substances, which applies where it is reasonably foreseeable that a substance falling within part 1 or part 2 may be generated in an amount equal to or greater than the controlled quantity during loss of control of processes, including storage activities.

1.2.4 In terms of policy, the relevant provisions for HSC are set out in paragraph 4.12 of Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) ('NPS EN-1') (Ref. 3). These provisions are reflected in paragraph 4.13 of new draft NPS EN-1, released for consultation in March 2023 (Ref. 4). The policy position aligns with the legislative position, and is outlined below:

- Paragraph 4.12.1 of NPS EN-1 reiterates s.4 of the P(HA)A and states that *"all establishments wishing to hold stocks of certain hazardous substances above a threshold need HSC"*.
- Paragraph 4.12.1 of NPS EN-1 reiterates s.12(2B) of the P(HA)A and states that where HSC is applied for, the Secretary of State will consider whether to make an order directing that HSC shall be deemed to be granted alongside making an order granting development consent.
- However, footnote 94 of NPS EN-1 expressly adds that HSC can also be applied for subsequent to a DCO application. This is repeated in draft NPS EN-1 (footnote 78).
- The NPS EN-1 also adds at paragraph 4.12.1 that applicants should consult the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) at the pre-application stage if a project is likely to need HSC.

2. Summary of the Applicant's Position on HSC for the BESS

2.1.1 In order to reach a conclusive view on whether the BESS will fall within Schedule 1 of P(HS)R and require HSC under the P(HA)A, details regarding the design of the BESS, what they are made of, and how they are to be arranged, must first be known. It is not practically possible for the Applicant to obtain HSC prior to these details being known. Once it is clear whether the plans for BESS identify substances beyond the permitted thresholds, expected at the detailed design stage, it may become necessary for the Applicant to obtain HSC. If HSC becomes required, the Applicant will notify the HSA within a 'reasonable period' prior to the construction and operation of the Scheme.

2.1.2 The Applicant notes that there is no obligation for this to happen during DCO Examination. This is supported by footnote 94 of NPS EN-1 (Ref. 3) (and footnote 78 of draft NPS EN-1 (Ref. 4)) mentioned above, which expressly acknowledge that an application for HSC can follow the DCO process. The Applicant also recognises the national policy requirement to consult the HSE at the pre-application stage. In the case of Gate Burton, HSE were consulted pre-application, and they did not raise HSC as an issue.

2.1.3 The Applicant notes that its position is precedented in other solar DCO developments. For instance:

- HSC was not sought in the consented DCOs for Cleve Hill and Little Crow, or on the more recent DCO application for Longfield Solar Farm;
- The applicant on Sunnica Energy Farm took the position that it is not possible to obtain HSC prior to detailed design and has also not applied for a HSC; and
- On the Cottam and West Burton Solar Projects, HSC has not been applied for as part of the DCO application.

2.1.4 In the case of Gate Burton, there is nothing in the current design which suggests that HSC is required. However, if the requirement for HSC is

triggered, for whatever reason, then Lincolnshire County Council and the Secretary of State (and other relevant stakeholders) can be confident that these consents to be considered and obtained at the appropriate stage. Further information will be available at detailed design and a decision on the requirement for HSC cannot be made until that point.

2.1.5 In any event, the Applicant wants to assure Lincolnshire County Council that works in relation to the BESS must not commence until a battery safety management plan (BSMP) has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authorities. This must be substantially in accordance with the Outline Battery Safety Management Plan **[APP-222/7.1]**[1] and is secured by requirement 6 of Schedule 2 of the draft DCO. As BESS technology involves, the Applicant will continue to assess the extent to which HSC needs to form part of the final BSMP and engage with Lincolnshire County Council, the HSE and other stakeholders (as appropriate) to demonstrate that the proposed substances can be stored safely.

[1] APP-222 is the reference given to the Outline BSMP in the Examination library; 7.1 is the Applicant's document number.

3. References

Ref. 1 HMSO (1990) Town and Country Planning Act. Available from: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/8/contents

Ref. 2 HMSO (2015) The Planning (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2015 Available from: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/627/contents/made

Ref. 3 Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) (2011) National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1). Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/47854/1938-overarching-nps-for-energy-en1.pdf.

Ref. 4 Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (2021) Draft Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1). Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1015233/en-1-draft-for-consultation.pdf.