



Gate Burton Energy Park

Summary of Relevant Representation

EN-010131

West Lindsey District Council (GABE-ISP002)

Introduction

- 1.1. This document has been produced to provide a summary of the Relevant Representation (RR) which was submitted by West Lindsey District Council (WLDC) during the pre-examination phase in response to the section 56 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008).
- 1.2. In accordance with section 102(1)(C) of the PA2008, WLDC automatically qualifies as an 'interested party' (IP) for the purpose of the examination of the Gate Burton Energy Park DCO. Nevertheless, as the host local authority for the Gate Burton Energy Park Development Consent Order (DCO) application, WLDC submitted a RR in accordance with sections 56 and 102(4) of the PA 2008.
- 1.3. The RR stated that WLDC would provide a detailed case on the impact of the application within its Local Impact Report (LIR). The LIR will be submitted as part of a suite of documents that WLDC have produced for Deadline 1 which includes this summary and the Post-Hearing Submissions.
- 1.4. The RR also stated that full response setting out the technical assessment of the application, include policy compliance and planning balance, will be reported within WLDC's Written Representation (WR).

The Examination

- 1.5. Within the RR, WLDC made comments on the logistics and organisation of the examination.
- 1.6. Whilst the RR relates to the Gate Burton Energy Park, it was noted that the Cottam Solar Project and West Burton Solar Project were submitted at similar times. It was therefore considered highly likely that this would result in them being examined in parallel.
- 1.7. It was highlighted that there could be consequences of this parallel examination process, which means that cumulative impacts between each project will be considered in isolation through separate processes, unless an approach where cumulative matters can be examined at hearings where all three applications are considered at the same time can be applied.
- 1.8. The RR highlighted the likely issues with a potentially overlapping examination programme, these were:
 - Logistical arrangements around clashing hearings;
 - The intensity of the examination process which could result in a significant challenge to ensure that members of the public are able to understand and engage in the examination process effectively;
 - Scope for misunderstanding if this examination phase is not managed in a clear and fair manner, potentially depriving members of the public of engaging and ensuring their specific views on each project are understood.
- 1.9. WLDC reiterated their roles as the host authority and an IP for all three applications. Therefore WLDC welcomes an approach that enables it to carry out its duties in a effective and efficient manner as possible.
- 1.10. It was therefore requested that the Planning Inspectorate works closely with WLDC to ensure that it has the ability to engage effectively in the logistical approach to the examination of all three applications.

Core Issues and Considerations

- 1.11. WLDC stated that it will set out its position on the compliance of the application with the PA2008 for the purpose of decision making. The assessment and planning balance will be carried out with regard to *inter alia*:
- Relevant National Policy Statement(s);
 - Statutory development plan framework (inc. emerging development plans);
 - Published guidance and advice notes; and
 - Representations from other parties.
- 1.12. One of the core issues set out in the RR was the cumulative impacts of Gate Burton Energy Park with the Cottam Solar Project, West Burton Solar Project and Tillbridge Solar Project.
- 1.13. The RR also stated that WLDC will fully explore the impacts of the Gate Burton Energy Park in its LIR and WR. WLDC confirmed that they would expect the following matters to be scrutinised in detail through the examination phase:
- Compliance with relevant legislation;
 - Policy compliance and planning balance;
 - Landscape and visual effects (including lighting impacts and glint and glare);
 - Land use and loss of agricultural land (including soils) impacts;
 - Ecology and biodiversity impacts (including Biodiversity Net Gain);
 - Traffic and transport;
 - Noise impacts;
 - Effects on residential amenity;
 - Effects on public amenity and recreation;
 - Cultural heritage;
 - Air Quality impacts;
 - Hydrology and flood risk; and
 - Safety and human health.
- 1.14. WLDC highlighted that a key concern to consider in the examination is 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.
- 1.15. The RR stated that 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'.

Summary

- 1.16. The RR stated that due to the unique circumstances of three DCO applications for solar photovoltaic generation stations likely to be examined concurrently, WLDC's key concern relates to the logistics as to how the Planning Inspectorate will approach the examination phase.

- 1.17. The RR committed WLDC to undertake a thorough review and assessment of the application document and provide a full response in a WR and LIR. Without prejudice to this assessment.
- 1.18. In summary, WLDC stated that the key matters identified that should be scrutinised during the examination include:
- Policy Framework and decision making;
 - Cumulative impacts;
 - Project specific impacts;
 - Mitigation and control mechanisms; and
 - DCO scope, provisions and requirements (including enforcement).

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