

Gate Burton Energy Park

EN010131

Further Information on Agricultural Land
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1. Introduction

The Purpose of this Report

1.1.1 This Technical Note has been prepared to provide additional information on the impact of the Gate Burton Energy Park on agricultural land, for submission at Deadline 2 in the Examination (8 August 2023).

1.1.2 Specifically, the note seeks to respond to:

- Written Question 1.12.2 and the Natural England Relevant Representation **[RR-193]** which request further detail on the breakdown of agricultural land use for each part of the scheme (see Section 2).
- Relevant Representations that equated loss of agricultural land with a reduction in food production. To provide further information, we have provided information on the current use of land (see Section 2).
- Concerns raised by local planning authorities and local residents on the cumulative impact of solar schemes on agricultural land in Lincolnshire. See for example RR-120 and the Agricultural Land Classification Survey at Appendix 1 of the Local Impact Report (LIR) submitted by Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) in July 2023 **[REP-043]** (see Sections 3 and 4).

1.1.3 The LIR submitted by LCC states in paragraphs 13.7-13.9 that [only paragraphs of relevance to this note are provided below]:

‘The loss of any agricultural land can impact upon arable food production with knock-on effects in terms of the associated food production economy and to farm enterprises affected by the development. The Council is of the view that the cumulative negative impacts of the loss of arable agricultural land places pressure on the function of this important part of the local and wider Lincolnshire rural economy as well as raising questions more generally regarding food security and the carbon footprint impacts as a result of the need to import food due to the consequential changes in land-use...’

13.8 There are a number of small(er) and several largescale Solar PV schemes in Lincolnshire, with others planned or proposed. There are five known solar project NSIP schemes; specifically in relation to impacts on agricultural land. The situation is a moving picture as new proposals come forward from time to time. Most of these sites are proposed on farmland. Lincolnshire is very much an agricultural area with substantial areas of land within the Best and Most Versatile category. Whilst much of the non BMV land will be Grades 3b, but this is still considered to be ‘moderate’ and productive land.

13.9 In summary, given the overall scale of the project and the loss of agricultural land, a significant proportion of which is classed as BMV, the Council considers this loss to represent a significant negative impact not only within the local area but also when considered in-combination with the loss of

land from other potential NSIP scale solar developments that are also being promoted and considered across the County. A county-level alternative assessment area should be applied which as a minimum should consider scope for connection into the National Grid at the locations proposed by the registered NSIP solar projects locally, and with specific consideration of agricultural land impacts.'

- 1.1.4 A response to this point and others was provided in the Applicant's Response to Local Impact Reports document submitted at Deadline 2 **[8.9]**. This sets out why the Applicant does not consider alternatives should be considered at the county level.
- 1.1.5 Written Question 1.1.24 also questioned why the cumulative impact assessment did not include some solar schemes provided in Appendix 16-A (short list of cumulative schemes). This question is answered in the First Written Questions document submitted at Deadline 2. It is not necessary to include all the schemes listed in Appendix 16-A due to the distance between the Schemes and the lack of potential for cumulative impacts. The methodology for the assessment, including the cumulative impact assessment, is set out in Chapter 5: EIA Methodology of the ES **[APP-014/3.1]**.
- 1.1.6 Notwithstanding the points made above, the Applicant considered that it would be useful to provide a report setting out the number and locations of solar projects currently being proposed in Lincolnshire, to allow consideration of whether the number is such that it would have a significant impact on food production in the County. This Technical Note provides that report.

2. Impact of the Scheme on Agricultural Land

Introduction to Agricultural Land and Planning Policy

- 2.1.1 This section provides a brief overview of policy considerations on agricultural land. For a fuller review, please refer to the Planning, Design and Access Statement [APP-005/2.2] and subsequent iterations.
- 2.1.2 The quality of agricultural land is measured using the Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) system which categorises agricultural land as either Grade 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 4 and 5 in accordance with its quality and productivity. Paragraph 3.10.18 of the Draft NPS EN-3 (revised March 2023) states that the ALC is the only approved system for grading agricultural quality in England and Wales. Powering up Britain, published on 30 March 2023, makes clear that the Government will not be making changes to these classifications in ways that might constrain solar development (see page 20).
- 2.1.3 Agricultural land within Grades 1, 2 and 3a is defined as best and most Versatile (BMV) land which is considered as a strategic, finite and irreplaceable national resource, with policy to prevent the unnecessary loss of such land to non-agricultural development.
- 2.1.4 It is a long-standing principle in planning policy that lower quality agricultural land (Grades 3b, 4 and 5) does not benefit from the same protection as BMV land. For example, the current NPS EN-1 states at paragraph 5.10.15 that little weight should be given to the loss of poorer quality agricultural land (being not BMV). The most recent Draft NPS EN-1 (published March 2023) does not include the sentence on 'little weight', but does state at paragraph 5.11.12 that applicants should seek to minimise impacts on BMV land and *preferably* use land in areas of poorer soil quality (grades 3b, 4 and 5).
- 2.1.5 Draft NPS EN-3 (revised March 2023) provides clarification and guidance on how policies relating to BMV agricultural land should be interpreted for solar NSIP schemes. It states in paragraph 3.10.14-3.10.15:
- '3.10.14 Where the proposed use of any agricultural land has been shown to be necessary, poorer quality land should be preferred to higher quality land (avoiding the use of "Best and Most Versatile" agricultural land where possible). 3.10.15 Whilst the development of ground mounted solar arrays is not prohibited on agricultural land classified 1, 2 and 3a, or sites designated for their natural beauty, or recognised for ecological or archaeological importance, the impacts of such are expected to be considered and are discussed under paragraphs 2.10.66 – 2.10.83 and 2.10.98 – 2.10.110.'*
- 2.1.6 This paragraph provides clear statements that apply to BMV land, but not to land that is not BMV. Draft NPS EN-3 goes on to clarify at paragraph 3.10.14 that the development of solar arrays on BMV land is not prohibited and that

given the scale of NSIP solar projects, the use of some agricultural land is likely. At paragraph 3.10.14 it also sets out that “*land type should not be a predominating factor in determining the suitability of the site location*”.

2.1.7 Overall, existing and draft national policy statements are clear that:

- the impact of a scheme on BMV land should be minimised;
- lower grades of agricultural land should be used in preference to higher grades;
- development of solar schemes on BMV land is not prohibited; and
- land that is not BMV is not afforded the same policy protection as BMV land.

Recent Policy Interpretation for Solar NSIPs

2.1.8 All solar NSIPs consented to date have been on agricultural land, including some best and most versatile agricultural land. Like Gate Burton Energy Park, all schemes are reversible, with very little permanent loss of agricultural land.

Table 2.1: Agricultural Land and Consented Solar NSIPs

Scheme	Consented	Temporary Loss of BMV land
Cleve Hill Solar Park	May 2020	10.7 ha (3%) BMV; 1.9 ha Grade 2, 8.8 ha Grade 3a
Little Crow Solar Park	April 2022	36.6 ha (15.8%) BMV, all subgrade 3a.
Longfield Solar Farm	June 2023	150 ha (34%) BMV land; 55 ha (12%) Grade 2, remainder 3a.

2.1.9 On 26 June 2023, the DCO was made for the Longfield Solar Farm, which has an estimated capacity of 500MW, very similar to that of the Gate Burton Energy Park. The site included 156ha of BMV land, of which 150ha would be temporarily lost while the solar park was operational. Approximately one third of the BMV land (55ha) is Grade 2 agricultural land. For the same electrical capacity as Gate Burton, Longfield Solar Farm would result in the temporary loss of almost twice as much BMV land and unlike Gate Burton, one third of this would be Grade 2 land. The Secretary of State’s decision notice in paragraph 4.58 states:

“The ExA considers that the Proposed Development would be in accordance with both national and local policies [ER 5.7.54, ER 7.1.37]. The ExA notes that soil quality will be managed and maintained through Requirement 19 of the Order and the provision for submission of a Soil Resource Management Plan [ER 5.7.52, ER 7.1.35]. The ExA concludes that the loss of any BMV agricultural land is to be discouraged, and both the temporary and permanent loss of land weighs against the Proposed Development. However, the ExA considers that the Applicant has sought to minimise impacts and that, where BMV agricultural land is lost, it would be limited in extent and duration, as well

as justified by other sustainability considerations [ER 5.7.53, ER 7.1.36]. As such, the ExA ascribes the resultant harm a small amount of negative weight in the planning balance [ER 5.7.53, ER 7.1.26]. 4.59 The Secretary of State agrees with the ExA's conclusions and ascribes this matter a small amount of negative weight in the planning balance.'

2.1.10 In this very recent decision, both the ExA and the SoS considered that the Longfield Solar Farm was accordance with national planning policy on agricultural land. In this decision a 'small amount of negative weight' was given to the loss of 150 ha of BMV land, of which over a third was Grade 2. Whilst every scheme must be determined on its merits, given the Longfield scheme included almost twice the amount of BMV land of a higher grade than Gate Burton Energy Park, the Applicant considers the same conclusion can be reached for the Gate Burton scheme in terms of both policy compliance and the weight given to loss of agricultural land.

The Scheme

2.1.11 As set out in the Chapter 12: Socioeconomics and Land Use within ES paragraph 12.7.7 [APP-021/3.1] and Planning, Design and Access Statement Section 7.13 [APP-005 and 006/2.2], the majority of the land (88%) within the Solar and Energy Storage Park for Gate Burton Energy Park is not BMV land.

2.1.12 Table 1 below shows that within the Solar Energy and Storage Park, the land is predominantly Grade 3b with some Grade 3a (BMV) land. No Grade 1 or 2 land is within the Order Limits. The ES concludes that approximately 2 ha of BMV land would be permanently lost, and the Scheme would not have a significant impact on BMV land.

2.1.13 Within the Grid Connection Corridor agricultural use will be able to continue following construction so soil surveys were not planned in that area and BMV has been estimated. The Applicant is planning soil surveys to establish the grade of agricultural land to avoid these surveys being required post consent and can supply it into the Examination when available. Given the nature of the impact, this information is not necessary to inform the ES.

Table 2.2: Agricultural Land within the Solar and Energy Park

ALC Grade	Area (Ha)	% of Area	Details
Best and Most Versatile Land			
Subgrade 3a (permanent loss)	2	0.3%	Area lost due to installation of BESS, substation and permanent planting.
Subgrade 3a (reduced output)	71.6	11%	This area would be utilised for the solar park, but with some agricultural use remaining possible (e.g., sheep grazing). Reversible after decommissioning.
Estimated BMV (retained)	6.8	1%	This area would remain in agricultural production. No loss.

Total BMV Land **80.4** **12.3%** **Total BMV is 80.4 hectares (12.3%) but only 73.6 hectares (11.2%) will be affected.**

Other Land

Subgrade 3b	548.9	84%	Majority of area used for solar farm but with some agricultural use remaining possible (e.g., sheep grazing).
Estimated subgrade 3b	4.5	0.7%	Area proposed for use for access and a construction compound. No solar panels or battery storage so limited impact after construction.
Non-agricultural land	18.2	3%	Includes railway line, Clay Farm steading and areas of woodland.
Total non-BMV land	571.6	87.7%	
Total	652	100%	

Table 1.3 Agricultural Land within the Grid Connection Corridor

ALC Grade	Total Area (Ha)	Percentage of Area	Details
Best and Most Versatile Land			
Subgrade 3a (permanent loss)	0	0%	None anticipated ¹
Estimated BMV (retained)	74.8	43%	Land retained in agricultural use following the construction period.
Total BMV Land	74.8	43%	

Other Land

Estimated subgrade 3b	58.4	34%	Land retained in agricultural use following the construction period.
Non-agricultural land	38.8	23%	Includes railway line, Clay Farm steading and areas of woodland.
Total non-BMV land	97.2	57%	

¹ Given the stage of design it is not possible to say with certainty that no land will be lost as it is possible that some small areas of loss could occur due to a requirement for access improvements or works at Cottam Power Station. However, any loss would be negligible and, if required, would likely be adjacent to existing roads or the Power Station.

of Grade 3a land within the Solar and Energy Storage Park is within the area where solar panels are proposed; 'the solar panel area', where the impact will be reversible. A remaining 11.9 ha of Grade 3a land within the Solar and Energy Storage Park is used for other purposes, including for mitigation and enhancement purposes.

- 2.1.19 The Applicant has sought to minimise the impact of the Scheme on BMV land by siting permanent infrastructure (the BESS and substation) outside of the areas identified as BMV land where possible, whilst balancing surface water, flood risk and visual considerations, and minimising the impact on soil during construction, operation and decommissioning by committing to measures included within the Outline Soil Management Plan (OSMP) **[REP-030/7.12]**.
- 2.1.20 Furthermore, it remains an option for agricultural operations to continue within the Solar and Energy Storage Park (except for the BESS/substation area) should there be sheep grazing within the site.
- 2.1.21 In summary, this detailed breakdown shows that the majority of land within the Solar and Energy Storage Park could be returned to agriculture during the operational phase. The permanent loss of Grade 3a is less than 2 ha which falls below the 20 ha threshold which supports the conclusion in Chapter 12 of the ES **[APP-021]** of no significant effects on agricultural land.

3. Effect of Scheme on BMV Land in Lincolnshire and surrounding area

Introduction

- 3.1.1 As set out in paragraph 12.13.10 in Chapter 12 of the Environmental Statement (ES) **[APP-021/3.1]**, the effect on agricultural land associated with the Scheme is almost entirely reversible in nature and results in minimal loss of agricultural land and soil resource, unlike built development. However, the Scheme is one of ten solar DCO applications which have been submitted or are planned within the County of Lincolnshire. In addition to Gate Burton Energy Park, these Schemes are Mallard Pass, Cottam Solar Project, Heckington Fen Solar Park, West Burton Solar Project, Tillbridge Solar Project, Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park, Springwell Solar Farm, Beacon Fen Energy Park and Fosse Green Energy.
- 3.1.2 According to the Government's Renewable Energy Planning Database May 2023 Quarterly Extract, which was updated up to 23 April 2023², there are also 58 smaller ground mounted solar project applications in Lincolnshire which have been dealt with by district authorities under the Town and County Planning Act 1990 (TCPA) and have either been consented³ or are awaiting decision⁴. Consequently, there is potential for these solar developments to have a cumulative effect on BMV agricultural land in the county.
- 3.1.3 Given the number of solar scheme applications that have been made or are planned in Lincolnshire and the queries asked on the Scheme as summarised in Section 1 of this report, the Applicant has provided further information on the total amount of agricultural land that could be affected by these schemes. In order to do this, the Applicant has considered both DCO applications and smaller applications made under the TCPA.
- 3.1.4 The purpose of this report is to identify the cumulative effect of the Scheme and the other potential Schemes on BMV land in Lincolnshire.

Agricultural Land Quality for Lincolnshire

- 3.1.5 To understand the effect of the Scheme on BMV land in context, it is important to understand the proportion of BMV land present in Lincolnshire. Unfortunately, there are no published statistics or datasets available which provide specific figures on the current amount of BMV within Lincolnshire. As described below, the Applicant has therefore identified the likely grades of agricultural land for Lincolnshire based on the information that is available.
- 3.1.6 When the ALC system was introduced in 1966, all agricultural land was mapped from reconnaissance field surveys and placed into 5 categories (Grades 1-5) based on its quality. This "provisional" series of maps was

² [Renewable Energy Planning Database: quarterly extract - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/114444/renewable-energy-planning-database-quarterly-extract-may-2023.pdf)

³ Includes those Schemes that have Planning Permission Granted, those that are Operational and Under Construction

⁴ Includes those Schemes which have submitted a Planning Application as well as those that are awaiting a decision

published on an Ordnance Survey based at a scale of one inch to one mile in the period between 1967 and 1974. Published statistics from the “provisional” ALC maps from the 1970s represent the only measured basis available and they are still valuable for general guidance. There are limitations to these statistics as they are high level, have not been updated recently and do not account for the division of Grade 3 into Subgrades 3a and 3b (which occurred around 1988). The published statistics for each ALC grade in England based on the 1970s provisional maps is set out in Table 3.1 below. Those statistics estimate that around 19.3% of all the agricultural land in England is Grades 1 and 2, with 55% being classified as Grade 3.

Table 3.1: ALC Areas of England based on 1970s Provisional Maps

ALC Grade (pre 1988)	Area(ha)	Proportion (%)
1	354,562	3.1
2	1,848,874	16.2
3	6,290,210	55.0
4	1,839,581	16.1
5	1,100,305	9.6
Total	11,433,532	100

Source: DEFRA Provisional Agricultural Land Classification Pre-1988: [Provisional Agricultural Land Classification \(ALC\) - data.gov.uk](https://data.gov.uk)

3.1.7 In addition to the above published statistics for England, the Applicant has estimated the ALC grades for Lincolnshire as a county by applying the county borders to the 1970’s provisional ALC dataset and then measuring the hectareage for each ALC grade. The Applicant’s calculations are set out in table 3.2 below.

Table 3.2: ALC Statistics for Lincolnshire based on 1970’s Provisional ALC dataset

ALC Grade	Area(ha)	Proportion (%)
1	75,757	12.8
2	186,750	31.6
3	296,245	50.1
4	7,448	1.3
5	0	0.0
Non-Agricultural	17,133	2.9
Urban	8,487	1.4

3.1.8 In 1988, the methodology for assessing ALC was revised to subdivide Grade 3 land into Subgrades 3a and 3b. Only Subgrade 3a (together with Grades 1 and 2) is classed as BMV agricultural land.

- 3.1.9 Natural England’s Technical Information Note 049 (2012) estimates that 42% of agricultural land in England is of BMV quality, with Grades 1 and 2 forming about 21% and Subgrade 3a forming about 21%. Other than these figures (published in 2012), there are no published statistics estimating the percentages of agricultural land by ALC grade using the post 1988 classifications. Therefore, the Applicant has estimated the possible ALC grading by using the 1970s provisional dataset as a base and updating it to accord with the statistics provided in Natural England’s Technical Information Note 049.
- 3.1.10 As mentioned above, the 1970s provisional ALC Map statistics estimate that Grades 1 and 2 amount to 19.3% of agricultural land across England. Natural England’s Technical Information Note 049 (using the post-1988 ALC grading system) estimates that Grades 1 and 2 land now accounts for 21% and that Subgrade 3a accounts for 21%. For comparative purposes, the Applicant has therefore increased the quantum of Grades 1 and 2 from 19.3% to 21%, apportioned 21% to Subgrade 3a, and decreased the remainder of Grade 3 by the equivalent area. Grades 4 and 5 remain as previously estimated. On that basis, the area and proportion of agricultural land in Lincolnshire is estimated as set out in Table 3.3.

Table 3.3: Estimated updated BMV statistics for Lincolnshire (with subgrades 3a and 3b)

ALC Grade (Post 1988)	Area (ha) (rounded to nearest 100)	Proportion (%)
1	82,600 ⁵	14.6
2	203,600 ⁶	36.0
3a	116,700 ⁷	20.6
3b	155,900	27.5
4	7,400	1.3
5	0	0
Total	566,200	100

- 3.1.11 This analysis identifies that:
- i. 42% of agricultural land in England is estimated to be classed as of BMV quality; and
 - ii. based on the above calculations, the estimated proportion of BMV in Lincolnshire is 71.2%.

⁵ 75,757 x 1.09

⁶ 186,750 x 1.09

⁷ 296,245 x 0.394

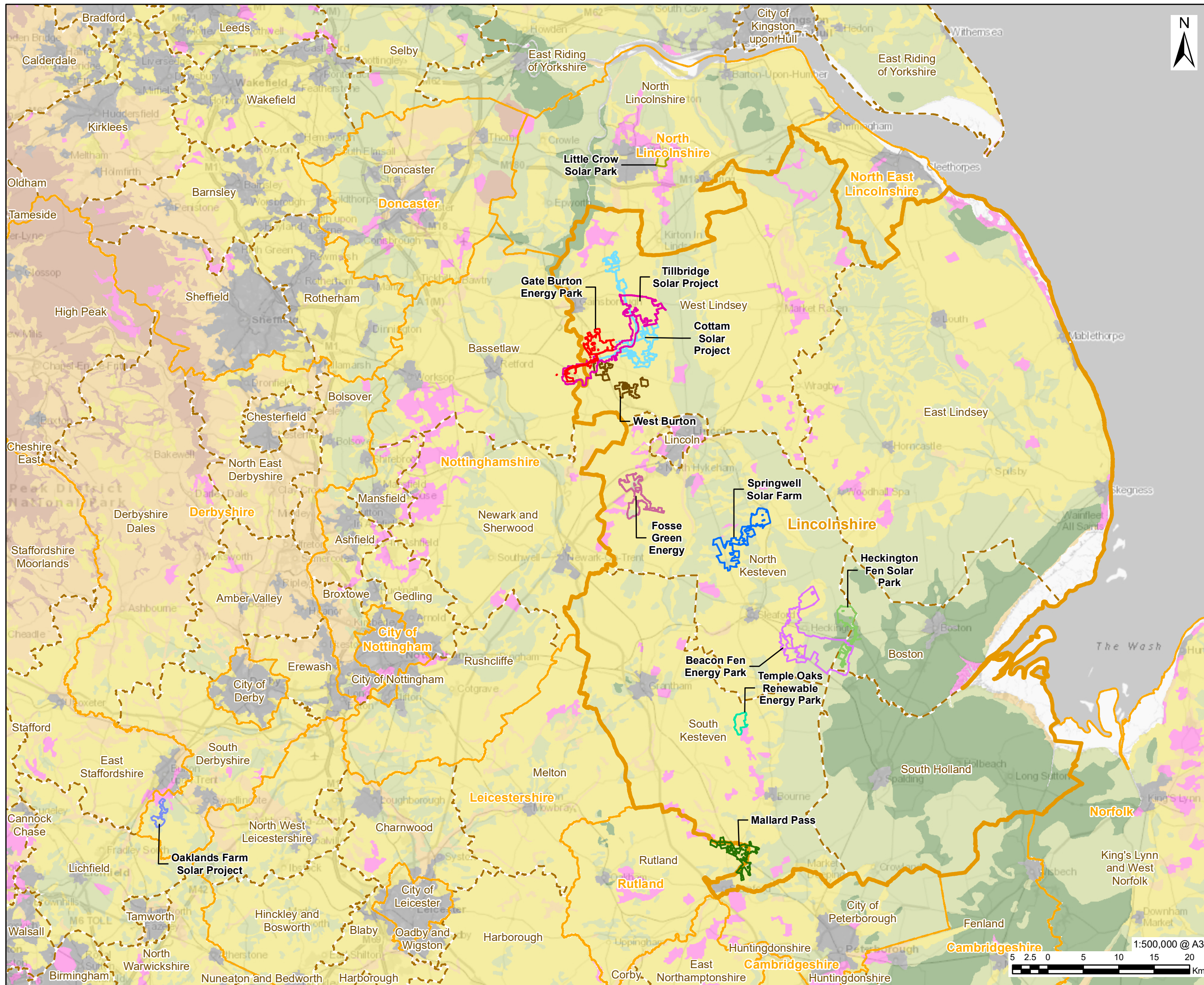
The Effect of the Scheme on Availability of BMV Agricultural Land

- 3.1.12 The Scheme (including the Solar and Energy Park and the Grid Connection Corridor) will utilise approximately 155.2 hectares of BMV land/estimated BMV land for construction, and approximately 80.4 hectares of BMV land during operation (as the area of land within the Grid Connection Corridor can be immediately returned to agriculture after construction).
- 3.1.13 Of the 80.4 hectares of BMV land required during operation, around 1.31 hectares is likely to be lost permanently to the siting of the BESS, sub-station and permanent planting. 6.2 hectares is within a solar exclusion zone and therefore could remain in agricultural use throughout operation. The remaining 73.7 hectares would be used for ecological mitigation (species rich grassland) or under solar panels. It is possible that some agricultural use could continue on this land during operation, such as sheep grazing.
- 3.1.14 Using the estimated percentage proportions for Lincolnshire highlighted in Table 3.3 above, the 80.4 ha of BMV land used by the Scheme during its operation represents 0.01% of Lincolnshire's total BMV land. The permanent loss of 1.31 hectares of BMV land as a result of the Scheme represents less than 0.001% of Lincolnshire's BMV land. The land lost as a result of the scheme is well below the 20 hectare threshold contained within Schedule 4 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure (England) Order 2015 above which local authorities must consult Natural England before the grant of planning permission (the same threshold is also used by Natural England when informing their consultation on projects). In conclusion, the Applicant considers the impact of the Scheme on BMV land in the region to be minimal. The amount of land lost is not significant when considered at a Lincolnshire level.

4. Cumulative Impact of Scheme and Other Schemes in Lincolnshire and Surrounding Areas

DCO Applications

- 4.1.1 Figure 1 shows the extent of the Gate Burton Energy Park Scheme (in red) against the background of the 1970's provisional ALC mapping, along with Order Limits of nine other Solar DCO projects within or partly within Lincolnshire (being Mallard Pass, Cottam Solar Project, Heckington Fen Solar Park, West Burton Solar Project, Tillbridge Solar Project, Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park, Springwell Solar Farm, Beacon Fen Energy Park and Fosse Green Energy). Figure 1 also shows two Solar DCO projects in bordering counties but close to Lincolnshire (Little Crow Solar Park (North Lincolnshire) and Oaklands Farm Solar Project (Derbyshire)). This provides a general indication of the BMV land that might be taken up by the schemes.
- 4.1.2 Whilst Figure 1 provides a general indication of the location of solar farms, it does not indicate the area to be lost as some boundaries include grid connection corridors where agricultural use can continue.
- 4.1.3 Figure 1 also does not differentiate between Grade 3a and Grade 3b land, given that it was developed using Natural England's 1970s Provisional ALC dataset. Site-specific assessment, via an ALC survey, is required to determine the ALC grade for any particular site. Therefore, in addition to Figure 1, the Applicant has also considered the publicly available documents for each of the DCO applications (including the Planning Statements and ALC classification surveys where available) and has compiled Table 2 in Appendix A to show the likely impact on BMV land of each scheme.
- 4.1.4 Some of the DCO applications are at an early stage and there are few/no details publicly available regarding the total hectares proposed to be used, the details of how many of those hectares are classed as BMV land, and/or whether such use is reversible. For such schemes, the Applicant has relied on information provided on the scheme websites and the limited information available in the PEIR or scoping reports. Where the information does not provide data differentiating between subgrades 3a and 3b, the Applicant has assumed that the land falls into subgrade 3a (i.e., BMV). Where no details of reversibility have been provided, the Applicant has assumed that all land will be returned to agricultural use at scheme end, on the basis that this is the most likely scenario for the majority of the land used and the number of hectares permanently lost is likely to be minimal. The Applicant has also discounted areas to be taken up by grid connection corridors because disruption to the use of those areas is likely to be limited to the construction phase.
- 4.1.5 From the information that is available, the proposed schemes within or partly within Lincolnshire would utilise approximately 7,612.45 hectares of land for



PROJECT
Gate Burton Energy Park

CLIENT

Gate Burton
ENERGY PARK

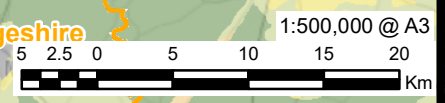
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- LEGEND**
- Gate Burton Energy Park
 - Lincolnshire County Boundary
 - Other County Boundaries
 - District Boundary
 - Beacon Fen Energy Park
 - Tillbridge Solar Project
 - Springwell Solar Farm
 - Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park
 - Mallard Pass
 - Heckington Fen Solar Park
 - Cottam Solar Project
 - West Burton Solar Project
 - Oakland Farm Solar Project
 - Little Crow Solar Park
 - Fosse Green Energy
- Agricultural Land Classification**
- Grade 1
 - Grade 2
 - Grade 3
 - Grade 4
 - Grade 5
 - Non Agricultural
 - Urban

NOTES
© Crown copyright and database rights 2022.
Ordnance Survey 0100031673.
© Natural England copyright. Contains
Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright
and database right [2023].
All boundaries except Gate Burton Energy

ISSUE PURPOSE
FINAL
PROJECT NUMBER
60664324
FIGURE TITLE
DCO Solar Schemes in/near
Lincolnshire

FIGURE NUMBER
Figure 1-1



Solar PV panels; 3,378.96 hectares of which is identified as BMV land and, of this, only 6.31 hectares will be permanently lost as a result of the schemes. When compared to the total area of BMV land in Lincolnshire (402,900 hectares), even if all the proposed applications were consented and built, this represents a loss of 0.83% of the total BMV land in Lincolnshire. The permanent loss of 6.31 hectares as a result of the schemes represents 0.001% of the total BMV land in Lincolnshire.

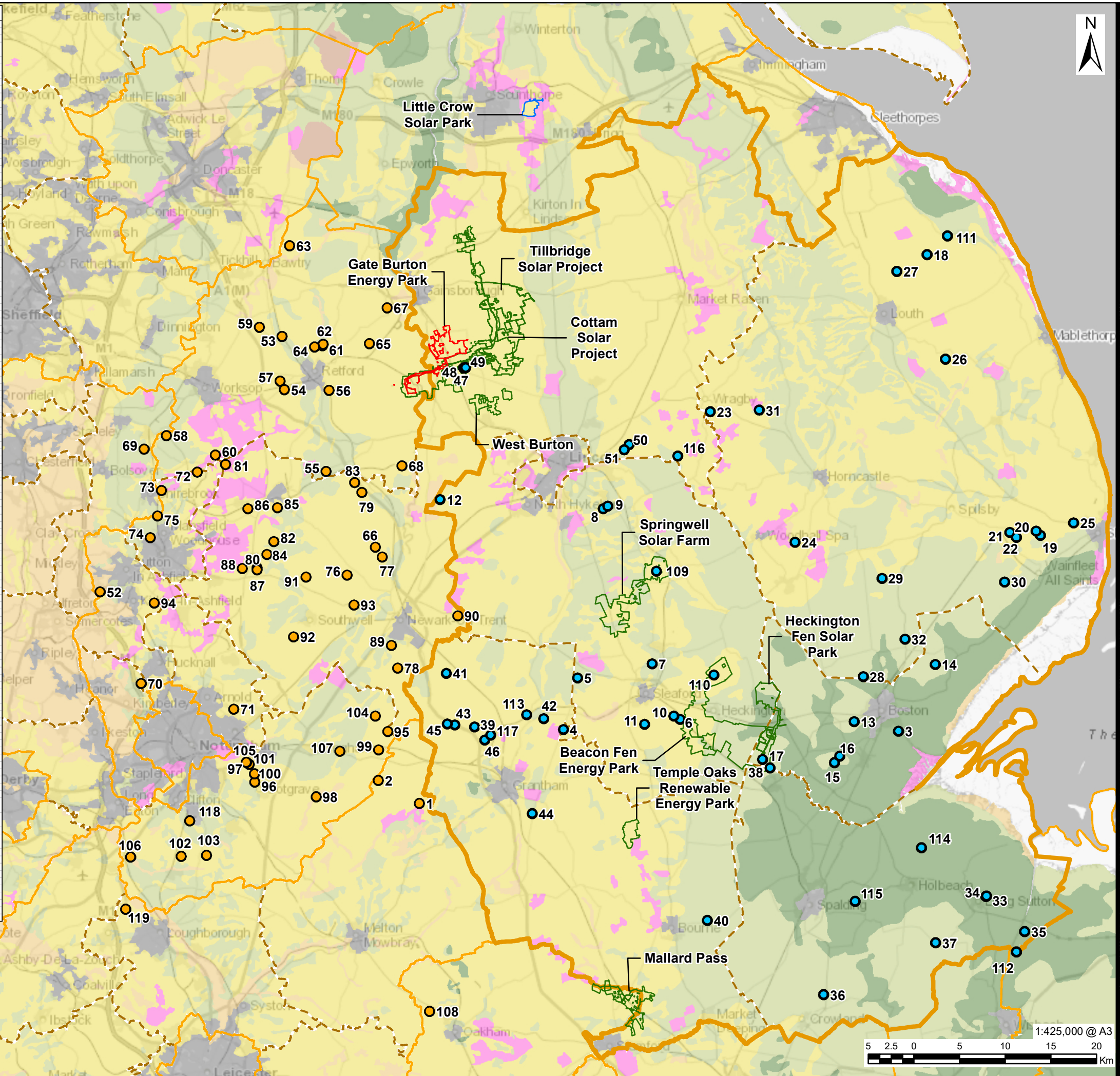
- 4.1.6 It should be noted that the proposals for DCO applications are subject to change, particularly those in the early stages, and this will likely have an effect on figures. For instance, the Beacon Fen Energy Park has recently removed a section of its proposed site, equating to broadly 50% of the land for solar and storage. This change is not accounted for in the figures used for this note and will result in less BMV land being utilised. Also, as stated above, the Applicant has assumed that any Grade 3 land is subgrade 3a (i.e., BMV) where there is no information to show otherwise. In reality, it is likely that some of this will be subgrade 3b and therefore the overall figure for BMV use is likely to be less than indicated above.
- 4.1.7 The Applicant therefore considers both the cumulative temporary loss of BMV land during life of the DCO schemes, and the permanent loss of BMV land, to be negligible and not significant.


TCPA applications

- 4.1.8 In addition to the DCO applications in the region, the Applicant has also considered ground mounted solar project applications in Lincolnshire which have been dealt with by district authorities under the TCPA up to April 2023⁸. Figure 2 shows the location of those TCPA applications against the 1970s Provisional ALC dataset. In addition, the Applicant has reviewed the publicly available documents for each of the TCPA solar schemes identified and Table 1 within Appendix A provides details of the impact on BMV land for each of the schemes.
- 4.1.9 As with the DCO schemes, there are few publicly available documents for some of the TCPA schemes which makes it difficult to draw accurate conclusions. For instance, some of the TCPA applications do not differentiate between subgrades 3a and 3b when considering the BMV land used by the scheme. In those cases, the Applicant has assumed that the Grade 3 land used is subgrade 3a (i.e., BMV). For other schemes, no details of the ALC grading are provided in the publicly available application documents. Where this is the case (amounting to approximately 125 hectares in Lincolnshire), the Applicant has not included the scheme hectareage in its calculations regarding BMV land.
- 4.1.10 From the information that is available, in Lincolnshire, the total area of Solar PV panels under the TCPA schemes is 1,606 hectares. Of this, 869.74 hectares is identified as BMV land and only 1 hectare is identified as likely to be permanently lost as a result of development. When considered against the


⁸ As identified from the Government's Renewable Energy Planning Database Quarterly Extract: [Renewable Energy Planning Database: quarterly extract - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/datasets/renewable-energy-planning-database-quarterly-extract)

TCPA Site	Project Name	LPA Reference
1	Belvoir Estate Solar Farm, Grantham	22/00537/FUL
2	Jericho Covert Solar Farm	20/01182/FUL
3	Boston Landfill, Wyburton - Solar PV Array	PL/0079/21
4	New Earth Solutions West, High Dike - Solar Panels and Battery Storage	22/1646/COC and PL/0123/22
5	Emine Street Farm Solar Park	13/0029/FUL
6	Grange Farm (Burton Pedwardine)	12/1242/FUL
7	Deepdale Farm	14/0952/FUL
8	Branston Solar Park	14/0672/FUL
9	Branston Solar Park (Extension)	17/1546/FUL
10	White Cross Lane	19/0863/FUL
11	Gorse Lane	19/0060/FUL
12	Noble Foods, Hives Lane - Solar Panels	22/1569/FUL
13	Fen Road	B/13/0345
14	Leverton Ings	B/13/0306
15	Nowhere Farm	B/14/0267
16	Kirton Solar PV Farm	B/15/0001
17	Vicarage Drive - Solar farm & Battery storage	B/21/0443
18	Fen Farm Solar Park	N/036/01536/10
19	The Hollies Solar Park - Skegness - extension	S/039/01716/13
20	The Hollies Solar Park - Skegness	S/039/00984/12
21	Manor Farm	S/051/00772/17
22	Lincoln Farm	S/020/02242/13
23	Primrose Hill Farm	S/216/00470/14
24	Grange Farm (Kirby on Bain)	S/094/01115/14
25	Skegness Solar Park	S/023/01092/14
26	High Leas	N/161/01563/14
27	Yarburgh Grove Farm	N/218/00928/14
28	Canopus Farm	<Null>
29	Land Off Folly Lane	S/203/01106/15
30	Low Farm Solar Farm	S/195/02340/20
31	Hatton Solar Farm	S/079/01078/22
32	Mallows Lane - Solar Farm & Battery Storage	S/152/01297/22
33	Long Sutton Butterfly And Wildlife Park	H11-0817-10
34	Long Sutton Butterfly And Wildlife Park (extension)	H11-0206-11
35	Sutton Bridge Solar Farm	H18-1126-20
36	Decoy Farm	H02-0454-14
37	Grange Farm (Lincolnshire)	H20-0937-13
38	Cowbridge Road, Bicker Fen - Solar Array	H04-0849-22
39	Marston Solar Farm	S/11/0548
40	Limes Farm Solar Farm	S/11/0431
41	Copley Farm	S/13/3273
42	Heath Lane Solar Park	S/14/1084
43	Grantham Solar Farm	S/15/0383
44	High Dyke (Mill Farm)	S/15/2137
45	Bypass Solar Farm	S/20/1433
46	Gonerby Moor, Great Gonerby - Solar Farm	S/21/1019
47	Danes Farm - extension	131968
48	Danes Farm	126864
49	Stow Solar Farm	131968
50	Fiskerton Airfield (Phase 1 and 2)	130671
51	The Old Airfield Solar Photovoltaic Farm	142117
52	Crow Trees Farm	V/2014/0188
53	Barby Moor	13/01311/FUL
54	Little Morton Solar Farm	13/01113/FUL
55	Westwood Farm Solar Park	13/01182/FUL
56	Walmoor Farm solar park	14/00034/FUL
57	Walkers Wood Solar Park	14/00691/FUL
58	Hancroft Farm	14/01010/FUL
59	Jubilee Farm, Barby Moor	14/01036/FUL
60	Welbeck Solar / Hazel Gap	14/01030/FUL
61	Tin Farm solar park	13/00997/FUL
62	Tin Farm Retford (extension)	15/00228/FUL
63	Misson Solar Farm	15/00215/FUL
64	Tin Farm Solar Farm	20/01405/FUL
65	Wood Lane Solar Farm	20/00117/FUL
66	Tuxford Road Solar Farm	21/01147/FUL
67	Gainsborough Road, Saundby - Solar Farm	22/00358/FUL
68	High Marham - Solar Photovoltaic Farm	22/00707/FUL
69	Firthwood Farm, Firthwood Lane - Solar Farm	22/00583/FUL
70	Long Lane Solar Farm / Nottingham Brick Works	15/00525/FUL
71	Gedling Solar Farm	2012/1335
72	Welbeck Colliery	2012/0557/NT
73	SPF Thirty Acres Farm	2015/0451/NT
74	Land At Debdale Lane	2015/0449/NT
75	Littlewood Lane Solar	2015/0527/NT
76	Knapthorpe Grange, Cauntown - Solar Farm	22/00975/FUL
77	Foxholes Farm, Bathley Lane - Solar Farm	22/01983/FUL
78	Grange Solar Farm	11/00333/FUL
79	Egmanston Solar Farm	13/01422/FUL
80	Featherstone House Farm	13/00893/FUL
81	Netherfield Lane	14/01546/FUL
82	Eaking Solar Farm	14/00839/FUL
83	Egmanston Solar Farm	14/00975/FUL
84	Bilthorpe Quarry Solar Park	12/01594/FUL
85	Rufford Lane	15/00083/FUL
86	Land South Off Ollerton Road	15/00875/FUL
87	Bilthorpe (Land off Forest Lane)	15/01206/FUL
88	Inkersall Grange Farm	19/01165/FUL
89	The Grange	19/01408/FUL
90	Barby Manor	18/02319/FUL
91	Winkum Estate Solar Farm	20/02501/FUL
92	Cotmoor Lane	20/01242/FUL
93	Flash Farm, Micklebarrow Hill - Solar Panels	22/02014/FUL
94	Two Oaks Quarry, Cosmoor Road - Solar Array	F/4478
95	Lodge Farm - Orston	13/01609/FUL
96	Colgrave solar farm	14/01221/FUL
97	Radcliffe Solar Farm	14/01228/FUL
98	Langar Lane	14/01594/FUL
99	Elton solar farm	14/01739/FUL
100	Stragglethorpe Road farm	15/01775/FUL
101	Holme Farm Solar Park	15/01971/FUL
102	Sharpley Hill Solar Farm	21/00703/FUL
103	Highfields Farm - Solar Farm & Battery Storage	22/00303/FUL
104	Longhedge Solar Farm	22/02241/FUL
105	Radcliffe Road, Holme Pierrepont - Solar Farm	22/01511/FUL
106	Church Farm, Kingston On Soar - Solar Photovoltaic Farm	22/00809/FUL
107	New Lane, Whatton - Solar Photovoltaic System	21/03114/FUL
108	Ranksborough Farm	2019/1249/MAF
109	Land to North East of Scopwick and West of Railway Line	14/0937/FUL
110	Ewerby Thorpe Farm, Sleaford	14/1003/FUL
111	Applebys Ices, Main Road, Conisholme, Louth	N/036/01358/20
112	Gunthorpe Road Solar Farm	H18-0741-21
113	Honington Grange, Frinkley Lane, Honington	S/21/082
114	Roman Bank, Middle Marsh - Solar Farm	H09-0132-23
115	Moulton Bulb, Long Lane - Solar Array	H13-0190-23
116	Top Farm, Short Ferry Road - Solar PV Arrays	146393
117	Green Lane Solar	S/23/0689
118	Fair Oaks Renewable Energy Park	23/00254/FUL
119	Long Whatton Solar Farm	P/23/0379/2





PROJECT
Gate Burton Energy Park

CLIENT

Gate Burton
ENERGY PARK

CONSULTANT
AECOM Limited
Sunley House
4 Bedford Park
Surrey, CR0 2AP, UK
www.aecom.com

LEGEND

- Gate Burton Energy Park
- Lincolnshire County Boundary
- Other County Boundaries
- District Boundary
- DCO solar sites in/partially in Lincolnshire
- DCO solar sites near Lincolnshire

TCPA Sites

- Lincolnshire
- Other (Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Rutland)

Agricultural Land Classification

- Grade 1
- Grade 2
- Grade 3
- Grade 4
- Grade 5
- Non Agricultural
- Urban

NOTES

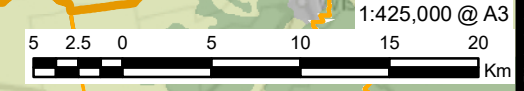
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ISSUE PURPOSE
Environmental Statement

PROJECT NUMBER
60664324

FIGURE TITLE
Cumulative Effects of Solar Schemes
on Agricultural Land

FIGURE NUMBER
Figure 2



estimated total BMV land for Lincolnshire as set out in Table 3.3 (402,900 hectares), even if all of the identified TCPA schemes were consented and built, this represents 0.21% of the total BMV land for Lincolnshire. The permanent loss of BMV land represents 0.0002% of all the estimated BMV land in Lincolnshire.

- 4.1.11 In addition to TCPA applications in Lincolnshire, the Applicant has considered all ground mounted solar TCPA applications in Nottinghamshire⁹ together with TCPA schemes in other counties that are close to the border of Lincolnshire and have a capacity of over 20MW. These are also shown on Figure 2 against the 1970s provisional ALC dataset. The Applicant has reviewed the publicly available documents for each scheme to assess the likely impact on BMV land and the results of this appear in Table 1 in Appendix A. Again, information is not available for all schemes and the Applicant has adopted the same methodology mentioned above regarding the TCPA schemes in Lincolnshire where information is missing. From information that is available, 2,046.92 hectares will be utilised for the siting of Solar PV panels. Of this, 487.38 was identified as BMV land, all of which can be returned to previous use at scheme end.
- 4.1.12 A common theme between all the sites (both DCO and TCPA applications) is that the developments will be temporary in nature and the loss of agricultural land resource will be largely reversible at scheme end. The exception to this is the permanent siting of substations, BESS and enhancements such as mitigation planting which may or may not be removed. Whilst it is difficult to predict the exact details of the decommissioning, given the impact to the agricultural land resource is reversible, the residual effect of the schemes on soil resource is predicted to be negligible.

5. Conclusion

5.1.1 Table 5 below summarises the percentage of Lincolnshire’s BMV land affected by the Scheme together with the cumulative effect of all the schemes (DCO and TCPA) identified in Lincolnshire within the body of this Technical Note. This shows that the effect of the Scheme itself on BMV land is negligible when compared to the total proportion of BMV land available in Lincolnshire. Further, even when the identified schemes are considered together, their cumulative impact on BMV land in the county is still negligible.

Table 5: Conclusions on Cumulative Effects on BMV land in Lincolnshire¹⁰

	Temporary loss of BMV land		Permanent loss of BMV land	
	Area of Solar PV Panels (excluding grid connection) (ha) on BMV land	Proportion (%) of BMV land in Lincolnshire	Area of Solar PV Panels (excluding grid connection) (ha)	Proportion (%) of BMV land in Lincolnshire
Gate Burton Energy Park	80.4	0.01	1.31	0.001
All DCO applications identified in Lincolnshire	3,860.03	0.95	6.31	0.001
All TCPA applications identified in Lincolnshire	869.74	0.21	1	0.0002
Total	4,729.77	1.16	7.36	0.0012

¹⁰ This table adopts the same methodology as the rest of the technical note and should be read in line with the methodology/explanation set out in section 4.

Appendices

Appendix A – List of DCO and TCPA Applications

Table 1. List of TCPA Solar Applications within Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire

Project Name	LPA Reference	District Authority	County	Planning Status	Total ha (nb of whole Order limits/red line)	Total area of solar (exc grid connection)	Permanent loss of BMV land (ha) nb please also state % of site in brackets	Permanent loss of non-BMV agricultural land	Reversible loss of BMV land (for lifetime of scheme)	Reversible loss of non-BMV agricultural land
New Earth Solutions West, High Dike - Solar Panels and Battery Storage	22/1646/CCC and PL/0123/22	North Kesteven District Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2023)	4	N/A	0	Not known	0	Not known
Ermine Street Farm Solar Park	13/0929/FUL	North Kesteven District Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2013)	67.81	16.9	0	0	16.9 (100%)	0
Grange Farm (Burton Pedwardine)	12/1242/FUL	North Kesteven District Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2012)	29	29	Not known	Not known	Not known	Not known

Project Name	LPA Reference	District Authority	County	Planning Status	Total ha (nb of whole Order limits/red line)	Total area of solar (exc grid connection)	Permanent loss of BMV land (ha) nb please also state % of site in brackets	Permanent loss of non-BMV agricultural land	Reversible loss of BMV land (for lifetime of scheme)	Reversible loss of non-BMV agricultural land
Deepdale Farm	14/0952/FUL	North Kesteven District Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2014)	19.7	4.9	1 (20%)	0	3.9 (79%)	0
Branston Solar Park	14/0672/FUL	North Kesteven District Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2014)	43.68	43.68	0	0	0	43.68 (100%)
Branston Solar Park (Extension)	17/1546/FUL	North Kesteven District Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2018)	97	97	0	0	31 (31%)	69(69%)
White Cross Lane	19/0863/FUL	North Kesteven District Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2019)	50.3	50.3	0	0	3.4 (7%)	46.9 (93%)
Gorse Lane	19/0060/FUL	North Kesteven District Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2019)	68	22	0	0	0	68 (100%)
Noble Foods, Hives Lane - Solar Panels	22/1569/FUL	North Kesteven District Council	Lincolnshire	Application Submitted (Nov 2022)	19	Not known	Not known	Not known	Not known	Not known

Project Name	LPA Reference	District Authority	County	Planning Status	Total ha (nb of whole Order limits/red line)	Total area of solar (exc grid connection)	Permanent loss of BMV land (ha) nb please also state % of site in brackets	Permanent loss of non-BMV agricultural land	Reversible loss of BMV land (for lifetime of scheme)	Reversible loss of non-BMV agricultural land
Land to North East of Scopwick and West of Railway Line	14/0937/FUL	North Kesteven District Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2014)	93	93	0	0	33.1 (35.6%)	59.9 (64.4%)
Ewerby Thorpe Farm, Sleaford	14/1003/FUL	North Kesteven District Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2014)	53.9	21.56	0	0	0	21.56 (100%)
Marston Solar Farm	S11/0548	South Kesteven District Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2015)	10.93	10.93	0	0	Not known	Not known
Limes Farm Solar Farm	S11/0431	South Kesteven District Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2015)	9	9	Not known	Not known	Not known	Not known
Copley Farm	S13/3273	South Kesteven District Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2017)	Not known	Not known	Not known	Not known	Not known	Not known

Project Name	LPA Reference	District Authority	County	Planning Status	Total ha (nb of whole Order limits/red line)	Total area of solar (exc grid connection)	Permanent loss of BMV land (ha) nb please also state % of site in brackets	Permanent loss of non-BMV agricultural land	Reversible loss of BMV land (for lifetime of scheme)	Reversible loss of non-BMV agricultural land
Heath Lane Solar Park	S14/1084	South Kesteven District Council	Lincolnshire	Revised? (Appeal Dismissed)	Not known	Not known	Not known	Not known	Not known	Not known
Grantham Solar Farm	S15/0383	South Kesteven District Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2015)	14.82	14.82	0	0	0	14.82
High Dyke (Mill Farm)	S15/2137	South Kesteven District Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2015)	15.84	15.84	0	0	1.1 (6.9%)	14.7 (92.8%)
Bypass Solar Farm	S20/1433	South Kesteven District Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2021)	85.16	85.16	0	0	0	85.16 (100%)
Gonerby Moor, Great Gonerby - Solar Farm	S21/1018	South Kesteven District Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2021)	78	78	0	0	0	78 (100%)
Honington Grange, Frinkley Lane, Honington	S22/1082	South Kesteven District Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2022)	0.02	0.02	Not known	Not known	Not known	Not known

Project Name	LPA Reference	District Authority	County	Planning Status	Total ha (nb of whole Order limits/red line)	Total area of solar (exc grid connection)	Permanent loss of BMV land (ha) nb please also state % of site in brackets	Permanent loss of non-BMV agricultural land	Reversible loss of BMV land (for lifetime of scheme)	Reversible loss of non-BMV agricultural land
Boston Landfill, Wyburton - Solar PV Array	PL/0079/21	Boston Borough Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2022)	17.7	16.2	Not known	Not known	Not known	Not known
Fen Road	B/13/0345	Boston Borough Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2013)	4.5	4.5	0	0	4.5 (100%)	0
Leverton Ings	B/13/0306	Boston Borough Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2013)	22	9.68	0	0	9.68 (100%)	0
Nowhere Farm	B/14/0267	Boston Borough Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2014)	16	6.4	0	0	6.4 (100%)	0
Kirton Solar PV Farm	B/15/0001	Boston Borough Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2015)	8.7	6.1	0	0	6.1 (100%)	0

Project Name	LPA Reference	District Authority	County	Planning Status	Total ha (nb of whole Order limits/red line)	Total area of solar (exc grid connection)	Permanent loss of BMV land (ha) nb please also state % of site in brackets	Permanent loss of non-BMV agricultural land	Reversible loss of BMV land (for lifetime of scheme)	Reversible loss of non-BMV agricultural land
Vicarage Drove - Solar farm & Battery storage	B/21/0443	Boston Borough Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2022)	80.46	80.46	0	0	80.46 (100%)	0
Fen Farm Solar Park	N/036/01536/10	East Lindsey District Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2010)	2.1	2.1	0	0	2.1 (100%)	0
The Hollies Solar Park - Skegness - extension	S/039/01716/13	East Lindsey District Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2013)	4.03	3.45	Not known	Not known	Not known	Not known
The Hollies Solar Park - Skegness	S/039/00984/12	East Lindsey District Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2012)	35	19.5	0	0	19.5 (100%)	0
Manor Farm	S/051/00772/17	East Lindsey District Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2017)	34.07	34.07	Not known	Not known	Not known	Not known

Project Name	LPA Reference	District Authority	County	Planning Status	Total ha (nb of whole Order limits/red line)	Total area of solar (exc grid connection)	Permanent loss of BMV land (ha) nb please also state % of site in brackets	Permanent loss of non-BMV agricultural land	Reversible loss of BMV land (for lifetime of scheme)	Reversible loss of non-BMV agricultural land
Lincoln Farm	S/020/02242/13	East Lindsey District Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2014)	30.78	30.78	Not known	Not known	13.8 (45%)	16.9 (55%)
Primrose Hill Farm	S/216/00470/14	East Lindsey District Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2014)	7.2	2.4	0	0	2.4 (100%)	0
Grange Farm (Kirkby on Bain)	S/094/01115/14	East Lindsey District Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2014)	16	16	0	0	16 (100%)	0

Project Name	LPA Reference	District Authority	County	Planning Status	Total ha (nb of whole Order limits/red line)	Total area of solar (exc grid connection)	Permanent loss of BMV land (ha) nb please also state % of site in brackets	Permanent loss of non-BMV agricultural land	Reversible loss of BMV land (for lifetime of scheme)	Reversible loss of non-BMV agricultural land
Skegness Solar Park	S/023/01092/14	East Lindsey District Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2014)	16	16	0	0	3.2 (20%)	12.8 (80%)
High Leas	N/161/01563/14	East Lindsey District Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2014)	14	14	0	0	Not known	Not known
Yarburgh Grove Farm	N/218/00928/14	East Lindsey District Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2014)	16.8	16.8	0	0	16.8 (100%)	0
Canopus Farm	S/054/02433/14	East Lindsey District Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2015)	10	10	0	0	10 (100%)	0
Land Off Folly Lane	S/203/01106/15	East Lindsey District Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2015)	8.26	8.26	0	0	0	8.26 (100%)

Project Name	LPA Reference	District Authority	County	Planning Status	Total ha (nb of whole Order limits/red line)	Total area of solar (exc grid connection)	Permanent loss of BMV land (ha) nb please also state % of site in brackets	Permanent loss of non-BMV agricultural land	Reversible loss of BMV land (for lifetime of scheme)	Reversible loss of non-BMV agricultural land
Low Farm Solar Farm	S/195/02340/20	East Lindsey District Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2021)	73.72	73.72	0	0	73.72 (100%)	0
Hatton Solar Farm	S/079/01078/22	East Lindsey District Council	Lincolnshire	Application submitted (2022)	76	76	0	0	60 (79%)	16 (21%)
Mallows Lane - Solar Farm & Battery Storage	S/152/01297/22	East Lindsey District Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2022)	20	20	0	0	20 (100%)	0
Applebys Ices, Conisholme	N/036/01358/20	East Lindsey District Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2020)	0.04	0.04	Not known	Not known	Not known	Not known
Roman Bank, Middle Marsh - Solar Farm	H09-0132-23	South Holland District Council	Lincolnshire	Application Submitted (2023)	80	80	0	0	80	0
Moulton Bulb, Long Lane - Solar Array	H13-0190-23	South Holland District Council	Lincolnshire	Application Submitted (2023)	2.24	2.24	0	0	2.24	0

Project Name	LPA Reference	District Authority	County	Planning Status	Total ha (nb of whole Order limits/red line)	Total area of solar (exc grid connection)	Permanent loss of BMV land (ha) nb please also state % of site in brackets	Permanent loss of non-BMV agricultural land	Reversible loss of BMV land (for lifetime of scheme)	Reversible loss of non-BMV agricultural land
Long Sutton Butterfly And Wildlife Park	H11-0817-10	South Holland District Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2011)	4.1	4.1	Not known	Not known	Not known	Not known
Long Sutton Butterfly And Wildlife Park (extension)	H11-0206-11	South Holland District Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2011)	2.6	2.6	Not known	Not known	Not known	Not known
Decoy Farm	H02-0454-14	South Holland District Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2014)	24.5	24.5	0	0	24.5 (100%)	0
Grange Farm (Lincolnshire)	H20-0937-13	South Holland District Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2013)	20	20	0	0	20 (100%)	0
Cowbridge Road, Bicker Fen - Solar Array	H04-0849-22 B/22/0356	South Holland District Council Boston Borough Council	Lincolnshire	Application Submitted (2022)	97.3	97.3	0	0	97.3 (100%)	0

Project Name	LPA Reference	District Authority	County	Planning Status	Total ha (nb of whole Order limits/red line)	Total area of solar (exc grid connection)	Permanent loss of BMV land (ha) nb please also state % of site in brackets	Permanent loss of non-BMV agricultural land	Reversible loss of BMV land (for lifetime of scheme)	Reversible loss of non-BMV agricultural land
Sutton Bridge Solar Farm	H18-1126-20	South Holland District Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2021)	118.3	118.3	0	0	118.3 (100%)	0
Gunthorpe Road Solar Farm	H18-0741-21	South Holland District Council	Lincolnshire	Non-determination - appeal lodged	78.64	78.64	0	0	78.64 (100%)	0
Top Farm, Short Ferry Road - Solar PV Arrays	146393	West Lindsey District Council	Lincolnshire	Application submitted (2023)	1.29	1.29	Not known	Not known	Not known	Not known
Danes Farm - extension	131968	West Lindsey District Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2014)	18.58	18.58	0	0	0	18.58 (100%)
Danes Farm	126864	West Lindsey District Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2011)	10.1	10.1	0	0	0	10.1 (100%)
Stow Solar Farm	131968	West Lindsey District Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2014)	7.58	7.58	0	0	0	7.58 (100%)

Project Name	LPA Reference	District Authority	County	Planning Status	Total ha (nb of whole Order limits/red line)	Total area of solar (exc grid connection)	Permanent loss of BMV land (ha) nb please also state % of site in brackets	Permanent loss of non-BMV agricultural land	Reversible loss of BMV land (for lifetime of scheme)	Reversible loss of non-BMV agricultural land
Fiskerton Airfield (Phase 1 and 2)	130671	West Lindsey District Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2014)	70	70	0	0	0	70 (100%)
The Old Airfield Solar Photovoltaic Farm	142117	West Lindsey District Council	Lincolnshire	Consented (2021)	84	84	0	0	0	84 (100%)
Green Lane Solar	S23/0689	South Kesteven District Council	Lincolnshire	Application Submitted (2023)	58	58	0	0	8.6 (14.8%)	46.5 (80.17%)

Project Name	LPA Reference	District Authority	County	Planning Status	Total ha (nb of whole Order limits/red line)	Total area of solar (exc grid connection)	Permanent loss of BMV land (ha) nb please also state % of site in brackets	Permanent loss of non-BMV agricultural land	Reversible loss of BMV land (for lifetime of scheme)	Reversible loss of non-BMV agricultural land
Crow Trees Farm	V/2014/0188	Ashfield District Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2014)	7.64	2.6	0	0	0	2.6 (100%)
Barnby Moor	13/01311/FUL	Bassetlaw District Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2014)	8.7	8.7	0	0	8.7 (100%)	0
Little Morton Solar Farm	13/01113/FUL	Bassetlaw District Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2014)	28	0.97	0	0	0.97 (100%)	0
Westwood Farm Solar Park	13/01182/FUL	Bassetlaw District Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2013)	8.8	2.8	0	0	2.8 (100%)	0
Walmoor Farm solar park	14/00034/FUL	Bassetlaw District Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2014)	7.3	7.3	0	0	7.3 (100%)	0

Project Name	LPA Reference	District Authority	County	Planning Status	Total ha (nb of whole Order limits/red line)	Total area of solar (exc grid connection)	Permanent loss of BMV land (ha) nb please also state % of site in brackets	Permanent loss of non-BMV agricultural land	Reversible loss of BMV land (for lifetime of scheme)	Reversible loss of non-BMV agricultural land
Walkers Wood Solar Park	14/00681/FUL	Bassetlaw District Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2014)	57.4	57.4	0	0	24 (43%)	32.6 (57%)
Hunciecroft Farm	14/01015/FUL	Bassetlaw District Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2014)	17.6	17.6	0	0	8.3 (47%)	9.3 (53%)
Jubilee Farm, Barnby Moor	14/01036/FUL	Bassetlaw District Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2015)	14	14	0	0	0	14 (100%)
Welbeck Solar / Hazel Gap	14/01030/FUL	Bassetlaw District Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2015)	32.3	32.3	0	0	1.5 (5%)	30.8 (95%)
Tiln Farm solar park	13/00997/FUL	Bassetlaw District Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2013)	22.19	22.19	0	0	3.1 (13%)	19.2 (87%)

Project Name	LPA Reference	District Authority	County	Planning Status	Total ha (nb of whole Order limits/red line)	Total area of solar (exc grid connection)	Permanent loss of BMV land (ha) nb please also state % of site in brackets	Permanent loss of non-BMV agricultural land	Reversible loss of BMV land (for lifetime of scheme)	Reversible loss of non-BMV agricultural land
Tiln Farm Retford (extension)	15/00228/FUL	Bassetlaw District Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2015)	0.98	0.98	0	0	0.13 (13%)	0.85 (87%)
Tiln Farm Solar Farm (further extension)	20/01405/FUL	Bassetlaw District Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2021)	89	89	0	0	7 (8%)	82 (92%)
Misson Solar Farm	15/00215/FUL	Bassetlaw District Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2015)	15.84	6.47	0	0	0.81 (12.6%)	5.26 (81.4%)
Wood Lane Solar Farm	20/00117/FUL	Bassetlaw District Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2020)	94.7	32	0	0	2 (6%)	30 (94%)

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Tuxford Road Solar Farm	21/01147/FUL	Bassetlaw District Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2021)	120.74	120.74	0	0	0	120.74 (100%)
Gainsborough Road, Saundby - Solar Farm/Bumble Bee Solar Farm	22/00358/FUL	Bassetlaw District Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2022)	154.7	154.7	0	0	0	154.7 (100%)
High Marnham - Solar Photovoltaic Farm	22/00707/FUL	Bassetlaw District Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2023)	56	56	0	0	30 (53%)	26 (47%)
Frithwood Farm, Frithwood Lane - Solar Farm	22/00583/FUL	Bolsover Council	Nottinghamshire	Application Submitted (2022)	46	46	0	0	24.4 (53%)	21.6 (47%)

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Long Lane Solar Farm / Nottingham Brick Works	15/00525/FUL	Broxtowe Borough Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2016)	24.5	24.5	0	0	10.78 (44%)	13.72 (56%)
Gedling Solar Farm	2012/1335	Gedling Borough Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2013)	14	14	0	0	0	14 (100%)
Welbeck Colliery	2012/0557/NT	Mansfield District Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2013)	Not known	Not known	Not known	Not known	Not known	Not known
SPF Thirty Acres Farm	2015/0451/NT	Mansfield District Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2015)	Not known	Not known	Not known	Not known	Not known	Not known
Land At Debdale Lane	2015/0449/NT	Mansfield District Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2015)	17.8	17.8	Not known	Not known	Not known	Not known
Littlewood Lane Solar	2015/0527/NT	Mansfield District Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2015)	11.62	11.62	Not known	Not known	Not known	Not known

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Knapthorpe Grange, Caunton - Solar Farm	22/00975/FULM	Newark & Sherwood District Council	Nottinghamshire	Application Submitted (2022)	74.38	74.38	0	0	9.52 (13%)	64.86 (87%)
Foxholes Farm, Bathley Lane - Solar Farm	22/01983/FULM	Newark & Sherwood District Council	Nottinghamshire	Application Submitted (2022)	75.38	75.38	0	0	39.8 (53%)	35.58 (47%)
Grange Solar Farm	11/00333/FULM	Newark and Sherwood District Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2011)	14.6	14.6	0	0	14.6 (100%)	0 (100%)
Egmanton Solar Farm	13/01422/FULM	Newark and Sherwood District Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2014)	23.6	23.6	0	0	23.6 (100%)	0
Featherstone House Farm	13/00893/FULM	Newark and Sherwood District Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2016)	10	10	Not known	Not known	Not known	Not known

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Netherfield Lane	14/01546/FULM	Newark and Sherwood District Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2014)	30.8	30.8	0	0	0	30.8 (100%)
Eakring Solar Farm	14/00839/FULM	Newark and Sherwood District Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2014)	27	8.4	0	0	0	8.4 (100%)
Egmanton Solar Farm	14/00975/FULM	Newark and Sherwood District Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2014)	23.6	23.6	0	0	23.6 (100%)	0
Bilsthorpe Quarry Solar Park	12/01594/FULM	Newark and Sherwood District Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2013)	19.8	19.8	0	0	0	19.8 (100%)
Rufford Lane	15/00083/FULM	Newark and Sherwood District Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2015)	6.5	6.5	0	0	0	6.5 (100%)
Land South Off Ollerton Road	15/00875/FULM	Newark and Sherwood District Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2016)	10	10	0	0	0	10 (100%)

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Bilsthorpe (Land off Forest Lane)	15/01206/FULM	Newark and Sherwood District Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2016)	9.34	9.34	0	0	5.6 (60%)	3.74 (40%)
Inkersall Grange Farm	19/01165/FULM	Newark and Sherwood District Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2019)	79.5	79.5	0	0.2 (1%)	0	79.3 (99%)
The Grange	19/01408/FULM	Newark and Sherwood District Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2019)	95.7	95.7	0	0.2 (1%)	20 (21%)	75.5 (78%)
Barnby Manor	18/02319/FUL	Newark and Sherwood District Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2019)	0.31	0.31	Not known	Not known	Not known	Not known
Winkburn Estate Solar Farm	20/02501/FULM	Newark and Sherwood District Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2021)	65.7	65.7	0	0	0	70 (100%)
Cotmoor Lane	20/01242/FULM	Newark and Sherwood District Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2022)	98	98	0	1 (1%)	0	97 (99%)

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Flash Farm, Micklebarrow Hill - Solar Panels	22/02014/FUL	Newark and Sherwood District Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2023)	0.06	0.06	Not known	Not known	Not known	Not known
Two Oaks Quarry, Coxmoor Road - Solar Array	F/4478	Nottinghamshire County Council	Nottinghamshire	Application Submitted (2022)	6.27	1.71	0	0	0.85 (50%)	0.85 (50%)
Lodge Farm - Orston	13/01609/FUL	Rushcliffe Borough Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2013)	25.1	8.85	0	0	8.85 (100%)	0
Cotgrave solar farm	14/01221/FUL	Rushcliffe Borough Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2014)	12.2	12.2	0	0	12.2	0

Project Name	LPA Reference	District Authority	County	Planning Status	Total ha (nb of whole Order limits/red line)	Total area of solar (exc grid connection)	Permanent loss of BMV land (ha) nb please also state % of site in brackets	Permanent loss of non-BMV agricultural land	Reversible loss of BMV land (for lifetime of scheme)	Reversible loss of non-BMV agricultural land
Fair Oaks Renewable Energy Park	23/00254/FUL	Rushcliffe Borough Council	Nottinghamshire	Application submitted (2023)	82	82	0	0	82	0
Radcliffe Solar Farm	14/01228/FUL	Rushcliffe Borough Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2014)	9.8	9.8	0	0	9.8 (100%)	0
Langar Lane	14/01594/FUL	Rushcliffe Borough Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2014)	19.34	19.34	0	0	0	19.34 (100%)
Elton solar farm	14/01739/FUL	Rushcliffe Borough Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2015)	24.05	24.05	0	0	24.05 (100%)	0
Stragglethorpe Road farm	15/01776/FUL	Rushcliffe Borough Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2015)	12.2	12.2	0	0	12.2 (100%)	0
Holme Farm Solar Park	15/01971/FUL	Rushcliffe Borough Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2015)	6.7	6.7	0	0	0	6.7 (100%)

Project Name	LPA Reference	District Authority	County	Planning Status	Total ha (nb of whole Order limits/red line)	Total area of solar (exc grid connection)	Permanent loss of BMV land (ha) nb please also state % of site in brackets	Permanent loss of non-BMV agricultural land	Reversible loss of BMV land (for lifetime of scheme)	Reversible loss of non-BMV agricultural land
Sharpley Hill Solar Farm	21/00703/FUL	Rushcliffe Borough Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2021)	10.8	10.8	0	0	0	10.8 (100%)
Church Farm, Kingston On Soar - Solar Photovoltaic Farm	22/00809/FUL	Rushcliffe Borough Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2022)	60.94	60.94	0	0	21.3 (35%)	39.7 (65%)
Highfields Farm - Solar Farm & Battery Storage	22/00303/FUL	Rushcliffe Borough Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2023)	81.78	81.78	0	0	9 (11%)	72.8 (89%)
New Lane, Whatton - Solar Photovoltaic System	21/03114/FUL	Rushcliffe Borough Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2022)	0.7	0.7	0	0	0	0.7 (100%)

Project Name	LPA Reference	District Authority	County	Planning Status	Total ha (nb of whole Order limits/red line)	Total area of solar (exc grid connection)	Permanent loss of BMV land (ha) nb please also state % of site in brackets	Permanent loss of non-BMV agricultural land	Reversible loss of BMV land (for lifetime of scheme)	Reversible loss of non-BMV agricultural land
Longhedge Solar Farm	22/02241/FUL	Rushcliffe Borough Council	Nottinghamshire	Application Submitted (2022)	118	37.7	0	0	14.32 (38%)	23.37 (62%)
Radcliffe Road, Holme Pierrepont - Solar Farm	22/01511/FUL	Rushcliffe Borough Council	Nottinghamshire	Consented (2022)	7.1	6.9	0	0	0	6.9 (100%)
Long Whatton Solar Farm	P/23/0379/2	Charwood Borough Council	Leicestershire	Application Submitted (2023)	97.1	97.1	0	0	17	80.1
Jericho Covert Solar Farm	20/01182/FUL	Melton Borough Council	Leicestershire	Consented	74	74	0	0	0	74 (100%)

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Belvoir Estate Solar Farm, Grantham	22/00537/FUL	Melton Borough Council	Leicestershire	Application Submitted (2022)	103	103	0	1 (1%)	7.3 (7%)	95.2 (92%)
Ranksborough Farm	2019/1249/MAF	Rutland	Rutland	Consented (2019)	51.6	51.6	0	0	0	51.6 (100%)

Table 2. List of DCO Solar Applications within Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire

Project Name	PINS Reference	County	Planning Status	Total ha (nb of whole Order limits/red line)	Total area of solar (exc grid connection)	Permanent loss of BMV land (ha) % of solar site in brackets	Permanent loss of non-BMV agricultural land	Reversible loss of BMV land (for lifetime of scheme)	Reversible loss of non-BMV agricultural land ¹¹
Gate Burton Energy Park	EN010131	Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire	Pre-Examination	824	652	1.31 (0.2%)	3.65 (0.5%)	72.18 (11%)	552.88 (84.8%)
Mallard Pass	EN010127	Lincolnshire and Rutland	Pre-Examination	852	531	0	0	216 (40.6%)	316 (59.5%)
Cottam Solar Project	EN010133	Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire	Pre-Examination	1452.32	1188.52	0	30 (2.5%)	48.1 (4%)	1101.6 (92.6%)
Heckington Fen Solar Park	EN010123	Lincolnshire	Acceptance	1450.13	586.85	5 (0.85%)	not known	253 (43.1%)	272 (46.3%)
West Burton Solar Project	EN010132	Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire	Pre-examination	886.42	769.08	0	0	199.5(25.9%)	557 (72.4%)

¹¹ This does not include any “non-agricultural” land.

Project Name	PINS Reference	County	Planning Status	Total ha (nb of whole Order limits/red line)	Total area of solar (exc grid connection)	Permanent loss of BMV land (ha) % of solar site in brackets	Permanent loss of non-BMV agricultural land	Reversible loss of BMV land (for lifetime of scheme)	Reversible loss of non-BMV agricultural land ¹¹
Tillbridge Solar Project ¹²	EN01 0142	Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire	Pre-application	not known (cable corridor not yet determined)	900	not known but PEIR indicates majority of site to be returned to agriculture	not known but PEIR indicates majority of site to be returned to agriculture	estimated 50.4 (5.6%)	estimated 849.6 (94.4%)
Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park	EN01 0126	Lincolnshire	Pre-application	350	280	0	Estimated 0. Applicant assumes all land to be returned.	0	280(100%) ¹³
Springwell Solar Farm	EN01 0149	Lincolnshire	pre-application	1702	Estimated 1,702 ¹⁴	Estimated 0. Applicant assumes all land to be returned at scheme end.	Estimated 0. Applicant assumes all land to be returned at scheme end.	Estimated 1,517 (89.1%) ¹⁵	not known
Beacon Fen Energy Park	Not yet known	Lincolnshire	Pre-application	not known (cable route corridor not yet determined)	1,025 ¹⁶	Estimated 0. Applicant assumes all land to be returned.	Estimated 0. Applicant assumes all land to be returned.	229.47 (22.38%)	not known 788.78 (76.9%)
Little Crow Solar Park	EN01 0101	North Lincolnshire Unitary	Consented	224.7	224.7	1 (0.4%)	0	36.6 (16.2%)	188.1 (83.7%)

¹² Tillbridge detailed ALC data not yet available. Figures are based on interim ALC report which surveyed a larger area of 1,210 hectares. Applicant has used the same percentage proportions and applied to the smaller area of 900 hectares which is the hectareage for the proposed PV area according to the scheme website.

¹³ No specific ALC data publicly available yet, but scheme website notes that ALC survey has been carried out and that all of the affected land is Grade 3a.

¹⁴ Applicant has accounted for full order limits of 1,702 ha based on scoping report which does not appear to include grid connection corridor in red line boundary at this stage.

¹⁵ Detailed ALC survey yet to be carried out. Scoping report indicates that site comprises 497 ha of Grade 2 land and 1020 ha of Grade 3. Applicant has assumed that the Grade 3 is Grade 3a for this note.

¹⁶ The scheme has recently been altered to remove broadly 50% of the land for solar and storage. As a result, the effect on BMV land is likely to be less than indicated in the table.

Project Name	PINS Reference	County	Planning Status	Total ha (nb of whole Order limits/red line)	Total area of solar (exc grid connection)	Permanent loss of BMV land (ha) % of solar site in brackets	Permanent loss of non-BMV agricultural land	Reversible loss of BMV land (for lifetime of scheme)	Reversible loss of non-BMV agricultural land ¹¹
		Authority (outside of Lincolnshire CC)							
Oaklands Farm Solar Project	EN010122	Derbyshire	Pre-application	177	177	Estimated 0. Applicant assumes all land to be returned at scheme end.	Estimated 0. Applicant assumes all land to be returned at scheme end.	Estimated 80.9 ¹⁷ (45.7%)	Estimated 96.11 (54.3%)
Fosse Green Energy	Not yet known	Lincolnshire	Non-stat consultation	not known (cable route corridor not yet determined)	1,003	Estimated 0. Applicant assumes all land to be returned at scheme end.	Estimated 0. Applicant assumes all land to be returned at scheme end.	Estimated 1,003 (100%) ¹⁸	Estimated 0

¹⁷ Detailed ALC survey not yet available but scoping report gives general percentages for BMV land on "Oaklands Farm" and "Park Farm". The Applicant has applied the same percentage proportions to the 177 ha.

¹⁸ Scoping report indicates that Solar Site occupies 1,003 hectares made up of mainly Grade 3 land with some Grade 2. Applicant's own estimates based on 1970's provisional ALC dataset and the Fosse Green red line boundary is roughly 279 ha of Grade 2 and 779 ha of Grade 3 (total 1,058 ha). Applicant has applied hectareage in scoping report and assumed Grade 3 is subgrade 3a for the purposes of this note.