

Gate Burton Energy Park

EN010131

Explanatory Memorandum
Document Reference: EN010131/APP/6.2
December 2023

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

- 1.1.1 This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared on behalf of the Applicant and forms part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) Application.
- 1.1.2 The Applicant is seeking development consent for the Scheme, which in summary comprises the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) generating panels and on-site energy storage facility together with grid connection infrastructure at a proposed site in Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire.
- 1.1.3 The Scheme lies within the administrative areas of Bassetlaw District Council and West Lindsey District Council, and at county level within Nottinghamshire County Council and Lincolnshire County Council.
- 1.1.4 A DCO is required for the Scheme as it falls within the definition and thresholds for a NSIP under sections 14(1) and 15 of the 2008 Act. This is because it consists of a generating station with a gross electrical output capacity exceeding 50MW.
- 1.1.5 The DCO, if made, would be known as the Gate Burton Energy Park Order 202[*]. A draft of the DCO has been submitted with the Application.
- 1.1.6 This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared to explain the purpose and effect of each article of, and schedules to, the Order, as required by Regulation 5(2)(c) of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (the “APFP Regulations”). It should be read in conjunction with the suite of documents accompanying the Application, in particular the draft Proposed DCO [EN010131/APP/6.1], the Environmental Statement [EN010131/APP/3.1], the Works Plans [EN010131/APP/5.2], Land Plans [EN010131/APP/5.6], Book of Reference [EN010131/APP/6.6], Statement of Reasons [EN010131/APP/6.4], Consultation Report [EN010131/APP/4.1] and Statement of Need [EN010131/APP/2.1].

1.2 Gate Burton Energy Park Limited

- 1.2.1 The Applicant is a limited company registered at Companies House under company number 12660764 and whose registered office is at Stirling Square, 5-7 Carlton Gardens, London, United Kingdom, SW1Y 5AD. More information on the Applicant's ownership and corporate structure is set out in the Funding Statement [EN010131/APP/6.7].

1.3 The Site

1.3.1 The Site comprises approximately 824 hectares (ha) of land and straddles the boundary between the counties of Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire, within the districts of Bassetlaw and West Lindsey. For the purposes of the Application, the areas within the Site are referred to as follows:

- (a) The Solar and Energy Storage Park Site – area within the Order limits for solar development, the on-site substation, the Battery Energy and Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure.
- (b) Grid Connection Corridor – area within the Order limits for the Grid Connection between the On-site Substation at the Solar and Energy Storage Park Site and the connection location at the Cottam National Grid Substation.
- (c) The Order Limits is the area within which the Scheme may be carried out. This is split between approximately 652 ha for the Solar and Energy Storage Park and approximately 172 ha for the Grid Connection Corridor. The Order Limits is shown on the Works Plans [EN010131/APP/5.2]. The powers in the Order enabling the acquisition of land, new rights over land and the imposition of restrictions over land, relate to the Order Land only, which is all the land within the Order Limits, with the exception of one small area shown shaded white on the Land Plans [EN010131/APP/5.6].

1.3.2 Information about the Site, including about the current land use and any environmental constraints, is provided in greater detail in Chapter 2: The Scheme of the Environmental Statement [EN010131/APP/3.1].

1.4 The Proposed Scheme

1.4.1 A detailed description of the Scheme can be found in Chapter 2: The Scheme of the Environmental Statement [EN010131/APP/3.1]. It comprises a generating station of more than 50MW, being the NSIP, and is described in Work No. 1 in Schedule 1 to the Order. The Scheme also includes Associated Development, which comprises Work Nos. 2 to 9 in Schedule 1 to the Order.

1.4.2 All elements of the NSIP are described in the sub-paragraphs below, along with relevant definitions contained in Schedule 1, and the Associated Development is described in paragraph 1.4.8.

1.4.3 **Work No. 1** – a ground mounted solar photovoltaic generating station with a gross electrical output capacity of over 50 megawatts including –

- (a) solar panels fitted to mounting structures; and
- (b) balance of solar system (BoSS) plant.

1.4.4 **Definitions**

“balance of solar system (BoSS) plant” means inverters, transformers and switch gear and would be either–

- (a) solar stations being a station comprising centralised inverters, transformers and switch gear with each component for each solar station either—
 - (i) a “solar station” located outside, with a concrete foundation slab or placed on metal skids for each of the inverters and transformers and switch gear; or
 - (ii) housed together within a container sitting on a concrete foundation slab or placed on metal skids; or
- (b) string inverters attached either to mounting structures or a ground mounted frame, switchgear and transformers on a concrete foundation slab or placed on metal skids;

“electrical cables” means—

- (a) cables of differing types and voltages installed for the purposes of conducting electricity, auxiliary cables, cables connecting to direct current (DC) boxes, earthing cables and optical fibre cables; and
- (b) works associated with cable laying including jointing pits, handstanding adjoining the jointing pits, combiner boxes, fibre bays, cable ducts, cable protection, joint protection, manholes, kiosks, marker posts, underground cable marker, tiles and tape, send and receive pits for horizontal directional drilling, trenching, lighting, and a pit or container to capture fluids associated with drilling;

“energy storage” means equipment used for the storage of electrical energy;

“inverter” means electrical equipment required to convert direct current power to alternating current;

“mounting structure” means a frame or rack made of galvanised steel, anodised aluminium or other material designed to support the solar panels and mounted on piles driven into the ground, piles rammed into a pre-drilled hole, a pillar attaching to a steel ground screw, or pillars fixed to a concrete foundation;

“solar panel” means a solar photovoltaic panel or module designed to convert solar irradiance to electrical energy;

“substation” means a substation containing electrical equipment required to switch, transform, convert electricity and provide reactive power compensation;

“switch gear” means a combination of electrical disconnect switches, fuses or circuit breakers used to control, protect and isolate electrical equipment; and

“transformer” means a structure serving to transform electricity to a higher voltage

- 1.4.5 The description of Work No. 1 refers to a gross electrical output capacity of over 50MW. This is consistent with sections 14 and 15 of the 2008 Act which stipulates that a generating station which exceeds an electrical capacity of 50MW will be an NSIP and therefore development consent will be required.
- 1.4.6 The description of the NSIP at Work No. 1 does not refer to an upper limit on the capacity of the generating station that development consent is being sought for. It is not considered that imposing an upper limit is desirable or necessary. The DCO includes reference to the means by which the parameters of the Scheme will be constrained and it is on this basis that the Environmental Impact Assessment has been undertaken, as set out in the Environmental Statement [EN010131/APP/3.1] and explained further in relation to the ‘consent envelope’. There is no reason to limit the electrical output capacity of the Proposed Development provided those parameters of the consent envelope are adequately captured in the Order. The Applicant is confident that those parameters are adequately secured in the DCO.
- 1.4.7 There are clear advantages in not imposing an upper limit on capacity. For example, the Applicant may take advantage of technological improvements and innovation that may emerge before construction, which would enable it to still construct the Scheme within the assessed parameters but increase capacity beyond that which is currently anticipated. It is in the public interest and accords with national policy to facilitate efficient and maximum generation from renewable sources, which is explained further in the Statement of Need [EN010131/APP/2.1]. The approach taken has precedent in the **Cleve Hill Solar Par Order**

2020, the Little Crow Solar Park Order 2022 and the Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023.

1.4.8 The Associated Development for the purposes of section 115 of the 2008 Act comprises Work Nos. 2 to 9 of the Scheme as provided for in Schedule 1 of the Order. This comprises the following elements:

1.4.9 **Work No 2:** a BESS compound including–

- (i) BESS units each comprising an enclosure for BESS electro-chemical components and associated equipment, with the enclosure being of metal façade, joined or close coupled to each other, mounted on a reinforced concrete foundation slab or concrete piles;
- (ii) transformers and associated bunding;
- (iii) inverters, switch gear, power conversion systems (PCS) and ancillary equipment;
- (iv) containers or enclosures housing all or any of Work Nos. 2(ii) and (iii) and ancillary equipment;
- (v) monitoring and control systems housed within the containers or enclosures comprised in Work Nos. 2(i) or (iv) or located separately in its own container or enclosure;
- (vi) heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems either housed on or within each of the containers or enclosures comprised in Work Nos. 2(i), (iv) and (v), attached to the side or top of each of the containers or enclosures, or located separate to but near to each of the containers or enclosures;
- (vii) electrical cables including electrical cables connecting to Work No. 3;
- (viii) fire safety infrastructure including water storage tanks and a shut-off valve for containment of fire water and hard standing to accommodate emergency vehicles; and
- (ix) containers or similar structures to house spare parts and materials required for the day to day operation of the BESS facility.

1.4.10 **Work No 3:** development of an onsite substation and associated works including substation, switch room buildings and ancillary equipment including reactive power units; monitoring and control systems for this Work No. 3 and Work Nos. 1 and 2 housed within a control building or located separately in their own containers or control rooms; and 400 kilovolt harmonic filter compound.

1.4.11 **Work No 4:** works to lay high voltage electrical cables, access and construction and decommissioning compounds for the electrical cables including–

- (a) **Work No 4A:** one 400 kilovolt cable circuit connecting Work No. 3 and/or Work No. 5 to Work No. 4B, tunnelling, boring and drilling works for trenchless crossings; laying down of internal access tracks, ramps, means of access, footpaths, crossing of watercourses, roads, including the laying and construction of drainage infrastructure, signage and information boards; and construction and decommissioning compounds, including site and welfare offices and areas to store materials and equipment;
- (b) **Work No 4B:** one 400 kilovolt cable circuit connecting Work No. 4A to Work No. 4C, tunnelling, boring and drilling works for trenchless crossings; laying down of internal access tracks, ramps, means of access, footpaths, crossing of watercourses, roads, including the laying and construction of drainage infrastructure, signage and information boards; and construction and decommissioning compounds, including site and welfare offices and areas to store materials and equipment;
- (c) **Work No 4C:** electrical engineering works within or around the National Grid Cottam substation including the laying and terminating of one 400 kilovolt cable circuit, the installation of one 400 kilovolt generation bay, and ancillary equipment.

1.4.12 **Work No 5:** works including electrical cables, including but not limited to electrical cables connecting Works 1, 2 and 3 to one another and connecting solar panels to one another and the BoSS; fencing, gates, boundary treatment and other means of enclosure; works for the provision of security and monitoring measures such as CCTV columns, lighting columns and lighting, cameras, weather stations, communication infrastructure, and perimeter fencing; landscaping and biodiversity mitigation and enhancement measures including planting; improvement, maintenance and use of existing private tracks; laying down of internal access tracks, ramps, means of access, footpaths, crossing of watercourses, and roads, including the laying and construction of drainage infrastructure, signage and information boards; laying down of temporary footpath diversions, permissive paths, signage and information boards; earthworks; sustainable drainage system ponds, runoff outfalls, general drainage and irrigation infrastructure, systems and improvements or extensions to existing drainage and irrigation systems; construction and decommissioning compounds, including site and welfare offices and areas

to store materials and equipment; works to divert and underground existing electrical overhead lines.

1.4.13 **Work No 6:** construction and decommissioning compounds including areas of hardstanding, car parking, site and welfare offices, canteens and workshops, area to store materials and equipment, storage and waste skips, area for download and turning, security infrastructure, including cameras, perimeter fencing and lighting, site drainage and waste management infrastructure (including sewerage), and electricity, water, waste water and telecommunications connections

1.4.14 **Work No 7:** office, warehouse and plant storage building comprising, offices and welfare facilities, storage facilities, waste storage within a fenced compound, parking areas, and a warehouse building for the storage of spare parts, operational plant and vehicles.

1.4.15 **Work No 8:** works to facilitate access to Work Nos. 1 to 9 including creation of accesses from the public highway, creation of visibility splays, and works to widen and surface the public highway and private means of access.

1.4.16 **Work No 9:** areas of habitat management including landscape and biodiversity enhancement measures, habitat creation and management, including earthworks, landscaping, and the laying and construction of drainage infrastructure, laying down of permissive paths, signage and information boards, and fencing, gates, boundary treatment and other means of enclosure.

1.4.17 The Associated Development includes such other works or operations as may be necessary or expedient for the purposes of or in connection with the construction, operation and maintenance of the Scheme but only within the Order limits and insofar as these works or operations are unlikely to give risk to any materially new or materially different environmental effects from those assessed in the Environmental Statement [EN010131/APP/3.1], including:

- (a) works for the provision of fencing and security measures such as CCTV and lighting;
- (b) laying down of internal access tracks;
- (c) ramps, means of access, non-motorised links, footpaths, footways;
- (d) boundary treatments, including means of enclosure;
- (e) bunds, embankments, trenching and swales;

- (f) habitat creation and management including earthworks, landscaping, means of enclosure and the laying and construction of drainage infrastructure;
- (g) landscaping and other works to mitigate any adverse effects of the construction, maintenance or operation of the authorised development;
- (h) works to the existing irrigation system and works to alter the position and extent of such irrigation system;
- (i) surface water drainage systems, storm water attenuation systems including storage basins, oil water separators, including channelling and culverting and works to existing drainage networks;
- (j) electrical, gas, water, foul water drainage and telecommunications infrastructure connections, diversions and works to, and works to alter the position of, such services and utilities connections;
- (k) works to alter the course of, or otherwise interfere with, non-navigable rivers, streams or watercourses;
- (l) site establishments and preparation works including site clearance (including vegetation removal, demolition of existing buildings and structures); earthworks (including soil stripping and storage and site levelling) and excavations; the alteration of the position of services and utilities; and works for the protection of buildings and land;
- (m) works required for the strengthening, improvement, maintenance, or reconstruction of any street;
- (n) tunnelling, boring and drilling works;
- (o) works for the benefit of protection of land affected by the authorised development;
- (p) working sites in connection with the construction and decommissioning of the authorised development and its restoration; and
- (q) other works to mitigate any adverse effects of the construction, maintenance, operation or decommissioning of the authorised development,

and further associated development comprising such other works or operations as may be necessary or expedient for the purposes of or in connection with the construction, operation and maintenance of the

authorised development but only within the Order limits and insofar as they are unlikely to give rise to any materially new or materially different environmental effects from those assessed in the Environmental Statement **[EN010131/APP/3.1]**.

2. PARAMETERS OF THE ORDER AND “CONSENT ENVELOPE”

- 2.1.1 The detailed design of the Scheme must be in accordance with the Outline Design Principles **[EN010131/APP/2.3]**, as secured in Requirement 5 of Schedule 2 of the Order. This approach is taken to ensure suitable flexibility in the design of the Scheme, such that new technology or different layouts can be used within that envelope, while ensuring that the development will not fall outside of the scope of the Environmental Statement **[EN010131/APP/3.1]**. The principle of using a design envelope is recognised as appropriate for a wide range of NSIPs and is described in PINS' Advice Note 9: Rochdale Envelope (July 2018).
- 2.1.2 In addition to the Outline Design Principles **[EN010131/APP/2.3]** other DCO requirements, certified documents and plans will operate to control and manage the detailed design of the Scheme, as well as its construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning. The way in which those mechanisms work together as an envelope within which the authorised development is to be undertaken, is explained in more detail below.
- 2.1.3 Article 3 (Development consent etc. granted by this Order) and Schedule 2 (Requirements) operate to create a "consent envelope" within which the Proposed Development would be brought forward: The Scheme is described in Schedule 1 of the Order, where it is referred to as the "authorised development". The authorised development is granted consent pursuant to Article 3(1).
- 2.1.4 In Schedule 1 the Proposed Development (the authorised development) is divided into a series of component parts, referred to as "numbered works".
- 2.1.5 Article 3(2) requires that the numbered works authorised by the Order are situated in the areas shown on the Works Plans **[EN010131/APP/5.2]**.
- 2.1.6 The design of the Scheme is also controlled via Requirement 5 (detailed design approval) of Schedule 2 of the Order which requires approval of details of the Proposed Development's design and requires that the details submitted accord with the Outline Design Principles **[EN010131/APP/2.3]**. The Outline Design Principles **[EN010131/APP/2.3]** set out the basis on which the assessment set out in the Environmental Statement **[EN010131/APP/3.1]** has been undertaken, and secures the key design mitigation measures referenced in the Environmental Statement

[EN010131/APP/3.1]. The Outline Design Principles **[EN010131/APP/2.3]** capture the important parameters that are necessary to ensure that the Scheme is constructed and operated in such a way that the impacts and effects would not exceed the scenario assessed in the Environmental Statement **[EN010131/APP/3.1]**.

2.1.7 In addition to the Outline Design Principles **[EN010131/APP/2.3]** and Works Plans **[EN010131/APP/5.2]**, the design of the Scheme is also controlled by:

- (a) approval and implementation of the Battery Safety Management Plan (Requirement 6);
- (b) approval and implementation of the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (Requirement 7);
- (c) approval of a biodiversity net gain strategy (Requirement 8);
- (d) approval and implementation of permanent fencing and other means of enclosure (Requirement 9);
- (e) approval and implementation of any surface and foul water drainage scheme or system (Requirement 10);
- (f) implementation of the archaeological mitigation strategy (Requirement 11);
- (g) approval and implementation of the operational noise assessment (Requirement 15); and
- (h) approval and implementation of the public rights of way management plan (Requirement 16).

2.1.8 Where the Outline Design Principles **[EN010131/APP/2.3]** do not include guidance or controls for an aspect of a numbered work, this is justified on the basis of the environmental impact assessment and having regard to the other controls in place via the measures listed above.

2.1.9 The construction phase of the Scheme (as set out in Schedule 1 of the Order and which is required to be constructed within the areas on the Works Plans **[EN010131/APP/5.2]**) is also controlled by:

- (a) approval and implementation of temporary fencing and other means of enclosure (Requirement 9);
- (b) approval and implementation of any surface and foul water drainage scheme or system (Requirement 10);
- (c) implementation of the archaeological mitigation strategy (Requirement 11);

- (d) approval and implementation of the Construction Environmental Management Plan (Requirement 12);
- (e) approval and implementation of a Soil Management Plan (Requirement 17);
- (f) the Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan (Requirement 18).

2.1.10 The ongoing operation and maintenance of the Scheme is controlled by:

- (a) approval and implementation of the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (Requirement 7);
- (b) approval and implementation of permanent fencing and other means of enclosure (Requirement 9);
- (c) approval and implementation of any surface and foul water drainage scheme or system (Requirement 10);
- (d) approval and implementation of the Operational Environmental Management Plan (Requirement 13);
- (e) approval implementation of the operational noise assessment (Requirement 15);
- (f) approval and implementation of a Soil Management Plan (Requirement 17); and
- (g) the Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan (Requirement 18).

2.1.11 The decommissioning of the Scheme is controlled by the approval and implementation of a Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (Requirement 19).

2.1.12 The Application seeks flexibility to undertake the Scheme within the above envelope, in particular within the maximum areas and parameters secured via the Works Plans **[EN010131/APP/5.2]** and Outline Design Principles **[EN010131/APP/2.3]**. As set out in Chapter 5: EIA Methodology of the Environmental Statement **[EN010131/APP/3.1]** and the individual technical chapters, the environmental impact assessment has assessed the upper extent of the areas and sizes allowed by the Works Plans **[EN010131/APP/5.2]** and Outline Design Principles **[EN010131/APP/2.3]**. As a result, the Environmental Statement **[EN010131/APP/3.1]** has assessed a worst case and has considered and confirmed that any scheme built within the maximum areas and parameters would have effects no worse than those assessed.

2.1.13 Any illustrative development layouts have been submitted to provide illustrative examples of the different design layouts that have been considered for the Proposed Development that could be built out within the "consent envelope" (the design aspect of which is controlled primarily through the Works Plans [EN010131/APP/5.2] and Outline Design Principles [EN010131/APP/2.3]. These are provided for illustration only within the Environmental Statement figures [EN010131/APP/3.1] and are not sought to be secured.

3. THE PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE OF THIS DOCUMENT

3.1.1 This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared to explain the purpose and effect of each article of, and the Schedules to, the Order, as required by Regulation 5(2)(c) of the APFP Regulations. This Explanatory Memorandum also explains why each article of, and Schedule to, the Order is required for the Scheme.

3.1.2 It also seeks to identify and explain departures from the Infrastructure Planning (Model Provisions) (England and Wales) Order 2009 (the "**model provisions**"). While the power for the Secretary of State to designate, and the requirement to have regard to, model provisions have both been removed by the Localism Act 2011, the Applicant considers that it is still relevant to note and explain variations made in the Order compared to the model provisions.

3.1.3 The Order includes a number of provisions to enable the construction, maintenance, operation and decommissioning of the Scheme. This reflects the integrated consenting objective of the 2008 Act regime. The provisions have been drafted to accord with the wide-ranging powers at section 120 of the 2008 Act, but also the limitations, requirements and exceptions imposed by section 120(8) and sections 122 to 152 so far as these are relevant to the Scheme. All powers provided for within the Order come within the scope of section 120 of, and Schedule 5 to, the 2008 Act.

3.1.4 The provisions contained in the Order are briefly described below and then considered in more detail in the following sections:-

(a) **Part 1 (Preliminary): Article 1** sets out what the Order may be cited as and when it comes into force. **Article 2** sets out the meaning of the defined terms used in the Order;

(b) **Part 2 (Principal Powers): Articles 3 to 7** provide development consent for the Scheme, and allow it to be constructed, operated and maintained by the undertaker. **Articles 6 and 7** relate to the application and modification of certain legislative provisions and

defence to proceedings in respect of statutory nuisance respectively;

- (c) **Part 3 (Streets): Articles 8 to 15** provide the undertaker with a suite of powers in relation to street works. The powers include the ability for the undertaker to be able to carry out works to and within streets; to alter the layout of streets; to construct and maintain new or altered means of access; to stop up temporarily or divert public rights of way; to use private roads; to enter into agreements with street authorities and provisions relating to traffic regulations;
- (d) **Part 4 (Supplemental Powers): Articles 16 to 19** set out four supplemental powers relating to the discharge of water; the removal of human remains; undertaking protective works to buildings; and the authority to survey and investigate land;
- (e) **Part 5 (Powers of Acquisition): Articles 20 to 33** provide for the undertaker to be able to compulsorily acquire the Order Land and rights over and within it, and to be able to temporarily use parts of the Order Land for the construction or maintenance of the Scheme. Article 21 sets out a time limit for the exercise of the compulsory acquisition powers and Article 23 provides for the undertaker to suspend or extinguish certain private rights. The provisions provide for compensation to be payable to affected persons in respect of these powers, where that is not already secured elsewhere. Articles 29 and 30 provide for the temporary use of land for constructing and maintaining the Scheme. Article 31 provides for powers in relation to the land and apparatus of statutory undertakers;
- (f) **Part 6 (Miscellaneous and General): Articles 34 to 49** include various general provisions in relation to the Order:-
 - (i) **Article 34** sets out who has the benefit of the powers contained in the Order and **Article 35** sets out how those powers can be transferred.
 - (ii) **Articles 36 and 37** provide (respectively) for how landlord and tenant law applies in relation to the Order and that the Order Land will be "operational land";
 - (iii) **Articles 38 and 39** provide (respectively) powers in relation to trees which need to be removed or lopped and for hedgerows to be removed in relation to the Scheme and in relation to trees subject to tree preservation orders;

- (iv) **Articles 40 to 49** include provisions relating to the certification of plans and documents relevant to the Order; arbitration; protection for statutory undertakers through the protective provisions (set out in Schedule 15); incorporation of a deemed marine licence (set out in Schedule 9); service of notices under the Order; procedure in relation to approvals required under the Order; guarantees in respect of the payment of compensation; the incorporation of the mineral code; and crown rights.

3.1.5 There are then 18 Schedules to the Order, providing for:

- (a) **Schedule 1** – the description of the Scheme;
- (b) **Schedule 2** – the requirements that apply to the Scheme (i.e. the controls that apply to the Order, similar to planning conditions). Schedule 16 then contains details of the procedure for discharge of requirements required under the Order;
- (c) **Schedule 3** – a list of the local legislation relating to railways, river navigation, fisheries and water that the Order will disapply insofar as the provisions (in that local legislation) still in force are inconsistent with the powers contained in the Order and do not impact on the operation or maintenance of the River Trent as a navigable river;
- (d) **Schedules 4 to 8** – matters in relation to street works and alterations, public rights of way, access to works and details of the streets subject to temporary traffic regulation measures during construction of the authorised development;
- (e) **Schedule 9** – the deemed marine licence;
- (f) **Schedule 10** – details of land in which only new rights may be acquired;
- (g) **Schedule 11** – amendments to legislation to ensure appropriate compensation is payable where new rights over land are acquired under the Order;
- (h) **Schedule 12** – details of land over which temporary possession may be taken;
- (i) **Schedule 13** – the documents and plans to be certified by the Secretary of State;
- (j) **Schedule 14** – arbitration rules that apply to most arbitrations in connection with the Order;

- (k) **Schedule 15** – provisions for the protection of statutory undertakers and their apparatus;
- (l) **Schedule 16** – procedure for the discharge of requirements;
- (m) **Schedule 17** – details of hedgerows to be removed; and
- (n) **Schedule 18** – details of trees subject to tree preservation orders which may be felled or lopped.

4. PURPOSE OF THE ORDER

- 4.1.1 The Scheme involves an onshore generating station with a capacity of over 50MW, located in England, and is therefore a NSIP under sections 14(1)(a) and 15 of the 2008 Act. The Applicant requires development consent under the 2008 Act in order to construct, maintain and operate the Scheme. Under section 37 of the 2008 Act, development consent may only be granted by a DCO, following an application to the Secretary of State.
- 4.1.2 The Applicant is therefore making an application to the Secretary of State for a development consent order for the Scheme. In the Order, the Scheme is referred to as the "authorised development". The Order refers to the person authorised to exercise the powers in the Order as the "undertaker" and defines the undertaker as Gate Burton Energy Park Limited.
- 4.1.3 The matters for which development consent is sought are summarised below and described more formally in Schedule 1 to the Order.
- 4.1.4 Section 115(1) of the 2008 Act provides that development consent may be granted for Associated Development, as well as for the NSIP. The Secretary of State must therefore be satisfied that all the elements included within the authorised development are either the NSIP or are Associated Development, in order to include them in the Order.
- 4.1.5 The solar photovoltaic generating station within Work No. 1 in Schedule 1 to the Order constitutes "development for which development consent is required", and as such is the NSIP.
- 4.1.6 The Order also includes the proposed development of a battery and energy storage system and associated development to allow for the storage, importation and exportation of energy to the National Grid, included at Work Nos. 2 to 9 of Schedule 1 of the Order. The Applicant has considered these works against the policy and criteria in DCLG 'Guidance on Associated Development applications for major infrastructure projects' (April 2013) (the "Guidance") - it is clear that all of these works come within the guidance and are clearly capable of being

granted development consent by the Secretary of State pursuant to section 115 of the 2008 Act.

4.1.7 The approach taken by the Applicant between those parts of the authorised development which form the NSIP and those parts that form Associated Development follows the approach taken by other DCO applications to date.

4.1.8 In particular, Work Nos. 2 to 9 are:

- (a) all directly associated with the NSIP, as they are all required to support the construction, maintenance or operation of the generating station, or to mitigate its impacts (paragraph 5(i) of the Guidance);
- (b) all subordinate to the NSIP - none of them are an aim in themselves (paragraph 5(ii));
- (c) not only necessary as a source of additional revenue for the Applicant, in order to cross-subsidise the cost of the NSIP (paragraph 5(iii));
- (d) all proportionate to the nature and scale of the NSIP (paragraph 5(iv));
- (e) all of a nature which is typically brought forward alongside a solar generating station (paragraph 6);
- (f) all listed in or analogous to the types of Associated Development listed in Annexes A and B to the Guidance. Those annexes mention:
 - (i) In Annex A, “Connections to national, regional or local networks”, including electricity networks and in Annex B, “substations”, “jointing pits”, “control buildings” and “underground lines” would include the electrical compounds and grid connection works (Work Nos. 3 and 4);
 - (ii) In Annex A, “monitoring apparatus” (Work Nos. 2, 3 and 5);
 - (iii) In Annex A, “Formation of new or improved vehicular or pedestrian access, whether temporary or permanent”; highway improvements, “Alteration or construction of roads, footpaths”, “Parking spaces for workers” and “lay down areas” (Work Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9);

- (iv) In Annex A, hard and soft landscaping would include landscaping and other works to mitigate adverse impacts (Work No. 5 and 9);
- (v) In Annex A, “Security measures” and “Working sites, site offices and laydown areas” (Work Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9)

4.1.9 As the Order seeks to apply and modify statutory provisions, including those relating to the compulsory acquisition of land, the Order has been drafted as a statutory instrument, in accordance with sections 117 and 120 of the 2008 Act.

4.2 Compulsory Acquisition

4.2.1 In addition to providing for the construction, maintenance, operation and decommissioning of the Scheme, the Order will, in accordance with section 122, section 120(3) and Schedule 5 of the 2008 Act, authorise the acquisition of land and rights over land, and the extinguishment of, or interference with, interests in or rights over land.

4.2.2 The Book of Reference [**EN010131/APP/6.6**] sets out a description of, and interests included in, the Order Land, split by "plots", and these are shown on the Land Plans [**EN010131/APP/5.6**] (the Book of Reference [**EN010131/APP/6.6**] is divided into parts, dependent upon whether interests are Category 1, 2 or 3 interests, and the identification of those interests is explained in both the Book of Reference [**EN010131/APP/6.6**] and the Consultation Report [**EN010131/APP/4.1**]). The Order provides for land to be compulsorily acquired, rights to be compulsorily acquired and other rights and interests that will be affected. The Order and the Book of Reference [**EN010131/APP/6.6**] should be read together with the Land Plans [**EN010131/APP/5.6**] and the Statement of Reasons [**EN010131/APP/6.4**], which sets out the justification for the inclusion of compulsory acquisition powers in the Order.

4.2.3 Further information on the compulsory acquisition powers sought is provided below.

4.3 Statutory Undertaker’s Land and Apparatus

4.3.1 The interests held by each statutory undertaker identified by the Applicant as owning land or having a right to keep or access apparatus within the Order Land are identified in the Book of Reference [**EN010131/APP/6.6**].

4.3.2 Section 127(2) of the 2008 Act states that a DCO may only include provision authorising the compulsory acquisition of statutory undertakers' land to the extent that:

- (a) the land can be purchased and not replaced without serious detriment to the carrying on of the undertaking; or
- (b) the land can be replaced by other land belonging to or available for acquisition by the undertakers without serious detriment to the carrying on of the undertaking.

4.3.3 Section 127(5) of the 2008 Act states that a DCO may only include provision authorising the compulsory acquisition of a right over statutory undertakers' land by the creation of a new right over land to the extent that:

- (a) the land can be purchased without serious detriment to the carrying on of the undertaking; or
- (b) any detriment to the carrying on of the undertaking, in consequence of the acquisition of the right, can be made good by the undertakers by the use of other land belonging to or available for acquisition by them.

4.3.4 Section 138 of the 2008 Act states that a DCO may only include provision for the extinguishment of rights of way, or rights to lay down, erect, continue or maintain apparatus on, under or over the land belonging to statutory undertakers for the purposes of their undertakings only if the Secretary of State is satisfied that the extinguishment is necessary for the purpose of carrying out the development to which the DCO relates.

4.3.5 The Order includes protective provisions in respect of statutory undertakers (see Article 43 and Schedule 15). The Applicant is currently seeking to agree the form of protective provisions with the affected undertakers. Further details as to how the tests under sections 127 and 138 of the 2008 Act have been satisfied are set out in the Statement of Reasons [EN010131/APP/6.4].

5. PROVISIONS OF THE ORDER

5.1.1 The Order consists of 49 operative provisions, each referred to as articles and 17 Schedules. The articles are considered below in numerical order (split between the different Parts of the Order), and Schedules are considered along with the article which introduces them or to which they relate. Given the Order refers to the Applicant as the "undertaker", for ease when reading this document with the Order we use the term "undertaker" when explaining the provision of the Order below. Equally, the Scheme is referred to as the "authorised development" in the Order and so for ease this document refers to the "authorised development" when explaining the provisions of the Order.

5.2 Part 1 (Preliminary) and Part 2 (Principal Powers)

5.2.1 Articles 1 (*Citation and commencement*) and 2 (*Interpretation*) are preliminary provisions. Article 1 provides for the way in which the Order should be cited and when it takes effect.

5.2.2 Article 2 (*Interpretation*) provides for the interpretation of the rest of the Order, including the Schedules. Where appropriate, some Schedules also contain provisions setting out what terms mean in that particular Schedule. Article 2 makes alterations to the model provisions to accommodate departures from model provisions elsewhere in the Order, and to add required definitions, including:

- (a) definitions of documents submitted as part of the Application and which are referred to in the Order have been added. These documents are more fully identified in the table in Schedule 13 to the Order;
- (b) the definition of "apparatus" has the same meaning as in Part 3 of the 1991 Act and for the purposes of the Order has been expanded to also specifically include pipelines, aerial markers, cathodic protection test posts, field boundary, markers, transformer rectifier kiosks, electricity cables, telecommunications equipment and electricity cabinets. This is required as the definition of "apparatus" in the 1991 Act which is "may include a "sewer, drain or tunnel" (section 89(3) of the 1991 Act) and "any structure for the lodging therein of apparatus or for gaining access to apparatus" (section 105(1) of the 1991 Act) is potentially imprecise. The Applicant considers it expedient to ensure the definition of "apparatus" in the draft DCO is sufficiently defined to ensure the undertaker can appropriately construct and operate the Scheme whilst also managing interactions with the range of third party assets it may encounter, e.g. to ensure the term covers pipelines and electricity cables, which the undertaker is aware are located within the Order limits. This definition has precedent in the **Riverside Energy Park Order 2020**, the **Keadby 3 (Carbon Capture Equipped Gas Fired Generating Station) Order 2022** and the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**;
- (c) the definition of "authorised development" means the authorised development and Associated Development described in Schedule 1 to the Order and includes development as defined in section 32 of the 2008 Act. The definitions of "ancillary works" and "authorised project" from the model provisions have not been used in the Order, instead

the concept of Associated Development is included in the definition of "authorised development" and is described in detail in Schedule 1, as it is considered that this drafting is neater;

- (d) the definition of "commence" is defined so as to exclude "permitted preliminary works". This exclusion is required to enable the undertaker to carry out certain preparatory works prior to the submission of relevant details for approval under the requirements contained in Schedule 2 to the Order so that certain works can be carried out without "commencing" the authorised development, in order to build the required flexibility into how the authorised development can be constructed. The works identified in the "permitted preliminary works" include pre-commencement activities such as surveys, monitoring and site investigations which are considered appropriate as the nature of these works (i.e. non-intrusive, above ground works or actions) means they are not expected to give rise to environmental effects requiring mitigation. However, the undertaker does recognise that prior to some of the works identified as "permitted preliminary works", there may be a requirement to submit details to the Relevant Planning Authority. Where this is the case, the requirement expressly prevents the "permitted preliminary works" from being carried out until those details have been approved.
- (e) a definition of "maintain" has been added to make clear what activities are authorised under Article 5 during the operation of the authorised development. The definition has been drafted to directly reflect the nature and context of the authorised development, which will need to be properly maintained, managed and protected throughout its operational lifetime. The drafting, therefore, reflects this operational period and likely framework of maintenance that will be required while enabling technological and practice advancement and improvements within identified environmental performance standards. Therefore, some flexibility must be built-in to what maintenance of the authorised development will involve, particularly to keep up with changing standards and controls and advances in technology. The approach taken has precedent in the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023** and similar drafting also appears in the **Keadby 3 (Carbon Capture Equipped Gas Fired Generating Station) Order 2022**.
- (f) For the purposes of the authorised development, examples of the activities anticipated to be covered are listed below:

- (i) **Maintenance and inspection:** Throughout the life of the Scheme there will be a planned maintenance regime and, on occasion, the need for unplanned maintenance due to plant failures. It is anticipated that staff will attend when required for maintenance and cleaning activities;
 - (ii) **Repair / Refurbish / Replace:** Through the planned maintenance regime and indeed through any unplanned maintenance required due to plant failures, it is likely that some plant and equipment, particularly those with moving parts, will need to be repaired or refurbished or indeed replaced;
 - (iii) **Adjust and alter:** Through the planned maintenance regime, and indeed outside the planned maintenance regime, there may be a need to adjust or alter elements comprising the authorised development to respond to changing conditions;
 - (iv) **Remove:** Adjustment and replacement activities will require plant, equipment and material to be removed;
 - (v) **Reconstruct:** If, for example, a part has to be dismantled in order to be repaired or refurbished, then that part will need to be reconstructed;
 - (vi) **Improve:** Technology will improve over the life of the authorised development and therefore there may be opportunities to "improve" the workings of the plant and equipment by, for example, the removal of an old part and replacing it with a new, more efficient part;
- (g) the definition of "Order land" means the land which is required for, or is required to facilitate, or is incidental to, or is affected by the authorised development shown on the Land Plans [EN010131/APP/5.6] which is within the limits of land to be acquired or used and described in the Book of Reference [EN010131/APP/6.6]. This land is coloured pink (land to be permanently acquired), blue (land in which the undertaker can create and acquire new rights), and green (land over which rights of temporary possession only can be exercised by the undertaker).

- (h) the definition of "Order limits" means the limits shown on the Works Plans **[EN010131/APP/5.2]** within which the authorised development may be carried out and land acquired or used;
- (i) the definition of "statutory undertaker" includes reference to a public communications provider defined by section 151(1) of the Communications Act 2003. This is on the basis that a "public communication provider" is providing a network or service to members of the public and, insofar as they may have assets or apparatus within the Order Limits, it is considered appropriate to ensure that this Order applies equally to those providers as statutory undertakers under section 127(8) of the Planning Act 2008. There is precedent for this approach, for instance the **Riverside Energy Park Order 2020** and the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**;
- (j) the definition of "street works" has been amended to refer to the works listed in the street works Article (Article 8(1)) so as to ensure consistency between the powers in the Article and the definition itself; and
- (k) the "undertaker" is defined as Gate Burton Energy Park Limited, who has the benefit of the provisions of the Order, subject to the provisions of Article 35.

5.2.3 Paragraph (2) of Article 2 has been included to reflect that "rights over land" include references to do or restrain or to place and maintain anything in, on or under land or in the airspace above its surface and to any trusts and incidents, including restrictive covenants. Paragraph (2) also makes it clear that references to the imposition of restrictive covenants are references to the creation of rights over land which interfere with the interests or rights of another.

5.2.4 Paragraphs (3) to (7) of Article 2 have been added to provide clarity (respectively) that all distances, directions, capacities and lengths are approximate; that references to numbered works are to the works as described in Schedule 1 and shown on the Works Plans **[EN010131/APP/5.2]**; as to how the word "includes" is to be construed; that any statutory body includes that body's successor in title; and that all areas described in the Book of Reference **[EN010131/APP/6.6]** are approximate.

5.2.5 Article 3 (*Development consent etc. granted by this Order*) grants development consent for the authorised development. This article is adapted from the model provisions. Schedule 1 describes the authorised development in detail, split into 'work numbers', each of which represents different parts of the authorised development. This split of the authorised development between different work numbers enables the Order to refer to different parts of the authorised development by citing the relevant work

number. The content of the works contained within each work number is described in greater detail above.

5.2.6 Paragraph (2) of Article 3 requires that the works authorised by the Order are situated in the areas shown on the Works Plans **[EN010131/APP/5.2]**. This is in order to provide certainty as to what has been consented by the Order, in respect of which areas of land.

5.2.7 The purpose of Article 3(2) is to provide the undertaker with a necessary, but proportionate, degree of flexibility when constructing the authorised development, reducing the risk that the authorised development as approved cannot later be implemented for reasons which, at the time the Application was made and the development consent was granted, could not reasonably have been foreseen. It also gives a proportionate amount of flexibility for the detailed design of the authorised development within the set limits.

5.2.8 The use of parameters is appropriate in the current Order as they serve to precisely define the authorised development by reference to the Works Plans **[EN010131/APP/5.2]**, while preserving a sensible amount of flexibility in the implementation of the authorised development to allow for variances in ground conditions and choice of appropriate equipment and technology. The Environmental Statement **[EN010131/APP/3.1]** accompanying the application for development consent has assessed the authorised development within the full envelope provided by the use of parameters, and so development within this envelope will not create effects that exceed the worst-case scenario assessed in the Environmental Statement **[EN010131/APP/3.1]**. Further detail in this respect is provided above.

5.2.9 Article 4 (*Operation of generating station*) permits the operation and use of the generating station comprised in the authorised development and is included pursuant to section 140 of the 2008 Act. Article 4(2) specifically preserves the need for the undertaker to obtain any other operational consent that may be needed for the generating station, in addition to the Order. It is included so that the undertaker has powers to operate the generating station.

5.2.10 Article 5 (*Power to maintain the authorised development*) provides for the maintenance of the authorised development at any time and is required so that the undertaker has power to maintain the authorised development. Article 5 reflects the terms of the model provisions, but text has been added to make clear that maintenance must be in accordance with the provisions of the Order. Article 5(2) restricts maintenance to the Order Limits in order to provide a defined parameter within which this power can be exercised. A definition of "maintain" has been included, as referred to above, so that it is clear what the term involves. The Environmental Statement **[EN010131/APP/3.1]** has assessed maintenance as defined in the Order and therefore Article 5(3) does not permit the undertaker to

undertake such maintenance activities if they will give rise to any materially new or different environmental effects to those identified in the Environmental Statement [EN010131/APP/3.1].

5.2.11 Article 6 (*Application and modification of statutory provisions.*) disapplies a number of statutory provisions. Section 120 of the 2008 Act makes comprehensive and wide-ranging provision about what may be included in a DCO, as part of the 2008 Act's integrated approach to consenting. Section 120(5) provides that, subject to specified limitations and requirements, a DCO may apply, modify or exclude a statutory provision which relates to any matter for which provision may be made in the Order; and make amendments, repeals or revocations of statutory provisions of local application. It is common for DCOs to contain such provisions, although the scope and content inevitably differs according to the circumstances of different projects. Precedent for most of the provisions sought for this Order can be found in the **Great Yarmouth Third River Crossing Development Consent Order 2020** and the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**.

5.2.12 Article 6 provides for the disapplication of the following specified provisions:

- (a) section 23 of the Land Drainage Act 1991, which prohibits e.g. the obstruction and other works in watercourses without the consent of the lead local flood authority or relevant internal drainage board. The Applicant is seeking to disapply this prohibition to ensure the Scheme can be delivered, and protection for drainage authorities is secured in the protective provisions at Part 3 of Schedule 15 of the draft DCO;
- (b) section 32 of the Land Drainage Act 1991, which would inappropriately allow the provisions of the Order relating to drainage to be revisited by allowing a third party to apply to amend the powers and duties within the DCO. This is disapplied to ensure that the DCO is not inappropriately varied by a third party to impede delivery of the Scheme;
- (c) the provisions of any byelaws made under section 66 of the Land Drainage Act 1991. This is to provide certainty and ensure that the Scheme is not delayed or inhibited from construction or operation as a result of byelaws, as sufficient protection for drainage authorities is secured in the protective provisions at Part 3 of Schedule 15 of the draft DCO;
- (d) the provisions of any byelaws made, or having effect, under paragraphs 5, 6 or 6A to Schedule 25 of the Water Resources Act 1991, for the same reasons set out at (c) above;

- (e) section 118 of the Water Industry Act 1991, which relates to the discharge of any trade effluent into public sewers, to streamline the consenting process to permit discharge of trade effluent. Sewerage undertakers are protected by the protective provisions in Part 1 of Schedule 15 of the draft DCO;
- (f) Regulation 12 of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016, only insofar as a flood risk activity permit(s) is required. This enables the Applicant to carry out a flood risk activity without the need for an environmental permit; and
- (g) the provisions of the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 in so far as they relate to temporary possession of land under articles 28 and 29 of this Order. At present the reforms to the temporary possession regime contained in the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 have not yet been commenced (nor consulted on). When this may happen is uncertain, as are the detailed implications of implementation for the authorised development. A DCO should achieve certainty, and it is therefore appropriate and necessary to disapply the reforms whilst taking account of their principles in the relevant articles of the Order, these being articles 28 and 29. This approach has precedent and has been accepted by the Secretary of State; see for example the **Drax Power (Generating Stations) Order 2019**, the **Millbrook Gas Fired Generating Station Order 2019**, the **Cleve Hill Solar Park Order 2020**, the **Keadby 3 (Carbon Capture Equipped Gas Fired Generating Station) Order 2022** and the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**.

5.2.13 These disapplications are sought on the basis that they address matters whose merits and acceptability can, and will, already have been sufficiently considered and resolved if the Order is made, notably in relation to the provisions under the Land Drainage Act 1991, the Water Resources Act 1991, the Water Industry Act 1991 and the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 through protective provisions for the protection of the relevant drainage authorities and the Environment Agency (Parts 3 and 8 of Schedule 15 to the Order). Such matters should therefore not be the subject of further regulatory consideration or control, which would cause unnecessary uncertainty and duplication, and may unjustifiably delay the implementation of the Scheme.

5.2.14 Section 150 of the Planning Act 2008 only allows requirements for prescribed consents to be disapplied if the relevant body has consented to this. The relevant consents, where applicable, are being sought in parallel with the negotiation of appropriate protective provisions, which will ensure that the disapplications will not prejudice the statutory objectives and responsibilities of the relevant regulators. The Applicant's approach to

obtaining the other consents required for the Scheme is set out in greater detail in the Consents and Agreements Position Statement [EN010131/APP/6.3].

- 5.2.15 Article 6 also applies section 9 of the Forestry Act 1967 to any felling required as a result of the authorised development. Section 9(1) of the 1967 Act provides that a Forestry Commission licence is required for felling growing trees. Section 9(4)(d) disapplies the requirement from felling required to implement development authorised by a planning permission – but not to development authorised by a DCO. Paragraph (2) of Article 6 extends the exception to any trees felled as a result of the authorised development.
- 5.2.16 In addition, the Applicant has conducted a review of any local legislation that might conflict with the powers and rights sought in the Order. The Applicant has included a list of the historic legislation that it seeks to disapply in Schedule 3, which relates to matters including railways, river navigation, fisheries and water within, and in the vicinity of, the Order Limits. This list has been prepared taking a precautionary approach, because in some cases it was difficult to conclusively determine whether or not the provisions of the legislation were relevant to the Order, given that plans were not available in respect of the majority of the Acts considered to make clear their precise geographic scope. Article 6 disapplies the legislation listed in Schedule 3 in so far as the provisions still in force are inconsistent with how the powers in the Order can be exercised and do not impact on the operation or maintenance of the River Trent as a navigable river.
- 5.2.17 Article 6(3) in effect disapplies the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010, by making clear that any building comprised in the authorised development is to be deemed to be of a type that does not trigger liability for payment of the Community Infrastructure Levy.
- 5.2.18 Article 7 (Defence to proceedings in respect of statutory nuisance) provides that no person is able to bring statutory nuisance proceedings under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 in respect of noise, if the noise is created in the course of carrying out construction or maintenance or decommissioning of the authorised development and for which notice has been given under section 60 or consent obtained under section 61 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974 or which cannot be reasonably avoided as a consequence of the authorised development. Section 82(1) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 creates offences related to statutory nuisance, whereby a party can bring proceedings to Court for an Order preventing works being carried out or abatement measures. Section 82(9) provides that it is a defence to any such proceedings “*to prove that the best practicable means were used to prevent, or to counteract the effects of, the nuisance*”. The purpose of the article is to provide specificity to the available defence, to ensure that the undertaker can defend any statutory nuisance claim relating to noise, if it is a consequence of the construction,

maintenance or use of the authorised development. Article 7 is a model provision, in recognition that such noise will arise and that provision to define its consequences in an appropriate and balanced manner will be needed. This will be true of the Scheme and for this reason it is necessary to include the article in the Order. The rationale is that if works are authorised under the Order, they are subject to appropriate levels of controls and should be permitted to proceed to construction and operation (and eventually decommissioning). The Outline Design Principles [REP-004] control noise to residential receivers via identification of the Power Conversion Unit (PCU) Exclusion Zones (ES Figure 11-2) [APP-097] with these Exclusion Zones included within the Parameter Plan submitted at Deadline 2 and appended to the Outline Design Principles. Noise is further controlled via the mitigation secured in Table 3-6 (Noise and Vibration) of the Framework Construction Environmental Management Plan [REP-026] (Requirement 12), Table 3-6 (Noise and Vibration) of the Framework Operational Environmental Management Plan [REP-028] (Requirement 13) and Table 3-6 of the Framework Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan [APP-226] (Requirement 19).

5.2.19 Article 7 is preceded in all made solar DCOs, including The Cleve Hill Solar Park Order 2020, The Little Crow Solar Park Order 2022 and The Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023. The provision has also been included in all other DCOs granted so far in 2023 including the Hornsea Four Offshore Wind Farm Order 2023, the Awel Y Mor Offshore Wind Farm Order 2023, the A303 (Amesbury to Berwick Down) Development Consent Order 2023, the Boston Alternative Energy Facility Order 2023, the A38 Derby Junctions Development Consent Order 2023, the A47 Wansford to Sutton Development Consent Order 2023 and the East Northamptonshire Resource Management Facility Order 2023.

5.2.20 As set out in Chapter 16 of the Environmental Statement [APP-025], there are no significant cumulative effects on noise or vibration anticipated for the development. Based on the distances from key project components to cumulative developments, it is considered that any overlapping of construction phases between the Scheme and other developments would not result in any cumulative effects at common noise-sensitive receptors. Further, given the requirement for new developments to achieve operation noise standards, and the relative distance between cumulative developments and the Scheme, operational noise effects from the Scheme will remain unchanged from the residual effects. Article 7 remains robust in that it gives the certainty required when certain noise arises as part of the development. It also remains reasonable and proportionate on the basis that the works authorised by the DCO will be subject to the appropriate levels of controls, for the purposes of Scheme specific effects and cumulative effects. The Applicant submitted a statutory nuisance statement along with its DCO application [APP-184], and the conclusions of that statement remain unchanged. It is not expected that the

construction, operation (and maintenance) and decommissioning of the Scheme would cause a statutory nuisance.

5.3 Part 3 (Streets)

5.3.1 Article 8 (Street works) allows the undertaker to carry out certain works to a street for the purposes of the authorised development. It is necessary because implementation of the authorised development will require works to be undertaken to streets. Schedule 4 sets out the streets that are subject to street works, and the nature of those works, thereby clarifying the extent of the powers. Article 8 is a model provision; however, it has been modified to bring in sections 54 to 106 of the 1991 Act to apply to any street work carried out pursuant to paragraph (1). This provides protection for the street authority for the street in question by requiring the undertaker (where it is not a street authority) to comply with those provisions. For example, section 54 of the 1991 Act sets out that an undertaker proposing to execute street works, such as the Applicant as set out in Schedule 4 of the draft DCO, shall give advance notice of the works to the street authority. This grants the opportunity to the relevant street authority to prescribe or impose requirements in relation to those proposed works. The Applicant has included this in the draft DCO as a control mechanism when exercising its power under Article 8(1), which provides additional protection to the street authority. In addition, the model provision has been extended in paragraph (1)(e) to provide for works which may be required to any culvert under a street. This article has precedent in the **Immingham Open Cycle Gas Turbine Order 2020**, the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023** and the **Boston Alternative Energy Facility Order 2023**.

5.3.2 Article 9 (Power to alter layout, etc., of streets) allows the undertaker to alter the layout of or carry out any works in a street. Schedule 5 then sets out the alterations to streets (split into two parts showing permanent and temporary works respectively). This Article is necessary because, in order to construct, operate, maintain and decommission the authorised development, the undertaker will need to alter street layouts and establish suitable accesses to ensure that the authorised development can be accessed effectively while ensuring there is minimal disruption to the local highway network. The powers conferred by paragraph (2) (which is a general power enabling the undertaker to alter the layout of any street) require the consent of the street authority before they can be exercised, such consent to be in a form reasonably required by the street authority. Article 9 has precedent and appears in the **Drax Power (Generating Stations) Order 2019**, the **Great Yarmouth Third River Crossing Development Consent Order 2020** and the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**.

5.3.3 Article 10 (Construction and maintenance of altered streets) provides that the permanent alterations to the streets listed in Part 1 of Schedule 5 must be completed to the reasonable satisfaction of the highway authority and,

unless otherwise agreed, be maintained at the undertaker's expense for a period of 12 months from their completion. Thereafter, maintenance will be the responsibility of the highway authority (paragraph (1)). Temporary alterations are set out in Part 2 of Schedule 5 and they must be completed to the reasonable satisfaction of the street authority, and they must be maintained at the undertaker's expense (paragraph (2)). The purpose of this Article is to define who will be responsible for the maintenance of altered streets following the carrying out of works and it is required to provide certainty as to who will be responsible for such maintenance.

- 5.3.4 Paragraphs (4) and (5) mirror the defence in section 58 of the Highways Act 1980 where the undertaker is subject to an action for damages and has taken such care as was reasonably required in the circumstances to secure that the street was not dangerous to traffic. Paragraph (6) provides that with the exception of paragraph (1) of this Article, the provisions of this Article do not apply where the undertaker is the street authority for a street in which the works are being carried out. This Article (and the incorporation of the defences in particular) is similar to Article 19 in the Hinkley Point C (Nuclear Generating Station) Order 2013 and Article 11 in the Drax Power (Generating Stations) Order 2019.
- 5.3.5 Article 11 (Temporary stopping up of streets and public rights of way) provides for the temporary stopping up, prohibition of the use, restriction of use, authorisation of use, alteration or diversion, of streets and public rights of way for the purposes of constructing or maintaining the authorised development. It is required because, in particular, the undertaker will need to temporarily divert certain public rights of way in order to construct the authorised development, for up to a period of 2-3 weeks at any location as provided for in the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (which is set out Appendix 13-E of the Environmental Statement [EN010131/APP/3.1] and secured by Requirement 14). No permanent stopping up or diversion of streets or public rights of way is required. Schedule 6 is comprised of five parts (streets to be temporarily stopped up and diverted; public rights of way to be temporarily stopped up and diverted; permanent use of motor vehicles on public rights of way; temporary management of public rights of way; and temporary use of motor vehicles on public rights of way).
- 5.3.6 The authorisation under Article 11 of the use of motor vehicles over public rights of way where there is no public right to use motor vehicles is necessary to enable the undertaker to access parts of the authorised development with construction and maintenance plant, equipment and personnel which would otherwise be severed by public rights of way. The Article broadly follows the approach in the model provisions (save that it applies to public rights of way rather than streets generally) in that it contains provisions of general application and then also in relation to the specific public rights of way that are set out in Schedule 6 to the Order and as shown on the Streets, Access and Rights of Way Plans

[EN010131/APP/5.3] and Public Rights of Way Management Plan [EN010131/APP/7.8]. Article 11 mirrors Article 11 of the model provisions in providing that where the public right of way is specified in a Schedule to the Order that there is a requirement to consult the street authority, but there would be no need to obtain its consent. In respect of other public rights of way not specified in a schedule to the Order there would be a requirement to obtain the consent of the street authority. Article 14 (see below) deals with traffic regulation more widely.

- 5.3.7 Article 11(5) provides that compensation is payable in respect of loss suffered by the suspension of any private rights of way. This provision is required so that persons who temporarily lose private rights of way because of the suspension of public rights of way can be appropriately compensated. Paragraph (6) provides an additional power to the undertaker which allows it to use any public right of way temporarily stopped up as a temporary working site (which is not in the model provision). Similar wording to this Article has been used in other made Orders, including Article 11 of the Wrexham Gas Fired Generating Station Order 2017, Article 12 of the Meaford Gas Fired Generating Station Order 2016 and Article 13 of the Riverside Energy Park Order 2020.
- 5.3.8 Article 11(7) enables the permanent stopping up, prohibition of the use, restriction of use, alteration or diversion, of any public rights of way added to the definitive map and statement (within the meaning of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) on or after 04 January 2024. This is to ensure that the delivery of the scheme is not impeded by any new public rights of way being designated after the conclusion of the Examination. The power is appropriately limited because it only applies to public rights of way that are within the Order limits and to new public rights of way that were not recognised in the definitive map and statement throughout the application or Examination process. The wording aligns with made DCO precedent. For example, it is used to protect against the risk of new Tree Preservation Orders in The A47/A11 Thickthorn Junction Development Consent Order 2022 (Art.39), The A47 Wansford to Sutton Development Consent Order 2023 (Art.40), The A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Development Consent Order 2022 (Art.43) and The Norfolk Vanguard Offshore Wind Farm Order 2022 (Art.36).
- 5.3.9 Article 12 (Use of private roads) authorises the temporary passage by the undertaker, in common with other permitted users, over private roads within the Order limits by persons or vehicles for the purposes of, or in connection with, the construction or maintenance of the authorised development, without the need for the Applicant to compulsorily acquire or take temporary possession of the land. The article creates a power to ‘use’ a private road for a temporary period that is proportionate to the limited nature of the use, rather than extinguishing, suspending or permanently interfering with the private rights of a landowner. This is akin to the powers for temporary use under articles 29 and 30 of the draft DCO; however, it is

distinguished because the Applicant does not require the exclusive use and possession of the private roads while exercising this power. This article is necessary because the undertaker will need to use private roads inside the order limits (e.g. parts of Torksey Ferry Road, Cow Pasture Lane and Clay Lane which overlap the Order land).

5.3.10 There is precedent for Article 12 in the **Silvertown Tunnel Order 2018**, the **Port of Tilbury (Expansion) Order 2019**, the **Lake Lothing (Lowestoft) Third Crossing Order 2020**, the **Bridgwater Tidal Barrier Order 2022** and the recent **Boston Alternative Energy Facility Order 2023**.

5.3.11 Paragraph (2) provides that the undertaker will compensate any person who has suffered loss or damage as a result of the exercise of this power. Paragraph (3) clarifies that any dispute as to a person's entitlement to compensation, or as to the amount of compensation, is to be determined under Part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1961.

5.3.12 Article 13 (Access to works) is a model provision which gives the undertaker powers to form new or to improve existing means of access for the purposes of the authorised development, as set out in Schedule 7 to the Order. This article is necessary because the undertaker will need to create or improve existing means of access for the purposes of the authorised development (in the locations specified in Schedule 7). The Article also provides that other means of access or works can also be provided in other locations reasonably required for the authorised development with the approval of the Relevant Planning Authority, in consultation with the highway authority.

5.3.13 Article 14 (Agreements with street authorities) is a model provision which authorises street authorities and the undertaker to enter into agreements relating to strengthening, improvement, repair or reconstruction of any streets, stopping up, prohibition, restriction, alteration or diversion of any street, works authorised under Articles 8 (street works), 9 (power to alter layout, etc of streets) and 10 (construction and maintenance of altered streets) of the Order and the adoption of works. The Applicant has removed reference to the ability to enter into an agreement with a street authority to allow the construction of any new street and the maintenance of any bridge or tunnel carrying a street over or under the authorised development as those powers are not required for the authorised development. This provision has precedent in the **Riverside Energy Park Order 2020**, the **Keadby 3 (Carbon Capture Equipped Gas Fired Generating Station) Order 2022** and the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**; and is required so that the undertaker may enter into agreements with the relevant street authorities.

5.3.14 Article 15 (Traffic regulation measures) provides the undertaker with powers to place temporarily traffic signs and signals in the extents of the roads specified in Schedule 8. This Schedule identifies the relevant roads,

and specifies the extents of the roads that will be subject to temporary traffic signal and banksman control areas. These specific measures are required to safely regulate traffic during the construction, maintenance and decommissioning of the Scheme. These measures are shown on the Traffic Regulation Measures Plans. Paragraph (2) includes a general power that would authorise other temporary traffic regulation measures. The inclusion of this power is justified as it allows a degree of flexibility to respond to changing conditions on the road network over the lifetime of the Scheme. The general power is appropriately regulated as it may only be exercised with the consent of the traffic authority concerned. The Article is not in the general model provisions but is common in orders granting permission for infrastructure projects where it is necessary in the interests of public safety during construction of the authorised development for the undertaker to put in place some temporary restrictions on road usage. The powers under this Article are provided for in section 120(5)(a) of the 2008 Act. For example, similar provision is contained within the Network Rail (Norton Bridge Area Improvements) Order 2014, National Grid (Hinkley Point C Connection Project) Order 2016 and more recently in the Great Yarmouth Third River Crossing Development Consent Order 2020.

5.4 Part 4 (Supplemental Powers)

- 5.4.1 Article 16 (*Discharge of water*) is a model provision that allows the undertaker to discharge water into any watercourse, public sewer or drain in connection with the construction and maintenance of the authorised development with the approval of the owner of the watercourse, public sewer or drain and subject to certain other conditions, and its purpose is to establish a clear statutory authority for doing so. The reference from the model provisions to section 85 of the Water Resources Act 1991 has been deleted as this section has now been repealed. This has been replaced with a reference to the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016. The reference from the model provisions to the Homes and Communities Agency has been changed to Homes England, as this body replaced the Homes and Communities Agency in January 2018. References to the harbour authority have also been removed as they are not relevant to the Order. In relation to a drainage authority, these provisions are disapplied as sufficiently detailed provision will be made by the relevant protective provisions (see Part 3 of Schedule 15 (protective provisions)).
- 5.4.2 Article 17 (*Removal of human remains*) is a model provision which provides for the removal of human remains from the Order Limits and for their reburial in such burial ground or cemetery in which burials may legally take place as the undertaker thinks suitable for the purpose or for their treatment according to the wishes of any personal representatives or relatives who come forward following the giving of the necessary notices. This Article has been included because the undertaker's environmental surveys indicate that there is potential for archaeological findings within

the Order Limits and therefore the undertaker is not able to rule out the presence of any human remains, meaning that a clear statutory authority for removing any human remains that may be discovered is required. This provision is considered necessary so that the discovery of any remains does not delay the implementation of the authorised development.

- 5.4.3 Article 18 (*Protective work to buildings*) is a model provision which is included in most made DCOs to date. Its purpose is to provide powers to the undertaker to enter any building and land within its curtilage to survey to determine whether protective works are needed and to carry out protective works to buildings within the Order Land, subject to a number of conditions including the service of 14 days' notice (except in cases of emergency) and the payment of compensation in the event that any loss or damage arises. Where the undertaker serves a notice stating the intention to carry out protective works or to enter a building or land within its curtilage there is ability for a counter notice to be served by the land owner/occupier within a period of 10 days from the day on which the notice was served.
- 5.4.4 The broad power in the model provision is necessary to ensure that the Applicant is also able to carry out protective works to any building which may be erected between now and the construction of the Scheme, to avoid the risk that any new buildings impede delivery of the Scheme.
- 5.4.5 Protective works can also be undertaken after the carrying out of the works forming part of the authorised development for a period of 5 years from the date of completion of the part of the authorised development carried out in vicinity of the building. This wording is a minor update from the model provision wording, as the undertaker considered that the phrase 'open for use' which is used in the model provision is not appropriate. This Article is required because there are buildings within, and in close proximity to, the Order Land that might feasibly require surveys and protective works as a result of the authorised development.
- 5.4.6 The Article includes compensation provisions in relation to the consequences of the protective works being undertaken, but also where the protective works are undertaken but they are inadequate to protect the building or land from damage (within a period of 5 years from the date of final commissioning).
- 5.4.7 Article 19 (*Authority to survey and investigate the land*) is a model provision that enables the undertaker to enter onto any land within the Order Limits or which may be affected by the authorised development for the purpose of carrying out monitoring or surveys, including bringing equipment onto the land and making trial holes. The power is subject to a number of conditions, including a requirement of at least 14 days' notice on every owner and occupier of the land and the payment of compensation in the event that any loss or damage arises. This power is essential to

implementation of the authorised development, for example in verifying ground conditions or the presence of statutory undertakers' apparatus.

5.4.8 The model provision has been modified so that no trial holes are to be made:

- (a) in land located within the highway boundary without the consent of the highway authority; or
- (b) in a private street without the consent of the street authority.

5.4.9 The Article applies section 13 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 (refusal to give possession to acquiring authority) thereby providing an enforcement mechanism (by way of a warrant) where entry onto land under the Article is refused. This is considered necessary so that there is no delay in the implementation of the authorised development and has precedent in the **Lake Lothing (Lowestoft) Third Crossing Order 2020**, the **Cleve Hill Solar Farm Order 2020**, the **Keadby 3 (Carbon Capture Equipped Gas Fired Generating Station) Order 2022**, the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023** and the **Hornsea Four Offshore Wind Farm Order 2023**.

5.5 Part 5 (Powers of Acquisition)

5.5.1 Article 20 (Compulsory acquisition of land) is a model provision that provides for the compulsory acquisition of such land as is required for the authorised development, or to facilitate, or is incidental to, the authorised development. The Article is necessary to secure the delivery of the authorised development as set out in more detail in the Statement of Reasons [EN010131/APP/6.4] accompanying the application. The Article broadly follows the model provision, although reference to compensation for the extinguishment or suspension of a private right of way has been deleted as this is dealt with in Article 23 (Private rights). Similarly, Article 22 (Compulsory acquisition of rights) makes the consequential provision for the extinguishment of rights over the land to ensure that they cannot impact on implementation or use of the authorised development. This approach has precedent in the **Riverside Energy Park Order 2020** and the **Lake Lothing (Lowestoft) Third Crossing Order 2020**.

5.5.2 Article 20(2) makes clear that the powers in this Article are subject to the powers and restrictions in Article 22 (Compulsory acquisition of rights) and Article 29 (Temporary use of land for constructing the authorised development), to ensure that, where relevant, the undertaker can only acquire new rights or take temporary possession of land and cannot acquire the freehold interest in that land.

5.5.3 Article 21 (Time limit for exercise of authority to acquire land compulsorily) is a model provision which imposes a time limit of 5 years for the exercise of powers of compulsory acquisition from the date on which the Order is

made, via issuing notices to treat or executing general vesting declarations. The undertaker considers that 5 years is an appropriate time limit as it is consistent with the time limit for commencing the authorised development set out in requirement 2 of Schedule 2 to the Order and has precedent in the majority of made DCOs to date.

5.5.4 Article 22 (Compulsory acquisition of rights) enables the undertaker to acquire rights or impose restrictive covenants over the Order Land as may be required for any purpose for which the land may be acquired under Article 20 (Compulsory acquisition of land). The Article also provides that rights may be created as well as enabling the undertaker to acquire those already in existence. It should be noted that this provision is subject to Article 29 (temporary use of land for constructing the authorised development) which provides that the undertaker must not acquire, acquire new rights over or impose restrictive covenants over land listed in Schedule 12 to the Order (i.e. land of which temporary possession may be taken).

5.5.5 The Article provides that, in respect of the Order Land set out in Schedule 10 (Land in which only new rights etc. may be acquired) the undertaker's powers of acquisition of new rights and imposition of restrictive covenants are limited to the purposes set out in that Schedule. The ability to acquire new rights and impose restrictive covenants is required in order that the undertaker can construct and maintain the authorised development, and it ensures that the undertaker is able to seek a lesser interference with land where this is appropriate (whether in the context of new or existing rights) during the implementation of the authorised development. Providing the undertaker with powers to acquire rights only and impose restrictive covenants only over the Order Land set out in Schedule 10 allows the undertaker to reduce the area of land that is required to be compulsorily acquired for the purposes of the authorised development, and therefore allows for a more proportionate exercise of compulsory acquisition powers.

5.5.6 Paragraphs (5) and (6) provide that where the undertaker proposes the acquisition of new rights or the imposition of restrictive covenant for the purpose of diverting, replacing or protecting the apparatus of a statutory undertaker, the undertaker may, with the consent of the Secretary of State transfer the powers to the relevant statutory undertaker.

5.5.7 This form of drafting originates from article 18 of the model provisions, which grants broad powers of acquisition which are then subject to subsequent articles to limit that broad power. It is standard and well precedented drafting including in the **Cleve Hill Solar Farm Order 2020**, the **Keadby 3 (Carbon Capture Equipped Gas Fired Generating Station) Order 2022**, the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023** and the **Hornsea Four Offshore Wind Farm Order 2023**.

5.5.8 Article 23 (Private rights) is a model provision that (i) extinguishes private rights and restrictions over land so far as their continuance would be

inconsistent with the exercise of the compulsory acquisition powers contained in Article 20 (Compulsory acquisition of land); (ii) provides that private rights and restrictions over land cease to have effect in so far as their continuance would be inconsistent with the exercise of compulsory acquisition of rights or the imposition of restrictive covenants under Article 22 (Compulsory acquisition of rights); and (iii) suspends private rights and restrictions over land so far as their continuance would be inconsistent with the exercise of temporary possession powers under the Order. This is required because it enables the undertaker to take land with a clear, unencumbered title, thereby minimising impediments to the delivery of the authorised development.

5.5.9 Paragraph (4) provides that compensation is payable to any person who suffers loss as a result of the exercise of the powers in this Article and that such compensation would be payable under section 152 of the 2008 Act rather than the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965. Paragraph (8) also clarifies that references to private land include references to any trusts or incidents to which the land is subject.

5.5.10 Article 24 (Application of the 1981 Act) is a model provision which applies the general vesting procedures in the Compulsory Purchase (Vesting Declarations) Act 1981 to the exercise of compulsory acquisition powers pursuant to the Order. This provides the undertaker with the option to acquire the land via the vesting process set out in the 1981 Act rather than the notice to treat procedure. Vesting declarations allow title in the land concerned to pass to the acquiring authority more quickly than using the notice to treat method. They also enable several parcels of land to be acquired under the same legal instrument and therefore more efficiently than under the notice to treat procedure.

5.5.11 This Article has been amended from the model provision to incorporate and reflect the changes brought about by the Housing and Planning Act 2016 which has precedent in numerous DCOs including the **Drax Power (Generating Stations) Order 2019**, the **Cleve Hill Solar Farm Order 2020**, the **Keadby 3 (Carbon Capture Equipped Gas Fired Generating Station) Order 2022**, the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023** and the **Hornsea Four Offshore Wind Farm Order 2023**.

5.5.12 Article 25 (Acquisition of subsoil only) is a model provision that permits the undertaker to acquire only the subsoil of land which is to be compulsorily acquired (either pursuant to Article 20 or Article 22), thereby giving the undertaker the ability to minimise the extent of interests acquired from landowners. This Article is appropriate in the context of the cables or pipes to be laid underground as part of the authorised development, where acquisition of the 'entire' freehold may not be required. It therefore enables the undertaker to minimise as far as possible to extent of interests to be acquired, thereby reducing the impact on landowners.

5.5.13 Article 26 (Power to override easements and other rights) provides that in carrying out or using the development authorised by the Order and doing anything else authorised by the Order, the undertaker may interfere with any easement, liberty, privilege, right or advantage annexed to land and affecting other land, including any natural right to support, or breach any restriction as to use of land arising by virtue of contract. It also provides that compensation may be payable under section 7 or 10 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 for any such interference or breach. This is not a model provision, but is added to clarify the position with regard to rights burdening land required for the authorised development. It has precedent, for example, in Article 19 of the **Immingham Open Cycle Gas Turbine Order 2020** and the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**.

5.5.14 Article 27 (Modification of Part 1 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965) modifies the provisions of Part 1 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 as applied to the Order by section 125 of the 2008 Act. This provision reflects changes introduced by the Housing and Planning Act 2016 and is required to ensure that Part 1 of the 1965 Act is applied correctly to compulsory acquisition authorised under the Order. Paragraphs (1) to (3) amend the provisions of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 so they are consistent with the terms of the Order and paragraph (5) makes it clear that the notice periods introduced by the Housing and Planning Act 2016 do not apply to the temporary possession or use of land under Article 18 (Protective work to buildings), Article 29 (Temporary use of land for constructing the authorised development) or Article 30 (Temporary use of land for maintaining the authorised development). These modifications have precedent in numerous made DCOs and other legislation including Schedule 14 to the High Speed Rail (London - West Midlands) Act 2017, the **Wrexham Gas Fired Generating Station Order 2017** and the **Silvertown Tunnel Order 2018**.

5.5.15 Article 28 (Rights under or over streets) is a model provision which has been included in the majority of made DCOs to date to enable the undertaker to enter on and appropriate interests within streets where required for the purpose of the authorised development without being required to acquire that land. It is therefore required in order to reduce the amount of land that needs to be compulsorily acquired for the purposes of the authorised development.

5.5.16 The purpose of this Article is to allow the undertaker to appropriate and use land above or below streets within the Order Land, without having to acquire the street or any right or easement in it. The exercise of this power without acquisition is prohibited in the circumstances set out in paragraph (3). Paragraphs (4) and (5) provide for the payment of compensation in certain circumstances.

5.5.17 Article 29 (Temporary use of land for constructing the authorised development) allows the land specified in Schedule 12 (Land of which temporary possession may be taken) to be temporarily used for the

carrying out of the authorised development. There is a clear limit on the length of time that the undertaker can use land in this way, which in the case of land that may only be used temporarily is the end of the period of one year beginning with the date of final commissioning of that part of the authorised development for which temporary possession of the land was taken. The Article also requires the undertaker to give 14 days' notice before taking possession, and to restore the land following the temporary works.

5.5.18 Wording has been added to paragraph (1)(a)(ii) in order to allow Article 29 to apply to land which may later be the subject of compulsory acquisition. This reflects a common approach to designing and building infrastructure projects, whereby possession is taken of a wider area required for the purposes of construction, and once the location of new apparatus is known definitively (after it has been built), then the final area of land required permanently is defined and acquired. This allows a more proportionate approach to the extent of land acquisition.

5.5.19 New wording has also been added to paragraphs (4) and (5) to take into account that the Applicant may, pursuant to Article 29(1)(a)(ii), temporarily use land that it may compulsorily acquire. This is also subject to a one year limit beginning with the date of final commissioning of the authorised development.

5.5.20 Paragraph (10) makes clear that the undertaker cannot compulsorily acquire, nor permanently acquire rights or impose restrictive covenants over, the land specified in Article 29(1)(a)(i) (which is land of which temporary possession only is required). Wording has also been deleted in paragraph (9) to dovetail with the new drafting in paragraph (1). This Article has precedent in Article 26 of **The Wrexham Gas Fired Generating Station Order 2017** and the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**.

5.5.21 Wording has been added at paragraph (11) to make clear that the Article does not preclude the creation or acquisition of new rights, imposition of restrictions or acquisition of rights in land specified in Schedule 10 (land in which only new rights etc. may be acquired), and nor are the powers under Article 25 (Acquisition of subsoil only) or Article 28 (Rights under or over streets) precluded.

5.5.22 Article 30 (Temporary use of land for maintaining the authorised development) provides for the temporary use of land for maintenance of the authorised development. There are clear limits on the length of time that the undertaker can use land in this way, provisions requiring 28 days' notice to be given and restoration of the land following the temporary possession. This Article is broadly based on the model provision and provides for the payment of compensation for that temporary use of the land.

- 5.5.23 The maintenance period has been adapted from the model provision to apply to the period 5 years beginning with the date of final commissioning as opposed to the date on which the project is opened for use as this is more appropriate for this type of development. Similar wording has been used in other made Orders in connection with generating stations, including the Drax Power (Generating Stations) Order 2019 and the Immingham Open Cycle Gas Turbine Order 2020. However, in order to be able to carry out the landscaping commitments set out in the landscape and ecological management plan, the maintenance period has been extended to the period in the landscape and ecological management plan approved pursuant to Requirement 7. A similar provision was included in the North Wales Wind Farm Connection Order 2016 and the Drax Power (Generating Stations) Order 2019.
- 5.5.24 Articles 29 and 30 are broadly based on the model provisions and provide for the payment of compensation for that temporary use of the land.
- 5.5.25 Article 31 (Statutory undertakers) provides for the acquisition of land belonging to statutory undertakers within the Order Land. This includes a power to move the apparatus of those statutory undertakers and to extinguish their rights. This article is subject to the protective provisions (see article 42 below) included at Schedule 15 of the Order. Further details on statutory undertakers' land and apparatus are included in the Statement of Reasons [EN010131/APP/6.4]. This power is required over the whole of the Order Land and similar wording has been used in other made Orders including the Wrexham Gas Fired Generating Station Order 2017 and the Immingham Open Cycle Gas Turbine Order 2020.
- 5.5.26 Article 32 (Apparatus and rights of statutory undertakers in stopped up streets) governs what happens to statutory utilities' apparatus (pipes, cables, etc.) under streets that are temporarily stopped up by the Order. This Article is required because, without it, the statutory undertaker would not have access to the apparatus, since there would no longer be a right of way along the street. The Article is a model provision but has been amended in that paragraphs (2) onwards have been deleted from the model provision to avoid duplication with the protective provisions contained in Schedule 15.
- 5.5.27 Article 33 (Recovery of costs of new connections) provides that persons who have to create a new connection following the exercise of powers under Article 32 may recover the costs of new connections from the undertaker. It is a model provision, with the part of the model provision that referred to the permanent stopping up of streets deleted as this is not relevant in the context of the authorised development.

5.6 Part 6 (Miscellaneous and General)

- 5.6.1 Article 34 (*Benefit of the Order*) overrides section 156(1) of the 2008 Act (which is permitted by section 156(2)) and provides that the benefit of the Order is for the undertaker, rather than anyone with an interest in the land. Given the nature of the Scheme and the fact that powers of compulsory acquisition are sought, it would be impracticable and inappropriate for the Order to be 'open' as to who may implement it, as might occur without this provision. Overriding section 156(1) is common in DCOs that have been made, including the **Drax Power (Generating Stations) Order 2019** and **Cleve Hill Solar Park Order 2020**.
- 5.6.2 Paragraph (2) makes specific provision for Work No. 4C (electrical engineering works within or around the National Grid Cottam substation), in respect of which the provisions of the Order are for the benefit of the undertaker and National Grid, to allow either party to construct and operate the works given the interfaces with existing National Grid infrastructure. Paragraphs (2) provides for a specific relevant party other than the undertaker to benefit from the Order in respect of limited Works. This is a standard approach which is administratively less burdensome than the transfer of benefit procedure in Article 35 (*Consent to transfer the benefit of the Order*). All protections and requirements within the draft DCO apply, regardless of whether the works are constructed and operated by the undertaker or National Grid. The Approach has precedent in article 32 of the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**.
- 5.6.3 Article 35 (*Consent to transfer the benefit of the Order*) is a standard article included in numerous made DCOs that makes provision for the transfer of any or all of the benefit of the provision of the Order. This Article is required in order that the undertaker has commercial flexibility to transfer the benefit of the Order to a third party, subject to the provisions of the Article. Under paragraph (3), the consent of the Secretary of State is needed before the undertaker can transfer or lease the Order except where:
- (a) the transferee or lessee is the holder of an electricity generating licence under section 6 of the Electricity Act 1989;
 - (b) the transferee or lessee is a holding company or subsidiary of the undertaker;
 - (c) in respect of Work No. 4B, the transferee or lessee is the undertaker as defined in the Cottam Solar Project Order or the West Burton Solar Project Order [or the Tillbridge Solar Project Order] (in order to enable the coordination of works within the Shared Cable Corridor with the proposed Cottam Solar Project and the proposed West Burton Solar Project [and the proposed Tillbridge Solar Project]); or

- (d) the compensation provisions for the acquisition of rights or interests in land or for effects on land have been discharged or are no longer relevant.

5.6.4 Article 35(2) has been amended from the model provisions so that it refers to 'transfer or grant', which is considered to be more accurate than 'agreement'.

5.6.5 The justification for these provisions is that in such cases, the transferee or lessee will either be of a similar regulatory standing to the undertaker so as to protect the provision for compensation for rights or interests in land that are compulsorily acquired pursuant to the Order, or there are no outstanding actual or potential compulsory purchase claims. The provision that the undertaker is able to transfer the Order to a holding company or subsidiary is to allow commercial flexibility for the undertaker in the event that it would be preferable that a connected corporate entity takes the benefit of all or part of the Order. Article 35(4) provides that where the consent of the Secretary of State is not needed, the undertaker must still notify the Secretary of State in writing prior to the transfer or grant of the benefit of the provisions of the Order. Article 35(5) to (7) provide further detail on the notification that is to be given. This is based on the notification procedure contained in Article 7 of the **Wrexham Gas Fired Generating Station Order 2017**.

5.6.6 Article 35(9) provides that where the undertaker has transferred the benefit of the Order or granted the benefit of the Order then:

- (a) the transferred benefit will include any rights that are conferred and any obligations that are imposed;
- (b) the transferred benefit will reside exclusively with the transferee or the lessee and shall not be enforceable against the undertaker;
- (c) the benefits or rights conferred under paragraph (1) of the article are subject to the same restrictions, liabilities and obligations as applies to the undertaker.

5.6.7 This approach has precedent in the **Cleve Hill Solar Park Order 2020** and the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**.

5.6.8 Article 36 (*Application of landlord and tenant law*) is a model provision which is included in numerous made DCOs which would override landlord and tenant law so far as it would prejudice the operation of any agreement for leasing the whole of the authorised development or the right to operate the same or any agreement entered into by the undertaker for the construction, maintenance, use or operation of the authorised development. This provision is required to ensure that landlord and tenant law does not impede the construction, use or maintenance of the authorised development. Although there is no immediate anticipation that

such an agreement would be made, it could become appropriate at a future time during the lifetime of the Scheme.

- 5.6.9 Article 37 (*Operational land for purposes of the 1990 Act*) is a model provision which is included in numerous made DCOs and has the effect of ensuring that the land on which the authorised development is constructed will be "operational land" under section 264(3)(a) of the 1990 Act. The effect is to ensure that planning rights attaching to the undertaker in relation to operational land have effect as they would do if planning permission had been granted for the authorised development.
- 5.6.10 Article 38 (*Felling or lopping of trees and removal of hedgerows*) is based on a model provision included in numerous made DCOs which provides that the undertaker may fell or lop or cut back the roots of any tree or shrub within or overhanging land within the Order limits to prevent it obstructing or interfering with the construction, maintenance or operation of the authorised development; constituting a danger for persons using the authorised development or obstructing or interfering with the passage of construction vehicles. The Article also allows the undertaker to remove those hedgerows specified in Schedule 17 (Hedgerows to be removed) along with the specific purpose of each removal. The removal of vegetation is also controlled via the Outline Design Principles **[EN010131/APP/2.3]** and the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan **[APP-231]**, which restrict vegetation loss to the maximum extents shown on the updated Vegetation Removal Plan **[EN010131/APP/3.2]** submitted at Deadline 1.
- 5.6.11 Alongside that specific power, the Article also allows for a generic power for any hedgerows within the Order land to be removed where required for the purposes of the authorised development, to allow for construction flexibility.
- 5.6.12 The Article provides that the undertaker may not fell or lop a tree or remove hedgerows under this Article within the extent of the publicly maintainable highway without the prior consent of the highway authority. Compensation is provided for if loss or damage is caused. The provision is required for safety reasons and its applicability is appropriately limited.
- 5.6.13 Article 38 does not address the statutory protection afforded to trees by virtue of being subject to a Tree Preservation Order ("TPO"). Article 39 (Trees subject to tree preservation orders) provides that the undertaker may fell or lop or cut back the roots of any tree which is subject to a TPO to prevent it obstructing or interfering with the construction, maintenance or operation of the authorised development. The Article refers to Schedule 18 (Trees subject to tree preservation orders) which sets out specific details of the trees subject to TPOs for the purposes of the authorised development. The powers under Article 39 are controlled via the Framework Construction and Environmental Management Plan, as updated at Deadline 2, which provides that all ancient and veteran trees

or trees subject to a TPO will be retained and are fully protected except where TPOs are in place for trees which are no longer present, are dead or are no longer worth of TPO status, and impact or removal is required. Compensation is also provided for under Article 39(5) if loss or damage is caused.

5.6.14 The effect of Article 39 is that the works it permits, where carried out to a tree protected by a TPO, are deemed to have consent, and its inclusion is therefore consistent with the purpose of DCOs being to wrap up all of the required consents for a project. The Article is a model provision included in numerous made DCOs save that it has been made more specific to grant the power by reference to any tree described in Schedule 18 (trees subject to tree preservation orders). This enables the Applicant to fell or lop any tree as described in that schedule or cut back its roots or undertake such specific works as are required for specific parts of the authorised development as set out in column (2) and column (3) of Schedule 18 respectively. . The approach to include provisions regarding trees subject to tree preservation orders has precedent in the **Cleve Hill Solar Park Order 2020** and the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**, with the drafting added at Deadline 2 to make reference to a specific schedule having precedent in the **M25 Junction 28 Development Consent Order 2022** and the **M25 Junction 10/A3 Wisley Interchange Development Consent Order 2022**.

5.6.15 Article 40 (*Certification of plans and documents, etc.*) is a model provision which provides for the undertaker to submit various documents referred to in the Order (such as the Book of Reference **[EN010131/APP/6.6]**, plans and Environmental Statement **[EN010131/APP/3.1]**) to the Secretary of State so that they can be certified as being true copies. The article refers to Schedule 13, where all such documents and plans are listed, along with the appropriate document and revision numbers. The Article and Schedule 13 provide certainty as to which documents will be certified by the Secretary of State in relation to the Order.

5.6.16 Article 41 (*No double recovery*) is not a model provision and is based on article 44 of the model clauses for railway contained in schedule 1 to the Transport and Works (Model Clauses for Railways and Tramways) Order 2006. This article has precedent in numerous Transport and Works Act Orders. It provides that compensation is not payable both under the Draft DCO and any other enactment, contract or other rule of law. It follows that well established principle of equivalence that a claimant is compensated for no more and no less than their loss.

5.6.17 Article 42 (*Arbitration*) is an arbitration provision and it is a departure from the model provision. This drafting, and that in the associated Schedule 14 (Arbitration rules), has precedent in the **Millbrook Gas Fired Generating Station Order 2019**, the **Cleve Hill Solar Park Order 2020** and the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**, amongst others. It is considered that this approach will provide greater certainty to all parties involved in the

process and is preferential to the approach adopted in the model provisions.

5.6.18 The Article provides that differences under the Order should be settled by arbitration unless another means of resolving a dispute is provided for in the Order. The arbitrator will be appointed by the parties within 14 days of receipt of a notice of arbitration or failing agreement within this period then by the Secretary of State following application by one of the parties.

5.6.19 It applies Schedule 14 to the Order, which sets out further detail of the arbitration process. The detail of Schedule 14 is set out below.

5.6.20 In addition, Article 42(2) provides that any matter for which the consent or approval of the Secretary of State is required under the Order is not subject to arbitration.

5.6.21 Article 43 (*Protective Provisions*) provides for Schedule 15, which protects the interests of certain statutory undertakers, to have effect. This is set out in detail below. This is a model provision.

5.6.22 Article 44 (*Deemed marine licence*) constitutes deemed consent (as provided for under section 149A of the 2008 Act) under section 65 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, the successor provision to section 34 of the Coast Protection Act 1949. Schedule 9 sets out the terms on which the licence would be granted. The overall structure of this licence reflects that found in Schedule 8 of the **Cleve Hill Solar Park Order 2020**.

5.6.23 Article 45 (*Service of notices*) governs how any notices that may be served under the provisions of the Order are deemed to have been served properly. In particular it allows service by email with the consent of the recipient, and deals with the situation of service on an unknown landowner. The provision is necessary because the service of notice provisions under sections 229 and 230 of the 2008 Act only apply to notices served under the 2008 Act itself and do not apply to notices served under the Order. These provisions are based on those appearing in the Transport and Works (Model Provisions for Railways and Tramways) Order 2006, and numerous made DCOs.

5.6.24 Article 46 (*Procedure in relation to certain approvals etc.*) provides procedures in relation to consents and approvals required pursuant to the Order (other than Requirements). Applications for consent submitted by the undertaker will be deemed to be granted if notice is not given of their refusal by the consenting authority within ten weeks of the submission of the application (unless a longer period has been agreed between the parties). Where these provisions apply to an application, the undertaker is required to notify the consenting authority of the effect of the provisions when it submits the relevant application. The consenting authority must not unreasonably withhold or delay consent where an application has been submitted by the undertaker pursuant to this Article.

- 5.6.25 For any consent, agreement, or refusal pursuant to the Requirements a detailed procedure is provided for in Schedule 16 (Procedure for discharge of requirements) (see below).
- 5.6.26 This Article has precedent in the **Immingham Open Cycle Gas Turbine Order 2020** and the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023** and is considered appropriate and justified in order to ensure that the authorised development can proceed in a reasonable timescale, and so that there is a consistent approach to consents that must be sought by the undertaker pursuant to the Order.
- 5.6.27 Article 47 (*Guarantees in respect of payment of compensation*) restricts the undertaker from exercising the powers conferred under articles 20, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30 and 31 until it has either put in place a guarantee or other form of security approved by the Secretary of State in respect of the liabilities of the undertaker to pay compensation under the Order. This provision is included in order to protect the recipients of any compensation under the Order by providing certainty that the undertaker can make good any compensation owed. The guarantee or alternative form of security is not required to be in place for more than 15 years from the date on which the relevant power is exercised. The wording appears in a number of made DCOs, for example the **Wrexham Gas Fired Generating Station Order 2017** and the **Drax Power (Generating Stations) Order 2019**.
- 5.6.28 Article 48 (*Compulsory acquisition of land - incorporation of the mineral code*) is a model provision which incorporates Parts 2 and 3 of Schedule 2 of the Acquisition of Land Act 1981 (minerals). The mineral code is incorporated as a precautionary measure given the identification of interests in mines and minerals within the Order Limits, and that the Order Limits is located within Mineral Consultation and Safeguarding Areas.
- 5.6.29 Article 49 (*Crown rights*) prevents the undertaker from acquiring any Crown land (as defined in the 2008 Act), or from otherwise interfering with such land, without the written consent of the relevant Crown authority. The Crown's consent may be given unconditionally or subject to terms and conditions.
- 5.6.30 The proposed Order land includes parcels of land which constitute Crown land. This article has been included to ensure that any acquisition of other land holdings, creation or extinguishment of rights cannot create any interference with the rights of the Crown.

6. SCHEDULES

6.1 Schedule 1 (Authorised Development)

- 6.1.1 This Schedule describes the authorised development in detail, and split into different work numbers. Each of these work numbers represents a

different part of the authorised development. This split of the authorised development between different work numbers is designed to enable the Order to refer to different parts of the authorised development by citing the relevant work number. Paragraph 1 of the Schedule sets out a number of definitions that are used only within the Schedule and are not in other places in the Order.

- 6.1.2 The works set out in Schedule 1 to the Order are explained in detail above.
- 6.1.3 The mechanics of the drafting in Schedules 1 and 2 ensure that the undertaker does not exceed the basis of the assessment in the Environmental Statement **[EN010131/APP/3.1]**. This is achieved through the following mechanisms in the Order:
- 6.1.4 Article 3 and Schedule 1 provide the power to carry out the authorised development. Pursuant to Article 3(2) each numbered work must be situated within the area delineated on the Works Plans **[EN010131/APP/5.2]** – thus the infrastructure can only be built within these areas. Given these overarching constraints, there is certainty as to where each element identified in Schedule 1 can be built, and that has been factored into the Environmental Statement **[EN010131/APP/3.1]**.
- 6.1.5 Schedule 1 provides that development which does not form part of a specific Work Number can only be brought forward if it does not lead to materially new or materially different effects from those assessed in the Environmental Statement **[EN010131/APP/3.1]**.
- 6.1.6 In terms of the detailed design, Requirement 5 of Schedule 2 (see below) prevents the undertaker from commencing any phase of the authorised development until it has obtained the approval of the Relevant Planning Authorities (or authority, as applicable) to the layout, scale, ground levels, external appearance, hard surfacing materials, access, refuse or other storage units, signs and lighting, drainage, water, power and communications cables and pipelines and programme for landscaping works.
- 6.1.7 Requirement 5(2) requires that the details submitted must accord with the Outline Design Principles **[EN010131/APP/2.3]**. The Outline Design Principles **[EN010131/APP/2.3]** is a certified document pursuant to Article 40 (certification of plans and documents) and Schedule 13 (documents and plans to be certified). The Outline Design Principles **[EN010131/APP/2.3]** contain the maximum parameters for the authorised development and are the same as those used for the assessment of effects in the Environmental Statement **[EN010131/APP/3.1]**. These parameters are based on the application of the Rochdale Envelope principle, such that maximum dimensions have been presented and assessed in the Environmental Statement **[EN010131/APP/3.1]**, recognising that the final massings may differ from (but will never be larger than) these maxima.

6.1.8 The combined effect of, and relationship between, these provisions means that the final built form of the authorised development will not give rise to environmental effects beyond those which have been assessed. This approach, and what we have called the "consent envelope" is explained further above.

6.2 Schedule 2 (Requirements)

6.2.1 This Schedule sets out the requirements that apply to the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the authorised development under the Order. The requirements generally follow the model provisions where these are relevant, and where they have been amended this has been informed by the outcomes of the environmental impact assessment and any discussions with the Relevant Planning Authority or other relevant statutory consultee.

6.2.2 The requirements closely relate to the mitigation set out in the Environmental Statement **[EN010131/APP/3.1]** and a number of them specifically refer to the Environmental Statement **[EN010131/APP/3.1]** and other application documents (in particular, 'outline' or 'framework' strategies or plans) in order to ensure that the mitigation or other measures outlined in those documents are secured.

6.2.3 Many of the requirements require submission of details for approval by the Relevant Planning Authority (or Relevant Planning Authorities where applicable). In some instances the Relevant Planning Authority is under a duty to consult with a third party or parties in relation to the document submitted to them. This is a departure from the model provisions. Where consultation is required under the Order it is, in each case, the Relevant Planning Authority's duty to carry it out before approving a document submitted to it (rather than, as in some of the model provisions, the undertaker's duty to carry it out before submitting the document for approval). Where it is considered that it would be particularly relevant for the Relevant Planning Authority to consult a third party, that third party has been named within the relevant requirement.

6.2.4 In the undertaker's opinion the requirements in Schedule 2 are all necessary and relevant to planning and the development to be permitted as they are outputs from the Environmental Statement **[EN010131/APP/3.1]**; enforceable and precise in their language; and reasonable in all other respects.

6.2.5 In all cases where a scheme or strategy or plan is to be submitted for approval there is a requirement for the undertaker to implement the approved scheme or strategy or plan. This is subject to requirement 3, as explained below.

- 6.2.6 **Requirement 1 – Interpretation:** This includes a definition of “relevant planning authority” which provides a breakdown of the requirements to identify which planning authority is responsible for the discharge of each specific requirement. It also includes a definition of “relevant planning authorities” which incorporates each ‘relevant planning authority’. This definition is also applicable to the wider Order, as defined at Article 2.
- 6.2.7 **Requirement 2 – Commencement of the authorised development:** This requirement provides that the authorised development must not commence later than 5 years from the date of the Order coming into force.
- 6.2.8 **Requirement 3 – Approved details and amendments to them:** This requirement provides that where any documents have been certified under Article 40 and where any plans, details or schemes have been approved by the Relevant Planning Authority (or authorities), the undertaker may submit for approval any amendments to those documents, plans, details or schemes and, if approved by the Relevant Planning Authority (or authorities), those documents, plans, details or schemes are to be taken to include the amendments approved by the Relevant Planning Authority (or authorities). Any amendments should not be approved unless it has been demonstrated that that the subject matter of the approval sought is unlikely to give rise to any materially new or materially different environmental effects from those assessed in the Environmental Statement [EN010131/APP/3.1].
- 6.2.9 **Requirement 4 – Community liaison group:** This requirement provides that the undertaker must establish a community liaison group prior to commencement of the authorised development, in order to facilitate liaison between representatives of people living in the vicinity of the Order limits, and other relevant organisations in relation to the construction of the authorised development.
- 6.2.10 **Requirement 5 – Detailed design approval:** This requirement stipulates the details that must be submitted to and approved by the Relevant Planning Authority before the authorised development may commence. The details submitted must be in accordance with the Outline Design Principles [EN010131/APP/2.3]. The authorised development must be carried out in accordance with the approved details.
- 6.2.11 **Requirement 6 – Battery safety management:** This requirement stipulates that Work No. 2 must not commence until a battery safety management plan has been approved by the relevant planning authority. The relevant planning authority must consult with West Lindsey District Council, Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service, Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service and the Environment Agency before approving the battery safety management plan. The battery safety management plan must be implemented as approved and maintained throughout the construction, operation and decommissioning of the authorised development.

- 6.2.12 **Requirement 7 – Landscape and ecological management plan:** This requirement stipulates that no part of the authorised development may commence until a written landscape and ecological management plan (substantially in accordance with the outline landscape and ecological management plan) has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority, such approval to be in consultation with the Environment Agency. This requirement calves out site clearance and advanced panning works from the definition of permitted preliminary works to the effect that such works will also require a landscape and ecological management plan to be approved before they can be carried out. This is secured via Requirement 7(4) of Schedule 2 of the draft DCO. The form of drafting has precedent in Requirement 9 of the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**. The landscape and ecological management plan must be implemented as approved and maintained throughout the operation of the relevant part of the authorised development to which the plan relates.
- 6.2.13 **Requirement 8 – Biodiversity net gain:** This requirement stipulates that no part of the authorised development may commence until a biodiversity net gain strategy has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority, in consultation with the relevant statutory nature conservation body. It is considered appropriate to require consultation with the relevant statutory nature conservation body to ensure that it has the opportunity pre-commencement to comment on the biodiversity net gain strategy, before it is approved by West Lindsey District Council and Bassetlaw District Council (as the relevant authority). The biodiversity net gain strategy must be maintained throughout the operation of the relevant part of the authorised development to which the plan relates.
- 6.2.14 **Requirement 9 – Fencing and other means of enclosure:** The undertaker is required to obtain the written approval from the relevant planning authority for any proposed temporary or permanent fences, walls or other means of enclosure, for each part in question. The written details of permanent fencing must be substantially in accordance with the relevant Outline Design Principles [**EN010131/APP/2.3**]. Any approved permanent fencing must be completed before the date of final commissioning of that part.
- 6.2.15 **Requirement 10 – Surface and foul water drainage:** This requirement stipulates that Work No. 1A may not be commenced until the details of the surface water drainage and (if any) foul water drainage system (substantially in accordance with the outline drainage strategy) has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority, in each case in consultation with Anglian Water Services Limited. This is appropriate to ensure that Anglian Water Services Limited has the opportunity pre-commencement to comment on the written details of the surface water drainage scheme and (if any) foul water drainage system, before being approved by Lincolnshire County Council (as the relevant authority). This is considered appropriate, in addition to the protective provisions at Part 6

of Schedule 15, to ensure that the concerns in Anglian Water's relevant representation [RR-015] are addressed, namely for any impacted Anglian Water assets to be identified and either diverted or protected. The approved scheme must be implemented and maintained throughout the construction and operation of the authorised development.

6.2.16 Requirement 11 – Archaeology: This requirement stipulates that the authorised development must be implemented in accordance with the archaeological mitigation strategy.

6.2.17 Requirement 12 – Construction environmental management plan: Under this requirement, no part of the authorised development may commence until a construction environmental management plan (CEMP) (which must substantially accord with the framework CEMP [REP-026]) has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority in consultation with the relevant highway authority and the Environment Agency. It is appropriate to require consultation with the relevant highway authority and the Environment Agency to ensure that each has the appropriate opportunity pre-commencement to comment on the CEMP, before it is approved by West Lindsey District Council and Bassetlaw District Council (as the relevant authority). This is appropriate as the framework CEMP includes provisions relevant to the statutory functions of both consultee bodies. All construction works associated with the authorised development must be carried out in accordance with the approved CEMP .

6.2.18 Requirement 13 – Operational environmental management plan: Before the date of final commissioning of the authorised development, an operational environmental management plan (OEMP) (which must substantially accord with the framework operational environmental management plan [REP-028]) must be submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority in consultation with Lincolnshire County Council in its capacity as the planning waste authority, the relevant highway authority and the Environment Agency. It is appropriate to require consultation with the relevant highway authority and the Environment Agency to ensure that it has the appropriate opportunity pre-commencement to comment on the OEMP, before it is approved by West Lindsey District Council and Bassetlaw District Council (as the relevant authority). This is appropriate as the framework OEMP includes provisions relevant to the statutory functions of both consultee bodies. The OEMP must be implemented as approved and maintained throughout the operation of the relevant part of the authorised development to which the plan relates.

6.2.19 Requirement 14 – Construction traffic management plan: Under this requirement, no part of the authorised development may commence until a construction traffic management plan (CTMP) (which must substantially accord with the framework CTMP [APP-167] and [APP-168]) has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority, in

consultation with the relevant highway authority and West Lindsey District Council. It is appropriate to require consultation with the relevant highway authority to ensure that it has the appropriate opportunity pre-commencement to comment on the CTMP, before it is approved by Lincolnshire County Council (as the relevant authority). This is appropriate as the framework CTMP includes provisions relevant to the statutory functions of the relevant highway. The CTMP must be implemented as approved.

6.2.20 Requirement 15 – Operational noise: This requirement stipulate that Work Nos. 1, 2 and 3 may not commence until an operational noise assessment (containing details of how the design has incorporated mitigation set out in the Environmental Statement [EN010131/APP/3.1] in respect of operational noise rating levels has been complied with) has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority. The design in the operational noise assessment must be implemented as approved and maintained throughout the operation of the relevant part of the authorised development to which the plan relates.

6.2.21 Requirement 16 – Public rights of way diversions: This requirement provides that the authorised development may not commence until a public rights of way management plan (PRoWMP) (substantially in accordance with the outline PRoWMP) for any sections of public rights of way shown to be temporarily closed on the streets, access and rights of way plans have been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority in consultation with the relevant highway authority. It is appropriate to require consultation with the relevant highway authority to ensure that it has the appropriate opportunity pre-commencement to comment on the PRoWMP, before it is approved by Lincolnshire County Council (as the relevant authority). This is appropriate as the outline PRoWMP includes provisions relevant to the statutory functions of the relevant highway.

6.2.22 Requirement 17 – Soils management: This requirement stipulates that no part of the authorised development may commence until a soil management plan (substantially in accordance with the outline soil management plan) for that part has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority. All construction works must be carried out in accordance with the approved soil management plan and maintained throughout the operation of the relevant part of the authorised development to which the plan relates.

6.2.23 Requirement 18 – Skills, supply chain and employment: this requirement stipulates that no phase of the authorised development may commence until a skills, supply chain and employment plan (which must be substantially in accordance with the outline skills, supply chain and employment plan) in relation to that phase has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority, following consultation with Lincolnshire County Council. The skills and employment plan must identify

opportunities for individuals and businesses to access employment and supply chain opportunities associated with the construction, operation and maintenance of the authorised development, and the means for publicising such opportunities. The skills and employment plan must be implemented as approved and maintained throughout the operation of the relevant part of the authorised development to which the plan relates.

6.2.24 Requirement 19 – Decommissioning and restoration:

Decommissioning must commence no later than 60 years following the date of final commissioning of the authorised development. This requirement also provides that, unless otherwise agreed in writing with the relevant planning authority, no later than 12 months prior to the date the undertaker intends to decommission any part of the authorised development, the undertaker must notify the relevant planning authority of the intended date of decommissioning. Within 12 months of such notification, the undertaker must submit to the relevant planning authority for its approval a decommissioning environmental management plan (which must include a decommissioning worker travel plan and site waste management plan) for that part which substantially accords with the framework decommissioning environmental management plan [EN010131/APP/7.5]. No decommissioning works must be carried out until the relevant planning authority has approved the plan submitted in relation to such works. The plan submitted must be implemented as approved. This requirement is without prejudice to any other consents or permissions which may be required to decommission any part of the authorised development.

6.2.25 In accordance with PINS' Advice Note 15: Drafting Development Consent Orders (July 2018), the Applicant's view is that it is necessary for named consultees of each specific requirement (where applicable) to be listed under Schedule 2 (Requirements). As the consultee bodies are specific to each requirement, it is necessary to identify any applicable consultee bodies in the requirements themselves so that it is clear which consultee is required in respect of which requirement, and to maintain a clear distinction between the specific obligations under each requirement in Schedule 2, and the general procedure for discharging those requirements under Schedule 16. Further, Article 3 is the operative provision which gives the Applicant development consent, subject to the requirements in Schedule 2. Therefore, it is necessary to include the consultees in Schedule 2 to make it precise and enforceable as to which bodies must be consulted in relation to which requirements, as a condition for the development consent. This approach is well precedented in each of the made solar DCOs (namely, the **Cleve Hill Solar Park Order 2020**, the **Little Crow Solar Park Order 2022** and the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**), where the procedure(s) for the discharge of requirements all cross refer to the requirements themselves, which then include the appropriate consultee bodies specific to that requirement.

6.3 Schedule 3 (Legislation to be disapplied)

6.3.1 This Schedule lists out the legislation that the Order disapplies that relates to railways, river navigation, fisheries and water in the vicinity of the Order Limits in so far as such legislation is in force and is incompatible with the powers contained within the Order.

6.4 Schedule 4 (Streets subject to street works)

6.4.1 This Schedule sets out the streets that are to be subject to street works by reference to the Streets, Access and Rights of Way Plans. The Schedule relates to Article 8 (Street works).

6.5 Schedule 5 (Alteration of streets)

6.5.1 This Schedule sets out the streets that are to be permanently altered and maintained by the highway authority (Part 1), permanently altered and maintained by the street authority (Part 2) and temporarily altered (Part 3) by reference to the Streets, Access and Rights of Way Plans. This Schedule relates to Articles 9 (Power to alter layout, etc., of streets) and 10 (Construction and maintenance of altered streets).

6.6 Schedule 6 (Streets and public rights of way)

6.6.1 This Schedule sets out the locations of the streets to be temporarily stopped up and diverted (Part 1), the public rights of way to be temporarily stopped up and diverted (Part 2), the public rights of way over which the undertaker seeks authorisation to use motor vehicles permanently (Part 3), the public rights of way to be managed temporarily (Part 4), and the public rights of way over which the undertaker seeks authorisation to use motor vehicles temporarily (Part 5). It references the Streets, Access and Rights of Way Plans. This Schedule relates to Article 11 (Temporary stopping up of streets and public rights of way).

6.7 Schedule 7 (Permanent means of access to works)

6.7.1 This Schedule sets out the permanent means of accesses to works to the authorised development. It references the Streets, Access and Rights of Way Plans. The Schedule relates to Article 13 (Access to works).

6.8 Schedule 8 (Traffic regulation measures)

6.8.1 This Schedule contains details of the streets that are subject to temporary traffic regulation measures pursuant to Article 15 and contains details of the nature of the measures for each affected street.

6.9 Schedule 9 (Deemed Marine Licence)

6.9.1 This Schedule contains the terms of the deemed marine licence pursuant to Article 44 and contains details of the licenced marine activities that may be carried out by the undertaker.

6.10 Schedule 10 (Land in which only new rights etc. may be acquired)

6.10.1 This Schedule sets out the areas of land over which only new rights may be acquired by the undertaker and the nature of the rights that may be acquired. The plot numbers in column 1 of that table correlate with the relevant plot numbers shaded blue and brown on the Land Plans [EN010131/APP/5.6] and the nature of the rights in column 2 explains the purposes for which rights over land may be acquired and restrictive covenants imposed. The Schedule relates to Article 22 (Compulsory acquisition of rights).

6.11 Schedule 11 (Modification of compensation and compulsory purchase enactments for the creation of new rights and imposition of new restrictive covenants)

6.11.1 This Schedule modifies existing compensation legislation including the Land Compensation Act 1973 and the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965. It is commonly included in made DCOs, including the Cleve Hill Solar Park Order 2020 and the A303 (Amesbury to Berwick Down) Development Consent Order 2020. This has been updated to reflect any necessary changes arising as a result of the Housing and Planning Act 2016. The Schedule relates to Article 22 (Compulsory acquisition of rights).

6.12 Schedule 12 (Land of which temporary possession may be taken)

6.12.1 This Schedule sets out the land of which only temporary possession may be taken, pursuant to Article 29 (Temporary use of land for constructing the authorised development). This land is shown green on the Land Plans [EN010131/APP/5.6], and the purpose for the temporary possession is described by reference to the relevant work numbers and corresponding Works Plans [EN010131/APP/5.2].

6.13 Schedule 13 (Documents and plans to be certified)

6.13.1 This Schedule lists the documents that the undertaker must have certified as true copies by the Secretary of State pursuant to Article 40 (Certification of plans and documents, etc.). It is split into three parts comprising the documents forming part of the environmental statement to be certified, examination documents forming part of the environmental statement to be certified and other documents to be certified.

6.14 Schedule 14 (Arbitration rules)

6.14.1 This Schedule relates to Article 42 (Arbitration). The intention is to achieve a fair, impartial and binding award on substantive differences between the parties. Further, the objective is to achieve determination within 4 months from the date the arbitrator is first appointed to ensure that any disputes are resolved quickly. In the context of the pressing need for new power generation, particularly by renewable means, identified in the National Policy Statements, it is considered desirable that any disputes are resolved promptly to enable delivery of the authorised development in as timely a way as possible.

6.14.2 Schedule 14 refers to the person who commenced the arbitration as the Claimant and the other party as the Respondent.

6.14.3 The timetable for the process is as follows:

- (a) Within 14 days of the Arbitrator being appointed the Claimant shall serve on the Respondent and the Arbitrator a statement of claim and all supporting evidence to support the claim.
- (b) Within 14 days of receipt of the Claimant's statement of claim and supporting evidence the Respondent will serve a statement of defence and all supporting evidence to support its defence, together with any objections to the Claimant's documentation.
- (c) Within 7 days of receipt of the Respondent's documentation the Claimant may make a statement of reply.
- (d) The parties would be liable for their own costs of the arbitration, unless otherwise directed by an award made by the arbitrator. Costs will include the arbitrator's costs together with the reasonable legal fees and other costs incurred by the other party.

6.15 Schedule 15 (Protective Provisions)

6.15.1 This Schedule sets out protective provisions for the benefit of statutory undertakers whose equipment may be affected by the authorised

development. This schedule relates to Article 43 (Protective provisions) and currently contains protective provisions for the benefit of defined classes of service undertakers (electricity, gas, water and sewerage undertakers at Part 1, electronic communications code operators at Part 2, and drainage authorities at Part 3).

6.15.2 In addition, each of Parts 4 – 12 contain provisions for the benefit of a particular body and these remaining Parts are at varying stages of negotiation with the relevant parties. The versions of the protective provisions contained within Parts 4 – 12 of the Order represent the latest point that negotiations have reached with each party, and therefore are not agreed and are subject to change. In addition, there may be a need for additional parts in the event that any other parties request bespoke protective provisions and the undertaker is willing to negotiate them. The relevant bodies are as follows:

- (a) Part 4 – Cottam Solar Project Limited
- (b) Part 5 – West Burton Solar Project Limited
- (c) Part 6 – Anglian Water Services Limited as water undertaker
- (d) Part 7 – National Grid Electricity Distribution (East Midlands) plc as electricity undertaker
- (e) Part 8 – The Environment Agency
- (f) Part 9 – National Grid Electricity Transmission plc as electricity undertaker
- (g) Part 10 – Network Rail Infrastructure Limited for the protection of railways interests
- (h) Part 11 – The Canal & River Trust
- (i) Part 12 – Exolum Pipeline System Ltd
- (j) Part 13 – Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue
- (k) [Part 14 – Tillbridge Solar Limited]
- (l) Part 15 – EDF Energy (Thermal Generation) Limited
- (m) Part 16 – Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) Plc

6.15.3 The protective provisions in Part 1 for the protection of electricity, gas, water and sewerage undertakers, have been amended slightly to include other mains, pipelines or cables not ordinarily falling within the definition of "apparatus" and the owner of such mains, pipelines and cables as a

"utility undertaker". This is to capture and protect a water supply to tenants that is privately provided within the Order Limits.

6.16 Schedule 16 (Procedure for discharge of requirements)

6.16.1 This Schedule provides a bespoke procedure for dealing with an application made to the Relevant Planning Authority for any consent, agreement or approval required by the Requirements in Schedule 2 of the Order. It sets out time periods within which decisions must be made and provides for deemed approval of the applications in certain circumstances. The Schedule makes provision for appeals to be made in the event of a refusal of an application or if the Relevant Planning Authority requires further information to be provided in relation to that application. Schedules similar to Schedule 16 have been used in various orders and can be seen in a similar form in the Hinkley Point C (Nuclear Generating Station) Order 2013, as amended, and the National Grid (King's Lynn B Power Station Connection) Order 2013. The bespoke process is required in order to ensure that applications under Requirements are dealt with efficiently so that the authorised development is not held up. Deemed consent of applications is required for the same reason and ensures that the nationally-needed authorised development will not be held up by the discharge of requirements. This schedule has been shared with the Relevant Planning Authorities and amended in response to their comments. The Schedule relates to Article 46 (Procedure in relation to certain approvals etc.).

6.17 Schedule 17 (Hedgerows to be removed)

6.17.1 This Schedule sets out the hedgerows to be removed pursuant to Article 38 and by reference to the Vegetation removal plan, listing in Column 2 the number of hedgerow and extent of removal, and in Column 3 the purpose of removal.

6.18 Schedule 18 (Trees subject to tree preservation orders ('TPO'))

6.18.1 This Schedule sets out the trees which may be felled or lopped pursuant to Article 39. The type of tree and TPO reference are set out in Column 1 and Column 4 respectively, whilst the works to be carried out in respect of each tree and for the purposes of the authorised development are then listed in Columns (2) and (3) respectively.