

West Burton Solar Project

Environmental Statement Non-Technical Summary

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Issue Sheet

Report Prepared for: West Burton Solar Project Ltd.
DCO Submission

Environmental Statement: Non-Technical Summary

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

1.1.1 This document has been prepared on behalf of West Burton Solar Project Ltd. (the 'Applicant') and provides a Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the Environmental Statement (ES) for the proposed West Burton Solar Project.

1.1.2 The Applicant has submitted an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero for the construction, operation (including maintenance), and decommissioning of a photovoltaic (PV) solar array electricity generating facility exceeding 50 megawatts (MW) capacity, with an Energy Storage Facility and connection to the UK electricity transmission system (hereafter referred to as the 'Scheme').

1.2 The Order Limits

1.2.1 The extent of land for which DCO consent is being sought, is referred to as the 'Order limits' and comprises 886.42 hectares of land.

1.2.2 The Scheme consists of three Sites, named West Burton 1, West Burton 2 and West Burton 3, along with a Cable Route Corridor.

1.2.3 The three Sites are located in the district of West Lindsey, Lincolnshire. West Burton 1 is located east of the village of Broxholme. West Burton 2 sits to the north of the village of Saxilby and surrounds the village of Ingleby. West Burton 3 is located to the southeast of the village of Marton and east of the village of Brampton.

1.2.4 The Sites are connected to each other and to the Point of Connection (POC) at West Burton Power Station located on the western side of the River Trent in Nottinghamshire by some 21.3km of high voltage cable route. These cables are proposed to be constructed within the Cable Route Corridor as identified in the application. Separate cables run from West Burton 1 and West Burton 2 into West Burton 3 where a new 400kV substation will be located. From there a combined 400kV cable runs to the POC at the West Burton Power Station substation. Part of the Cable Route Corridor and the POC are situated within Bassetlaw District Council's area, which is within Nottinghamshire.

1.2.5 The Scheme Order limits is shown on Figure 1.1 included at the end of this NTS.

1.2.6 A description of the physical characteristics of the Scheme and the land-use during the construction, operational, and decommissioning phases is presented in Section 4: Scheme Description, of this NTS.

1.3 The Applicant and Author of the ES

1.3.1 The Scheme is being developed by West Burton Solar Project Limited (the 'Applicant'). The Applicant is part of Island Green Power Limited (IGP), who is a leading international developer of renewable energy projects, established in 2013.

- 1.3.2 IGP has delivered 26 solar projects worldwide totalling more than 1GW of capacity. This includes 14 solar projects in the UK and Republic of Ireland.
- 1.3.3 IGP is also progressing the Cottam Solar Project, which is within the same locality as the Scheme. The DCO application for the Cottam Solar Project was submitted in January 2023.
- 1.3.4 The ES has been prepared by Lanpro Services. This document presents a non-technical summary of the results of the ES **[EN010132/APP/WB6.1 – WB6.4]**.

1.4 The Purpose of the Environmental Statement and NTS

- 1.4.1 The ES has been produced to accompany the Application, as required by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (“the EIA Regulations”) (Ref 1-1), in order to ensure that the Examining Authority (who considers the Application), and the Secretary of State (who makes the ultimate decision as to whether consent should be granted for the Scheme) are aware of the likely significant effects on the environment as a result of the Scheme when taking their decision. The ES complies with all the elements of Schedule 4 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations.
- 1.4.2 The ES has 4 Volumes. Volume 1 is the main report with the various assessments contained therein; Volume 2 is the Appendices; Volume 3 contains the Figures and plans relating to the ES; Volume 4 is this NTS. In addition, a contents page, glossary and definitions document forms part of the ES.
- 1.4.3 The purpose of this NTS is to describe the Scheme and to provide a summary in non-technical language, of the key findings of the ES.

2 EIA Process and Methodology

2.1.1 Chapter 2: EIA Process and Methodology of the ES [EN010132/APP/WB6.2.2] describes the approach the EIA has taken to assessing impacts associated with the Scheme, including the significance criteria against which those impacts have been assessed.

2.2 Overview

2.2.1 EIA is the process undertaken to identify and evaluate the likely significant effects of a proposed development on the environment and to identify measures to mitigate or manage any significant negative effects. The EIA should be informed by consultation with statutory consultees, other interested bodies, and members of the public. The purpose of identifying significant effects is to ensure decision makers are able to make an informed judgement on the environmental impacts of a proposal. The findings of the EIA are presented in the ES (which is summarised in this NTS).

2.2.2 The process of assessing and minimising effects involves continually feeding back environmental information obtained through surveys and consultation into the project design and re-evaluating the likely effects of the Scheme as a result.

2.2.3 All environmental assessments in the ES follow a broadly similar methodology. The likely effect that the Scheme may have on each receptor is influenced by a combination of the sensitivity of the receptor and the predicted magnitude of change from the baseline (or existing) conditions (either positive (beneficial) or negative (adverse)).

2.2.4 The environmental sensitivity, value, or importance of a receptor may be categorised by a range of factors, such as threat to rare or endangered species, transformation of natural landscapes, or changes to soil quality and land-use.

2.2.5 The overall likely effect is determined by the interaction of the above two factors (i.e., sensitivity/importance; and predicted magnitude of change from the baseline). Each chapter sets a threshold above which effects are considered to be “significant” in terms of the EIA Regulations. Where the magnitude of change is identified as “neutral”, there is no effect.

2.2.6 ‘Residual effects’ are the effects that remain after any proposed mitigation has been taken into account (mitigation measures are measures envisaged to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any identified significant adverse effects of the development and can relate to both methods of construction, or particular design elements that are to be incorporated within the completed Scheme).

2.2.7 Cumulative effects have also been assessed, which take into account other proposed developments in the area which could lead to additional effects in combination with the Scheme. Information relating to committed developments has been collected from the appropriate source including online LPA application portals, the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) or directly from the applicant / developer. NSIP projects in close proximity to the Scheme are:

- Cottam Solar Project (application for DCO submitted January 2023). Following broadly the same timescales as the Scheme;
- Gate Burton Energy Park (application for DCO submitted January 2023). Also, following broadly the same timescales as the Scheme;
- Tillbridge Solar (EIA Scoping opinion issued by PINS November 2022, application for DCO expected to be submitted in the third quarter of 2023).

2.2.8 Figure 2.1 contained at the end of this NTS document shows the location of these potential developments, and others in proximity to the Order limits of the Scheme. The ES provides the latest environmental information obtained and assessed as part of the EIA. The ES accompanies the application for the Scheme and demonstrates how a systematic approach to EIA and project design has taken place. The process of identifying environmental effects has been both iterative and cyclical, running in tandem with the iterative design process.

2.3 EIA Scoping

2.3.1 An EIA Scoping Report and a request for an EIA Scoping Opinion under Regulation 10 of the EIA Regulations was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in January 2022.

2.3.2 The aim of the EIA Scoping process is to identify expected key environmental issues at an early stage, to determine which elements of the Scheme are likely to result in significant effects on the environment and to establish the extent of survey and assessment requirements for the EIA, including identifying which topics should be included in the EIA and the level of detail to which they should be assessed.

2.3.3 The Scoping Opinion was issued on 2 March 2022 and presents the formal response from the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) and statutory consultees.

2.3.4 The ES is based on the Scoping Opinion, with the matters raised having been reviewed and taken into consideration in the relevant technical assessments. Key issues raised in the Scoping Opinion are summarised at the start of each of the technical chapters (Chapters 7 to 21) of the ES [EN010132/APP/WB6.2.7 - WB6.2.21].

2.4 Preliminary Environmental Information Report

2.4.1 A Preliminary Environmental Information (PEIR) Report was prepared and published in June 2022 as part of the statutory consultation exercise undertaken by the Applicant. The purpose of the PEIR was to “enable the local community to understand the environmental effects of the proposed development so as to inform their responses regarding the proposed development”. It was also prepared to meet the requirements of Regulation 12(2) of the EIA Regulations.

2.4.2 The PEIR provided the preliminary findings of the environmental assessment undertaken at that time in the Scheme design development. Upon completion of

the PEIR, the various assessments were at differing stages of completion due to ongoing design work and continued collection of baseline information.

- 2.4.3 The PEIR has been further developed following completion of the design work and environmental assessment and now constitutes the ES, which this NTS summarises.

2.5 Consultation

- 2.5.1 Consultation is integral to the preparation of DCO applications and to the EIA process. The views of consultation bodies and the local community serve to focus the environmental studies and to identify specific issues that required further investigation, as well as to inform aspects of the design of the Scheme. The Planning Act (2008) requires applicants for DCOs to carry out formal (statutory) pre-application consultation on their proposals.
- 2.5.2 A two-stage approach to pre-application consultation on the Scheme was adopted. A non-statutory consultation was carried out during November 2021 to December 2021, and statutory consultation was undertaken from 15 June to 27 July 2022, following the publication of the PEIR Report. The Consultation Report submitted as part of the Application **[EN010132/APP/WB5.1]** documents the pre-application and statutory consultation undertaken by the Applicant, and the regard had to the responses.
- 2.5.3 Following the statutory consultation set out above, the Applicant made a number of minor changes to the Order limits having regard to feedback from the consultation, and in light of further work on the Scheme's design and environmental impacts. The Applicant wrote to targeted consultees to notify them of the changes and invite comment for a 28-day period.
- 2.5.4 The issues that have been raised through consultation and how these have been considered and addressed within the design evolution of the Scheme and the EIA are set out in each of the technical chapters (Chapters 7 to 21) of the ES **[EN010132/APP/WB6.2]**, and in the Consultation Report **[EN010132/APP/WB5.1]**.

3 Site Selection and Design

- 3.1.1 Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution of the ES **[EN010132/APP/WB6.2.5]** presents an overview of the justification for selecting the Order limits, how the design has evolved since EIA Scoping, and a discussion of the reasonable alternatives considered.
- 3.1.2 A viable grid connection is an essential material consideration for proceeding with a solar development and is instrumental in defining the search area. The Applicant made a grid connection application to National Grid for connection at West Burton Power Station (POC) and an offer was made by National Grid for 480MW.
- 3.1.3 The selection of the Scheme's location has followed a five-stage process, which is a systematic step-by-step process and is described in detail in Appendix 5.1 (to Chapter 5 of the ES) Site Selection Assessment **[EN010132/APP/WB6.3.5.1]**. In addition, the sequential test has been carried out as part of site selection and is set out within Appendix 10.6 Flood Risk Assessment Sequential Test **[EN010132/APP/WB6.3.10.6]**.
- 3.1.4 Based on the POC at West Burton Power Station and consideration of the maximum economically viable distance from that point for the connection, the assessment has considered potential solar development areas in a 15km area of search.
- 3.1.5 Stages 2 and 3 of the assessment have involved GIS mapping to exclude environmental and planning constraints including all Grade 1, 2, and 3 agricultural land and apply operational considerations such as development area and topography within the 15km area of search.
- 3.1.6 This resulted in the identification of 1 potential development area (PDA1) on Grade 4, 5 or unclassified land within the search area. The use of RAF Scampton was proposed through the pre-application consultation undertaken by the Applicant. However, this was beyond the 15km search area in which a suitable site was identified and therefore further from the grid connection point, so it was not considered further. The Applicant notes that West Lindsey District Council has submitted an expression of interest in acquiring the RAF Scampton site for redevelopment and the site is allocated as an "opportunity area" in the Draft Local Plan. The Applicant therefore considers that this site would not be available for solar development in any case.
- 3.1.7 PDA 1 was subject to further evaluation, as set out in Annex E, using readily available information sources, against assessment indicators to consider the suitability of the area for solar development. The conclusions of this evaluation indicate that the PDA has a number of land use, operational and environmental constraints which would mean it would be difficult to develop solar of the scale required at this location.
- 3.1.8 Given the assessment findings it was then necessary to consider Grade 3 agricultural land. Local agents provided information regarding potentially willing landowners with large-scale land holdings within the Grade 3 land area. This

resulted in the identification of three potential development areas in addition to the West Burton original draft site area.

- 3.1.9 Similarly to the Stage 2 and 3 assessment, GIS mapping was used to exclude environmental and planning constraints from the Grade 3 land and apply operational considerations. This resulted in the choice of the West Burton original draft site area, which was subsequently refined into the Scheme order limits to address stakeholder consultation comments, and further technical assessment work including detailed ALC assessment. The West Burton original draft site area including the Scheme, performed better than 3 of the other locations and equal to one (Site 4) within the RAG assessment. Site 4 is immediately adjacent to High Marnham Power Station where a grid connection was not preferred by National Grid at the time of Site Selection, but which would be the most sensible and cost effective POC for this land in the future. In addition, a detailed ALC assessment has not been undertaken for Site 4 so it may contain a higher proportion of BMV land than the Scheme.
- 3.1.10 It is considered that there are no obviously more suitable locations within the area of search than the proposed Sites for the Scheme. The Scheme's location is therefore assessed to be suitable for the scale of solar development proposed and the basis on which the Applicant has selected the Sites accords with the approach to the consideration of alternatives set out by paragraph 4.4.3 of NPS EN-1.
- 3.1.11 The Order limits would not be suitable for alternative forms of renewable generation – onshore wind was effectively barred by changes to the planning regime in 2015 and other forms of renewable technologies rely on natural resources not available within the Order limits. Nuclear power was not considered as an alternative because of the high cost of electricity and the lengthy planning and development timeframe; circa 20 years, that such a project would involve. The Scheme will be able to start generating electricity much more quickly with a grid connection anticipated in 2028.
- 3.1.12 Alternative layouts for the solar panel areas, alternative substation locations and alternative cable routes have all been considered from the early scoping stages of the project through to submission of the DCO application. Matters raised by stakeholders in relation to alternatives at the EIA Scoping and Statutory Consultation Stages have helped to shape the development of the Scheme. This iterative design process has resulted in the Scheme delivering good design and meeting the requirements of the NPSs and Draft NPSs in the context of efficiently delivering large scale renewable energy infrastructure. It also provides a new network of environmental features which deliver a range of ecosystem services, incorporating biodiversity, heritage, landscape and access.

4 Scheme Description

4.1 The Order Limits

- 4.1.1 The Order limits are located within the District Council administrative areas of Bassetlaw and West Lindsey in the counties of Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire respectively. The Order limits is formed by the Solar Array Sites, the Grid Connection Route and Site Access Works.
- 4.1.2 Figure 1.1 illustrates the Scheme Order limits, which is the maximum area of land required for the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Scheme. It includes the Scheme infrastructure and any land set aside for landscaping, ecological and biodiversity enhancements, and recreational connectivity and access.
- 4.1.3 The current landscape within the Scheme Order limits consists predominantly of agricultural fields with some interspersed grasslands and small areas of trees. The surrounding habitat is mainly arable in nature. There are some individual and small clusters of residential properties located adjacent to the Order limits boundary.
- 4.1.4 Other proposed infrastructure within the Order limits and surrounding area include the Cable Route Corridor. The Sites are connected to each other and to the grid connection point by some 21.3km of high voltage cable route. Separate cables run from West Burton 1 and West Burton 2 into West Burton 3 where a new 400kV substation will be located. From there a combined 400kV cable runs to the POC at the West Burton Power Station substation.
- 4.1.5 Each of the Sites has separate access routes, which will be used across the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning phases of the development. The local highway network has been assessed as being suitable for traffic associated with the Scheme at all phases. There will be required highways improvements or alterations to some existing access in order for abnormal loads to be delivered or removed from the Sites, especially during construction and decommissioning.
- 4.1.6 The Scheme has been designed so that it does not cause a permanent diversion or closure of a Public Right of Way or make it so that the Public Right of Way is unsuitable or undesirable for use.
- 4.1.7 Where possible, the design of the Scheme has considered additional accessibility routes, such as a permissive paths, to add a level of community benefit and to enhance the walking and cycling network in the locality.
- 4.1.8 The Site of West Burton 1 totals 91.32ha in area and is located to the east of Broxholme with the village of Bransby to the northwest. It lies within the parish of Broxholme. West Burton 1 consists almost entirely of agricultural fields used for arable crops. The topography is relatively flat and is predominantly well screened from its immediate surroundings by tall hedges around the boundaries. The fields are generally large and typically have dividing hedgerows. There are only isolated

trees outside of field margins. There are a number of existing farm access tracks and field accesses within the Site. Part of the Site adjoins the bank of a watercourse that drains into the River Till.

- 4.1.9 West Burton 2 sits to the west of West Burton 1 and is located to the north of the village of Saxilby. It lies within the parish of Saxilby with Ingleby and covers an area of 306.98ha. The Site at West Burton 2 consists almost entirely of agricultural fields used for arable crops. The topography is relatively flat and is predominantly well screened from its immediate surroundings by tall hedges around the boundaries. The fields are generally large and typically have dividing hedgerows. There are only isolated trees outside of field margins. There are a number of existing farm access tracks and field accesses within the Site. Part of the Site adjoins the bank of the River Till.
- 4.1.10 West Burton 3 sits to the north west of West Burton 2 and is located between the villages of Brampton and Marton within the parishes of Marton, Brampton and Stow. It covers an area of 370.78ha. The Site at West Burton 3 consists almost entirely of agricultural fields used for arable crops. The topography is relatively flat and is predominantly well screened from its immediate surroundings by tall hedges around the boundaries. The fields are generally large and typically have dividing hedgerows. There are only isolated trees outside of field margins. There are a number of existing farm access tracks and field accesses within the Site and a farmhouse which will remain and is not proposed to be redeveloped. The railway line between Lincoln and Sheffield runs north-south between land parcels comprising the West Burton 3 Site.
- 4.1.11 The land within the Order Limits is not subject to any landscape designation. The West Lindsey Area of Great Landscape Value is located approximately 350m to the northeast of West Burton 3, approximately 2.3km to the east of West Burton 1 and approximately 3.6km to the east of West Burton.
- 4.1.12 There are no statutory or non-statutory ecological designations within 2km of the Sites. There are no ancient woodlands within 2km of the West Burton 1 and West Burton 2, while there is one ancient woodland located with that distance from West Burton 3: an ancient woodland is located 1.2km north of West Burton 3 at Gate Burton.
- 4.1.13 The majority of the Order Limits lies within zones at low risk of flooding (less than 1 in 1,000 annual probability). The Order Limits also includes land medium and high risk of flooding (between 1 in 1000 to 1 in 100 annual probability), as well a water storage area associated with the River Till.
- 4.1.14 There are no scheduled monuments, listed buildings, registered parks and gardens, or conservation areas within the Order Limits.
- 4.1.15 There are a number of heritage assets, including listed buildings located within 2km of the Sites. These are shown on the Statutory and Non-Statutory Features of Historic Environment Plan **[EN010132/APP/WB2.8]** and are detailed within ES Appendix 13.5 Heritage Assessment **[EN010132/APP/WB6.3.13.5]**. There is one

scheduled monument adjacent to West Burton 1 (Broxholme medieval settlement and cultivation remains), one scheduled monument adjacent to West Burton 2 (the deserted village of North Ingleby) and one scheduled monument adjacent to West Burton 3 (Stow Park medieval bishop's palace and deer park).

- 4.1.16 There is a number of public rights of way (PRoW) both within the Order limits and across the surrounding area, as shown in the Public Rights of Way Plan **[EN010132/APP/WB2.4]**.

4.2 Description of the Scheme

- 4.2.1 The Scheme comprises a solar energy farm with solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and Energy Storage Facility (which for the purposes of the ES is likely to be battery technology and therefore is often referred to as a Battery Energy Storage System or 'BESS' in the ES). The PV Panels will convert the sun's energy into electricity for storage on-site and export to the national grid via an underground cable. Figures 4.1 – 4.4 provided at the end of this NTS document, show Illustrative Site Layout Plans at each of the sites, showing one way in which the Scheme could be developed, and which have been used to inform the assessments in the ES.

- 4.2.2 The Scheme seeks an approval for a development with restrictive parameters, which restrict the aspects of the solar farm which have potential environmental impacts – such as the height of the solar panels, dimensions of infrastructure such as the BESS, and where within the Order limits solar panels would be located. These are known as the 'Design Principles'. This approach also ensures the Scheme will be able to generate electricity as efficiently as possible, using technology which is constantly improving and may allow greater amounts of electricity to be generated in future within the existing Design Principles. Further information about the Design Principles is presented in the sections below, and in Chapter 4: Scheme Description of the ES **[EN010132/APP/WB6.2.4]**.

[Concept Design Parameters and Principles, and the Rochdale Envelope](#)

- 4.2.3 The need for flexibility in design, layout and technology is recognised in National Policy Statement EN-1 as elements of a development may not be finalised. To accommodate flexibility, a 'Rochdale Envelope' approach is used, as described in the Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 9. This involves assessing the maximum (and where relevant, the minimum) parameters for the Scheme where flexibility needs to be retained, while ensuring all potentially significant effects (positive or adverse) are considered. The principles and justification for this approach are set out in Chapter 2: EIA Process and Methodology of the ES **[EN010132/APP/WB6.2.2]**.

- 4.2.4 The maximum design scenarios are identified from the range of potential options for each design parameter for the Scheme. The maximum design scenario assessed is therefore the scenario which would give rise to the greatest potential impact. The maximum design scenarios are set out in the Concept Design Parameters and Principles document **[EN010132/APP/WB7.13]** and secured by a requirement in the draft DCO.

- 4.2.5 A number of elements of detailed design for the Scheme cannot be confirmed until the tendering process for the design and construction of the Scheme has been completed. For example, due to the rapid pace of technological development in the solar PV and energy storage industry, the Scheme could utilise technology which does not currently exist and therefore sufficient flexibility needs to be incorporated into the Application.
- 4.2.6 The Concept Design parameters all fall within the bounds of the Design Principles, and in many cases, the Concept Design is the same as the Design Principles, such as the height of PV Panels. Where topics within the ES have undertaken an assessment on the basis of the Concept Design, they have also considered and confirmed that the effects predicted for the Concept Design would be no worse for any other scheme constructed within the parameters set by the Design Principles.
- 4.2.7 The Scheme elements are discussed below, and indicative images of the Scheme equipment are presented in Plate 1.
- 4.2.8 The Order limits is formed by the Solar Farm Site, the Grid Connection Cable Works, BESS, on-site substations, works at West Burton Power Station, and ancillary infrastructure. The location of the Scheme components within the Order limits has been carefully considered and restricted to specific areas, in order to minimise the impacts of those components (as shown on the Works Plan **[EN010132/APP/WB2.3]**). The Scheme will comprise the following components:
- a) PV Panels (also known as modules): these convert sunlight into electrical current. Both tracker and fixed panels have been considered in the application. The maximum height of the highest part of the tracker panels is 4.5m above ground level; with the fixed being 3.5 metres. Foundations are most likely to be galvanised steel poles driven into the ground. These will either be piles rammed into a pre-drilled hole, with a pillar attaching to a steel ground screw. Maximum depth of piled mounting structures will be 3.5m below ground level. Foundations in areas of archaeological interest will be concrete feet onto which the mounting structures will be affixed;
 - b) Conversion Units incorporate the inverters, transformers and switchgear and are required to manage the electricity generated by the PV panels. These would either be standalone equipment or they would be housed ('integrated') together within a container. The Concept Design Parameters allow for both options. Both options would sit on a concrete foundation slab, strips or footings for each of the units and a levelling layer of aggregate with a maximum depth of 0.8m; or a concrete plinth set atop the topsoil where non-ground-penetrative works are required. Inverters are required to convert the DC electricity collected by the PV Panels into alternating current (AC), which allows the electricity generated to be exported to the National Grid;
 - c) The Energy Storage Facility or BESS is designed to provide grid balancing services to the electricity grid. It will do this by allowing excess electricity generated from the PV Panels to be stored in batteries and dispatched when

required. The batteries will be housed within the 'BESS Containers'. The maximum dimensions of individual modular battery storage container and interconnector container within a BESS compound is 2.0m width by 3.0m length and up to 3.5m in height. The maximum dimensions of modular battery storage and interconnector container strings within a BESS compound is 24.0m by 3.0m footprint and up to 3.5m in height. This is based on strings consisting of up to 12no. modular containers;

- d) The location of the West Burton 3 Substation can be viewed within the Works Plan **[EN010132/APP/WB2.3]**. The maximum height of the substation at West Burton 3 will be 13.2m to the top of the busbars;
- e) The electricity generated by the Scheme will be exported to the National Grid via the Cable Route Corridor, via a connection between West Burton 3 Substation and the West Burton Power Station Substation; and
- f) Other development is comprised of: (a) works including electrical cables, boundary treatment, means of access including permissive paths, security infrastructure, landscaping and biodiversity measures, earthworks, (b) works such as drainage, utility and communications connections, and site preparation works, which may be carried out across the Order limits; (c) Temporary construction compounds (or 'laydown' areas) for the Solar Farm Site, secondary temporary construction compounds within the Solar Farm Site and temporary construction laydown for the Cable Route Corridor; (d) Works to facilitate site access to the Solar Farm Site; (e) internal access roads and car parking; (f) landscaping including habitat management areas.

4.2.9 Appendix 4.1 of the ES 'Engineering Drawings and Sections', contained at the end of this NTS **[EN010132/APP/WB6.3.4.1]**, shows indicatively, the types of equipment and structures that could be constructed on the Sites and within the Cable Route Corridor.

4.2.10 During the construction phase, several temporary construction compounds will be required as well as temporary roadways to facilitate access to all land within the Order limits.

4.2.11 Opportunities for landscaping, and habitat management will be delivered in areas around the solar infrastructure and on other land within the Order limits.

4.2.12 The Scheme has been designed to integrate with and enhance the local green infrastructure network, improving ecological and recreational connectivity across the Order limits. The proposed planting design has responded to landscape and ecological character.

Areas under the solar panels and around the perimeter of the Sites will be planted with native grassland mix, and hedgerows will be planted or augmented to provide visual screening (see Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan **[EN010132/APP/WB7.3]** accompanying the application.

Plate 1: Images to show the type of equipment to be used within the Scheme



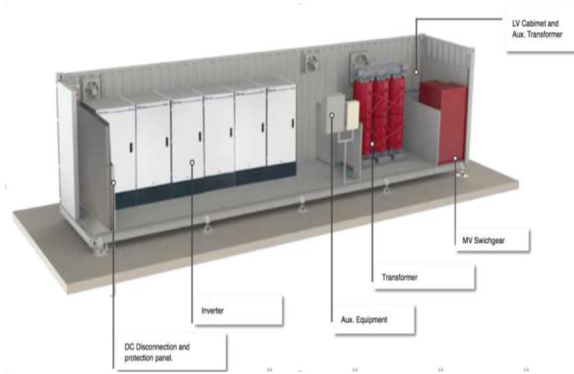
Tracker Panels



Fixed Panels



Panels with Concrete Feet



Integrated Conversion Unit



Battery Storage Compound

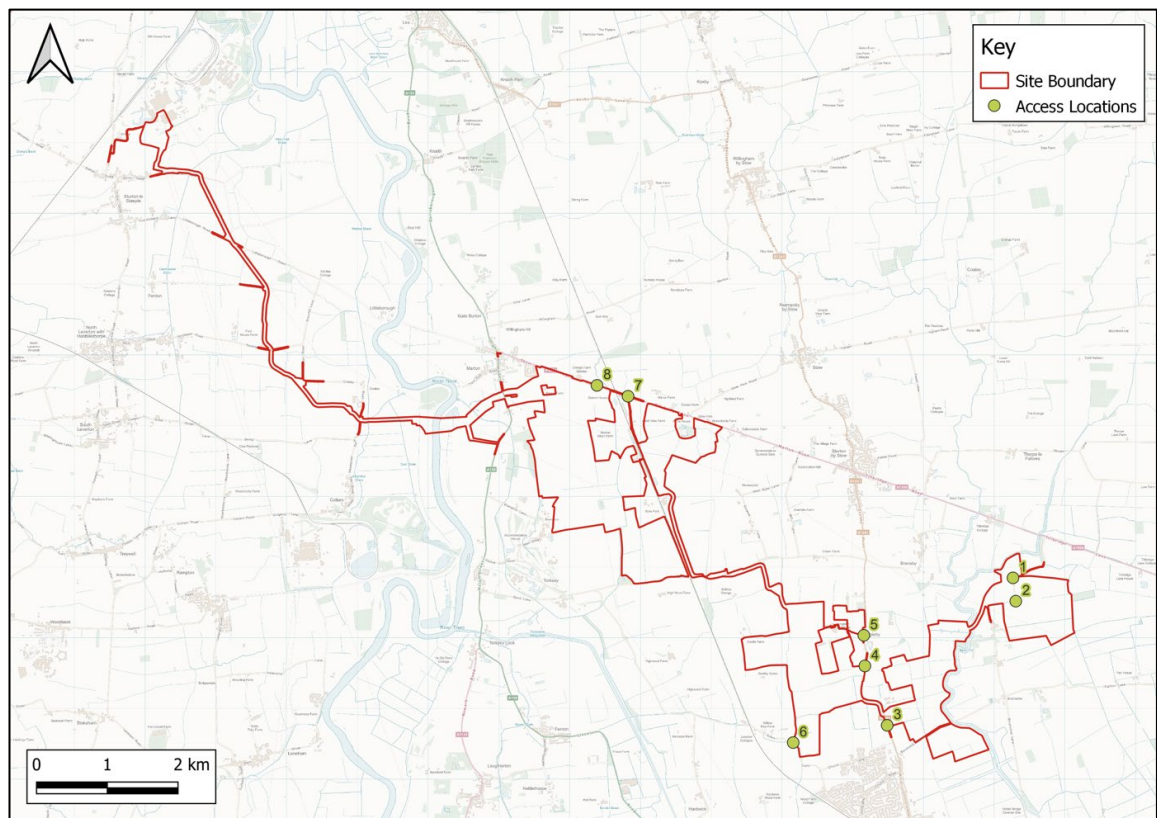


400 kV Power Transformer

Access Locations

4.2.13 Permanent and temporary access points are described and assessed in detail in the Transport Assessment [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.14.1] and Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.14.2] at Appendices 14.1 and 14.2 to the Transport and Access Chapter of the ES. There will be a total of 8 access points for West Burton 1, 2 and 3. The access locations are shown in **Plate 2** below:

Plate 2 Access Locations – West Burton 1, 2 and 3



4.3 Construction

Construction Programme

4.3.1 The Scheme currently has a grid connection date of 2028 although there is the potential that an earlier connection could be achieved. It is currently anticipated that construction works will commence, at the earliest, in Q4 2024 and will run to Q4 2026. As such, the construction programme for the entire Scheme is anticipated to be 24 months with the potential likelihood of overlapping construction works on the different Scheme Sites. Plate 3 indicates the potential construction durations across the different parts of the Scheme, showing a series of overlapping stages.

Plate 3 Indicative Construction Programme

Site/Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
West Burton 1																									
West Burton 2																									
West Burton 3																									
BESS																									
Grid Connect																									

4.3.2 'Shared Cable Route corridor'. As noted at Chapter 2 of the ES, part of the Gate Burton Energy Park cable route and Cottam Solar Project cable route will fall within the cable corridor for the Scheme, in the vicinity of Cottam Power Station. The cumulative environmental effects of the simultaneous or sequential construction of these cables have been assessed in the ES. This is in order to seek to minimise potential environmental effects and identify the benefits of combined construction activities. To accommodate the potential sequential installation of all three projects' ducts and cables, a five-year construction duration is adopted for this and assessed in this ES. This will be over the period Q4 2024 to Q4 2029. This period has been chosen given that the grid connection dates for Cottam is 2029, West Burton 2028 and Gate Burton Energy Park 2028 and it allows for these works to take place within that period.

4.3.3 Outside of the main construction period, there will be commissioning and connection to the National Grid. The timing of these works is dependent on National Grid.

4.3.4 The different elements of the construction works shown above, mean that enabling works do not need to be complete in all areas of the construction site before solar farm construction commences in another part of the site.

4.3.5 The construction phase is expected to commence not earlier than the last quarter of 2024 and be completed not earlier than the last quarter of 2026. During the construction phase, several temporary construction laydown areas will be required as well as temporary roadways to facilitate access to all land within the Order limits.

Construction Activities

4.3.6 The following activities would be required as part of the enabling works (not necessarily in order):

- a) Construction of site entrance and construction vehicle delivery holding area;
- b) Establishment of the main temporary construction laydown areas, which includes site offices/welfare area and parking area;

- c) Upgrade, modification or improvement of highways where required for site construction;
- d) Preparation of land for construction, including localised site levelling (where required) and vegetation clearance;
- e) Import of construction materials, plant and equipment to site;
- f) Establishment of the construction area fence where required for construction works to progress (the installation of the perimeter fence will progress with site construction in each area and therefore will not be complete at the start of site construction);
- g) Establishment of the secondary temporary construction laydown areas within the Solar Farm Sites;
- h) Construction of the internal access roads; and
- i) Marking out the location of the operational infrastructure.

Cable Construction

- 4.3.7 Generally on-site cables will be laid underground in excavated trenches adjacent to on-site tracks where possible and between the rows of PV panels. They will be laid at a suitable depth and positioned at a distance far enough away from the PV structures to allow future repair or maintenance. Some sections of cable may be installed in ducting if required to provide additional protection or where other infrastructure such as roads and hardstandings will be built over the top.
- 4.3.8 Cables will be laid in trenches established using open cut methods or Horizontal Directional Drilling where open cut methods are not appropriate (i.e., under watercourses, sensitive ecological habitats or archaeology).
- 4.3.9 For HDD, launch and reception pits will be excavated using a suitable excavator, with any required shoring or battering installed. Plant and spoil will be placed a safe distance away from the edge of the excavation so as to minimise the risk of the trench sides collapsing. Once the launch pit has been excavated, work will then commence on the initial drill (the 'pilot bore'). An area of up to 25m by 25m will be required at the launch pit and the reception pit. The area of hardstanding will be removed and the area reinstated following construction.

Site Access

- 4.3.10 Site entrances will include a security gate and kiosk to manage access and egress. The site entrance will allow HGVs to drive off the public road and park up before entering site without causing queues on the public highway.
- 4.3.11 Site access and routing strategies have been discussed and agreed in consultation with the Highways Authorities as set out within the Outline CTMP. There are existing surfaced tracks within the Order limits currently utilised for farm machinery, which are proposed to be upgraded for use to minimise the use of the

network of minor roads around the Order limits. In order to access all of the construction sites, a network of tracks will be used:

- a) Construction and decommissioning access points. These will be a minimum of 5.0m in width for two-way movements up to a maximum of 6.5m in width where passing places are required;
- b) Accesses required for permanent operation and maintenance access will be a minimum of 3.5m in width up to a maximum of 6.0m in width;
- c) Existing access tracks will be widened or resurfaced for temporary accesses; and
- d) Existing tracks will be used where already suitable.

4.3.12 The Transport Assessment **[EN010132/APP/WB6.3.14.1]** examines construction phase traffic. It is expected that there will be a relatively flat profile of deliveries throughout the construction period. Therefore, an average number of deliveries per day has been calculated based on the length of the construction period. Notwithstanding, it is acknowledged that there will be small peaks throughout the construction period, especially during Site set up. To account for this, a 50% uplift has been applied for the purposes of assessment. The assessment shows that there could be the following HGV movements.

- Average HGV Arrivals and Departures per Day – 16 (32 Movements)
- Peak HGV Arrivals and Departures per Day – 23 (46 Movements)

4.3.13 The Transport Assessment also shows that there could be up to 163 construction worker arrivals by car and shuttle bus associated with West Burton 1, 2 and 3 on a busy day. These are likely to arrive in the morning, with the same amount of the departures in the afternoon/evening. Shift patterns will be coordinated to avoid construction work travel during the traditional network peak hours of 08:00-09:00 and 17:00-18:00. As shown in the construction programme above, there is no month where the construction of all aspects of the development overlap.

4.3.14 Temporary car parks will be provided for construction workers within the main construction laydown areas shown on the Works Plans (Work No.7) and shown indicatively on the 'Construction Compound' illustrative drawing at Appendix 4.1 of the ES, contained at the end of this NTS **[EN010132/APP/WB6.3.4.1]**.

Construction Workers and Hours of Working

4.3.15 On an average day, there is expected to be 375 workers spread across the Site. During the peak periods this could increase to around 455 construction workers. In addition, there will be approximately 15 workers positioned at the BESS in West Burton 3.

4.3.16 Construction activities will be carried out Monday to Friday 07:00-18:00 and between 08:00 and 13:30 on Saturdays (this does not include for start-up and shut down works). However, some activities may be required outside of these times

(such as the delivery of abnormal loads, nighttime working for cable construction works in public highways or HDD activities). Construction deliveries by HGV will arrive between 09:30-16:30. They will be coordinated to avoid construction vehicle movements during the traditional morning peak hour (08:00-09:00) and evening peak hour (17:00-18:00). In addition, construction worker shift patterns will be coordinated to avoid travel during the network peak hours of 08:00-09:00 and 17:00-18:00. These provisions are set out in the CTMP **[EN010132/APP/WB6.3.14.2]** and will be secured via a Requirement in the DCO.

Construction Controls

- 4.3.17 The construction phase will be subject to management documents which will limit and control activities. The outline documentation includes the following documents submitted with the Application:
- a) Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) **[EN010132/APP/WB6.3.14.2]**.
 - b) Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (OCEMP) **[EN010132/APP/WB7.1]**.
 - c) Outline Soil Management Plan (SMP) **[EN010132/APP/WB7.16]**.

4.4 Operation

- 4.4.1 During the operational phase, activity within the Scheme will be minimal and will be restricted principally to vegetation management, equipment maintenance and servicing, replacement and renewal of any components that fail, and monitoring. It is anticipated that maintenance and servicing would include the inspection, removal, reconstruction, refurbishment or replacement of faulty or broken equipment and adjusting and altering the solar panel orientation to ensure the continued effective operation of the Scheme and improve its efficiency as set out within the Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) **[EN010132/APP/WB7.14]**.
- 4.4.2 Along the Cable Route Corridor, operational activity will consist of routine inspections (schedule to be determined) and any reactive maintenance such as where a cable has been damaged.
- 4.4.3 It is anticipated that there will be up to 12 permanent (visiting) staff onsite during the operational phase across the whole Scheme which will lead to a very small number of daily vehicle trips, with additional staff attending when required for maintenance and cleaning activities.

4.5 Decommissioning

- 4.5.1 Decommissioning is expected to take between 12 and 24 months and will be undertaken in phases, and for the purposes of the assessment is expected to occur after approximately 40 years of operation of the Scheme. A detailed Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan will be prepared prior to

decommissioning and will be secured through the Outline Decommissioning Statement **[EN010132/APP/WB7.2]** which is secured by a Requirement in the draft DCO.

- 4.5.2 The Solar PV Array Works Area and related components, substations, battery energy storage system (BESS) and all associated works (with the exception of the cable ducts) will be removed and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at that time. Where it is not possible to remove the cables without causing severe disruption, cables may be left in situ.
- 4.5.3 The effects of decommissioning are similar to, or often of a lesser magnitude than construction effects and will be considered in the relevant sections of this ES. However, there is a high degree of uncertainty regarding decommissioning as engineering approaches and technologies are likely to change over the operational life of the Scheme.

5 Assessing Environmental Effects

5.1 Topics Assessed

5.1.1 Chapters 1 to 6 of the ES **[EN010132/APP/WB6.2.1 – WB6.2.6]** are the introductory Chapters and include a description of the Order limits and the Scheme, the alternatives that were considered during the design process and relevant policy.

5.1.2 The following technical chapters have been prepared within Volume 1 of the ES **[EN010132/APP/WB6.2]**:

Chapter 7: Climate Change

Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Impact

Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity

Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage

Chapter 11: Ground Conditions and Contamination

Chapter 12: Minerals

Chapter 13: Cultural Heritage

Chapter 14: Transport and Access

Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration

Chapter 16: Glint and Glare

Chapter 17: Air Quality

Chapter 18: Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation

Chapter 19: Soils and Agriculture

Chapter 20: Waste

Chapter 21: Other Environmental Matters

5.1.3 Chapters 22 and 23 of the ES provide the Mitigation Schedule and Summary of significant effects, respectively.

5.2 Terminology Used in the Environmental Statement

5.2.1 To enable comparison between technical topics and to aid understanding of the ES findings, standard terms are used wherever possible to describe the relative significance of effects throughout the ES (i.e., 'major', 'moderate', 'minor' and 'negligible'). The effects are also described as being adverse or beneficial. Where the quality standards for each technical discipline result in deviations in the standard assessment methodology, these are described in the relevant chapters as applicable within the ES.

5.2.2 Each of the technical chapters within the ES provides further description and definition of the significance criteria relevant to each topic. Where possible, this has been based upon quantitative and accepted criteria (for example, noise

assessment guidelines), together with the use of value judgement and expert interpretation to establish to what extent an effect is significant.

- 5.2.3 Typically, effects that are considered to be **negligible** or **minor** are judged to be **‘not significant’**, whereas those that are **moderate** or **major** are **‘significant’**. Where the EIA predicts a significant adverse effect on one or more receptors, we have considered whether there are further mitigation measures which could avoid or reduce the effect, or to reduce the likelihood of it happening. The use of any such mitigation will be secured through the DCO, should it be granted, and this is made clear in the ES.

6 Findings of the Environmental Statement

6.1.1 An assessment of the environmental effects of the Scheme during its construction, operation (including maintenance), and eventual decommissioning has been completed for each of the topics identified in Section 5.1 above.

6.1.2 The conclusions on the likely significant environmental effects of the Scheme are described within the ES. This section of the NTS provides a brief summary of the overall findings of each Chapter of the ES.

6.2 Climate Change

6.2.1 The Climate Change Assessment **[EN010132/APP/WB6.2.7]** has considered the following in relation to Climate Change:

- Lifecycle greenhouse gas (GHG) impact assessment – The impact of GHG emissions arising from the Scheme on the climate over its lifetime;
- Climate Change resilience (CCR) Review – The resilience of the Scheme to climate change impacts; and
- In-combination Climate Change Impact (ICCI) – The combined impact of the Scheme and future climate change on the receiving environment.

6.2.2 The assessments make reference to the latest relevant national and local guidance and policies for completing Climate Change assessments for planning.

6.2.3 The GHG impact assessment accounted for emissions generated from the production of the products to be used at the site. This includes the photovoltaic panels, mounting, cabling, batteries and other materials associated with the development. The emissions from vehicles associated with construction and operational activities, including the transport of materials, including shipping, were also accounted for. GHG emissions from decommissioning of the development were considered.

6.2.4 The operational effect of the development in reducing GHG emissions compared to existing grid use (which includes non-renewable sources) was determined.

6.2.5 The conclusion of the GHG impact assessment showed that there would be some Greenhouse Gas Emissions associated with the production of the equipment to be used on site and associated construction activities. However, the development would result in fewer Greenhouse Gas Emissions with the development in operation compared to a scenario without the development going ahead.

6.2.6 The Climate Change Resilience Review assessed how the development would likely be able to respond to the increased frequency of severe weather events, increased summer and winter temperatures and increased precipitation and flood risk.

6.2.7 The CCR review has considered the measures which are integrated into the design. Based on the outcomes of the assessment, these measures are deemed to be an adequate response to the projected climate change impacts to which the Scheme would be exposed.

- 6.2.8 The in-combination effects of the scheme and cumulative effects of other solar developments in the area will be beneficial in terms of Climate Change given that the combined effect of the increase in renewable energy provision will serve to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions overall.

6.3 Landscape and Visual Impact

- 6.3.1 The Landscape and Visual Impact Chapter of the Environmental Statement [EN010132/APP/WB6.2.8] has assessed the likely significant effects of the Scheme with respect to landscape and visual effects. The chapter sets out the methods used to assess the effects; the baseline conditions currently existing at the Site and surrounding area; the mitigation measures required to prevent, reduce or offset any significant negative effects; and the likely residual effects after these measures have been adopted.

Consultation

- 6.3.2 Extensive consultation has been undertaken under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008, including consultation with Lincolnshire County Council and Nottinghamshire County Council to commence and continue discussions on detailed matters relating to the LVIA chapter and supporting appendices. This consultation extended throughout the duration of the Scheme development and preparation of the ES Chapter, including on-going engagement at workshops held throughout April, May June, July and August 2022. The workshops were set to introduce the Scheme and those involved in the consultation process moving forward. Discussions then extended at later workshops to cover matters on scoping and approval on the assessment methodology, Study Area, landscape receptors, visual receptors and Cumulative Sites/Developments. Consultation was also undertaken under Section 47 of the Planning Act during June and July 2022.
- 6.3.3 A statutory phase two consultation on more detailed proposals, including the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), was held for six weeks between 15 June 2022 and 27 July 2022. During this time, new results from further soil sampling became available (specific to the West Burton 4 site) and an extension was provided to accept feedback on this topic up to 23 August 2022. This phase of community consultation under Section 47 of the 2008 Act was held in parallel with consultation under Sections 42 and 48 of the 2008 Act. As a result of this, West Burton 4 and the associated cabling infrastructure have been removed from the Scheme in its entirety. Following the removal of West Burton 4, a targeted consultation with Section 42 consultees and the local community on changes to the proposals for the West Burton 3 site was carried out for six weeks between 28 November 2022 and 09 January 2023 in response to design developments made following the statutory phase two consultation.
- 6.3.4 Voluntary consultation with individual property owners was also carried out, including the discussion of bespoke mitigation relevant to individual properties.

Cross-topic consultation also forms a key aspect of the LVIA chapter and supporting appendices.

Policy Context

- 6.3.5 The policy context places an emphasis on the appropriateness of the Scheme as a renewable energy development and its role as a means of mitigating climate change. Development of the Scheme has recognised the need for careful siting, design and mitigation, and the impartial assessment of landscape and visual effects, and the importance of an iterative approach to ensure the most appropriate solutions are reached, to ensure the Scheme is compliant with national and local policy. A suite of policy is set out within section 8.3 of the LVIA chapter, including policy covering green infrastructure, biodiversity, geodiversity, cultural heritage and sustainable development to enable the Secretary of State to judge the balance of weight between policy considerations and the effects that the Scheme may have with respect to landscape and visual effects.

Assessment Methodology and Significance Criteria

- 6.3.6 The methodology for the LVIA chapter and supporting appendices is based on the general recommendations set out in Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition, LI IEMA, 2013.¹ The LVIA also considers relevant guidance notes, such as *Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 2/21 Assessing landscape value outside national designations* and also *Technical Information Note 01/21 GLVIA Webinar Q & As*. The understanding on landscape value is still evolving, particularly in the light of the climate and biodiversity crises. The LVIA takes into account the Landscape Institute current reflection on the subject of landscape value.

Baseline Conditions

- 6.3.7 The existing landscape and visual baseline has been considered through a combination of desktop study, site investigation and a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) analysis. This includes the Sites and the Cable Route Corridor.
- 6.3.8 The extent of the Study Areas includes the areas of the Sites and Cable Route Corridor, and the extent of the wider landscape beyond the Order limits which the Scheme may influence in a significant manner. These Study Areas been agreed with the relevant local authorities and other stakeholders as part of the Section 42 consultation process.

Embedded and Additional Mitigation

- 6.3.9 Relevant mitigation measures have been identified in the LVIA process and adopted as part of the evolution of the project design as part of an iterative approach to the Scheme development. Primary and secondary measures, namely those which are embedded into the design of the Scheme at the outset, have been taken into account in the findings of this LVIA chapter and supporting appendices.

¹ Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment

These embedded and additional mitigation measures have looked to modify the scale and layout of the Scheme in order to ensure compliance with planning policy, particularly in reducing likely significant adverse effects, where possible. The outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan sets out a framework for the landscaping and ecological mitigation [EN010132/APP/WB7.3].

Identification and Evaluation of Likely Significant Effects

- 6.3.10 The likely effects at the construction, operation (years 1 and 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme have been considered separately and the likely significant effects set out where positive (beneficial) and negative (adverse). Effects deemed as moderate or greater are considered to be “significant” effects, both beneficial and adverse.

Assessment of Landscape Effects

- 6.3.11 The findings take into account the effects at a broad scale on the regional landscape character types (RLCTs) set out within the East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment², and the local landscape character areas as set out within the West Lindsey District Council West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment (WLLCA) (August 1999)³ and the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment (BLCA) (August 2009)⁴ as set out below.

RLCT 3a Floodplain Valleys

- 6.3.12 There are no likely significant effects for the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme.

RLCT 4a Unwooded Vales:

- 6.3.13 There are no likely significant effects for the construction, operation (Year 1) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. There are likely **significant** Beneficial effects for the operation (Year 15) stage of the Scheme.

RLCT 4b Wooded Vales

- 6.3.14 There are no likely significant effects for the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme.

RLCT 6a Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes

- 6.3.15 There are no likely significant effects for the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme.

WLLCA LCA 2 Trent Valley

² East Midlands Landscape Partnership, April 2020, *East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment*.

³ West Lindsey District Council, *West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment*, August 1999

⁴ Bassetlaw District Council, *Landscape Character Assessment*, August 2009

6.3.16 There are no likely significant effects for the construction, operation (Year 1) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. There are likely **significant** Beneficial effects for the operation (Year 15) stage of the Scheme.

WLLCA LCA 3 The Till Vale

6.3.17 There are no likely significant effects for the construction, operation (Year 1) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. There are likely **significant** Beneficial effects for the operation (Year 15) stage of the Scheme.

WLLCA LCA 4 The Cliff

6.3.18 There are no likely significant effects for the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme.

Trent Washlands Policy Zone (TWPZ) 21 Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands

6.3.19 There are no likely significant effects for the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme.

TWPZ 22 Cottam River Meadowlands

6.3.20 There are no likely significant effects for the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme.

TWPZ 23 Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands

6.3.21 There are no likely significant effects for the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme.

TWPZ 24 Littleborough River Meadowlands

6.3.22 There are no likely significant effects for the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme.

TWPZ 48 Littleborough River Meadowlands

6.3.23 There are no likely significant effects for the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme.

Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands Policy Zone (MNPZ) 05 Leverton

6.3.24 There are no likely significant effects for the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme.

6.3.25 The effects at a fine-grained scale are also taken into consideration and draw upon individual contributors to landscape character as set out below.

Land Use

6.3.26 There are no likely significant effects for the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme.

Topography and Watercourses

6.3.27 There are no likely significant effects for the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme.

Communications and Infrastructure

6.3.28 There are no likely significant effects for the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme.

Settlements, Industry, Commerce and Leisure

6.3.29 There are no likely significant effects for the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme.

Public Rights of Way and Access

6.3.30 There are no likely significant effects for the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme.

Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens

6.3.31 There are no likely significant effects for the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme.

Nationally and Locally Designated Landscape

6.3.32 There are no likely significant effects for the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme.

Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations

6.3.33 There are no likely significant effects for the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme.

Assessment of Visual Effects

6.3.34 The findings take into account the effects of change arising from the Scheme on the views available to people and their visual amenity as set out below.

Viewpoints

6.3.35 There are likely **Significant** adverse effects for the following viewpoints:

VP1: Brox/198/1

VP2: Brox/198/1

VP7: Broxholme Ln / Main Street - Road that runs through WB1

VP8: Broxholme Ln and Brox/197/1

VP9: Brox/196/1

VP10: Brox/196/1

VP18: Sturton Road

VP21: Sturton Road and Saxi/203/1

VP23: Sykes Lane

VP24: Sykes Lane and other route with public access

VP25: Sykes Lane

VP26: Sturton Road

VP27: Sturton Road

VP28: Sturton Road

VP33: Cowdale Lane / western section near Torksey

VP34: Cowdale Lane / western section near Torksey

VP44: Cowdale Lane / western section near Torksey

VP45: Cowdale Lane / western section near Torksey

VP46: Cowdale Lane / western section near Torksey

VP53: A1500 / Stow Park Road / Tillbridge Lane

VP54: A1500 / Stow Park Road / Tillbridge Lane

VP55: A1500 / Stow Park Road / Tillbridge Lane

VP56: A1500 / Stow Park Road / Tillbridge Lane

LCC-C: Broxholme Lane / Main Street - Road that runs through WB1

LCC-H: Cowdale Lane

LCC-O: Cowdale Lane

Residential Receptors

6.3.36 There are likely **Significant** adverse effects for the following receptors:

R022: Ingleby Grange Cottages

R023: Cottages on Sturton Road in Ingleby

R024: Castle Farm

R046: Bluebell Cottage and April Cottage on Broxholme Lane

R050: Poplar Farm

R051: Marton Grange

R056: South View and Meadow View

R068: White House

R069: Manor Farm

R074: Residents in Stow Park

R085: Plumpton Farm

R098: Greenfields Farm

R100: Moat Farm Bungalow

Transport Receptors

6.3.37 There are likely **Significant** adverse effects for following receptors:

T001: Main Street – Road that runs through WB1

T009: B1241 Sturton Road

T010: Track off Sykes Lane

T011: Sykes Lane

T015: Cowdale Lane – western section near Torksey

T027: A1500, Stow Park Road / Tillbridge Lane

T053: Stow Park Road (Small Lane To The South Of A1500)

ProW Receptors

6.3.38 There are likely **Significant** adverse effects for following receptors:

PR006: Brox/198/1

PR007: Brox/197/1

PR008: Brox/196/1

PR009: Scmp/196/1

PR038: Mton/68/1

Mitigation Measures

6.3.39 The LVIA process considers adverse effects and specific measures have been put forward where practical. The mitigation measures are proposed to be established by Year 15 of the Scheme (during the operational period). This is because impacts at Year 15 of the Scheme are considered as most relevant to all other stages of mitigation under review because they are the most inherent in the context of landscape character and visual amenity of the Scheme. The position at 'Year 15' relevance is judged in terms of the effectiveness of maturation of planting and the 'time depth' of the receiving landscape. Please refer to the Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) at [EN010132/APP/WB7.1] which sets out how these mitigation measures are intended to be secured.

6.3.40 These measures take into the potential landscape and visual effects identified at an early stage in the LVIA process and include retention and reinforcement of existing vegetation, new planting along the margins of the solar panels to assist with their integration in the immediate context, new planting within the Sites to provide a strong landscape framework and support habitat connectivity, new planting to screen the panels in their wider landscape context, and new planting to bolster the overall landscape character context of the Sites.

- 6.3.41 The Scheme is expected to deliver a significant amount of biodiversity net gain, due to the reversion of arable to permanent grassland and ecological buffer zones, as described in the Biodiversity Net Gain Report [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.9.12]. The biodiversity net gain is being delivered through the enhancement of existing habitats and this would be bought forward via the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) [EN010132/APP/WB7.3].

In-Combination Effects

- 6.3.42 The combination of different environmental effects on the same receptors is considered in Section 8.9 of the LVIA Chapter. This section also sets out the assessment of Cumulative Sites, namely the assessment of the effects on particular receptors of the different West Burton Sites in combination.

Assessment of In-Combination Landscape Effects

Broad Grained Receptors (Regional and Local Landscape Character)

- 6.3.43 RLCT 3a Floodplain Valleys, RLCT 4a Unwooded Vales, RLCT 4b Wooded Vales, RLCT 6a Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes, WLLCA LCA 2 Trent Valley, WLLCA LCA 3 The Till Vale, WLLCA LCA 4 The Cliff, TWPZ 21 Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands, TWPZ 22 Cottam River Meadowlands, TWPZ 23 Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands, TWPZ 24 Littleborough River Meadowlands, TWPZ 48 Littleborough River Meadowlands, MNPZ 05 Leverton: There would be no likely in-combination significant effects for the construction, operation (Year 1), operation (Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme for the West Burton Sites in combination.

Fine Grained Receptors (Individual Contributors to Landscape Character)

- 6.3.44 For Land Use, Topography and Watercourses, Communications and Infrastructure, Settlements, Industry, Commerce and Leisure, Public Rights of Way and Access, Nationally and Locally Designated Landscapes, Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens and Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations: There would be no likely in-combination significant effects for the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme for the West Burton Sites in combination.

Assessment of In-Combination Visual Effects

Cumulative Sites – Individual Viewpoints

- 6.3.45 There would be likely **significant** adverse effects for the construction and operation (Year 1), stages of the Scheme for the following viewpoints. There would not be likely significant effects for operation (Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. Effects are representative of those effects associated with the receptor on which a viewpoint is located.
- 6.3.46 Viewpoint LCC-C - Broxholme Lane / Main Street 12 there would be potential sequential cumulative visibility between the West Burton 1 and West Burton 2 Sites.

6.3.47 Viewpoint VP9 – Brox/196/1 and Viewpoint VP10 – Brox/196/1 there would be potential sequential cumulative visibility between the West Burton 1 and West Burton 2 Sites.

Cumulative Sites – Individual Residential Receptors

6.3.48 There would be no likely significant effects for the construction, operation (Year 1), operation (Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme.

Cumulative Sites – Individual Transport Receptors

6.3.49 With Transport Receptor – T001 / Main Street, Broxholme Lane - that runs through West Burton 1 and Transport Receptor – T015 / Cowdale Lane - western section near Torksey - there would be potential sequential visibility of the West Burton Sites, particularly where the routes pass directly adjacent to the boundary of the Sites. T001 passes immediately alongside the West Burton 1 Site, with significant effects associated with the proximity of this receptor to the West Burton 1 Site. T015 passes immediately to the south of the West Burton 3 Site, with significant effects associated with the proximity of this receptor to the West Burton 3 Site. There would be likely **Significant** adverse effects during the construction and operation (Year 1) stages. There would not be likely significant effects for operation (Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme.

Cumulative Sites – Individual PRow Receptors

6.3.50 With Public Rights of Way Receptor – PR008 (Brox/196/1) there would be potential sequential visibility of the West Burton 1 and West Burton 2 Sites, particularly where the routes pass directly adjacent to the boundary of the West Burton 1 Site. There would be likely **Significant** adverse effects during the construction and operation (Year 1) stages but associated with the proximity of this receptor to the West Burton 1 Site. There would not be likely significant effects for operation (Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme.

Cumulative Effects

6.3.51 This considers the potential cumulative effects and considers both the landscape and visual effects. The baseline includes the schemes considered within the LVIA chapter 8.10 and supporting appendices, these being potential schemes that are not yet present in the landscape, but at various stages in the consenting and development process.

6.3.52 The Cumulative Developments have been scoped down from the initial list identified at PEIR to solar schemes within 5km of the West Burton scheme and at the request of LCC, the Tillbridge Solar development. Cumulative Developments considered in this assessment are as follows: Cottam Solar Project, Gate Burton Energy Park and Tillbridge Solar.

Assessment of Cumulative Landscape Effects

Broad Grained Receptors (Regional and Local Landscape Character)

- 6.3.53 RLCT 3a Floodplain Valleys, RLCT 4a Unwooded Vales, RLCT 4b Wooded Vales, RLCT 6a Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes, WLLCA LCA 2 Trent Valley, WLLCA LCA 3 The Till Vale, WLLCA LCA 4 The Cliff, TWPZ 21 Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands, TWPZ 22 Cottam River Meadowlands, TWPZ 23 Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands, TWPZ 24 Littleborough River Meadowlands, TWPZ 48 Littleborough River Meadowlands, MNPZ 05 Leverton: There would be no likely cumulative significant effects for the construction, operation (Year 1), operation (Year 15) and decommissioning stages.

Fine Grained Receptors (Individual Contributors to Landscape Character)

- 6.3.54 For Land Use, Topography and Watercourses, Communications and Infrastructure, Settlements, Industry, Commerce and Leisure, Public Rights of Way and Access, Nationally and Locally Designated Landscapes, Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens and Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations: There would be no likely cumulative significant effects for the construction, operation (Year 1), operation (Year 15) and decommissioning stages.

Assessment of Cumulative Visual Effects

Cumulative Developments – Individual Viewpoints

- 6.3.55 There would be no likely significant effects for the construction, operation (Year 1), operation (Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme.

Cumulative Developments – Individual Residential Receptors

- 6.3.56 There would be no likely significant effects for the construction, operation (Year 1), operation (Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme.

Cumulative Developments – Individual Transport Receptors

- 6.3.57 There would be no likely significant effects for the construction, operation (Year 1), operation (Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme.

Cumulative Developments – Individual PRow Receptors

- 6.3.58 There would be no likely significant effects for the construction, operation (Year 1), operation (Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme.

Residual Effects

Assessment of Residual Landscape Effects

- 6.3.59 For the West Burton Sites, there are likely **Significant** beneficial effects to RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, LLCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale (West Lindsey) and LLCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley (West Lindsey).

Assessment of Residual Visual Effects

Viewpoints

6.3.60 For the West Burton Sites, there are likely **Significant** beneficial effects for the operation (Year 15) stage of the Scheme to the following viewpoints:

VP8: Broxholme Ln and Brox/197/1

VP18: Sturton Road

VP24: Sykes Lane and other route with public access

VP26: Sturton Road

VP27: Sturton Road

VP28: Sturton Road

Transport Receptors

6.3.61 For the West Burton Sites, there are likely **Significant** beneficial effects for the operation (Year 15) stage of the Scheme to the following receptors:

T009: B1241 Sturton Road

T010: Track off Sykes Lane

PRoW Receptors

6.3.62 For the West Burton Sites, there are likely **Significant** beneficial effects for the operation (Year 15) stage of the Scheme to the following receptors:

PR007: Public Footpath Brox/197/1

PR038: Mton/68/1

6.4 Ecology and Biodiversity

6.4.1 The Ecology and Biodiversity assessment in the Environmental Statement **[EN010132/APP/WB6.2.9]** sets out the baseline conditions of the Sites and Cable Route Corridor at the time of writing and considers the likely effects of the Scheme on ecological features during its construction, operation and decommissioning phases.

6.4.2 A comprehensive suite of ecological surveys has been undertaken within the Order Limits. Specific surveys for priority habitats, bats, breeding and wintering birds, otters, water voles, badgers and great crested newts have been carried out. Habitats have been assessed for other notable species groups, including reptiles, invertebrates and small mammals. Furthermore, a desk study to examine the presence of third-party records of protected species and the whereabouts of local and statutory sites designated for nature conservation has been undertaken.

6.4.3 The Sites generally occupy arable farmland (cereals and oilseeds predominate) on level or gently undulating ground, characterised by large, open fields with a managed hedgerow and ditch network with narrow uncultivated margins. A small amount of permanent pasture is present and this is mainly sheep grazed where present. Woodland and other habitats are generally absent within the Sites although a small number of shelter belts and copses are situated adjacent. In

terms of wetland habitats, a very small number of ponds are present on the Sites, with more located a short distance away from field boundaries. The River Till runs adjacent to two of the Sites. Larger drains and permanently wet ditches can be found on each Site. The habitats on the Sites are considered to be very much typical of their surroundings. The River Trent is present within the Cable Route Corridor.

- 6.4.4 An Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy (EPMS), to be substantially in accordance with the Outline EPMS submitted with the DCO application, will be prepared for the Scheme before construction starts. This will detail all the environmental and ecological protection measures to be followed throughout the construction of the Sites and construction at the Cable Route. Principal measures will include the fencing and buffering of all valuable boundary features such as hedgerows, ditches, watercourses, ponds and woodland edges and the adoption of methods to avoid the risk of accidental damage, pollution or contamination, and harmful disturbance or injury to any wildlife. The measures within the EPMS to be adopted during the installation of the cabling include the presence of an Ecological Clerk of Works, sensitive seasonal timing of works and the use of Horizontal Directional Drilling to avoid unacceptable impacts on features such as the Rivers Trent and Till and the larger streams and drains.
- 6.4.5 A Landscape Ecological Management Plan (LEMP), to be substantially in accordance with the Outline LEMP submitted with the DCO application, will be prepared for the Scheme which will set out all the habitat creation and management prescriptions to be adopted through the life of the operational scheme. This will particularly focus on the creation of new hedgerows, diverse grassland (e.g. pollinator-mix grassland, herb-rich flowering grassland and tussocky grassland) woodland and wetland habitats, as well as the favourable management of the grasslands under and surrounding the arrays so as to maximise their value to biodiversity. Approximately 7.1km of new native hedgerow will be planted, 13.7ha of woodland and over 500ha of various grassland types. Retained hedgerows and ponds will benefit from their sensitive management and the cessation of arable practices. In addition, all habitat creation and management prescriptions required in order to mitigate for potential adverse effects of the development will be set out in the LEMP. Ecological enhancement measures are also contained in the LEMP, including new nesting and roosting habitat for birds and bats, pond enhancement measures and measures required to achieve a Biodiversity Net Gain through the Scheme.
- 6.4.6 Local Wildlife Sites noted for grassland, wetland and linear habitats were found to be present in proximity to most of the array Sites, while a small number were present adjacent to them. These valuable sites will be protected by the EPMS during the construction phase and enhanced in the long term wherever possible through the provisions of the LEMP. Similarly, protected sites such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest which were noted within 5km of the Sites for their wetland habitats will be protected from potential pollution events or disturbance during construction by measures in the EPMS.

- 6.4.7 Several badger setts have been recorded within field boundaries and adjacent woodlands within the Sites. These will each be protected within the EPMS through the adoption of a development free buffer zone between 10 and 30m in radius depending on their status. Habitat connectivity for badgers will be maintained and foraging will be enhanced through reversion from arable to grassland. Perimeter fencing will remain permeable to the movement by badgers.
- 6.4.8 A reasonably diverse assemblage of bat species has been recorded using the Sites. While numerous trees located at field boundaries have roost potential, as do a number of buildings adjacent to the Sites, the arable fields themselves are of low value to bats owing to the uniformity of habitat and low productivity for night flying invertebrate prey. All hedgerows and ditches will be buffered from development as will be set out in the EPMS, and these will be managed for habitat diversity in the LEMP. Buffer widths will vary according to the potential value of the trees within the hedgerows to bats as possible roosts. Substantial planting of new trees and hedgerows will also be undertaken and new linear habitat linkages between isolated trees and nearby woodland will be created. Any trees subject to development impacts will be subject to further inspection and survey and all steps necessary to avoid impacts will be taken. Habitats post-construction on Site are likely to be improved for bat foraging, roosting and dispersal.
- 6.4.9 Several of the larger and more permanently wetted ditches and watercourses on Site support otters and water voles. These watercourses will be buffered by at least 10m, up to 30m in places, from development and enhanced through targeted ditch management. Impacts on water voles and otters are considered unlikely with the potential for improvements post-construction.
- 6.4.10 Brown hare and harvest mouse are species associated with the open arable habitats which may be impacted by the proposals. Habitat for harvest mouse will be retained through the management of a proportion of the land under arrays and at field boundaries as tussocky grassland. Brown hare will continue to have unimpeded access to the array fields and have been seen to benefit from solar arrays at other sites, often increasing in numbers post-construction.
- 6.4.11 Great crested newt were recorded within two ponds adjacent to the Site. The arable habitats to be impacted by development are of low habitat suitability for great crested newt and the pond will be buffered by at least 50m of habitat free of development activities. The development will not adversely impact the movement of amphibians through the landscape and the creation of new waterbodies is being explored.
- 6.4.12 Farmland birds such as skylark, yellow wagtail, grey partridge, yellowhammer and lapwing were all recorded either nesting or foraging on the Site, with several other species of conservation concern associated predominantly with the field boundary habitats. Ground nesting species which choose to nest within open arable fields, such as lapwing, skylark and yellow wagtail, stand to be displaced to a degree by the development. Mitigation of this impact through the favourable management of

open nesting habitat away from the array installations is provided, which can be expected to reduce this impact to acceptable levels in most cases, and will be secured by the LEMP. Construction-phase impacts on birds during the nesting season will be avoided through a combination of habitat inspections by an Ecological Clerk of Works, sensitive timing of works and the imposition of exclusion buffers around known and potential nest sites. A substantial habitat enhancement package is being produced to focus on areas of the Site which are free of development where ecologically-led management will produce a mosaic of grassland and other habitat types of greater foraging and nesting productivity than the current baseline levels for many of the species recorded.

- 6.4.13 Habitat for other species such as grass snake, common lizard, terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates, hedgehog and polecat were recorded on Sites, concentrated at field boundary hedgerows, ditches and uncultivated field margins. These habitats will be retained and managed favourably through the provisions of the LEMP so they remain suitable for all these species. The design of new access points and cable installation works will take a precautionary approach and seek to minimise disturbance of habitats as far as possible. All such work would be carried out under ecological method statements and with an Ecological Clerk of Works present. Any habitat removal will be reinstated or compensated for as soon as possible.
- 6.4.14 The Scheme will result in a Net Gain for biodiversity in linear, wetland and area-based habitat terms, which will be secured for the long term through the LEMP. A package of habitat and species-specific ecological enhancements will also be carried out. The predominant habitat management to be carried out within the operational Scheme will be grassland cutting, with an emphasis on the generation of a mosaic of grassland types being more diverse than the baseline habitat condition. The LEMP's habitat creation and management priorities will be in part driven by the Biodiversity Opportunities Mapping produced by Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership and local policies promoting the connection of Green Infrastructure and Nature Recovery Networks, such as those associated with the River Till.

6.5 Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage

- 6.5.1 This Chapter of the ES [EN010132/APP/WB6.2.10] has assessed the effects of the Scheme with respect to Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage, including the methods used to assess the effects; the baseline conditions currently existing at the Sites and surrounding area; the mitigation measures required to prevent, reduce or offset any likely significant effects; and the likely residual effects after these measures have been adopted. This chapter is based on flood risk assessments for each of the Sites [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.10.1 – WB6.3.10.5]. Appendix 10.6 to this Chapter [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.10.6] demonstrates how the Scheme satisfies the requirements of the Sequential Test and of the Exception Test.

- 6.5.2 The majority of the Scheme is located within Flood Zone 1. Other aspects of the Scheme, specifically the ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) generating stations (incorporating the solar arrays) within West Burton 2 and 3, are located within Flood Zone 2 and 3 areas.
- 6.5.3 In summary, the main potential significant effects at the Site revolve around managing surface water risk at the Site and the potential for silt laden runoff, spillages, leaks and pollutants during the construction / decommissioning stage and diffuse pollution contained in urban runoff during the operation phase from a water quality / resource perspective. In addition, from a flood risk perspective, the potential significant effects include mud and debris blockages and temporary increases in impermeable areas during the construction phase and the increase in permanent impermeable area and increase in discharge to local watercourses and blockages of drainage networks during the operational phase.
- 6.5.4 Mitigation includes completion of a detailed Construction Environmental Management Plan and Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan which will include details of mitigation measures to prevent adverse impacts occurring to controlled waters and simple SuDS measures to mitigate the surface water risk. Generally, the Scheme is likely to have a very low pollution risk and so the management train should normally have one or two treatment stages to mitigate this.
- 6.5.5 Inclusion of permeable surfacing for the Site access, linear infiltration trenches around any proposed infrastructure (substations and batteries) and wildflower planting at the leeward edge of solar panels should in general provide sufficient treatment as well as the attenuation required to maintain existing runoff rates.
- 6.5.6 Following the implementation of embedded and other mitigation measures, there would be no significant effects in relation to hydrology, flood risk and drainage.

6.6 Ground Conditions and Contamination

- 6.6.1 The Ground Conditions and Contamination Chapter of the Environmental Statement **[EN010132/APP/WB6.2.11]** provides an overview and description of the baseline conditions for West Burton 1, West Burton 2 and West Burton 3 and the associated Cable Route Corridor with regards to the underlying geology, hydrogeology and hydrology. Full details are included within the Preliminary Geo-Environmental Risk Assessments **[EN010132/APP/WB6.3.11.1, EN010132/APP/WB6.3.11.2, EN010132/APP/WB6.3.11.3, EN010132/APP/WB6.3.11.4]** prepared for each area.
- 6.6.2 The baseline data is used to develop a Conceptual Site Model which assesses whether the sources of contamination and potential pathways to determine the risk to a receptor. This model then forms the basis of a qualitative risk assessment.
- 6.6.3 Five key receptors with plausible contamination linkages have been assessed, where relevant, including:

- Construction/decommissioning/maintenance workers – Direct contact / ingestion and inhalation of dust, vapours, and asbestos fibres;
- Adjacent site users or residents – Direct contact/ ingestion and inhalation of dust, vapours, and asbestos fibres;
- Controlled waters (underlying aquifers and surface waters) – Leaching of contamination into groundwater and vertical/lateral migration through permeable deposits below the Site;
- Future site users (relevant to the solar array Sites only) - Direct contact/ ingestion and inhalation of dust, vapours, and asbestos fibres; and
- Built Environment – Direct contact between and accumulation of gas in enclosed spaces and sub-floor voids. Based on the nature of the Cable Route Corridor comprising linear infrastructure, the works involving the ground are temporary, with the land returned to former use following the cable being laid. As such, the receptors involved in this work are limited to construction/ groundworkers, controlled water and the built environment.

- 6.6.4 The history of the Sites and Cable Route Corridor largely comprises agricultural land with discrete areas of development including farmyards, a railway line, and West Burton Power Station in the west. The assessment shows that prior to mitigation, the potential impact of the construction and decommissioning of the Scheme is **moderate-minor** or **moderate** significance for all relevant receptors. Embedded mitigation reduces the potential impact to **moderate-minor** or below.
- 6.6.5 In-combination effects consider climate change and its potential to modify ground conditions, in which the key variable is the future change in rainfall levels. Given the likely absence of contaminated soil or groundwater, there is unlikely to be migration of contaminants which could be exacerbated by climate change.
- 6.6.6 The cumulative effects of the Scheme, when considered alongside other schemes in the area (Cottam Solar Project, Gate Burton Energy Park and Tillbridge Solar), in regard to human health or controlled waters are considered to be negligible with the implementation of embedded mitigation measures such as the CEMP.
- 6.6.7 The scheme includes embedded mitigation for ground conditions and contamination in the form of a detailed Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan, which will include procedures for the identification and mitigation of contaminant risks associated with the construction. An Outline CEMP **[EN010132/APP/WB7.1]** and Outline Decommissioning Statement **[EN010132/APP/WB7.2]** forms part of the application. Maintenance works will require similar mitigation measures.
- 6.6.8 In summary, no potential significant effects have been identified after the implementation of embedded well-established good industry practises in construction for managing contaminated land which will be incorporated into the detailed Construction Environment Management Plan and Decommissioning

Environmental Management Plan and utilised in all phases of the Scheme. It is considered that the potential effects of contamination or risk of contamination will not be significant.

6.7 Minerals

- 6.7.1 The Minerals Chapter of the Environmental Statement [EN010132/APP/WB6.2.12] describes the baseline geology, mineral resources planning policies, methodology, and the potential impact on identified mineral resources as a result of the development of the Scheme. This assessment is based on known and published information about the geology underlying the Scheme and the surrounding area.
- 6.7.2 The assessment considers the national policy mineral considerations. In summary, these identify minerals as being important national resources, adequate and steady supplies of which are vital for development and sustaining the economy and society. Minerals are a finite natural resource that can only be worked where they are found. A key aspect of sustainable development is the conservation and safeguarding of non-renewable resources for future generations. As such it is important that other development does not needlessly prevent the future extraction of mineral resources.
- 6.7.3 The assessment also considers the local mineral policy considerations as set out in the Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Core Strategy and Development Management Policies and the Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan. These plans make provision for mineral supply in the respective Counties by making allocations for future mineral extraction. These plans also make provision for safeguarding mineral resources that are of potential economic importance by identifying and mapping them. The policies contained in the Local Plans require applications for non-minerals development located within Minerals Safeguarding Areas to be accompanied by a Minerals Assessment. Minerals Assessments need to demonstrate that mineral resources will not be needlessly sterilised as a result of the development and that the development would not pose a serious hindrance to future extraction in the vicinity or that there is a clear and demonstrable need for the non-minerals development. The Local Plans also make provision for safeguarding specific mineral allocations by protecting them against development that would unnecessarily sterilise the sites or prejudice their use by creating incompatible land uses nearby.
- 6.7.4 The mineral resources that have been assessed have been identified by the British Geological Survey and through allocations, areas of search and Minerals Safeguarding Areas contained in the Adopted Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan and the Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan. Assessment of the impacts of the Scheme on the mineral interests have considered a number of parameters including extent, magnitude, duration and reversibility of the Scheme as well as the extent, likely quality and situation of any affected mineral reserve.

- 6.7.5 The bedrock underlying the Sites is a series of sedimentary formations which are broadly aligned north south which are progressively younger moving from west to east across the Scheme. There is no evidence to suggest that any of these bedrock formations have been worked in the past as a mineral resource and none have been identified as being of potential mineral interest.
- 6.7.6 The BGS published geological information shows the bedrock formations are overlain by superficial deposits. These are the youngest geological formations and in the case of this Scheme are largely unconsolidated glacial deposits. Within the Scheme these include sedimentary sand and gravels deposits which are potential aggregate mineral resources safeguarded in the respective Minerals Local Plans.
- 6.7.7 Neither the Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan nor the Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan make any allocations for future mineral extraction in the vicinity of the Site. The Scheme and immediate surroundings are not currently subject to mineral working. There is no apparent evidence to suggest there has been any mineral working in the recent past within the area covered by the Scheme.
- 6.7.8 The Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan does identify the sand and gravel mineral resources associated with the Trent Valley as an Area of Search for future aggregate supply. The Scheme does have affect a relatively small part of this area of search, however in view of the current policies of the Mineral Planning Authority, the current sand and gravel landbank and the extensive areas covered by the Area of Search, it seems highly unlikely that the sand and gravel reserve will need to be worked within the lifetime of the Scheme.
- 6.7.9 The Scheme does affect areas of safeguarded mineral reserves but these are relatively small areas of deposits of much greater geographic extent. It is very unlikely that these areas would be required for mineral extraction during the life of the Scheme.
- 6.7.10 The proposed Cable Route Corridor connecting the individual Sites to each other and the national grid at West Burton Power Station are unlikely to sterilise any significant volume of safeguarded mineral. The location of the proposed Cable Route Corridor, particularly those parts located in the Trent Valley, however, does have the potential to result in operational issues for future mineral operations and might restrict the efficient exploitation of the resource. This impact has been mitigated wherever possible by cable routes following existing infrastructure corridors or edges of significant landscape features.
- 6.7.11 The Scheme will be decommissioned at the end of its operational life, all above ground structures will be removed and the Sites restored. The Scheme does not require deep excavations or foundations and thus disturbance is limited to the surface layers rather than underlying deposits thus any underlying mineral deposit would not be permanently sterilised and would be available to exploit if required at a future date.

- 6.7.12 The whole of the Scheme is within a Petroleum Exploration and Development License (PEDL) area where oil and gas extraction is licensed under the Petroleum Act 1998. A PEDL allows the pursuit a range of oil and gas exploration activities, subject to necessary drilling/development consents and planning permission.
- 6.7.13 Oil and gas deposits are found at much greater depths than other minerals and therefore surface development has less potential impact in terms of exploiting the resource. Neither Lincolnshire nor Nottinghamshire have identified MSAs for hydrocarbons. Existing oil fields are identified and safeguarded with mineral consultation zone around each. The Scheme does not affect an existing oil field or come within a mineral consultation zone.
- 6.7.14 It is not considered that the proposed Scheme would have any implications for existing or proposed exploration and eventual exploitation of oil and gas resources.

6.8 Cultural Heritage

Introduction

- 6.8.1 Chapter 13: Cultural Heritage of the Environmental Statement (ES) **[EN010133/APP/WB6.2.13]** considers the likely significant environmental effects of the Scheme with respect to Cultural Heritage.

Baseline Conditions

- 6.8.2 The Cultural Heritage Chapter has been informed by the results of several previous stages of archaeological and heritage work, which are appended to the ES. The supporting work comprises a number of archaeological desk-based assessments (DBAs) in ES Appendix 13.1 **[EN010133/APP/WB6.3.13.1]**, geophysical surveys in ES Appendix 13.2 **[EN010133/APP/WB6.3.13.2]**, a geoarchaeological DBA in ES Appendix 13.3 **[EN010133/APP/WB6.3.13.3]**, aerial photographic and LiDAR interpretation in ES Appendix 13.4 **[EN010133/APP/WB6.3.13.4]** and reports on the extensive programme of evaluation trenching in ES Appendix 13.6 **[EN010133/APP/WB6.3.13.6]**. The effects on the setting of heritage assets have been assessed within a Heritage Statement in ES Appendix 13.5 **[EN010133/APP/WB6.3.13.5]**. Comments from both statutory and non-statutory consultees have also been addressed in ES Appendix 13.9 **[EN010133/APP/WB6.3.13.9]**.

Assessment of Potential Effects

- 6.8.3 For non-designated heritage assets, a 1km study area surrounding the Order Limits of the West Burton Sites was adopted for assessment within the archaeological DBAs **[EN010133/APP/WB6.3.13.1]**. Designated heritage assets of the highest significance (Scheduled Monuments, Grade I and Grade II* Listed Buildings) within 5km of the Order Limits and Grade II Listed Buildings within 2km of the Order Limits were assessed for potential effects on their settings within the Heritage Statement **[EN010133/APP/WB6.3.13.5]**.

6.8.4 The Cultural Heritage Chapter provides a discussion of the cultural heritage baseline conditions, an assessment of the likely effects of the Scheme upon the cultural heritage resource, and a discussion of proposed mitigation strategies. Cumulative impacts resulting from the combined effects of the Scheme with other significant and relevant committed proposals within the vicinity of the Scheme are discussed, and finally, any identified residual effects are identified that would occur as a result of the development, assuming the implementation of the proposed mitigation.

Mitigation Measures and Residual Effects

6.8.5 Embedded mitigation principles within the design include the following:

- Use of concrete feet for the panels which would preserve the archaeological remains *in situ*;
- Removal of panels from sensitive areas should it not be possible to use concrete feet;
- The optional use of lower fixed rather than tracker panels to reduce the visibility of the solar arrays; and
- Landscape planting providing screening.

6.8.6 For buried archaeological remains, where embedded mitigation is not planned, 'preservation by record' is proposed to off-set the potential impacts, and the methodology and scope of this mitigation approach is provided in a detailed archaeological mitigation Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) in ES Appendix 13.7 **[EN010133/APP/WB6.3.13.7]**.

6.8.7 Following the implementation of both embedded mitigation and additional archaeological mitigation methods, it is considered that there would be potentially 'significant' residual effects (i.e., scored as *Moderate Adverse / Moderate Beneficial* or higher) upon the Cultural Heritage receptors listed below:

Designated Archaeological Remains

- Deserted village of North Ingleby (NHLE 1003570):
Neutral increasing to *Slight Adverse* effects (to setting) during construction.
Moderate Adverse effects (to setting) during the operational phase (up until Year15).
- Broxholme medieval settlement and cultivation remains (NHLE 1016797)
Neutral increasing to *Slight Adverse* effects (to setting) during construction.
Moderate Adverse effects (to setting) during the operational phase (up until Year15).
- The medieval bishop's palace and deer park, Stow Park Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1019229):
Neutral increasing to *Moderate Adverse* effects (to setting) during construction.
Large Adverse effects (to setting) during the operational phase.

Moderate Adverse effects (to setting) decreasing to *Neutral* during decommissioning.

Non-designated Archaeological Remains

- AR13 (North Ingleby DMV):
Potentially *Moderate Adverse* effects during construction (if the feature affected is of medieval origin, which is uncertain).
- AR25 (Undated enclosure):
Potentially *Moderate Adverse* effects during construction (depending upon the date/significance of the geophysical anomalies).
- AR26 (Possible ring ditch and field systems):
Potentially *Large Adverse* effects during construction (depending upon the date/significance of the geophysical anomalies).
- AR44 (Stow Park Deserted Medieval Settlement):
Potentially *Moderate Adverse* effects during construction (depending upon the level of survival).
- AR64 (Rectilinear enclosure):
Potentially *Large Adverse* effects during construction (depending upon the date/significance of the geophysical anomalies).
- AR68 (Anomalies indicative of Iron Age/Romano-British to Medieval period settlement):
Potentially *Large Adverse* effects during construction (depending upon the date/significance of the geophysical anomalies and level of impact)
- In addition to the adverse impacts identified above, at 22 archaeological (or potential archaeological) sites there could be up to *Moderate* or *Large Beneficial* effects during the operational phase as a result of their removal from the ploughing regime that would otherwise be damaging them.

Listed Buildings

- Church of St Botolph, Saxilby with Ingleby (NHLE 1359490):
Neutral increasing to *Moderate Adverse* effects (to setting) during construction.
Moderate Adverse effects (to setting) during the Operational Phase decreasing to *Neutral* during by Year 15.

Historic Landscape

- HLI21266 – Parliamentary Planned Enclosure:
Moderate Adverse effects during the Operational Phase due to the industrialising effect of the installation of panels upon historic landscape character.
- HLI20787 – Modern Fields:

Moderate Adverse effects during the Operational Phase due to the industrialising effect of the installation of panels upon the historic landscape character.

- HLI20860 – Parliamentary Planned Enclosure:

Moderate Adverse effects during the Operational Phase due to the industrialising effect of the installation of panels upon the historic landscape character.

6.9 Transport and Access

6.9.1 The Transport and Access Chapter of the Environmental Statement **[EN010132/APP/WB6.2.14]** considers the likely effects of the Scheme on Transport and Access during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases.

6.9.2 Solar farm developments do not generate significant traffic flows once operational. Typically, there will be only a handful of trips per month by Transit Van (or similar) for maintenance purposes (less than one vehicle trip per day per Site on average). Therefore, all operational transport and access effects will be negligible in significance. Therefore, the focus of the chapter is on the construction phase. It is not anticipated that the effects associated with decommissioning will be worse than during the construction phase.

6.9.3 The Scheme has been considered in the context of national and local policy, including National Policy Statements EN-1, EN-3 and EN-5, the National Planning Policy Framework, the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan and the draft Bassetlaw Local Plan.

6.9.4 A study area was identified which covers the local roads which make up the construction vehicle routes to the Site. This is the area whereby transport and access effects could occur. The study area includes a number of A-roads and given the rural nature of the Site, some more rural B-roads and unclassified roads. Traffic count surveys were undertaken to understand the baseline traffic flows of the roads within the study area.

6.9.5 The study area also encompasses a number of public rights of way. In addition, other local walking, cycling and public transport routes were identified.

6.9.6 Embedded mitigation measures will be implemented during the construction period. An outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been prepared and will be secured through a DCO Requirement. The outline CTMP is located in Appendix 14.2 of the ES **[EN010132/APP/WB6.3.14.2]**. The outline CTMP provides a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements to and from the Scheme, to ensure that the effects of the temporary construction phase on the local highway network are minimised.

6.9.7 The construction period will include the use of HGVs to bring the equipment onto the Site and this will be strictly managed to ensure that vehicle movement is controlled and kept to a minimum. On a day-to-day basis, the largest vehicle that

will be used to deliver equipment to the Site will be a 16.5m articulated vehicle, although a significant proportion of movements will be by smaller vehicles. There will also be a small number of abnormal load movements to transport large transformers. Wynns, a specialist haulage company, has been appointed to coordinate the movement of these loads.

- 6.9.8 On a peak day, there could be up to 23 arrivals by HGV, spread across the Site. In addition, there is expected to be 455 construction workers. A large proportion of construction workers will arrive by shuttle bus, to reduce the number of required vehicle trips on the local highway network. There will also be a small number of additional HGV and construction worker movements associated with the Cable Route Corridor.
- 6.9.9 The likely effects of these vehicle movements have been assessed. The following criteria has been considered in this assessment:
- Accidents and Safety;
 - Severance;
 - Driver Delay;
 - Pedestrian (and cyclist) Delay;
 - Pedestrian (and cyclist) Amenity (including Fear and Intimidation); and
 - Hazardous Loads.
- 6.9.10 A cumulative assessment was also undertaken, to consider other committed or potential schemes in the area.
- 6.9.11 During the construction phase, the assessment concludes that the likely effects of the Scheme on the above criteria will either be negligible or minor adverse in nature and not significant. They will also be temporary for the duration of the construction phase only.
- 6.9.12 During the operational phase, the transport and access effects of the Scheme will be negligible and not significant. Therefore, there are not expected to be any significant residual effects in relation to Transport and Access as a result of the operation of the Scheme.
- 6.9.13 The Scheme is anticipated to have a design life of approximately 40 years. At the end of the Scheme's operational life, it will be decommissioned. The number of vehicles associated with the decommissioning phase are not anticipated to exceed the number set out for the construction phase. In light of this, the residual transport and access effects of the Scheme are expected to be the same as the construction phase, and not significant.
- 6.9.14 The cumulative assessment shows that traffic flows associated with the cumulative schemes will only affect links in the study area that have a low sensitivity. Therefore, the likely Transport and Access cumulative effects of the scheme will not be significant.

Conclusions

6.9.15 The Transport and Access Chapter of the ES sets out and assesses the likely effects of the Scheme in relation to transport and access. Likely effects have been assessed for the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Scheme. The Scheme is not likely to result in any significant Transport and Access effects during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases. An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan **[EN010132/APP/WB6.3.14.2]** has been prepared to manage construction vehicle movement during the construction phase.

6.10 Noise and Vibration

6.10.1 The noise and vibration impacts of the Scheme have been assessed within this Chapter **[EN010132/APP/WB6.2.15]** through a combination of consultation, background noise surveys and computer modelling.

6.10.2 The assessment has included consideration of:

- Noise and vibration from construction activities on sensitive receptors;
- Noise and vibration from construction traffic on sensitive receptors;
- The effects of operational noise on sensitive receptors; and
- Decommissioning.

6.10.3 Noise effects during the decommissioning phase of the Scheme will be similar to or less than noise effects during the construction phase. The noise assessment presented is considered to be representative of the decommissioning phase

6.10.4 Vibration effects during construction activities have been identified as being below the assessment criteria, (i.e., where effects are below the lowest observed adverse effect level for the sensitive receptors and as a result no significant effects are assessed.

6.10.5 Noise and vibration effects during peak periods of construction traffic have been assessed and, at most, minor effects have been identified, which are not significant in EIA terms.

6.10.6 Noise and vibration levels during construction have been predicted at the nearest sensitive receptor locations. The predictions for construction noise along the Cable Route Corridor are marginally above the threshold criteria when undertaken at the closest point at which they take place at three of the assessed receptors (CR07 – 66 High Street, CR08 – The Hawthorns and CR09 – Marlyn House). However, given that the construction activities for the Cable Route Corridor are transient, it is considered unlikely that a major impact would be experienced for any prolonged duration due to the temporary nature of construction operations. As such, the effect of construction noise on sensitive receptors is assessed as being not significant. All other construction activities are predicted to be below the threshold criteria.

- 6.10.7 To inform the assessment of operational noise, background noise monitoring was carried out at a large number of locations representing the nearest sensitive existing receptors surrounding the Sites and Cable Route Corridor.
- 6.10.8 The noise emissions of plant associated with the Scheme, including the solar PV arrays, energy storage and electrical substations have been predicted at the nearest sensitive receptors.
- 6.10.9 Advice has been sought from the relevant local planning authorities on the appropriateness of the methodology adopted to assess operational noise, however, this feedback has not been forthcoming. It is considered that the approach described above represents a reflection of industry best practice in such circumstances where existing background levels surrounding a development of this kind are very low.
- 6.10.10 When the predicted noise levels are compared against the existing background noise levels at most of the sensitive receptors, the assessment results in significant adverse effects at the receptors, depending on the context. However, the existing measured background noise levels at these receptors, particularly during the night-time period are considered to be very low. For very low existing background noise levels, the best practice guidance has been considered for a development of this nature contains a clause that states that alternative guidance should be considered and used to inform the assessment.
- 6.10.11 The alternative guidance sets noise limits which should not be exceeded internally at each nearby sensitive receptor due to noise emissions from the Scheme. When assessed against these criteria, including recommended mitigation measures, noise emissions during the operational phase do not result in significant impacts at any sensitive receptors.
- 6.10.12 A further assessment of operational noise has been utilised to assess the impact of noise emissions from the Scheme, which considers the likely change in noise level due to the contribution of noise emissions from the development at each receptor. When the predicted contribution of noise from the Scheme is combined with the existing noise climate at each receptor, the change in noise level is assessed as being below the threshold of 'unlikely to be perceptible' and therefore insignificant in terms of EIA.

6.11 Glint and Glare

- 6.11.1 Chapter 16 of the ES **[EN010132/APP/WB6.2.16]** assesses the likely significant effects of the Scheme with respect to glint and glare. Specifically, this chapter has considered the effects upon residential amenity, road users, train drivers and aviation activity. Public Rights of Way (PRoW) have not been included within the assessment because they are receptors with "low" sensitivity which means the receptor is tolerant to change without detrimental effect, and is of low or local importance.

- 6.11.2 The Chapter provides reference to the relevant independent studies regarding glint and glare issues from solar panels. An overview of the methodology of the assessment is provided including how effects are assessed and quantified. A review of the baseline and assessment of effects is provided and provides detail on mitigation that has been identified within the Glint and Glare Report. Residual impacts are then outlined in the summary.
- 6.11.3 Without mitigation, a Moderate Adverse effect upon a small number of nearby receptors is predicted. The Applicant will put in place mitigation in the form of vegetation and opaque fencing (where instant screening is required) which is predicted to significantly reduce the visibility of the reflective area.
- 6.11.4 Cumulative effects upon shared receptors between Sites of the Scheme have been considered. The high-level assessment has shown that cumulative glint and glare effects are predicted to have Minor/Negligible Adverse impact.
- 6.11.5 Cumulative effects are not predicted to arise from the Scheme with Cottam Solar Project or Gate Burton Energy Park due to lack of visibility of multiple reflective areas. It is predicted to have a Minor/Negligible Adverse impact due to the presence of mitigating factors such as: presence of existing screening reducing views of multiple developments, large separation distance between the receptors and the developments, the Sun being low at the horizon at the time of solar reflections.
- 6.11.6 Once the proposed mitigation strategy is in place the overall impact of the Scheme upon the nearby identified receptors is predicted to be Minor/Negligible Adverse.

6.12 Air Quality

- 6.12.1 The effects of the scheme on quality at nearby sensitive receptors during construction, operation and decommissioning phases have been assessed within this Chapter **[EN010132/APP/WB6.2.17]**. The assessment predicts the levels of air quality pollutants and assesses them to determine whether there are any likely significant effects, taking account of relevant policy, guidelines and best practice.
- 6.12.2 Following the implementation of the appropriate site-specific mitigation measures, the significance of the effects from dust and PM₁₀ emissions associated with the construction works is considered to be negligible on all receptors which is not significant in EIA terms. This is based on the IAQM Guidance. All effects are considered to be temporary, direct, adverse and short term.
- 6.12.3 Given that a fire could occur at any location within the development during the site construction, operational and decommissioning phases, generic receptor locations have been used in the assessment. In case of a fire, site manager/fire safety representative will need to assess the fire locations, wind directions and surrounding receptors. The site manager/fire safety representative will take appropriate actions accordingly. The actions to be taken include (1) to inform any potential affected residents within the zones and to advise public about health effects of smoke, related symptoms, and ways to reduce exposure; (2) to cancel

outdoor events and/or (3) to have populations go to cleaner air area. Following the implementation of these measures during an occurrence of fire incident, the effects are determined to be negligible which is not significant in EIA terms. An Outline Battery Fire Safety Management Plan [EN010132/APP/WB7.9] has been produced for the Scheme.

6.13 Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation

6.13.1 This chapter of the ES has considered environmental effects arising as a result of the Scheme, in relation to:

- Population demography;
- Population health;
- Population skill level and qualification attainment;
- Indices of deprivation;
- Economic activity and performance;
- Business profiles, sector shares and classification;
- Tourism as an economic sector; and
- Accessibility to and desirability of tourism and recreational facilities.

6.13.2 Regulation 5(2) of the EIA Regulations 2017 requires the direct and indirect significant effects of the proposed development on population and human health factors to be identified, described, and assessed. As such, this chapter of the ES has assessed the potential impacts of the Scheme on the population and socio-economic environment, during the construction, operational and maintenance, and decommissioning phases.

Baseline and Context

Population Demography and Health

6.13.3 The Local Impact Area, which comprises Bassetlaw and West Lindsey Districts has a population of 212,957 as measured in the 2021 Census. The Regional Impact Area comprises the entirety of the East Midlands.

6.13.4 The Local Impact Area is found to have a more ageing population than regionally, as demonstrated by ONS Population Projections for 2021-2026, which show the ages 50-74 comprising a total of 35.1% of the population. A significant proportion of the population is therefore likely to reach retirement age over the course of the Scheme's construction and delivery. The age group 20-24 years old is notable as being the smallest group below the age of 80 years old.

6.13.5 According to the ONS Census 2021, the Local Impact Area has a greater rate of long-term disability (at 20.5%) than the regional (18.3%) or national (17.7%) averages, and a higher proportion of the population awarded Personal Independence Payment (PIP) (5.5% in August 2022 compared to 4.9% regionally

and nationally). The Local Impact Area furthermore has a higher instance of self-assessed “bad” or “very bad” health than regionally or nationally. Although some parts of the Local Impact Area have some limitations in their access to healthcare as measured by the Multiple Deprivation Index 2019, the Local Impact Area has notably good overall general practice healthcare provision, with 46.2-46.6 GPs per 100,000 population, compared to 44.0 nationally.

- 6.13.6 The December 2021 Annual Population Survey indicates that the Local Impact Area has a lower-than-average attainment of NVQ Level 4 and higher qualification rates, at about 32.5%, compared to 35.7% in the East Midlands, and 43.5% across the UK. However, the Local Impact Area does contain a far greater (than regional or national) proportion of the population attaining “other qualifications”, such as apprenticeships.
- 6.13.7 The district council’s Local Plan and Five-Year Land Supply documents demonstrate that the Local Impact Area has a significant housing supply and thus has limited issues with accommodating additional workers. The existing population is shown by the Multiple Deprivation 2019 Index to be at greatest risk of being deprived of access to employment, education and skills, and suitable incomes.

Employment and Economy

- 6.13.8 The 2021 Annual Population Survey demonstrates that unemployment in the Local Impact Area has roughly kept in line with regional and national trends, albeit with greater year-to-year fluctuation, falling from 8.2% in 2012 to a low of 3.7% in 2022, with an interim rise to 5.1% in 2021. The September 2022 Annual Population Survey indicates that the Local Impact Area has an economic activity rate of 84.8%. This figure is substantially more than the regional (77.9%) and national rates (both 78.4%), although has recovered from a significant low of 67.6% during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 6.13.9 The 2021 Business Register and Employment Survey demonstrates that the working population of the Local Impact Area in 2021 was approximately 82,025. The construction industry accounts for 5.8% (approximately 4,750 people) of this, a slightly higher rate than regional or national levels. Accommodation and food services account for 5.8% of the Local Impact Area working population, lower than regionally (6.6%) and nationally (7.5%). The wider arts, entertainment, recreation and other services sector makes up 4.3% of the local workforce, which is consistent to both regional and national rates.
- 6.13.10 The size of the local economy can be measured using Gross Value Added (GVA), which measures the value of goods and services in a given area. The most recent data for GVA at local authority level is from 2020. The Local Impact Area had a GVA (balanced) of £3.6 billion, forming part of the Regional Impact Area’s GVA of £104.4 billion, with Great Britain having a GVA of £1.77 trillion.

Tourism Economy

- 6.13.11 The Local Impact Area sits within the wider context of the Nottinghamshire and Greater Lincolnshire strategic tourism areas. Prior to the coronavirus pandemic, the tourism economy across these areas was estimated to be worth £4.1 billion, supporting 45,000 jobs. The Local Impact Area hosts a number of key attractions, such as: Pilgrims Gallery, Clumber Park, Sundown Adventureland, the Harley Gallery at the Welbeck Estate, the Hemswell Antiques Centre, RAF Scampton Heritage Centre, Woodside Wildlife Park, and the Blyton Park motorsports venue.
- 6.13.12 Total expenditure from both domestic and international visitors in the Local Impact Area was estimated to be £24 million in 2019. In the same year, total visitor expenditure within the Regional Impact Area was estimated to be £1.60 billion.

Local Attractions and Recreation Sites

- 6.13.13 The Local Impact Area hosts a number of local recreation centres, including outdoor venues such as golf courses and fishing lakes and waterways. The areas immediately surrounding the Scheme host a good network of Public Rights of Way, including some of national and regional importance. These include the Trent Valley Way and Ploggsland Round walking routes, and the National Byways cycle route. The River Trent and Fossdyke Navigation Canal waterways are both used for recreational use.

Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation

- 6.13.14 Embedded mitigation incorporated into the Scheme are set out in detail in the following documents:
- ES Chapter 4: Scheme Description **[EN010132/APP/WB6.2.4];**
 - ES Appendix 14.1: Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) **[EN010132/APP/WB6.3.14.1];**
 - ES Appendix 14.3: Public Rights of Way Management Plan (PRoWMP) **[EN010132/APP/WB6.3.14.3];** and
 - Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (OCEMP) **[EN010132/APP/WB7.1].**
- 6.13.15 Together, the CTMP and OCEMP seek to provide embedded mitigation to limit construction impacts from the Scheme on socio-economic receptors.
- 6.13.16 Construction is anticipated to take place across an approximate 24-month period. Key mitigation and enhancement measures for the Scheme's construction across all EIA topics are set out in the OCEMP **[EN010132/APP/WB7.1].** An all-encompassing mitigatory measure is for the construction schedule for the Scheme to retain flexibility to be staggered across the Sites to reduce impacts on environmental receptors.

- 6.13.17 With specific regard to socio-economic, tourism and recreation receptors, the embedded flexibility in the construction timescale of the Scheme could be utilised to reduce, or alter when, peak construction workers and movements will occur. This will help to moderate the level of temporary accommodation demand, to the benefit of both the accommodation and tourism employment and economic sectors.
- 6.13.18 Measures to mitigate visual impacts from construction operations, lighting, and the location of construction equipment, as set out in the OCEMP will have a secondary benefit to the tourism economy through reducing the level of impact on the desirability of the Local Impact Area. These measures are likely to decrease the level of adverse effects across all recreational receptors.
- 6.13.19 In co-ordination with the CTMP and PRoWMP, the phasing of the Scheme will help to control construction traffic movements, to the benefit of: accessibility and desirability of public rights of way; recreational use of highways; use, accessibility and desirability of recreation centres and facilities; and on the accessibility and desirability of local tourist attractions. Of greatest effect is the impact of fear and intimidation from construction traffic on vulnerable shared road users such as walkers, cyclists, and horse riders, and thus the mitigation measures in place will help to protect these users.
- 6.13.20 Where recreational receptors, principally public rights of way and regionally and nationally important walking and cycling routes are likely to be directly affected by the construction of the Scheme, the OCEMP, CTMP and PRoWMP together set out mitigatory measures to ensure impacts on these receptors are minimised. Recreational routes crossing or within the Order Limits will seek to be kept open during construction, with any crossing or traffic conflict points overseen by spotters or banksmen for HGVs. Where closures are deemed to be necessary, these will be temporary in nature and supported by appropriate amount of notice and suitable diversions. Any diversions to routes will be appropriately signed, and the duration and length of diversions will be optimised to minimise impacts on accessibility and desirability.

Additional Mitigation and Enhancement

- 6.13.21 Where significant adverse effects are anticipated from the Scheme, mitigation measures are secured to ensure that the design, construction, operation, and management of the Scheme can be adapted where feasible to ensure these impacts are minimised. Similarly, where beneficial effects are anticipated, a series of enhancement measures can be introduced where feasible to ensure the greatest beneficial effects can be generated and secured.
- 6.13.22 These reference documents, all of which are secured by Requirements under the draft DCO, are:
- Outline Decommissioning Statement (ODS) **[EN010132/APP/WB7.2]**;

- Outline Skills Supply Chain and Employment Plan (OSSCEP) **[EN010132/APP/WB7.10]**; and
- Outline Operational Environment Management Plan (Outline OEMP) **[EN010132/APP/WB7.14]**.

6.13.23 Additional (also referred to as secondary) mitigation in the form of landscape screening planting has been provided across much of the Sites to ensure visual impacts on other tourist and recreational attractions are minimised during the Scheme's operational lifetime. Full assessment of visual impact on important receptors, and details of the provided landscape mitigation can be found in the following documents:

- ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Impact **[EN010132/APP/WB6.2.8]**;
- ES Figures 8.18.1-3: Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Measure **[EN010132/APP/WB6.4.8.18.1- WB6.4.8.18.3]**; and
- Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) **[EN010132/APP/WB7.3]**.

6.13.24 Practicable opportunities to promote local apprenticeship and training schemes for construction, manufacturing, and the energy industry are explored through the OSSCEP. This will seek to have a positive impact on education and skills attainment in fields such as construction, engineering, and energy technology throughout the operational lifetime of the Scheme. Further enhancement of the Scheme's employment and economic benefit will be achieved through focussing on local recruitment and procurement, and supporting local education and skills uplifting. Options to find ways to support agricultural workers in moving to diversified agricultural practices (such as sheep rearing and grazing) that can be continued alongside the operation of the Scheme are also set out in the OSSCEP.

6.13.25 Key mitigation and enhancement measures for the Scheme's operation and maintenance across all EIA topics are set out in the Outline OEMP, helping to control impacts on amenity, visual, accessibility, and traffic impacts from the Scheme. These directly or indirectly mitigate adverse effects from the Scheme on socio-economic, tourism and recreation receptors, through limiting adverse impacts on residents health and wellbeing, operation of and accessibility to local businesses, and impacts to the desirability of the area for tourism and recreation. Visual impacts from the Scheme are mitigated against in co-ordination with the measures set out in the OLEMP, which include supplementary planting and screening around the Sites.

6.13.26 Decommissioning will see the return of impacts to socio-economic, tourism and recreation receptors in a similar magnitude to those experienced during construction. Whilst a detailed assessment on the anticipated effects cannot be reliably made due to uncertainty of future baseline conditions, mitigatory measures can still be implemented through the DCO application submission via the ODS. Specifically, adverse effects on recreational walking and cycling routes,

fear and intimidation to recreational road users from decommissioning noise, traffic, and views on desirability, accessibility and use in-combination with landscape and heritage impacts are to be mitigated against through the implemented of the measures set out in the ODS. Furthermore, the ODS secures that flexibility within the decommissioning schedule can be utilised to minimise the peak impacts from decommissioning activities on tourism and recreation receptors, and the local accommodation sector.

Assessment of Effects

6.13.27 The socio-economic, tourism and recreation ES chapter assesses the impacts on the following receptors for the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Scheme. The effects for socio-economic receptors are measured across the Local and Regional Impact Areas. Those receptors are:

- Construction sector employment and economic value;
- Energy sector employment and economic value;
- Agriculture, forestry & fishing sector employment and economic value;
- Accommodation sector employment and economic value;
- Tourism and recreation sector employment and economic value;
- Local and Regional economic activity and employment;
- Resident population and age demographics;
- Health and wellbeing receptors including access to primary healthcare, general population health and wellbeing, disability and long-term health conditions, and accessibility to recreational routes;
- Accommodation stock including temporary worker accommodation, visitor accommodation, and permanent housing;
- Access to employment and education as indices of multiple deprivation;
- Skills and qualification attainment;
- Working and commuting patterns;
- Economic prosperity including resident and working population income;
- Impacts on regional, local landscape and local heritage tourist attractions;
- Impacts on Public Rights of Way, long distance recreation routes, and other walking and cycling routes;
- Impacts on recreational use of waterways for navigation or fishing, formal recreation centres, informal and youth recreation centres; and
- Secondary impacts on other tourism and recreation receptors.

6.13.28 The table below summarises the identified residual, post-mitigation effects that are significant:

Table 18.1: Summary of Significant Residual Post-Mitigation Effects

Receptor	Description of Impact	Significant Residual Post-Mitigation Effects
CONSTRUCTION		
Accommodation sector employment (Local Impact Area)	Increase in demand for temporary accommodation units	Medium-term temporary major-moderate beneficial
Accommodation stock for construction	Increase in accommodation occupancy for temporary or short-term workers	Medium-term temporary major-moderate beneficial
Access to employment (IMD)	Changes in overall employment opportunities	Medium-term temporary moderate beneficial
Access to education (IMD)	Increase in sector-based skills training and qualification opportunities	Medium-term temporary moderate beneficial
Local tourist attractions (landscape)	Impacts from construction noise, traffic, and views on desirability and use	Peak medium-term temporary moderate adverse
Long distance recreation routes	Impacts from construction noise, traffic, views, and diversions and closures of routes on route desirability and use	Short to medium-term temporary moderate adverse (Trent Valley Way / National Byways)
OPERATION		
No significant effects anticipated		
DECOMMISSIONING		
Accommodation sector employment (Local Impact Area)	Increase in demand for temporary accommodation units	Medium-term temporary moderate beneficial

Cumulative Effects

6.13.29 The residual effects of the development of the Scheme assuming the implementation of the proposed mitigation has been presented above. When assessed against the cumulative impacts of the identified projects, the resultant significant cumulative residual effects are those summarised below:

Table 18.2: Summary of Significant Cumulative Residual Effects

Receptor	Description of Impact	Significant Residual Post-Mitigation Effects
CONSTRUCTION		
Construction sector employment (Local Impact Area)	Increase in construction employment opportunities	Peak cumulative medium-term temporary moderate beneficial
Accommodation sector employment (Local Impact Area)	Increase in demand for temporary accommodation units	Peak cumulative medium-term temporary major-moderate beneficial
Economic activity and employment (Local Impact Area)	Increase in labour and employment opportunity	Peak cumulative medium-term temporary moderate beneficial
Accommodation stock for construction	Increase in accommodation occupancy for temporary or short-term workers	Peak cumulative medium-term temporary major-moderate beneficial
Accommodation stock (housing)	Increase in accommodation requirement for workers and families	Peak cumulative medium-term temporary moderate beneficial
Access to employment (IMD)	Changes in overall employment opportunities	Peak cumulative medium-term temporary major-moderate beneficial
Access to education (IMD)	Increase in sector-based skills training and qualification opportunities	Peak cumulative medium-term temporary moderate beneficial
Construction economy (Local Impact Area)	Economic impacts on existing construction economy	Peak cumulative medium-term temporary moderate beneficial
Accommodation economy (Local Impact Area)	Economic impacts on existing accommodation economy	Peak cumulative medium-term temporary moderate beneficial
Tourism and visitor economy (Local Impact Area)	Economic impacts on existing tourism and visitor-based economy	Peak cumulative medium-term temporary moderate adverse
Economic prosperity	Total GVA and GVA/head change associated with construction	Peak cumulative medium-term temporary moderate beneficial
Resident and working population income	Changes in overall employment opportunities and personal income from construction	Peak cumulative medium-term temporary moderate beneficial
Local tourist attractions (landscape)	Impacts from construction noise, traffic, and views on desirability and use	Peak cumulative medium-term temporary moderate adverse
Long distance	Impacts from construction noise, traffic, views, and diversions and	Peak cumulative short to medium-term temporary

Receptor	Description of Impact	Significant Residual Post-Mitigation Effects
recreation routes	closures of routes on route desirability and use	moderate adverse (Trent Valley Way / National Byways)
OPERATION		
Energy sector employment (Local Impact Area)	Change in energy-based employment (including the decommissioning of West Burton A Power Station)	Cumulative long-term moderate adverse
DECOMMISSIONING		
Construction sector employment (Local Impact Area)	Increase in sector employment opportunities generated from decommissioning works	Peak cumulative medium-term temporary moderate beneficial
Energy sector employment (Local Impact Area)	Conclusion of energy sector employment (including the decommissioning of West Burton A Power Station)	Cumulative permanent moderate adverse
Accommodation sector employment (Local Impact Area)	Increase in demand for temporary accommodation units	Peak cumulative medium-term temporary major-moderate beneficial
Economic activity and employment (Local Impact Area)	Changes in overall employment opportunities generated from decommissioning works	Peak cumulative medium-term temporary moderate beneficial
Construction sector economy (Local Impact Area)	Economic impacts on existing construction economy	Peak cumulative medium-term temporary moderate beneficial
Economic prosperity	Total GVA and GVA/head change associated with decommissioning works	Peak cumulative medium-term temporary moderate beneficial
Resident and working population income	Changes in overall employment opportunities and personal income from decommissioning works	Peak cumulative medium-term temporary moderate beneficial

- 6.13.30 The tourism and recreation economy is likely to be impacted as a result of the accommodation requirement for temporary construction workers on the cumulatively assessed projects displacing usual visitors to the Local Impact Area, thus reducing visitor spending in the tourism and recreation economic sectors. Mitigation measures to reduce this impact are to move some of temporary construction need to the private rental market. This cannot be guaranteed across all the cumulatively assessed projects, and therefore, the assessed worst-case peak cumulative effect is medium-term temporary moderate adverse.

- 6.13.31 Local tourist attractions that rely on their landscape value, such as viewpoints, public rights of way, or the landscape context of rural villages are likely to be cumulatively impacted during the construction of the cumulatively assessed projects. These impacts are as result of construction noise, traffic, and views that reduce the desirability and use of these attractions. The assessed peak cumulative effect is medium-term temporary moderate adverse. It should be noted that this applies only to a small number of receptors as identified in ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. The majority of receptors within the study area will not experience significant cumulative effects.
- 6.13.32 The Trent Valley Way, which is a regionally important long distance recreational walking route, and the National Byways, which is a nationally important long distance recreational cycle route, are likely to experience significant adverse effects from the cumulatively assessed projects. These cumulative impacts are as a result of direct impacts from cable routes crossing the two routes, and visual impacts from the multiple projects nearby or adjacent to the variant routes of both the Trent Valley Way and National Byways. In a worst-case scenario, construction of the cable routes of West Burton Solar Project, Cottam Solar Project, and Gate Burton Energy Park may run sequentially over a five-year period, requiring the Trent Valley Way to be closed three times during this. The National Byways is likely to be directly impacted by multiple crossings of the West Burton Solar Project cable route, and the cable route for Bumble Bee Farm using the route of the National Byways for some 2.3km. As such, both the Trent Valley Way and National Byways could experience peak cumulative short to medium-term temporary moderate adverse effects.
- 6.13.33 The energy sector in the Local Impact Area is likely to experience a cumulative long-term moderate adverse effect on the level of employment as a result of the loss of energy sector employment as a result of the anticipated decommissioning of West Burton A Power Station. Indicative public reports estimate the decommissioning of this power station will cause the loss of 125 energy sector jobs in the Local Impact Area. This is likely to be partially recuperated by the cumulative energy sector employment across the other identified projects, however, the net change to energy sector employment is still a long-term moderate adverse effect. This effect will be exacerbated (albeit the level of significance will remain unchanged) upon the decommissioning of the other cumulatively assessed projects from the late 2060s onwards.

6.14 Soils and Agriculture

- 6.14.1 Chapter 19: Soils and Agriculture of the ES **[EN010132/APP/WB6.2.19]** considers impacts on Agricultural Land Quality (including Best and Most Versatile Agricultural (BMV) Land), Soil Resources and Farming circumstances.
- 6.14.2 As embedded mitigation, the assessment proposes an Outline Soil Management Plan (SMP) to be agreed as a requirement of a Development Consent Order, the purpose of which is the preservation of the soil resource at the site - avoiding both

the loss of soil material from the site and the loss of soil functional capacity at the site. The SMP provides guidance to achieve this aim through the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the development, covering the appropriate selection of plant, physical characteristics of the soil and safe removal of all below ground features (including piles and cables) at decommissioning that could interfere with subsequent cultivation. This guidance can be incorporated into the agreed Construction, Operational and Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan documents.

- 6.14.3 In terms of any residual environmental effects (i.e., taking into account in the assessment any mitigation) the assessment concludes:

Agricultural Land Resource

- 6.14.4 There is no effective mitigation for the loss of BMV agricultural land, and there is no actual loss of agricultural land resource. Therefore, the residual effect of the construction of the Scheme will remain minor, not significant. During operation, there is no loss of agricultural land. The residual effect remains a negligible Impact, not significant. No agricultural land will be lost to the decommissioning works, and no mitigation is proposed. The residual effect remains a Negligible Impact, not significant.

Soil Resource

- 6.14.5 The Outline SMP is an embedded mitigation that aims to conserve the soil resource through construction activity. No additional mitigation is proposed. Therefore, the residual effect of the construction phase remains minor, not significant. During operation, the Outline SMP aims to conserve the soil resource. No additional mitigation is proposed and the residual effect remains a Moderate Impact, and significant beneficial effect. The Outline Soil Management Plan measures also apply to decommissioning and land restoration works, with advice specific to the decommissioning phase covering the appropriate handling of stored soil material as it is returned, appropriate aftercare of the land, and the identification and remediation of any areas of compacted subsoils. The Soil Management plan is however an embedded mitigation and no further mitigation is proposed. The residual effect will remain a Minor Impact, not significant.

Farming Circumstances

- 6.14.6 There are no mitigation measures specific to the farm businesses for the Construction Phase of the Scheme, so the impact will remain minor, not significant. Opportunities for farm enterprises to utilize the land within the sites will be limited to periods of grazing small livestock. No further mitigation is proposed. The residual effect will remain a moderate impact, a significant beneficial effect. The decommissioning stage will return agricultural land in the Sites to the arable enterprises of the occupying farm businesses. No further mitigation is proposed. The residual effect will remain a Minor Impact, beneficial and not significant.

- 6.14.7 In respect of cumulative impacts. Figure 5 within the Soils and Agriculture Chapter of the ES shows the extent of the Order Limits superimposed on an extract of the regional plan of Predictive BMV Land Assessment. This series of 1:250,000 scale maps display the likelihood of BMV agricultural land in three broad categories, alongside non-agricultural land urban land. These categories are High Likelihood of BMV (> 60% area BMV), Moderate Likelihood of BMV (20% to 60% area BMV) and Low Likelihood of BMV (< 20% area BMV). As can be seen the Order Limits occupy an area mapped as Moderate Likelihood of BMV.
- 6.14.8 Figure 5 also shows the approximate extent of six solar renewable energy sites, two where planning applications have not yet been submitted. The submitted sites are Cottam Solar Project, Gate Burton Energy Park and Heckington Fen Solar, and Mallard Pass Solar. The sites not yet accepted for examination are Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park and Tillbridge Solar.
- 6.14.9 The Cottam Solar site has approximately 4.1% best and most versatile land in ALC Grades 2 and 3a. The Heckington Fen site has approximately 49% best and most versatile land, in ALC grades 1, 2 and 3a. Land within Mallard Pass Solar is approximately 42% best and most versatile with ALC Grades 2 and 3a present. Gate Burton Energy Park has approximately 11% best and most versatile land which is all Grade 3a.
- 6.14.10 On the Predictive BMV Land assessment (Figure 19.5) the Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park and the Tillbridge Solar sites occupy predominantly Moderate Likelihood of BMV land (between 20% and 60% best and most versatile agricultural land) as for the West Burton Solar Project Order Limits
- 6.14.11 The explanatory note that accompanies the Predictive BMV Land map series notes that the plans are not suitable for site specific assessment. Site specific assessment is required to determine ALC Grade for an individual site. However, in the absence of such assessment results in the public domain for two of the sites, these plans indicate the general disposition of land quality within a region, and provide the best published reference to assess likely cumulative impact on the agricultural land resource.
- 6.14.12 No meaningful data is available to appraise farming circumstances for the two pre planning cumulative sites but for Heckington Fen, Mallard Pass, Gate Burton and Cottam the Environmental Statements report no significant adverse effect. Similarly for soil resources, the Environmental Statements available report no significant adverse effects. Limited soils data is available at the 1:250,000 scale on the national soil map for the two pre planning sites. However, detail of soil information available from this national soil map is insufficient to justify any variation between the cumulative sites in predicted effect of a solar farm development on the Soil Resource.
- 6.14.13 For the Loss of Agricultural Land Resource, all six cumulative effect sites will be decommissioned, with any actual loss of agricultural land limited to the small extent of switchgear housings and substations. Therefore, the residual effect of

each of these six sites on the agricultural land resource is predicted to be negligible, as for West Burton.

- 6.14.14 The soil resource present at each of the six cumulative sites will experience little disturbance, and the risk of compaction from trafficking reduced (lower frequency, lower weight and able to avoid wet conditions) when compared to annual arable crop management. Therefore, the residual effect of each of these six sites on the soil resource is predicted to be negligible, as for West Burton.
- 6.14.15 Some farm businesses occupying land within the six cumulative sites may have elevated sensitivity to a solar farm development in comparison to the four farm businesses at West Burton. For instance, a farm business may have a full agricultural tenancy providing security of tenure which if obliged to vacate, would be very difficult to replace. However, without any published detail on the occupancy of the six cumulative sites, there is no justification to claim any greater significance of effect than at West Burton. Therefore, the residual effect of each of these six sites on farm businesses is predicted to be negligible, as for West Burton.
- 6.14.16 The only plausible interaction between the six cumulative sites and West Burton is agricultural occupancy by a farm business across multiple different sites. If this does occur it is likely to not be a significant adverse effect for that farm business, but an assessment would not be possible without the farming circumstances baseline for the affected unit. There will be no interaction of impact for soils or agricultural land resource between any of the sites. There is therefore no significant cumulative effect identified for soils and agriculture for the six cumulative sites.
- 6.14.17 This Soils and Agriculture Chapter concludes in stating that, with regards to all potential effects across all stages of the Scheme, there is to be no site-specific mitigation measures required. Of the anticipated adverse effects, it is considered that the severity of these range from Negligible to Minor in significance which in itself is not significant in EIA terms. Those effects which are considered to be adverse are chiefly to be expected within the construction and decommissioning phases of the project. An Outline Soil Resource Management Plan has been developed in order to embed mitigation measures during the construction and decommissioning phases of the Scheme.
- 6.14.18 During operation, the health of the soil is expected improve under fallow and it is anticipated that the period for which the Solar Farm is operational will result in a moderate beneficial effect to the soil. As for the potential loss of the Agricultural Land resource, this is considered a negligible adverse effect given that post-operation, the decommissioning of the Scheme will result in the full return of the land to its agricultural use.

6.15 Waste

- 6.15.1 A description of the potential streams of construction waste and estimated volumes are included within Chapter 20: Waste of the ES

[EN010132/APP/WB6.2.20]. In addition to this, the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), which would be produced following receipt of a DCO, will set out how waste will be managed on-site, and opportunities to recycle waste will be explored. An Outline CEMP, which accompanies this submission, has been prepared and outlines the recycling and management of waste.

6.15.2 When considered both in isolation and cumulatively with the identified projects in the Local Impact Area, the residual environmental effects from waste (i.e., following consideration of the CEMP measures) generated by the Scheme, and cumulative projects are as follows:

- The overall effects on waste handling facilities in the Local Impact Area are not likely to be significant at any stage of the assessed timeframe;
- No waste handling facilities in Lincolnshire are likely to see significant effects at any stage of the assessed timeframe;
- No waste handling facilities in Nottinghamshire are likely to see significant effects during the construction or operational lifetime of the development;
- Waste recycling and recovery handling facilities in Nottinghamshire are not likely to see significant effects during the construction or operational lifetime of the development;
- Waste handling facilities for landfill waste handling in Nottinghamshire are likely to see a significant adverse effect during the decommissioning of the Scheme and cumulative decommissioning phase, as a result of the lack of landfill capacity from the year 2030; and

6.15.3 The anticipated impacts from the Scheme can be sufficiently mitigated through adherence to the measures set out in the Outline CEMP and Outline OEMP and the Outline Decommissioning Statement. These, along with their full counterparts to be provided post-consent will ensure that the Scheme is developed with good practices towards use of materials and water, and management of waste in keeping with the principles of the Waste Hierarchy

6.16 Other Environmental Matters

6.16.1 Chapter 21: Other Environmental Matters of the ES **[EN010132/APP/WB6.2.21]** considers electromagnetic fields; telecommunications, utilities and television; light pollution; human health; and major accidents and disasters.

6.16.2 None of these warrant individual chapters in the ES, either due to the brevity of the assessment or the small impact associated with the Scheme.

6.16.3 Notably, electromagnetic fields; telecommunications, utilities and television; and light pollution were confirmed to be scoped out of the ES by PINS in the scoping opinion **[EN010132/APP/WB6.3.2.2]**, subject to a number of matters which are addressed below.

Electromagnetic Fields

- 6.16.4 The electrical infrastructure to be developed as part of the Scheme is described in Chapter 4 of the ES, consisting of substations, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), other equipment and underground cables.
- 6.16.5 The Shared Cable Route Corridor is to be 'shared' with Cottam Solar Project [PINS Reference EN010133] and Gate Burton Energy Park [PINS Reference EN010131]. In respect of the Shared Cable Route Corridor, where three 400kV circuits are to run in parallel with average separations of 10m between each of the circuits, there could be a small exceedance of 1998 ICNIRP reference level thresholds. However, as the Shared Cable Corridor is to be built no less than 25m from residential or business premises, this will not give rise to significant impacts. Members of the public may be exposed to a magnetic field strength in exceedance of the reference threshold where public rights of way cross over the three 400kV circuits running in parallel in the Shared Cable Corridor. However, members of the public are not anticipated to remain in locations where this threshold is exceeded for significant amounts of time, due to the transient nature of public rights of way.
- 6.16.6 The BESS infrastructure is located no less than 400m from the nearest residential properties and business premises. Similarly, the substations are to be located such that the nearest residential properties and business premises are no less than 400m away. Electromagnetic field strength reduces proportionally to the separation distance squared, and as such, the expected electromagnetic field strengths of the substation and BESS at all residential and business receptors are far below the 1998 ICNIRP reference levels. Substations are designed and sized such that electromagnetic fields from substation infrastructure are below the reference levels at the point of the perimeter fencing, and located such that no publicly accessible spaces, such as highways or public rights of way are in near proximity to substation perimeter fencing.

Telecommunications, Utilities and Television

- 6.16.7 Above-ground infrastructure on the Sites has been located so as to retain required offsets to existing telecommunications and utility infrastructure to provide clear access and to minimise potential conflicts, such as damage from piling, excavation, or compaction. Where these pieces of infrastructure are connected by low to mid-voltage cabling (up to 33kV), this will be routed to minimise the number of crossings of existing services. Trenching for low-mid voltage cabling will be shallow, with a depth of up to 0.4m below surface. Installation of cabling up to 33kV will be undertaken in accordance with the mitigation measures set out in the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan **[EN010132/APP/WB7.1]**.
- 6.16.8 High voltage cabling, consisting of 132kV cable circuits between the substations at West Burton 1 and 2 and at West Burton 3, and the 400kV grid connection cable circuit from West Burton 3 substation to the National Grid substation at West Burton Power Station, is required to be laid over a distance of up to 21.3km. Trenching and horizontal directional drilling activities to lay these cables will

therefore have to take account of the significant number of existing telecommunications and utilities services that interact with the cable route corridor. Where set in surface-dug trench with no constraints, the maximum depth of the dug cable trench is 1.5m below ground level. Where crossing existing buried utilities or apparatus, the maximum depth of the dug cable trench is 1.5m below the level of the existing apparatus.

- 6.16.9 The Crossing Schedule **[EN010132/APP/WB7.17]** identifies a significant number of telecommunication and utilities services that are required to be crossed by the cable route. Each crossing has the intended crossing technique options included. Any interaction with existing apparatus above or below ground should be undertaken in accordance with the required level of safety measures as directed by the apparatus owner or operator. With these measures in place, the risk of damage to telecommunications and utilities will be managed.
- 6.16.10 In summary, the survey and agreed off-set distance information will be fed into the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan **[EN010132/APP/WB7.1]** and resultant full Construction Environmental Management Plan, to ensure construction work is carried out such that impacts on services are minimised. Where direct conflict is anticipated, such as is of greater likelihood along the Scheme's Cable Route Corridor, the crossing of utilities will be carried out in direct collaboration with the relevant utilities provider.

Light Pollution

- 6.16.11 Assessment of the environmental impacts of light pollution from the Scheme has been undertaken within Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment **[EN010132/APP/WB6.2.8]**, in respect of landscape and human receptors, and in Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity **[EN010132/APP/WB6.2.9]**, in respect of ecological receptors. These assessments cover the construction phase of the development, where lighting impacts are most likely to occur. Light pollution impacts during operation were scoped out of the ES assessment in anticipation that no permanent visible lighting structures will be used on the Scheme. Security lighting would be infrared, and the limited lighting associated with the substations and within the Energy Storage site would be used for occasional maintenance/emergency use only.

Human Health

- 6.16.12 Baseline conditions relating to human health and wellbeing have been explored in ES Chapter 18: Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation **[EN010132/APP/WB6.2.18]**, wherein a desk-based review of key health receptors has been undertaken. The assessment has been undertaken for the area covered by Bassetlaw District and West Lindsey District, and draws on data from the 2021 Census, 2011 Census for detailed population characteristics, and public data from the NHS and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

6.16.13 Mitigation measures are embedded within the Scheme, as set out in the respective ES chapters and associated Application documents, to reduce other operational effects (such as noise, air quality and transport) which in turn will mitigate the effects on the local community and existing facilities from a human health perspective.

Human Health: Assessment of Effects and Mitigation Measures

6.16.14 The assessment has considered: Flooding; Ground Conditions; Noise and Vibrations; Glint and Glare; Socio-Economic; Waste; and Major Accidents as identified topics with potential human health effects.

6.16.15 The flooding assessment identifies that the main period for anticipated effects is during the construction and decommissioning phases where blockages, the compaction of soil and the creation of impermeable surfaces is likely to generate medium to low adverse effects. Through mitigation measures secured within the Outline CEMP **[EN010132/APP/WB7.1]** and Outline Decommissioning Strategy **[EN010132/APP/WB7.2]**, the residual effects post-mitigation measures are minor adverse.

6.16.16 Ground contamination impacts upon human health include the ingestion and inhalation of dust and vapours. Given the nature of the development, low to negligible adverse effects are anticipated. In order to mitigate potential risks, employees will be made aware of the possibility of encountering localised contamination whilst the enforcement of and adherence to health, safety and environmental precautions will be secured. The appropriate storage and bunding of potential on-site contamination sources will also serve to mitigate such risks.

6.16.17 Noise and vibration impacts are to produce negligible to high adverse impacts upon human health. Construction and operational activities are expected to produce the greatest adverse impact with regards to noise and vibration. In order to mitigate for these impacts, the hours of work and the monitoring of construction noise has been captured within the Outline CEMP **[EN010132/APP/WB7.1]**. A Construction Traffic Management Plan has also been produced to direct construction-related traffic onto the best possible routes **[EN010132/APP/WB6.3.14.2]**.

6.16.18 The impacts upon human health arising from glint and glare relate to the impacts upon residential amenity, for which the impact is medium adverse. Mitigation has been secured by way of the Outline Landscape and Ecological Mitigation Plan **[EN010132/APP/WB7.3]** in which proposed planting and screening has been optimally placed to minimise the impacts of glint and glare.

6.16.19 Socio-Economic impacts on human health arise principally from the access to services such as schools, healthcare facilities and the road network. These impacts generate low adverse effects. Mitigation of these effects is secured through the phasing of construction which serves to reduce the concentration of workers at any one time, resulting in negligible adverse effects.

- 6.16.20 The Scheme is to have moderate beneficial socio-economic effects upon both access to employment and education. In order to enhance local recruitment and support local education, an Outline Skills Supply Chain and Employment Plan **[EN010132/APP/WB7.10]** has been produced in order to maximise the potential of the local economy and its educational services. That notwithstanding, the Scheme is likely to have a moderate adverse effect on the use of the Trent Valley Way and National Byways long distance recreation routes as a result of construction traffic impacts and short-term closures.
- 6.16.21 With regards to waste impacts upon human health, the exposure of waste handlers to contaminated soils and hazardous materials produces a medium adverse impact. Through the minimisation of waste materials generated and the assurance that all contaminated or hazardous waste is handled, recycled, or discarded by competent licensed hazardous waste operator, these mitigation measures result in minor adverse impacts.
- 6.16.22 Human health can also be impacted by fires and explosions should catastrophic technological failure occur. The potential risk of fires and explosions to onsite workers, residents, the general public and railway workers is considered to be a medium adverse impact with the greatest impacts faced by onsite workers. In order to mitigate for the risk of fires and explosions, the battery energy storage containers will be prefabricated off-site to ensure quality assurance checks can be taken in their fullest. Where risks still remain, technology considered to be of a higher risk of failure, and resulting in a potential explosion, have been placed at a minimum of 50m away from public access.

Major Accidents and Disasters

- 6.16.23 For this assessment, major accidents and disasters as they relate to the Scheme, fall into three categories:
- Events that could not realistically occur, due to the nature of the Scheme or its location;
 - Events that could realistically occur, but for which the Scheme is no more vulnerable than any other development; and
 - Events that could occur, and to which the Scheme is particularly vulnerable, or which the Scheme has a particular capacity to exacerbate. These events are considered within this assessment.
- 6.16.24 A number of receptors present in the vicinity of the Scheme have been assessed in relation to their vulnerability to major accidents and disasters. These include:
- Towns, villages, farms and residential homes;
 - Commercial sites and buildings;
 - Roads;
 - Railways;

- Designated ecological sites, woodland, farmland, and waterbodies; and
 - Underground infrastructure services including electricity, water, communications, and gas.
- 6.16.25 With regards to flooding, the anticipated impacts of increased rainfall events, winter precipitation, and increased probability of extreme weather events are not severe and are not significant.
- 6.16.26 As for flooding pertaining to construction activities, these are explored in detail within Chapter 10 of the ES **[EN010132/APP/WB6.2.10]**. In summary, it is concluded that should all mitigation measures be implemented (e.g., temporary drainage networks, minimized compaction of soil etc.) there are to be negligible adverse effects.
- 6.16.27 During construction and decommissioning, the impacts arising from potential fire and explosions relating to the BESS are considered minor adverse given the containerised nature of the BESS. The effect is therefore considered not significant.
- 6.16.28 During operation however, when the batteries are under load, there is an expected moderate-minor adverse risk. Batteries under load pose inherent risks as a technological failure can increase the probability of fire. Through the mitigation measures proposed and the appropriate placement of battery cells, this impact is reduced and is not considered significant.
- 6.16.29 Should an unconfined explosion occur it is anticipated that it would be felt up to 50m from the affected battery energy cell. As a result, no PRoW, public access, or properties are within this distance so as to ensure that the public's exposure to this potential risk is mitigated against. The effect on public health post-mitigation is therefore considered not significant.
- 6.16.30 The anticipated impacts of other fires, beyond electrical, to human health and infrastructure resilience are no greater than minor adverse and therefore not significant.
- 6.16.31 The Scheme is considered to be of a no greater than low risk of containing unexploded ordinance. The impact of an explosion from buried ordinance is to have a medium to high adverse effect on human health and safety. Measures have therefore been included to ensure that sufficient procedures are in place should an unexploded ordinance be discovered.
- 6.16.32 The assessment of road accidents and safety presented in ES Chapter 14: Transport and Access **[EN010132/APP/WB6.2.14]** concludes that subject to embedded mitigation measures being implemented, the effects of construction traffic to the Sites and to the Cable Route Corridor on highway safety are no greater than minor adverse, whilst the effects of transportation of hazardous loads are deemed to be no greater than negligible adverse.
- 6.16.33 Impacts relating to glint and glare on highways safety during the operational lifetime of the Scheme demonstrate that there are up to moderate adverse effects

upon certain roads (specifically for 300m on the B1241 Sturton Road). This is therefore considered significant as planting mitigation measures will be of limited effectiveness until mature. Embedded and additional mitigation measures in the form of tracker panel backtracking and temporary opaque fencing will be used until landscape screening planting matures. As such, residual effects on road users are estimated to be no greater than minor or negligible adverse effects. At the point of maturity, residual effects on road users are estimated to be neutral.

- 6.16.34 Impacts related to glint and glare on railway safety during the operational lifetime of the Scheme demonstrate that there are up to moderate adverse effects to train drivers. This, however, is mitigated for through embedded design measures which are to provide opaque screening along sensitive railway boundaries. As such, the residual effects on rail users are estimated to be neutral, and therefore are not significant.
- 6.16.35 Aviation accidents are considered within ES Chapter 16: Glint and Glare **[EN010132/APP/WB6.2.16]**. This chapter states that no significant effects are predicted in respect of aviation activities during the operational lifetime of the Scheme. As such, there are no significant effects relating to major accidents and disasters with regard to aviation accidents.
- 6.16.36 The nature of the Scheme, being a solar project, is considered to be of low sensitivity to ground contamination and is therefore assumed as such for ground stability. The Scheme, its infrastructure and its workforce has been duly mitigated for within the Outline CEMP **[EN010132/APP/WB7.1]** as well as more broadly throughout the ES **[EN010132/APP/WB6.2]**. The residual effects on the workforce, users, residents and the general public is therefore not anticipated to be significant.
- 6.16.37 The greatest level of impact relating to vegetation, pests and diseases is anticipated from the potential spread of invasive species during construction, operation and decommissioning. Although not identified within the Scheme, precautionary measures to avoid the accidental spread of invasive species have been set out in the Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy **[EN010132/APP/WB6.3.9.13]**. As a result of the mitigation measures within this strategy, the residual effect of the spread of invasive species is a neutral effect and is therefore not significant.

Major Accidents and Disasters: Mitigation Measures

- 6.16.38 Minimising the risk of major accidents during construction, operation, and decommissioning will be addressed through appropriate risk assessments as required in the Outline CEMP, OEMP, and Outline Decommissioning Statement. The implementation of those plans will be secured via a requirement of the DCO.
- 6.16.39 An Outline Battery Storage Safety Management Plan (OBSSMP) has been produced for the Scheme and will be updated and maintained as a 'live document'

throughout the operational phase of the Scheme. The implementation of the strategy will be secured via a requirement of the DCO.

7 Summary of Conclusions

- 7.1.1 The ES explains the findings of the EIA process that has been undertaken for the Scheme.
- 7.1.2 A number of environmental impact avoidance, design and mitigation measures have been identified to mitigate and control environmental effects during construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of the Scheme. It is proposed that these will be secured through appropriate requirements and other controls within the DCO for the Scheme, should this be granted.
- 7.1.3 Feedback from the formal consultation process has been taken into account when preparing the Application and in undertaking the EIA process.

8 NTS Figures

Figure 1.1 Location Plan

Figure 2.1 Cumulative Site Plan

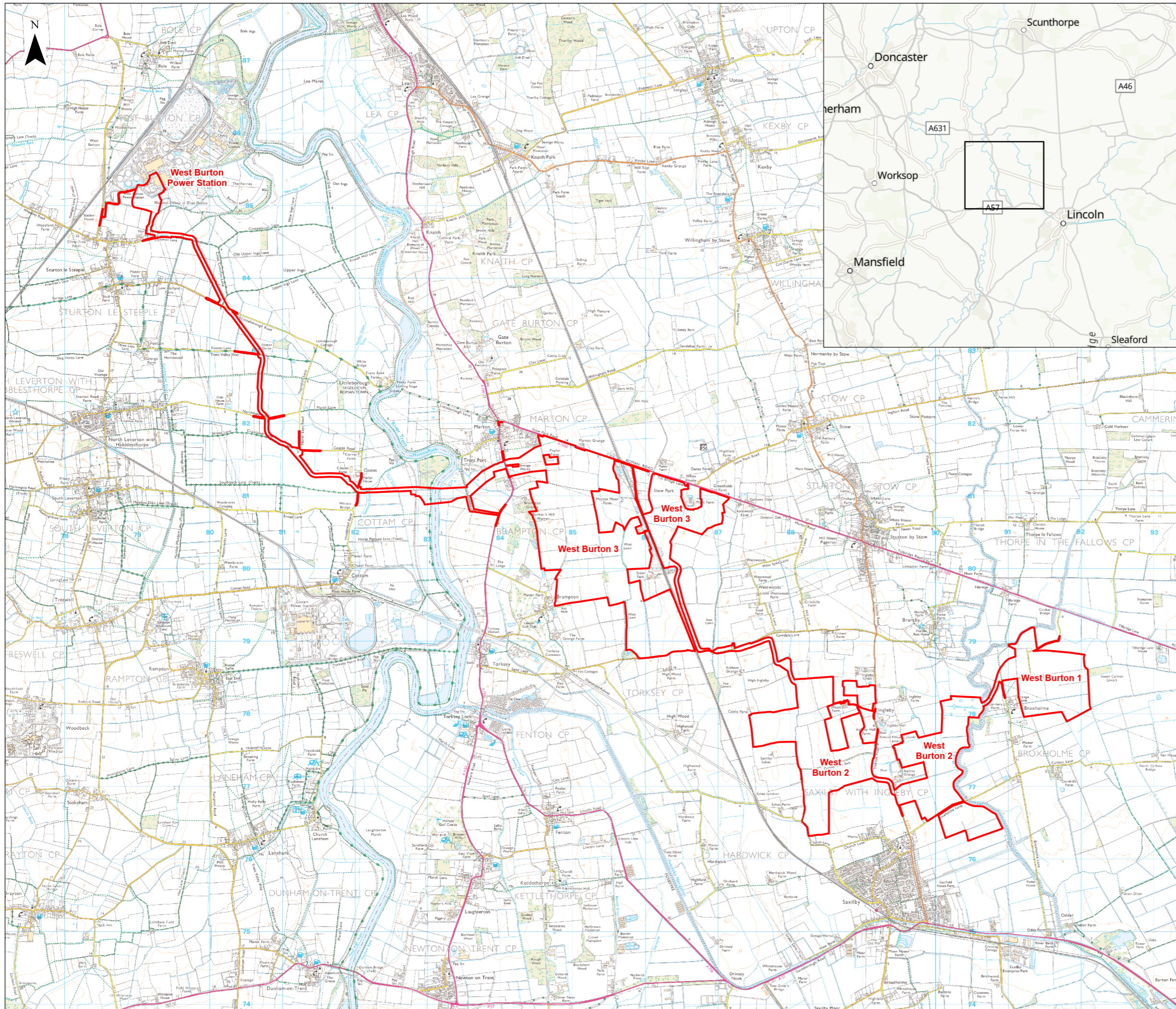
Figure 4.1 Illustrative Site Layout Plan – West Burton 1

Figure 4.2 Illustrative Site Layout Plan – West Burton 2


Figure 4.3 Illustrative Site Layout Plan – West Burton 3

Figure 4.4 West Burton Energy Storage, Illustrative Layout Plan

ES Appendix 4.1 Engineering Drawings and Sections



Key

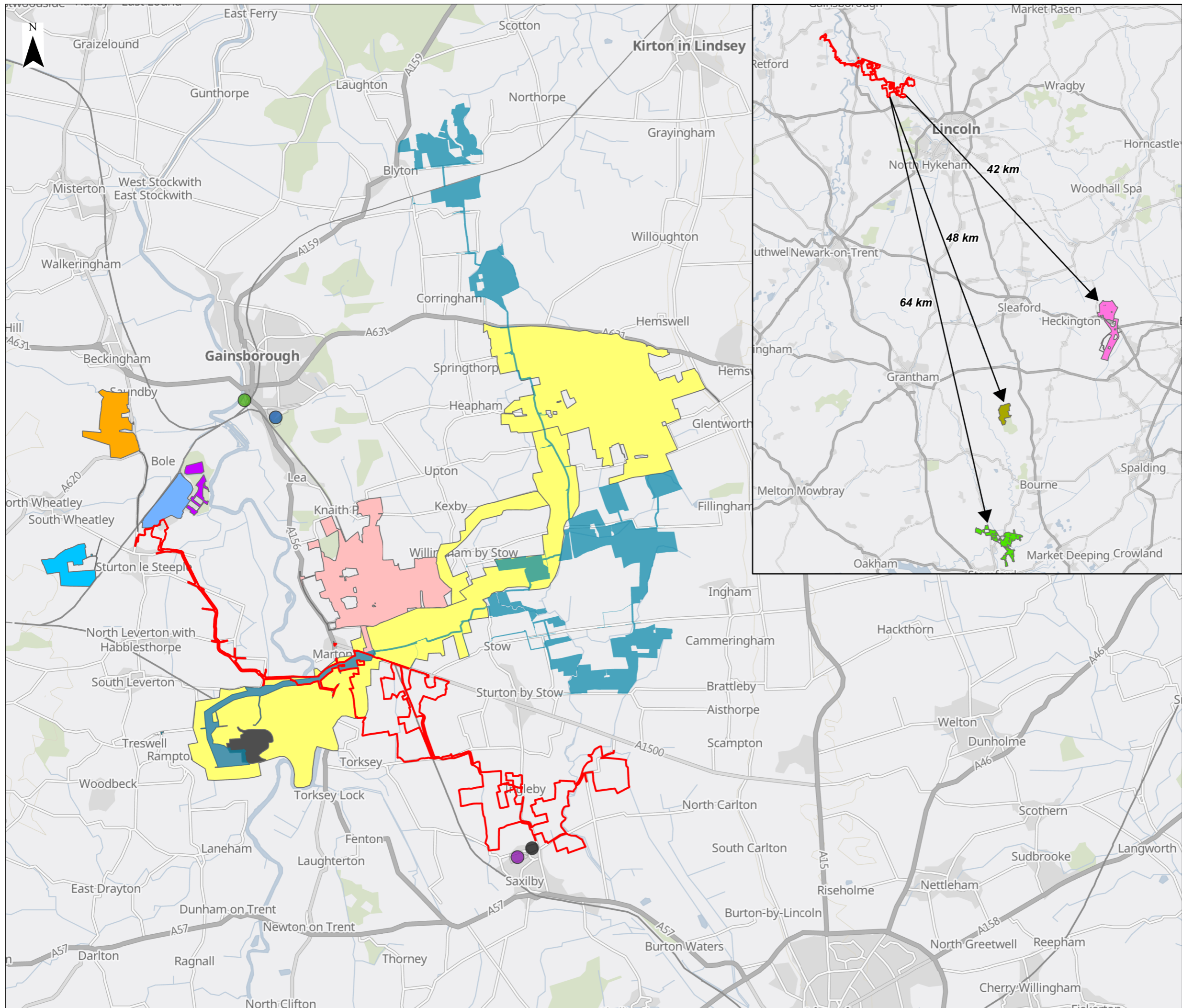
 Order Limits

Layers: Lanpro, 2023; IGP, 2023
 Base map: Reproduced from Ordnance Survey digital map data © Crown copyright 2023. All rights reserved. License number 0100031673
 Esri UK, Esri, HERE, Garmin, Foursquare, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS

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 Scale: 1:50,000@ A3

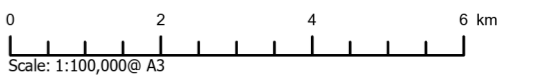
APFP Regulation: 5(2)(a)	Application Doc No. WB6.4.1.1
Ref: P2983_LPR_ZZ_ON_DR_Z_0231	Date: 26/01/2023
Drawn by: AZ	Checked by: ID

Figure 1.1
 West Burton
 Site Location Plan



- Key**
- Order Limits
 - Cumulative Developments**
 - Saxilby Heights
 - Land off Sturton Road
 - Gainsborough SUE
 - Gainsborough Riverside
 - Bumble Bee Farm
 - Cottam Power Station Demolition
 - Gate Burton
 - Heckington Fen Solar
 - Mallard Pass Solar
 - Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park
 - Tillbridge Solar
 - West Burton A
 - West Burton C
 - Land NW and S of Field Farm
 - Cottam Solar

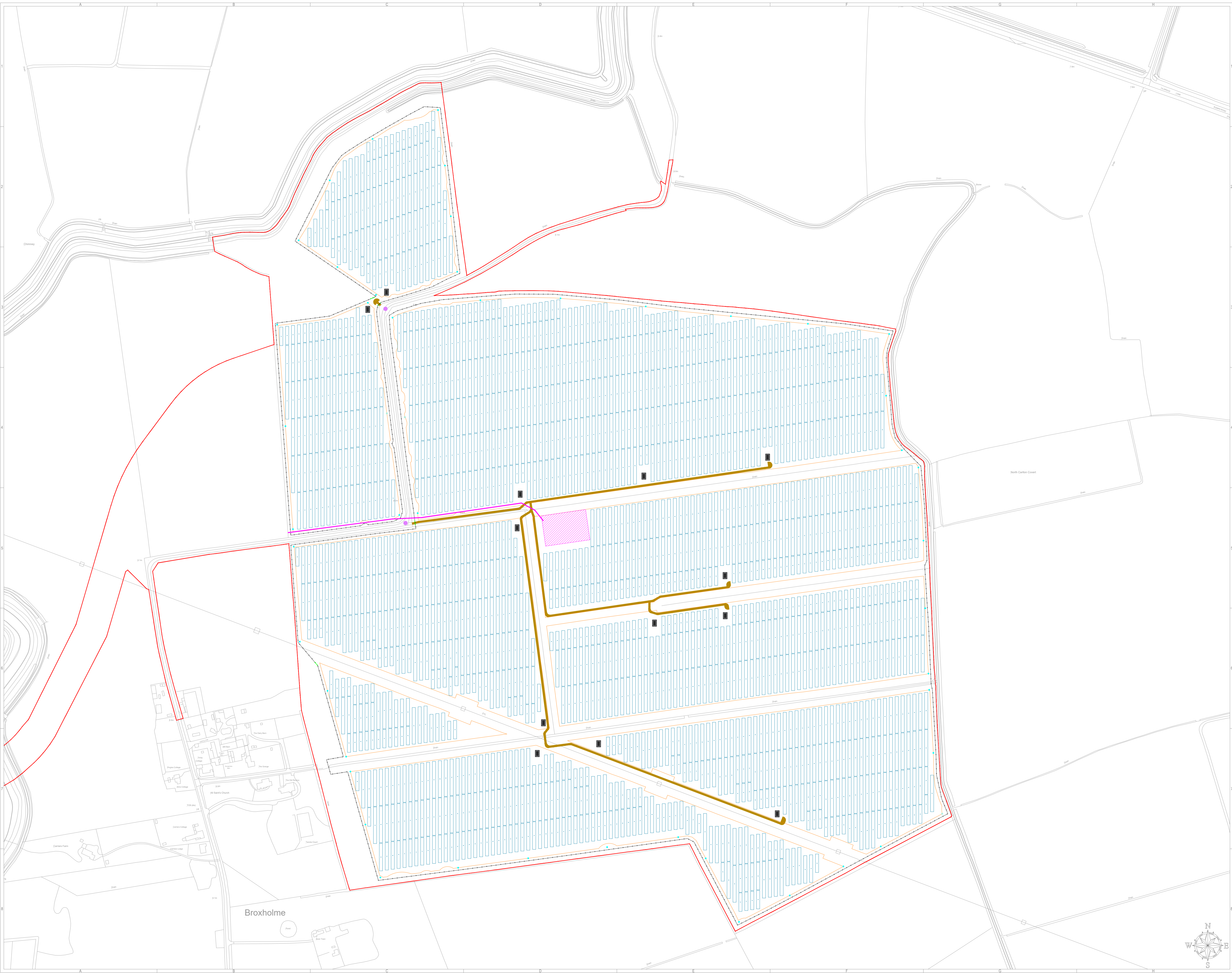
Layers: Lanpro, 2023
 Base map: Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2022
 Contains data from OS Zoomstack



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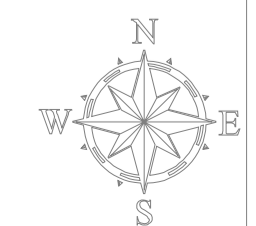
Figure 2.1
 West Burton
 Cumulative Developments

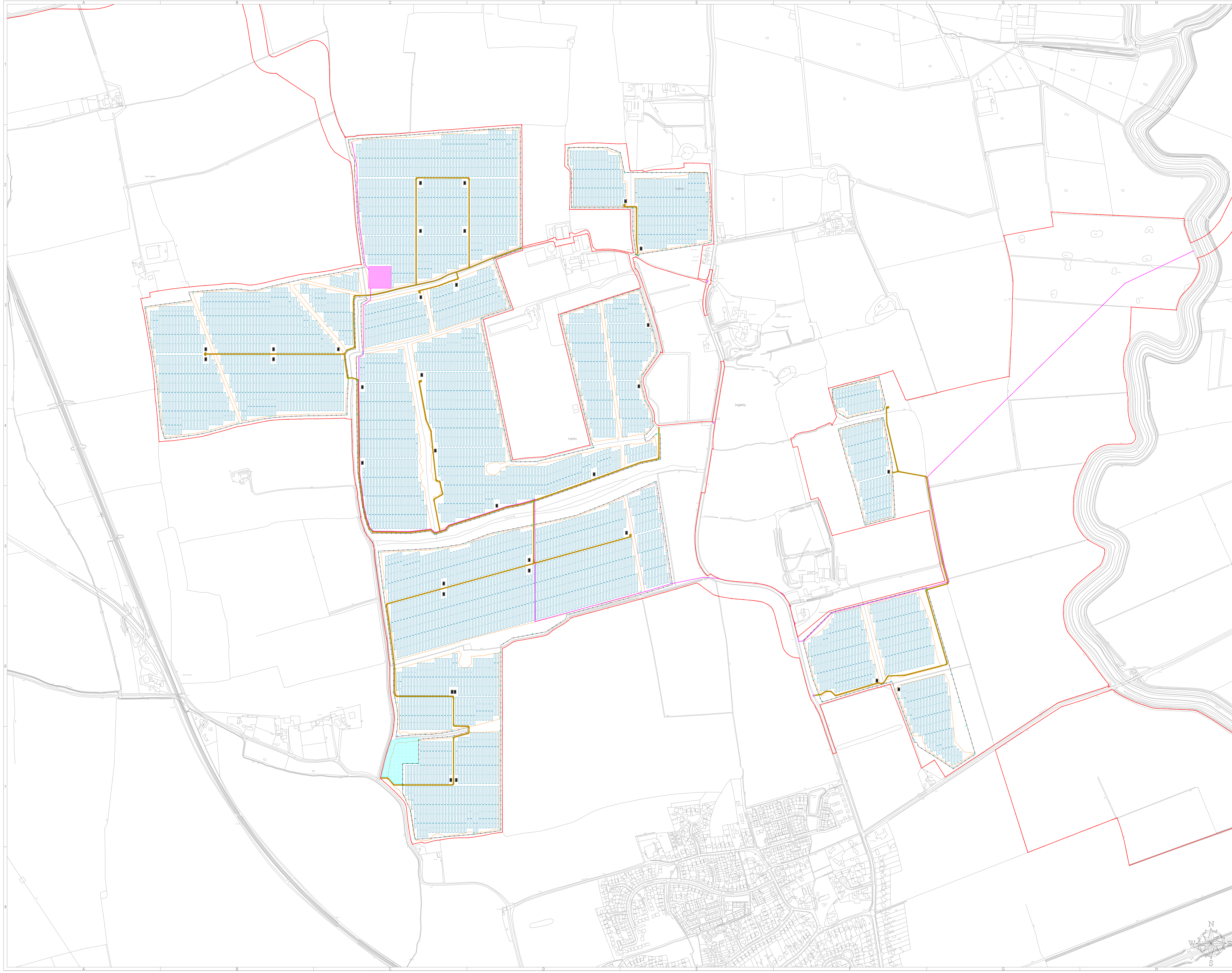
WEST BURTON SOLAR PROJECT
 EIA Process and Methodology
 Environmental Statement (ES)



General Legend:	
	Order Limits
	Fence
	Potential Development Area
	Mounting Structures and Solar PV Modules
	Conversion Units
	Electrical Substation
	High Voltage Electricity Cable
	Maintenance Tracks
	Gates
	Site Access
	CCTV

Project:	West Burton 1 Solar Project																								
Project Location:	Land East of Broxholme, Lincolnshire, LN1 2ZS																								
Ownership:	West Burton Solar Project Limited																								
Document Title:	Figure 4.1 Illustrative Site Layout Plan (WB1) Document Ref: APP/WB6.4.4.1 APPP Regulation: 5(2)(a)																								
Sheet format:	A1 "841 x 594" Scale: 1:2500																								
Document amendments:	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Version</th> <th>Date</th> <th>Author</th> <th>Comments</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>v.3</td> <td>25/08/2022</td> <td>A.A.</td> <td>Final Layout</td> </tr> <tr> <td>v.4</td> <td>30/09/2022</td> <td>A.A.</td> <td>Layout</td> </tr> <tr> <td>v.5</td> <td>25/10/2022</td> <td>A.A.</td> <td>Illustrative Layout</td> </tr> <tr> <td>v.6</td> <td>05/01/2023</td> <td>A.A.</td> <td>Layout for Submission</td> </tr> <tr> <td>v.7</td> <td>02/02/2023</td> <td>A.A.</td> <td>Layout for Submission</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Version	Date	Author	Comments	v.3	25/08/2022	A.A.	Final Layout	v.4	30/09/2022	A.A.	Layout	v.5	25/10/2022	A.A.	Illustrative Layout	v.6	05/01/2023	A.A.	Layout for Submission	v.7	02/02/2023	A.A.	Layout for Submission
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v.6	05/01/2023	A.A.	Layout for Submission																						
v.7	02/02/2023	A.A.	Layout for Submission																						
Company:	Island Green Power UK Limited Unit 20.2, Coda Studios 189 Munster Road, London SW6 6AW																								

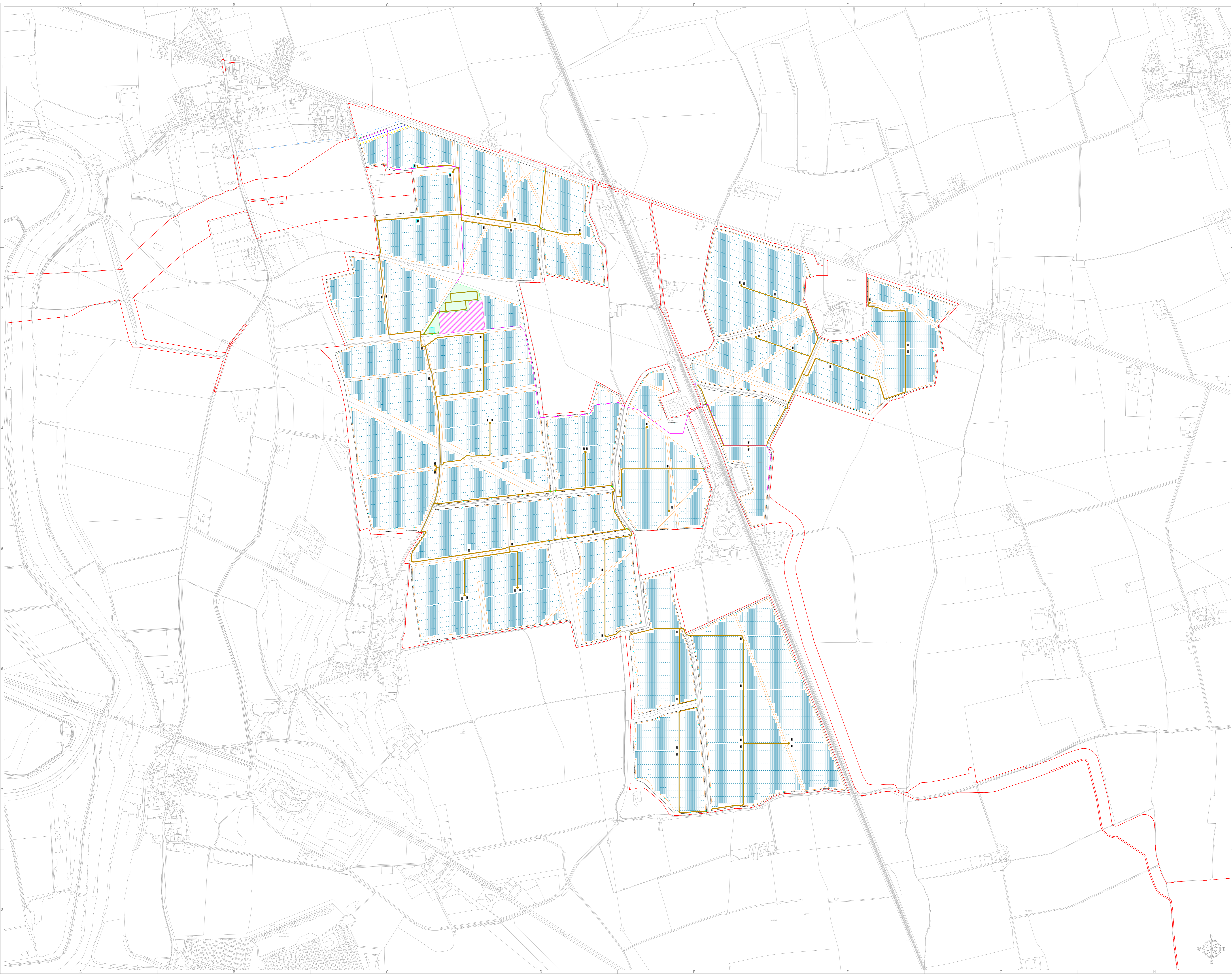




General Legend:	
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	Electrical Substation
	High Voltage Electricity Cable
	Maintenance Tracks
	Nature Project Area
	Gates
	Site Access
	CCTV

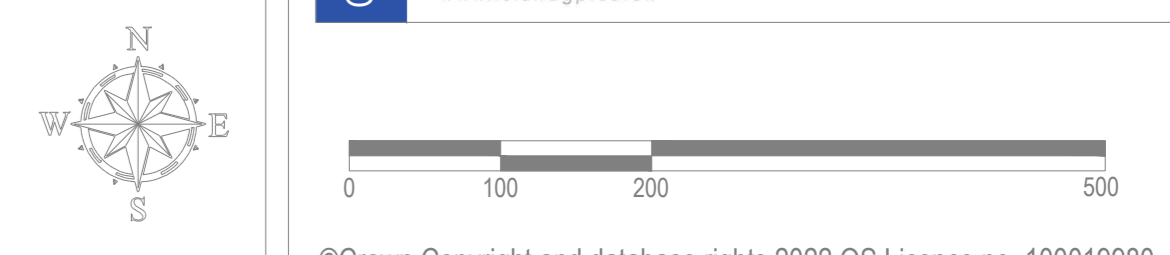
Project:	West Burton 2 Solar Project																								
Project Location:	Birch Holt Farm, Burton, Lincoln Lincolnshire, LN1 2RD, England																								
Ownership:	West Burton Solar Project Limited																								
Document Title:	Figure 4.2 Illustrative Site Layout Plan (WB2) Document Ref: APP/WB2-4.4.2 APPF Regulation: 5(2)(a)																								
Sheet Format:	A1 "841 x 594"																								
Scale:	1:5000																								
Document Revisions:	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Version</th> <th>Date</th> <th>Author</th> <th>Comments</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>v.4</td> <td>25/10/2021</td> <td>A.A.</td> <td>Illustrative Layout</td> </tr> <tr> <td>v.5</td> <td>09/11/2022</td> <td>A.A.</td> <td>Updated HV Cabling</td> </tr> <tr> <td>v.6</td> <td>06/01/2023</td> <td>A.A.</td> <td>Layout for Submission</td> </tr> <tr> <td>v.7</td> <td>24/01/2023</td> <td>A.A.</td> <td>Revised FLB</td> </tr> <tr> <td>v.8</td> <td>02/02/2023</td> <td>A.A.</td> <td>Layout for Submission</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Version	Date	Author	Comments	v.4	25/10/2021	A.A.	Illustrative Layout	v.5	09/11/2022	A.A.	Updated HV Cabling	v.6	06/01/2023	A.A.	Layout for Submission	v.7	24/01/2023	A.A.	Revised FLB	v.8	02/02/2023	A.A.	Layout for Submission
Version	Date	Author	Comments																						
v.4	25/10/2021	A.A.	Illustrative Layout																						
v.5	09/11/2022	A.A.	Updated HV Cabling																						
v.6	06/01/2023	A.A.	Layout for Submission																						
v.7	24/01/2023	A.A.	Revised FLB																						
v.8	02/02/2023	A.A.	Layout for Submission																						

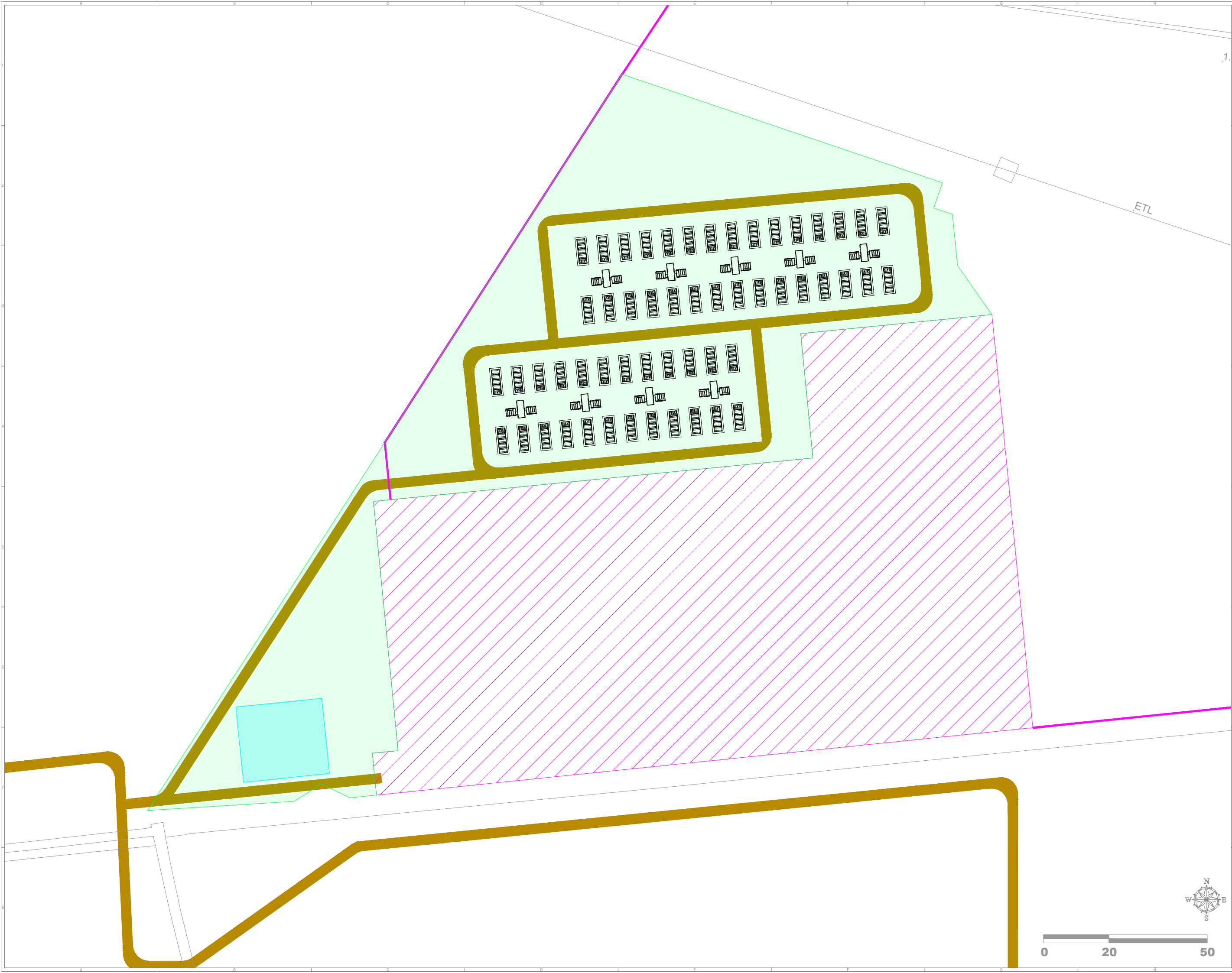
Island Green Power UK Limited
 Unit 20.2, Coda Studios
 189 Munster Road, London SW6 6AW



General Legend:	
	Order Limits
	Fence
	Potential Development Area
	Mounting Structure and Solar PV Modules
	Conversion Units
	Maintenance Tracks
	Electrical Substation
	Energy Storage Area
	Firefighting Water Supply
	West Burton High Voltage Cable
	Other Scheme's High Voltage Cable
	FRM/F Forsoth
	Gates
	Site Access
	Acoustic Barrier
	CCTV

Project:	West Burton 3 Solar Project																								
Project Location:	Land at Bellwood Grange farm, Brampton, LN1 2EG																								
Ownership:	West Burton Solar Project Limited																								
Document Title:	Figure 4.3 Illustrative Layout Plan (WB3) Document Ref: APP/WB6.4.4.3 APPP Regulation: 5(2)(a)																								
Sheet format:	A0 "1189 x 841"																								
Scale:	1:5000																								
Document amendments:	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Version</th> <th>Date</th> <th>Author</th> <th>Comments</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>v.6</td> <td>18/11/2022</td> <td>A.A.</td> <td>Revised Red Line Boundary</td> </tr> <tr> <td>v.7</td> <td>11/01/2023</td> <td>A.A.</td> <td>Layout for Submission</td> </tr> <tr> <td>v.8</td> <td>02/02/2023</td> <td>A.A.</td> <td>Layout for Submission</td> </tr> <tr> <td>v.9</td> <td>07/03/2023</td> <td>A.A.</td> <td>Layout for Submission</td> </tr> <tr> <td>v.10</td> <td>13/03/2023</td> <td>A.A.</td> <td>Layout for Submission</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Version	Date	Author	Comments	v.6	18/11/2022	A.A.	Revised Red Line Boundary	v.7	11/01/2023	A.A.	Layout for Submission	v.8	02/02/2023	A.A.	Layout for Submission	v.9	07/03/2023	A.A.	Layout for Submission	v.10	13/03/2023	A.A.	Layout for Submission
Version	Date	Author	Comments																						
v.6	18/11/2022	A.A.	Revised Red Line Boundary																						
v.7	11/01/2023	A.A.	Layout for Submission																						
v.8	02/02/2023	A.A.	Layout for Submission																						
v.9	07/03/2023	A.A.	Layout for Submission																						
v.10	13/03/2023	A.A.	Layout for Submission																						
Company:	Island Green Power UK Limited Unit 20.2, Coda Studios 189 Munster Road, London SW6 6AW																								





1.

ETL

General Legend:

	Order Limits
	Fence
	Battery Energy Storage Area
	Battery Energy Storage Unit
	Conversion Unit
	Electrical Substation
	Maintenance Track
	High Voltage Electricity Cable
	Firefighting Water Supply

Project: West Burton Solar Project

Project Location: Land at Bellwood Grange Farm, Brampton Lincolnshire, LN1 2EG, England

Ownership: West Burton Solar Project Limited

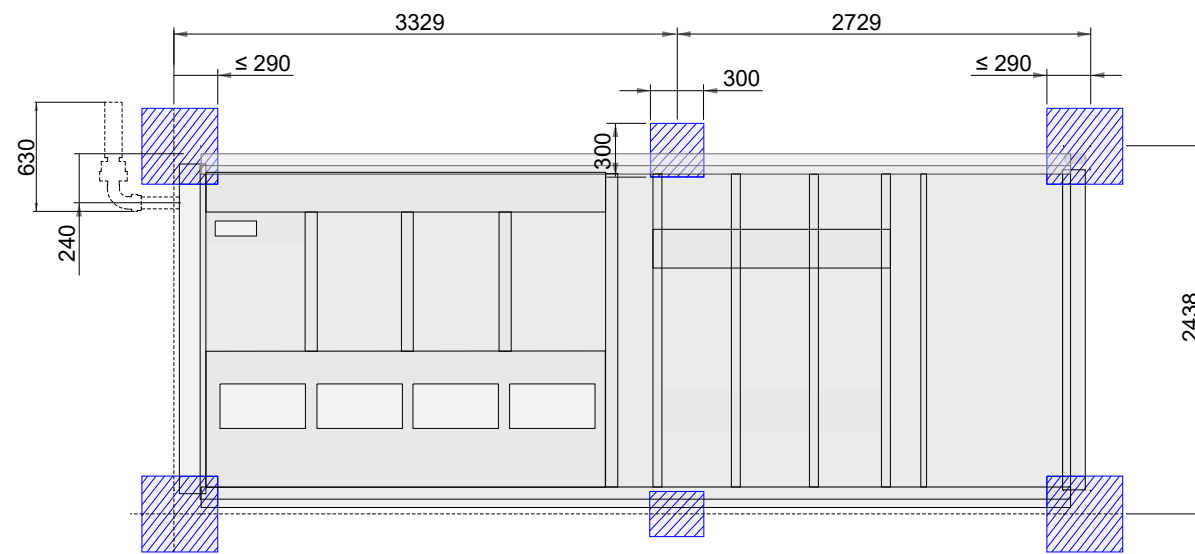
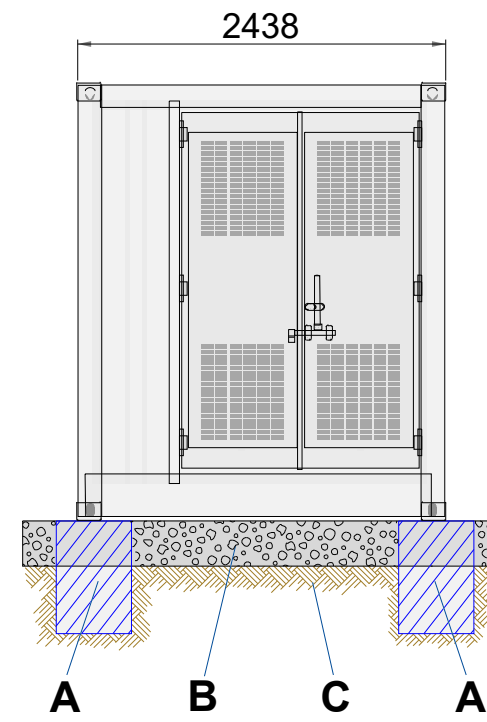
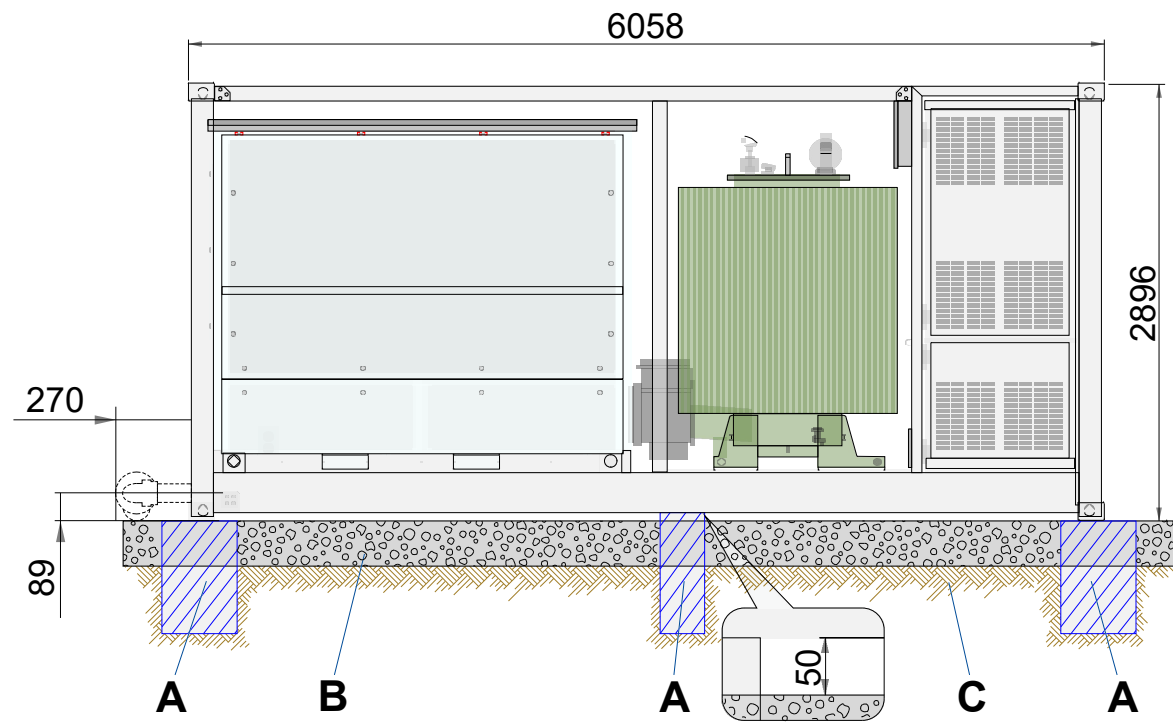
Document Title: Figure 4.4 West Burton Energy Storage, Illustrative Layout Plan
Document Ref: APP/WB6.4.4.4
APP Regulation: 5(2)(a)

Sheet format: A3 "420 x 297" Scale: 1:1000

Document amendments	Comments
v.1 02/02/2023 A.A	Layout for Submission

Company: Island Green POWER
Island Green Power UK Limited
Unit 20.2, Coda Studios
189 Munster Road, London SW6 6AW





General Legend:

A	Support Point Foundation
B	Pea Gravel Ground
C	Solid Ground, e.g. Gravel



Project: West Burton Solar Project

Project Location: Land near Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, United Kingdom

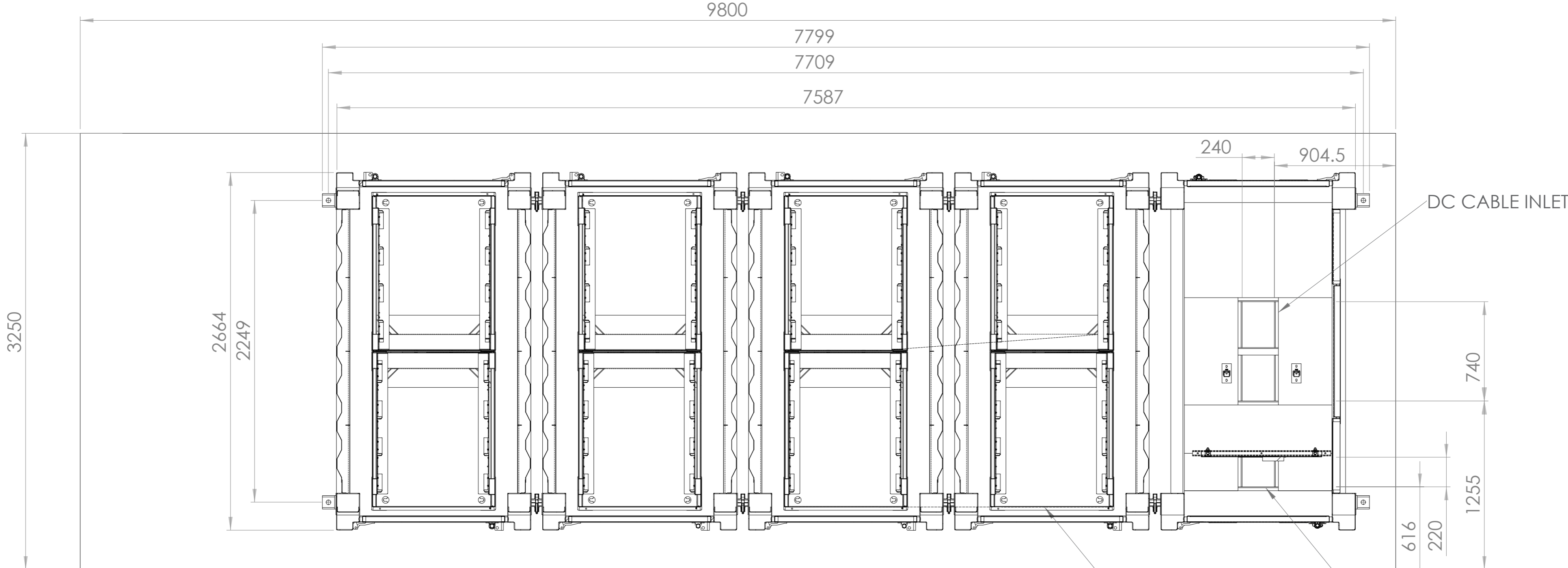
Ownership: West Burton Solar Project Limited

Document Title: Solar PV Conversion Unit

Sheet format: A3 420 x 297" Scale: 1:50

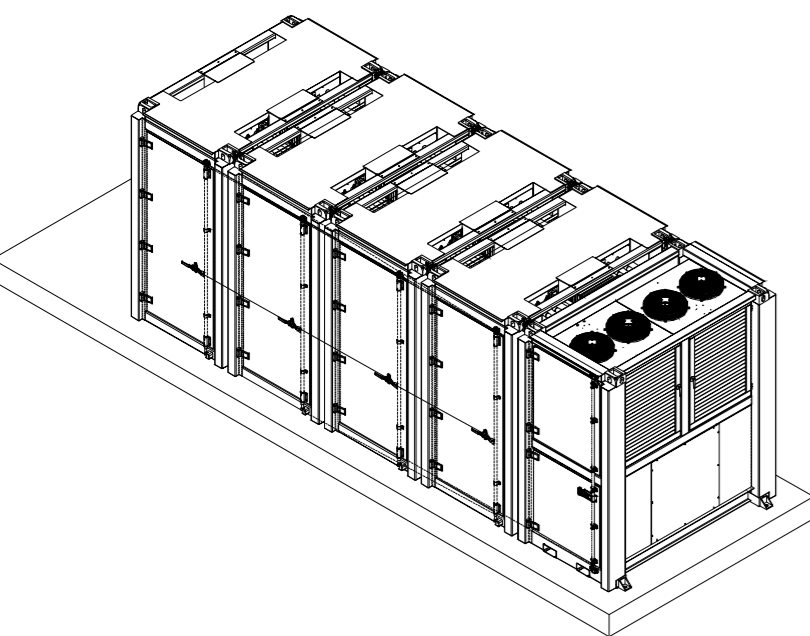
Document amendments	Rev.	Date	M.N.	Comments
	v.1	13/01/2023	M.N.	
	v.2	14/02/2023	M.N.	

Company: Island GREEN POWER
Island Green Power UK Limited
Unit 20.2, Coda Studios
189 Munster Road, London SW6 6AW



SECTION A-A

AUX PWR/COMMS INLET



A

A

4

FOUNDATION THICKNESS TO BE DETERMINED FROM GROUND STUDY AT THE SITE.

20

General Legend:

Pos.	Description	Qty
1	COMBI BLOCK	1
2	BATTERY BLOCK	4
3	INTERCONNECT HOSE - COMBI TO BATT	4
4	INTERCONNECT HOSE - BATT TO BATT	12
16	INTERCONNECT HARNESS - TERMINATING	1
20	FOUNDATION	1



Project:	West Burton Solar Project		
Project Location:	Land near Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, United Kingdom		
Ownership:	West Burton Solar Project Limited		
Document Title:	Battery Side View and A-A Section		
Sheet format:	A2 "594 x 420"	Scale:	1:30
Document amendments:	v.1	05/01/2023	M.N.
Company:	Island GREEN POWER	Island Green Power UK Limited	Unit 20.2, Coda Studios 189 Munster Road, London SW6 6AW

132kV MINIMUM ELECTRICAL CLEARANCES	
DESCRIPTION	DISTANCE (m)
PHASE TO PHASE CLEARANCE	1.4
PHASE TO EARTH CLEARANCE	1.1
DESIGN CLEARANCE FOR SAFETY (VERTICAL) D _{st}	3.8
DESIGN CLEARANCE FOR SAFETY (HORIZONTAL) D _{sh}	2.9
INSULATION HEIGHT (PEDESTRIAN ACCESS)	2.4
SAFETY DISTANCE	1.4
MEWP DESIGN CLEARANCE FOR SAFETY (VERTICAL) D _{s2}	5.8
MEWP DESIGN CLEARANCE FOR SAFETY (HORIZONTAL) D _{sh2}	4.9

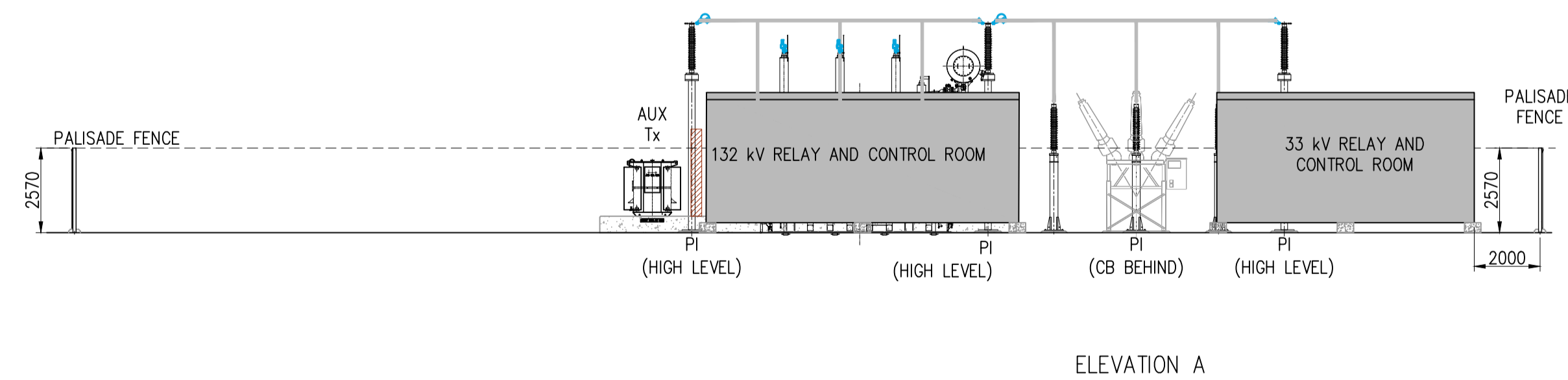
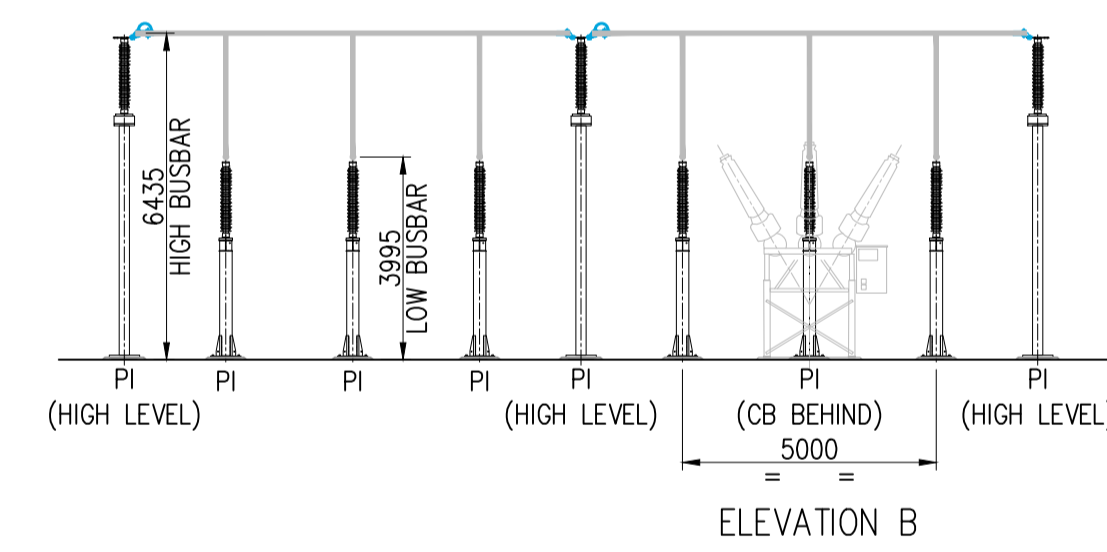
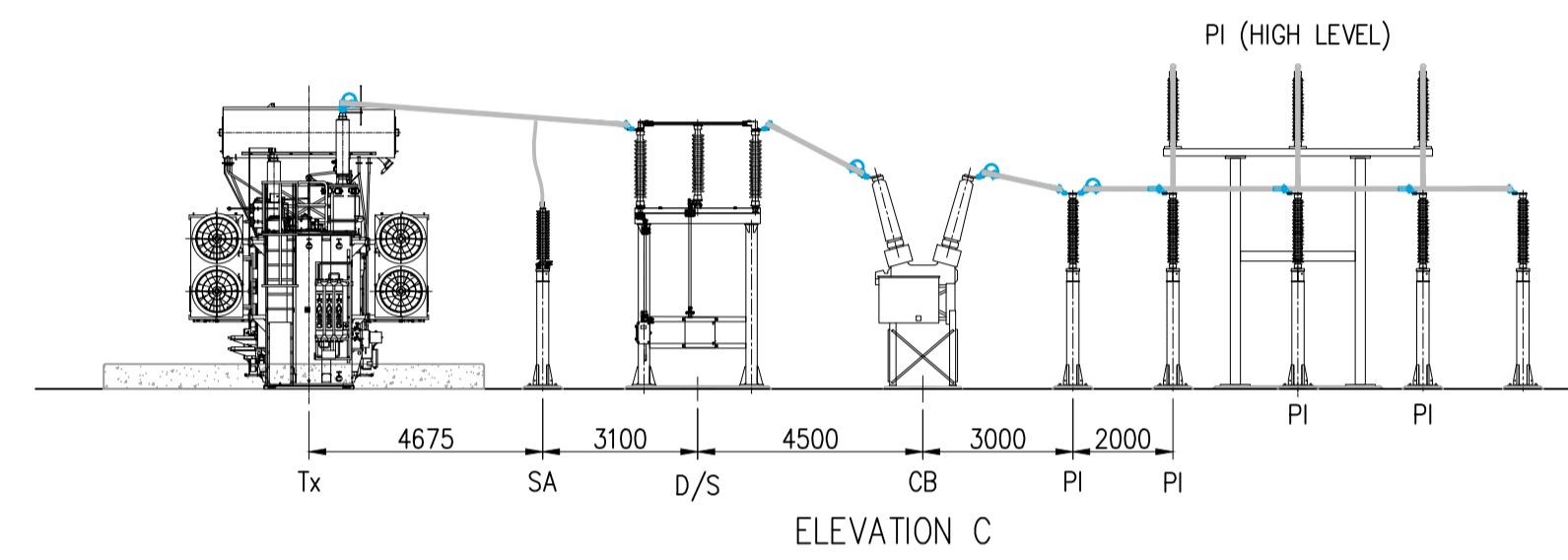
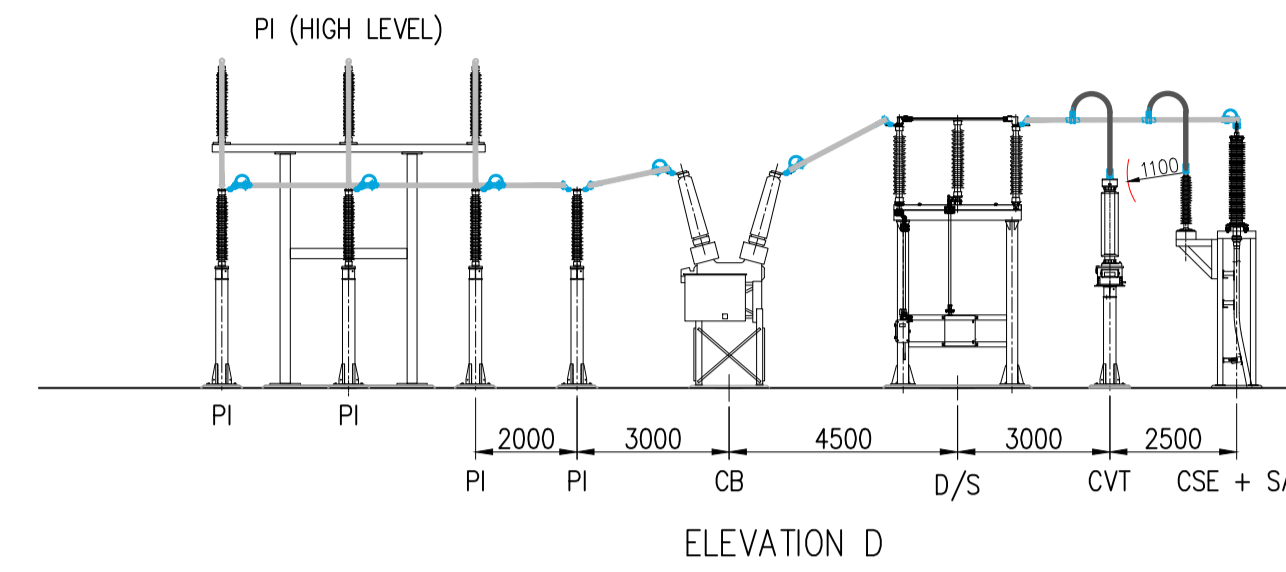
ANNOTATION:

AUX TX	AUXILIARY TRANSFORMER
CB	CIRCUIT BREAKER
CSE	CABLE SEALING END
CVT	CAPACITIVE VOLTAGE TRANSFORMER
D/S	DISCONNECTOR
PI	POST INSULATOR
SA	SURGE ARRESTER
TX	TRANSFORMER

TO BE VIEWED IN CONJUNCTION WITH LAYOUT DRAWING OP-PRO918-LAY021.

THE PROPOSED SUBSTATION LAYOUT IS BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THERE ARE NO SITE RESTRICTIONS.

THE PROPOSED BUSBAR SIZE IS 90mm x 6mm AL CONDUCTOR (2000A RATING). THE BUSBAR SIZE SHALL BE CONFIRMED DURING DETAILED DESIGN.



P1	11.07.22	PRELIMINARY	EC	EC	MG
----	----------	-------------	----	----	----

REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION	DRN	DES	REV & APP
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Island GREEN POWER
www.islandgp.co.uk
WEST BURTON SOLAR PROJECT LIMITED

WEST BURTON 1 132/33kV SUBSTATION FOR SOLAR PARK
SIDE ELEVATIONS

PROJECT NAME
NATIONAL GRID WEST BURTON CONNECTION
CUSTOMER
ISLAND GREEN POWER

PRELIMINARY NOT FOR SITE USE	CUSTOMER DRAWING NUMBER ****	STATUS PRELIMINARY
DRAWING NUMBER OP-PRO918-LAY022	SCALE 1:150	SIZE A1
		REVISION P1

132kV MINIMUM ELECTRICAL CLEARANCES	
DESCRIPTION	DISTANCE (m)
PHASE TO PHASE CLEARANCE	1.4
PHASE TO EARTH CLEARANCE	1.1
DESIGN CLEARANCE FOR SAFETY (VERTICAL) D _{st}	3.8
DESIGN CLEARANCE FOR SAFETY (HORIZONTAL) D _{sh}	2.9
INSULATION HEIGHT (PEDESTRIAN ACCESS)	2.4
SAFETY DISTANCE	1.4
MEWP DESIGN CLEARANCE FOR SAFETY (VERTICAL) D _{sz}	5.8
MEWP DESIGN CLEARANCE FOR SAFETY (HORIZONTAL) D _{shz}	4.9

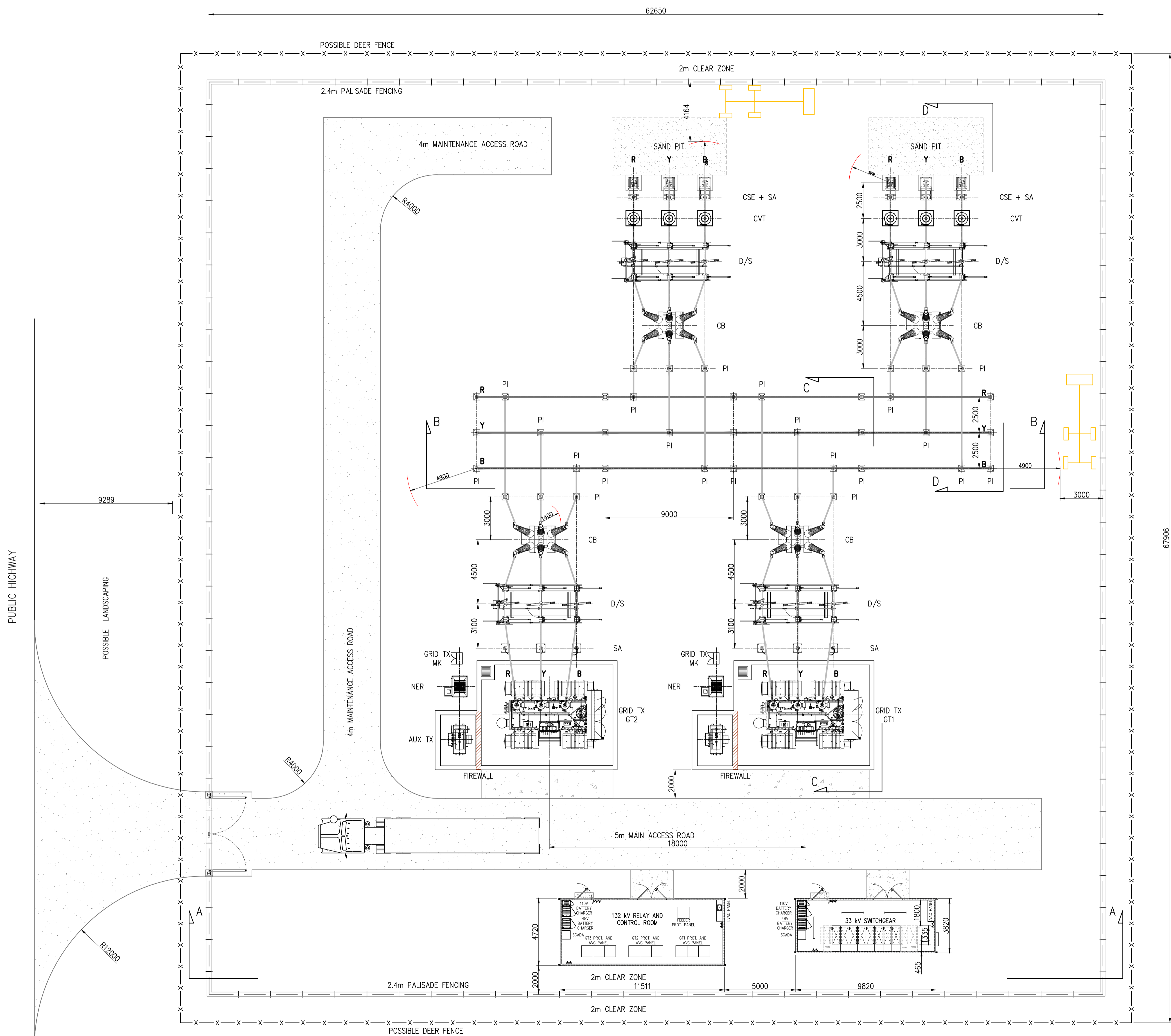
ABBREVIATION:

AUX TX	AUXILIARY TRANSFORMER
CB	CIRCUIT BREAKER
CSE	CABLE SEALING END
CVT	CAPACITIVE VOLTAGE TRANSFORMER
D/S	DISCONNECTOR
MK	MARSHALLING KIOSK
NER	NEUTRAL EARTHING RESISTOR
PI	POST INSULATOR
SA	SURGE ARRESTER
TX	TRANSFORMER

TO BE VIEWED IN CONJUNCTION WITH ELEVATIONS DRAWING OP-PRO918-LAY004.

THE PROPOSED SUBSTATION LAYOUT IS BASED ON ASSUMPTION THAT THERE IS NO SITE RESTRICTIONS.

THE PROPOSED BUSBAR SIZE IS 90mm x 6mm Al CONDUCTOR (2000A RATING). THE BUSBAR SIZED SHALL BE CONFIRMED DURING DETAILED DESIGN.



REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION	DRN	DES	REV & APP
P4	19.07.22	ONE SGT REMOVED	EC	EC	MG
P3	11.07.22	ADDITIONAL FEEDER BAY ADDED BETWEEN GT2 AND GT3	EC	EC	MG
P2	27.08.21	SITE NAME CHANGED	DCP	EC	PD
P1	13.08.21	PRELIMINARY	DCP	EC	PD

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WEST BURTON 2 SOLAR PARK
132/33kV SUBSTATION COMPOUND

PROJECT NAME
NATIONAL GRID WEST BURTON CONNECTION
CUSTOMER
ISLAND GREEN POWER

PRELIMINARY NOT FOR SITE USE	CUSTOMER DRAWING NUMBER ****	STATUS PRELIMINARY
	DRAWING NUMBER OP-PRO918-LAY003	SCALE 1:150

132kV MINIMUM ELECTRICAL CLEARANCES	
DESCRIPTION	DISTANCE (m)
PHASE TO PHASE CLEARANCE	1.4
PHASE TO EARTH CLEARANCE	1.1
DESIGN CLEARANCE FOR SAFETY (VERTICAL) D _{st}	3.8
DESIGN CLEARANCE FOR SAFETY (HORIZONTAL) D _{sh}	2.9
INSULATION HEIGHT (PEDESTRIAN ACCESS)	2.4
SAFETY DISTANCE	1.4
MEWP DESIGN CLEARANCE FOR SAFETY (VERTICAL) D _{s2}	5.8
MEWP DESIGN CLEARANCE FOR SAFETY (HORIZONTAL) D _{sh2}	4.9

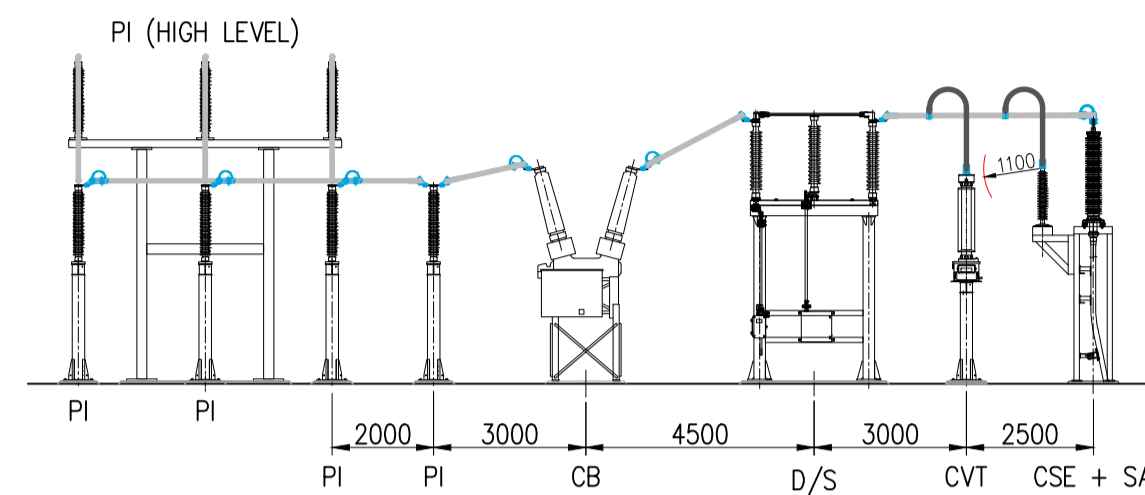
ANNOTATION:

AUX TX	AUXILIARY TRANSFORMER
CB	CIRCUIT BREAKER
CSE	CABLE SEALING END
CVT	CAPACITIVE VOLTAGE TRANSFORMER
D/S	DISCONNECTOR
PI	POST INSULATOR
SA	SURGE ARRESTER
TX	TRANSFORMER

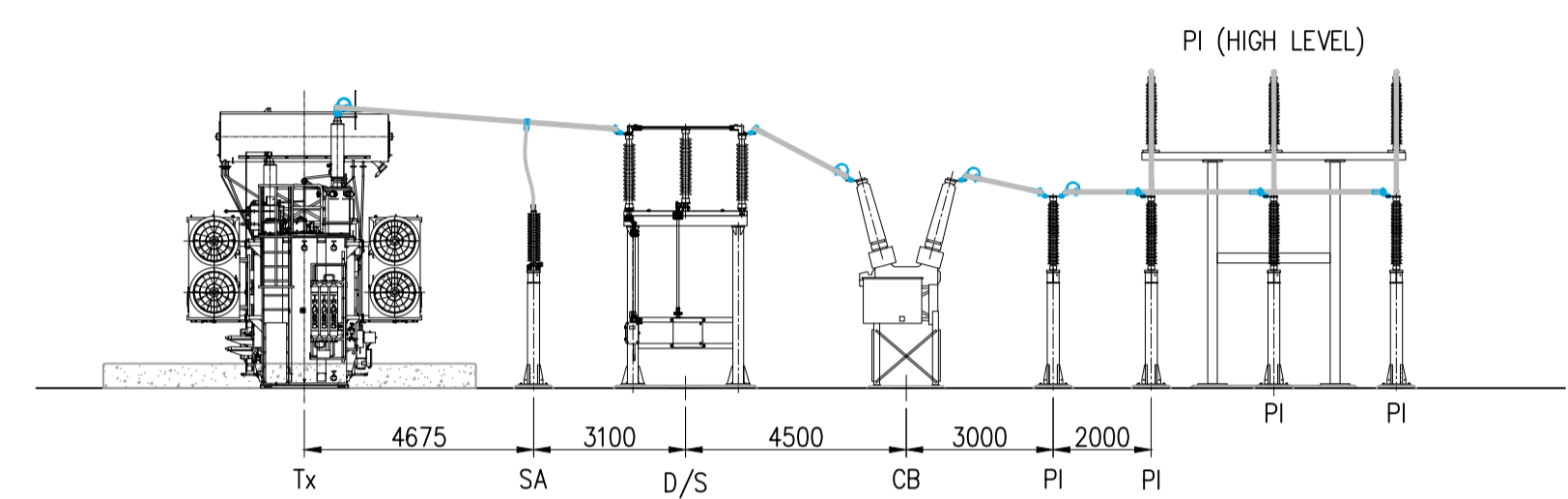
TO BE VIEWED IN CONJUNCTION WITH LAYOUT DRAWING OP-PRO918-LAY003.

THE PROPOSED SUBSTATION LAYOUT IS BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THERE ARE NO SITE RESTRICTIONS.

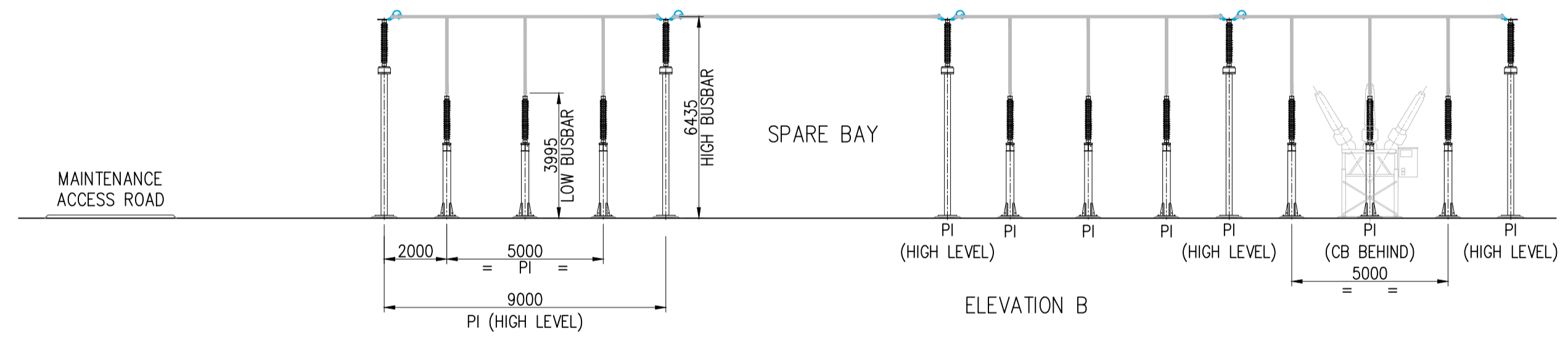
THE PROPOSED BUSBAR SIZE IS 90mm x 6mm AL CONDUCTOR (2000A RATING). THE BUSBAR SIZE SHALL BE CONFIRMED DURING DETAILED DESIGN.



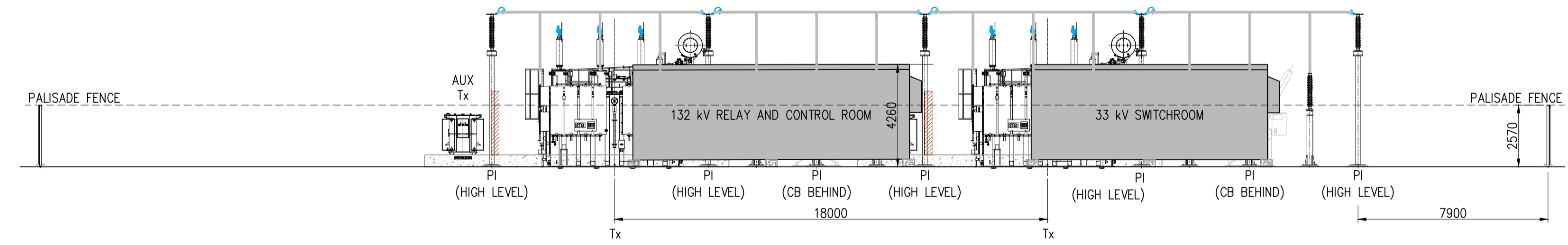
ELEVATION D



ELEVATION C



ELEVATION B



ELEVATION A

REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION	DRN	DES	REV & APP
P4	19.07.22	ONE SGT REMOVED	EC	EC	MG
P3	11.07.22	ADDITIONAL FEEDER BAY ADDED BETWEEN GT2 AND GT3	EC	EC	MG
P2	27.08.21	SITE NAME CHANGED	DCP	EC	PD
P1	13.08.21	PRELIMINARY	DCP	EC	PD

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Island GREEN POWER
 www.islandgp.co.uk
 WEST BURTON SOLAR PROJECT LIMITED

WEST BURTON 2 SOLAR PARK
 132/33kV SUBSTATION SIDE ELEVATIONS

PROJECT NAME
 NATIONAL GRID WEST BURTON CONNECTION
 CUSTOMER
 ISLAND GREEN POWER

PRELIMINARY NOT FOR SITE USE	CUSTOMER DRAWING NUMBER ****	STATUS PRELIMINARY
	DRAWING NUMBER OP-PRO918-LAY004	SCALE 1:150

400kV MINIMUM ELECTRICAL CLEARANCES	
DESCRIPTION	DISTANCE (m)
PHASE TO PHASE CLEARANCE	3.6
PHASE TO EARTH CLEARANCE	2.8
DESIGN CLEARANCE FOR SAFETY (VERTICAL) D ₉₀	5.5
DESIGN CLEARANCE FOR SAFETY (HORIZONTAL) D ₉₀	4.6
INSULATION HEIGHT (PEDESTRIAN ACCESS)	2.4
SAFETY DISTANCE	3.1
MEWP DESIGN CLEARANCE FOR SAFETY (VERTICAL) D ₉₀	7.5
MEWP DESIGN CLEARANCE FOR SAFETY (HORIZONTAL) D ₉₀	6.6

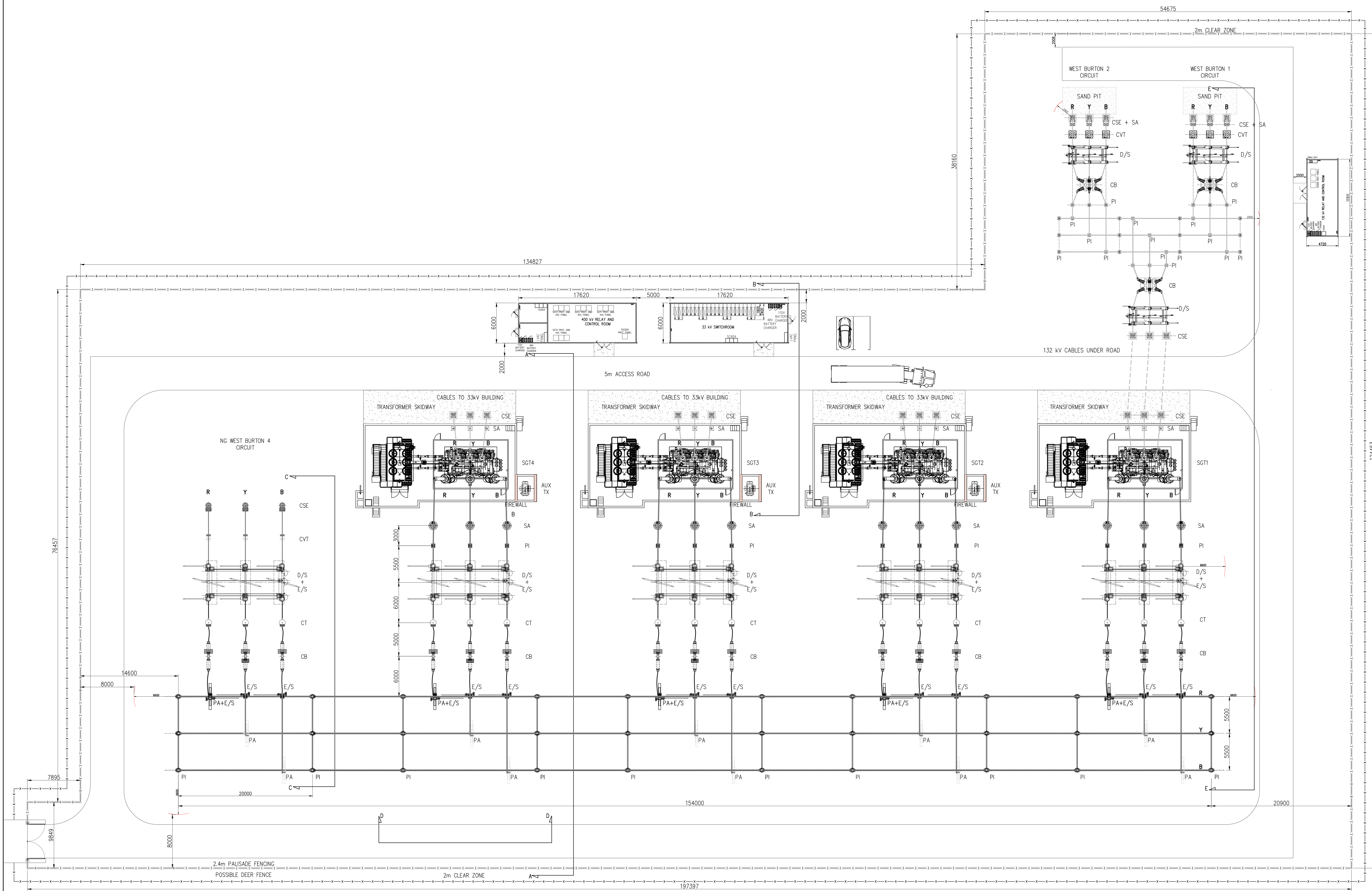
132kV MINIMUM ELECTRICAL CLEARANCES	
DESCRIPTION	DISTANCE (m)
PHASE TO PHASE CLEARANCE	1.4
PHASE TO EARTH CLEARANCE	1.1
DESIGN CLEARANCE FOR SAFETY (VERTICAL) D ₉₀	3.8
DESIGN CLEARANCE FOR SAFETY (HORIZONTAL) D ₉₀	2.9
INSULATION HEIGHT (PEDESTRIAN ACCESS)	2.4
SAFETY DISTANCE	1.4
MEWP DESIGN CLEARANCE FOR SAFETY (VERTICAL) D ₉₀	5.8
MEWP DESIGN CLEARANCE FOR SAFETY (HORIZONTAL) D ₉₀	4.9

- ABBREVIATION:
- AUX TX AUXILIARY TRANSFORMER
 - CB CIRCUIT BREAKER
 - CSE CABLE SEALING END
 - CVT CAPACITIVE VOLTAGE TRANSFORMER
 - D/S DISCONNECTOR
 - E/S EARTH SWITCH
 - MK MARSHALLING KIOSK
 - PA PANTOGRAPH
 - PI POST INSULATOR
 - SA SURGE ARRESTER
 - TX TRANSFORMER

TO BE VIEWED IN CONJUNCTION WITH ELEVATIONS DRAWING OP-PR0918-LAY026.

THE PROPOSED SUBSTATION LAYOUT IS BASED ON ASSUMPTION THAT THERE ARE NO SITE RESTRICTIONS.

THE PROPOSED 400kV MAIN BUSBAR SIZE IS 300mm x 8mm AL CONDUCTOR. THE PROPOSED BAY BUSBAR SIZE IS 160mm x 7mm. THE BUSBAR SIZE SHALL BE CONFIRMED DURING DETAILED DESIGN.



REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION	DRN	DES	REV A
P3	15.02.23	ADDITIONAL FEEDERS TO WEST BURTON 2 REMOVED	EC	EC	MG
P2	09.02.23	AMENDED AS PER LATEST SLD	EC	EC	MG
P1	28.09.22	PRELIMINARY	EC	EC	MG

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Island GREEN POWER WEST BURTON SOLAR PROJECT LIMITED
www.islandgp.co.uk

WEST BURTON 3 SOLAR PARK
400/33kV SUBSTATION COMPOUND (AIS OPTION)

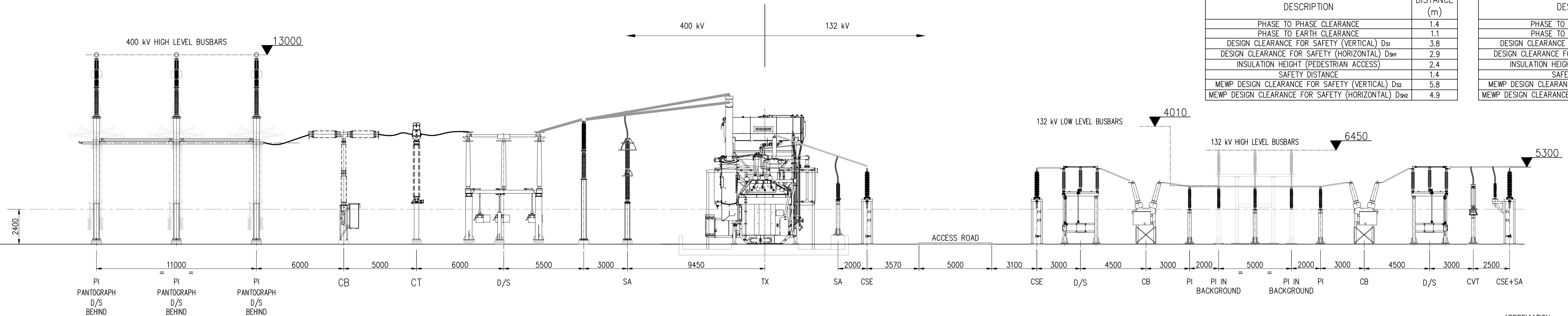
PROJECT NAME: NATIONAL GRID WEST BURTON CONNECTION
CUSTOMER: ISLAND GREEN POWER

PRELIMINARY NOT FOR SITE USE

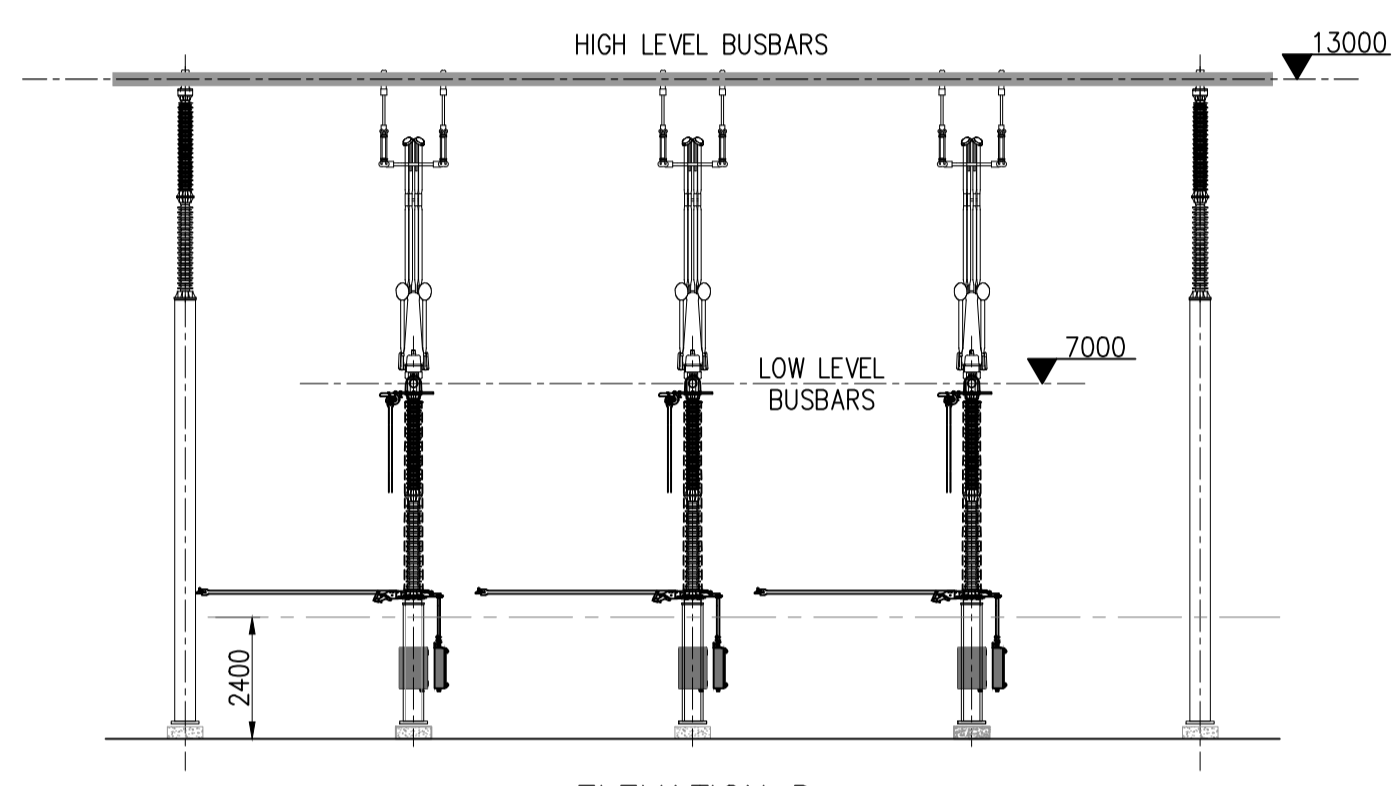
DRAWING NUMBER	SCALE	SIZ	REVISION
OP-PR0918-LAY025	1:200	A0	P3

132kV MINIMUM ELECTRICAL CLEARANCES	
DESCRIPTION	DISTANCE (m)
PHASE TO PHASE CLEARANCE	1.4
PHASE TO EARTH CLEARANCE	1.1
DESIGN CLEARANCE FOR SAFETY (VERTICAL) D_{st}	3.8
DESIGN CLEARANCE FOR SAFETY (HORIZONTAL) D_{sh}	2.9
INSULATION HEIGHT (PEDESTRIAN ACCESS)	2.4
SAFETY DISTANCE	1.4
MEWP DESIGN CLEARANCE FOR SAFETY (VERTICAL) D_{sz}	5.8
MEWP DESIGN CLEARANCE FOR SAFETY (HORIZONTAL) D_{shz}	4.9

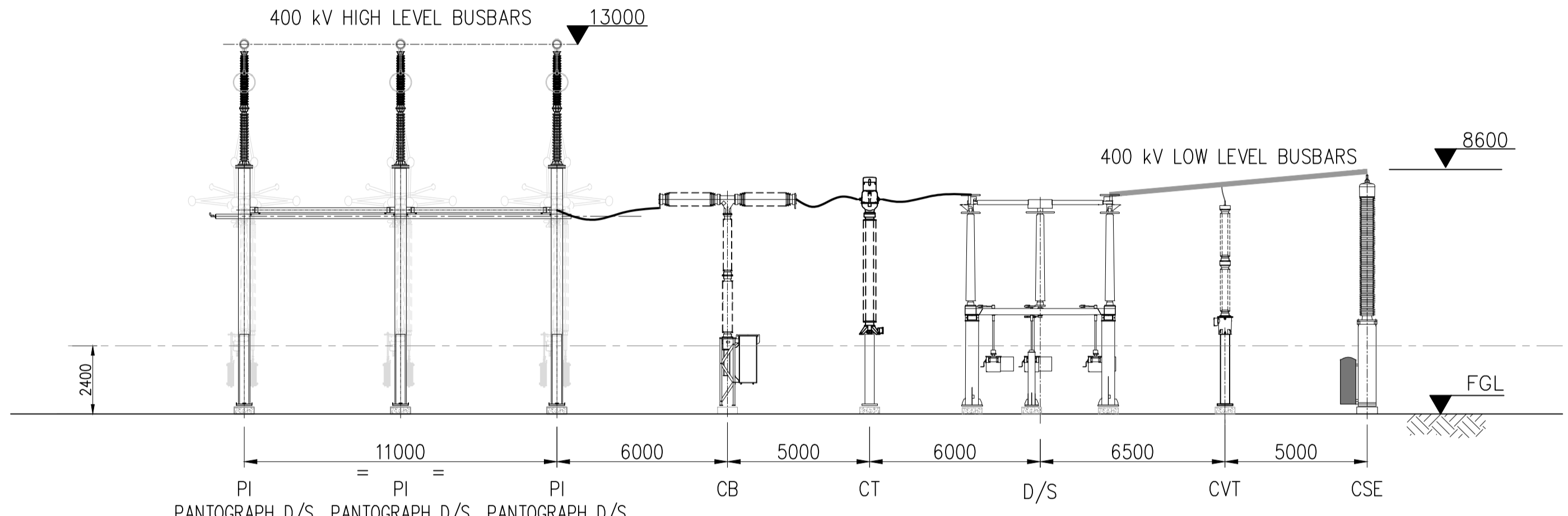
400kV MINIMUM ELECTRICAL CLEARANCES	
DESCRIPTION	DISTANCE (m)
PHASE TO PHASE CLEARANCE	3.6
PHASE TO EARTH CLEARANCE	2.8
DESIGN CLEARANCE FOR SAFETY (VERTICAL) D_{st}	5.5
DESIGN CLEARANCE FOR SAFETY (HORIZONTAL) D_{sh}	4.6
INSULATION HEIGHT (PEDESTRIAN ACCESS)	2.4
SAFETY DISTANCE	3.1
MEWP DESIGN CLEARANCE FOR SAFETY (VERTICAL) D_{sz}	7.5
MEWP DESIGN CLEARANCE FOR SAFETY (HORIZONTAL) D_{shz}	6.6



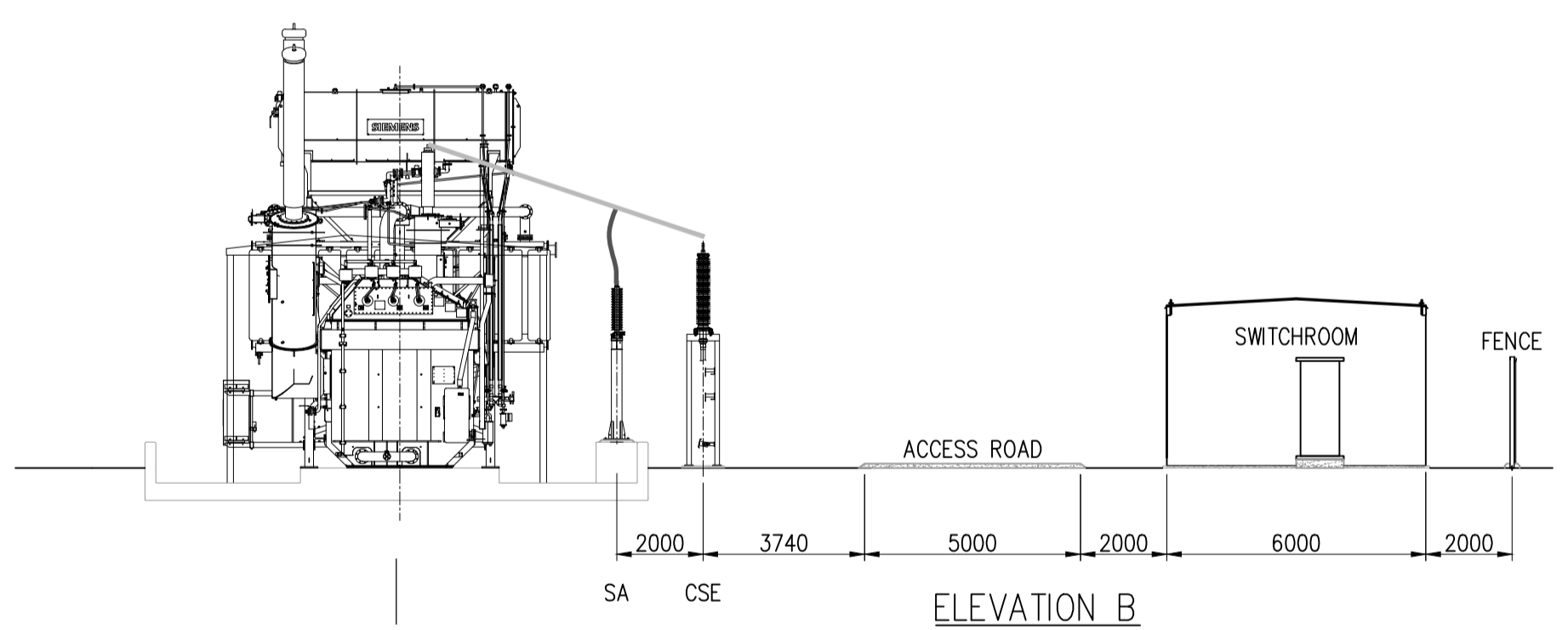
ELEVATION E
SCALE 1:150



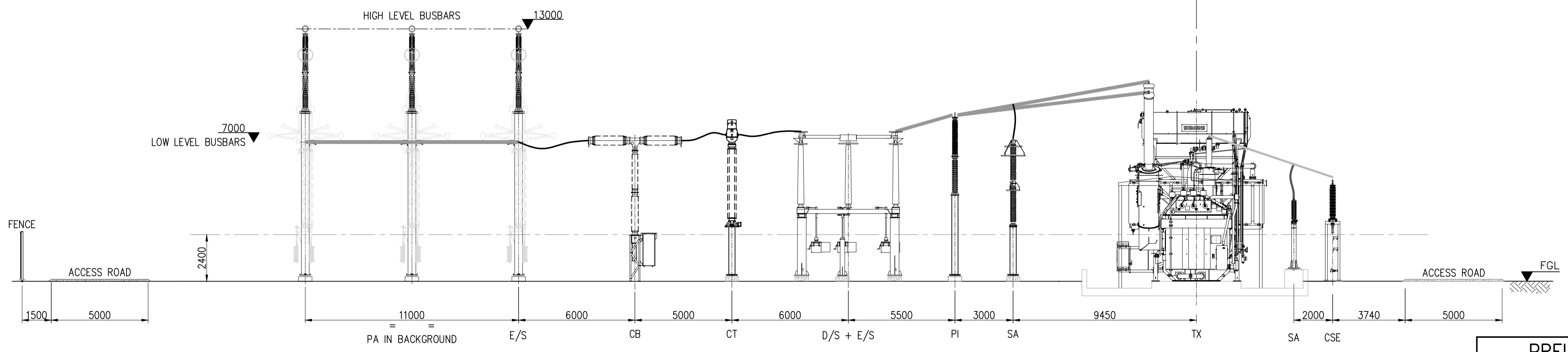
ELEVATION D
SCALE 1:150



ELEVATION C
SCALE 1:150



ELEVATION B
SCALE 1:150



ELEVATION A
SCALE 1:150

- ABBREVIATION:
- AUX TX AUXILIARY TRANSFORMER
 - CB CIRCUIT BREAKER
 - CSE CABLE SEALING END
 - CVT CAPACITIVE VOLTAGE TRANSFORMER
 - D/S DISCONNECTOR
 - E/S EARTH SWITCH
 - MK MARSHALLING KIOSK
 - PA PANTOGRAPH
 - PI POST INSULATOR
 - SA SURGE ARRESTER
 - TX TRANSFORMER

TO BE VIEWED IN CONJUNCTION WITH SUBSTATION LAYOUT DRAWING OP-PRO918-LAY025.

THE PROPOSED SUBSTATION LAYOUT IS BASED ON ASSUMPTION THAT THERE ARE NO SITE RESTRICTIONS.

THE PROPOSED 400kV MAIN BUSBAR SIZE IS 300mm x 8mm AL CONDUCTOR. THE PROPOSED BAY BUSBAR SIZE IS 160mm x 7mm. THE BUSBAR SIZE SHALL BE CONFIRMED DURING DETAILED DESIGN.

P1	26.09.22	PRELIMINARY	EC	EC	MG
REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION	DRN	DES	REV & APP

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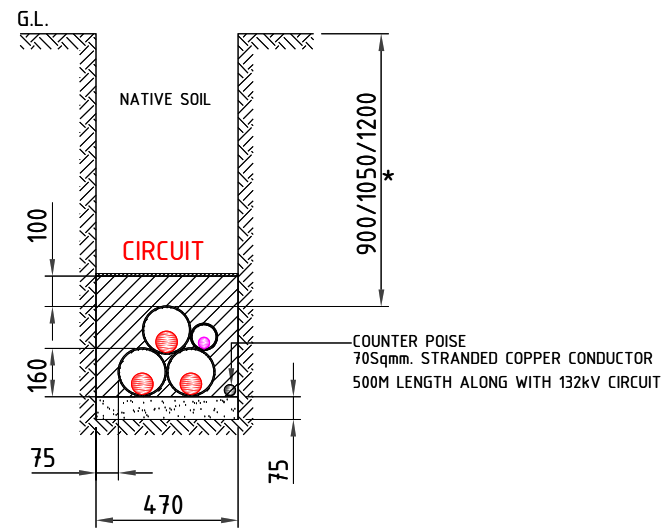
WEST BURTON 3 SOLAR PARK
400/33kV SUBSTATION COMPOUND
(AIS OPTION)

PROJECT NAME
NATIONAL GRID WEST BURTON CONNECTION
CUSTOMER
ISLAND GREEN POWER

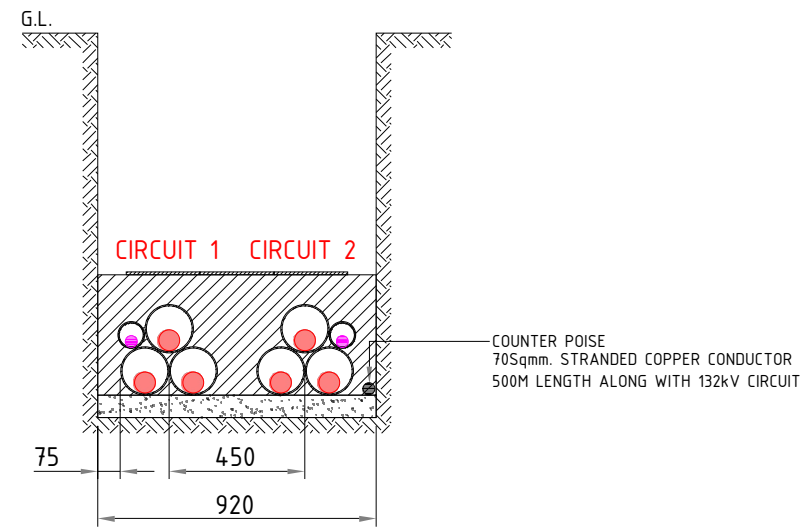
CUSTOMER DRAWING NUMBER	STATUS		
****	PRELIMINARY		
DRAWING NUMBER	SCALE	SIZE	REVISION
OP-PRO918-LAY026	1:150	A1	P1

PRELIMINARY
NOT FOR SITE USE

TRENCH SECTIONS FOR 132kV CABLES



TRENCH SECTIONS FOR 132kV CABLES



SOLIDLY OR CROSS BONDING SYSTEM TO BE USED

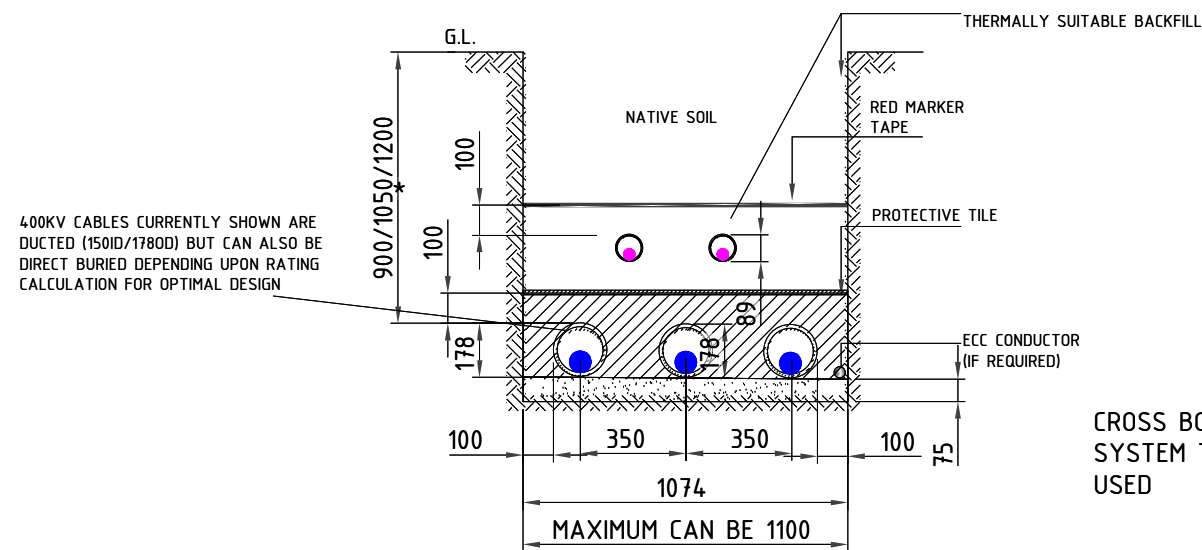
TYPE A

- STOKBORD (1000x244x9mm)
- G.L. - GROUND LEVEL
- 132KV CABLE
- FIBRE CABLE

- BEDDING**
A CEMENT BOUND SAND BED COMPLYING WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF ENA TS 97-01 SHALL BE INSTALLED, EXCEPT WHERE CABLE RATING CALCULATIONS PROVE THAT STABILISED MATERIAL IS NOT REQUIRED. ALL BEDDING LAYERS SHALL BE COMPACTED TO A DEPTH OF 75mm.
- BLINDING**
CABLES SHALL BE BLINDED WITH CEMENT BOUND SAND COMPLYING WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF ENA TS 97-01, EXCEPT WHERE CABLE RATING CALCULATIONS PROVE THAT A STABILISED MATERIAL IS NOT REQUIRED, TO A COMPACTED DEPTH OF 100mm ABOVE THE CABLE.

INSTALLATION DEPTH DEPENDANT ON LOCATION:
 900mm FOOTWAYS/GRASS VERGES/PRIVATE PROPERTY & CARRIAGEWAYS (INCLUDING ROAD CROSSINGS)
 ★ 1050mm NORMAL AGRICULTURAL LAND
 1200mm AGRICULTURAL LAND SUBJECT TO DEEP PLOUGH

TRENCH SECTIONS FOR 400kV CABLES



CROSS BONDING SYSTEM TO BE USED

TYPE A

- STOKBORD (1000x244x9mm)
- G.L. - GROUND LEVEL
- 400KV CABLE
- FIBRE CABLE

- BEDDING**
A CEMENT BOUND SAND BED COMPLYING WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF ENA TS 97-01 SHALL BE INSTALLED, EXCEPT WHERE CABLE RATING CALCULATIONS PROVE THAT STABILISED MATERIAL IS NOT REQUIRED. ALL BEDDING LAYERS SHALL BE COMPACTED TO A DEPTH OF 75mm.
- BLINDING**
CABLES SHALL BE BLINDED WITH CEMENT BOUND SAND COMPLYING WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF ENA TS 97-01, EXCEPT WHERE CABLE RATING CALCULATIONS PROVE THAT A STABILISED MATERIAL IS NOT REQUIRED, TO A COMPACTED DEPTH OF 100mm ABOVE THE CABLE.

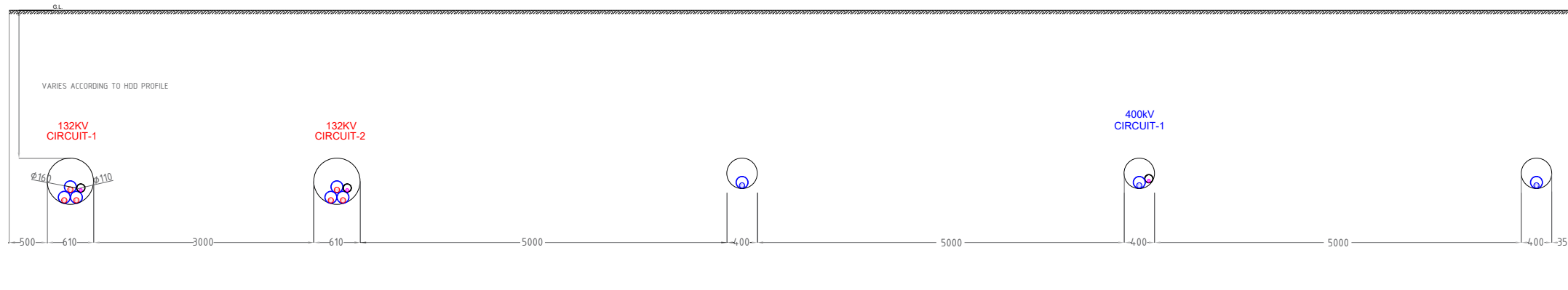
INSTALLATION DEPTH DEPENDANT ON LOCATION:
 900mm FOOTWAYS/GRASS VERGES/PRIVATE PROPERTY & CARRIAGEWAYS (INCLUDING ROAD CROSSINGS)
 ★ 1050mm NORMAL AGRICULTURAL LAND
 1200mm AGRICULTURAL LAND SUBJECT TO DEEP PLOUGH

General Legend:



Project:	West Burton Solar Project
Project Location:	Land near Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, United Kingdom
Ownership:	West Burton Solar Project Limited
Document Title:	Cable Trench Cross Section
Sheet Format:	A3 420 x 297
Scale:	1:25
Document Version:	v.1 16/02/2023 M.N.
Company:	Island Green Power Island Green Power UK Limited Unit 20.2, Coda Studios 189 Munster Road, London SW6 6AW

HDD TRENCH SECTION FOR 132kV, 400kV CABLES & FIBRE CABLES



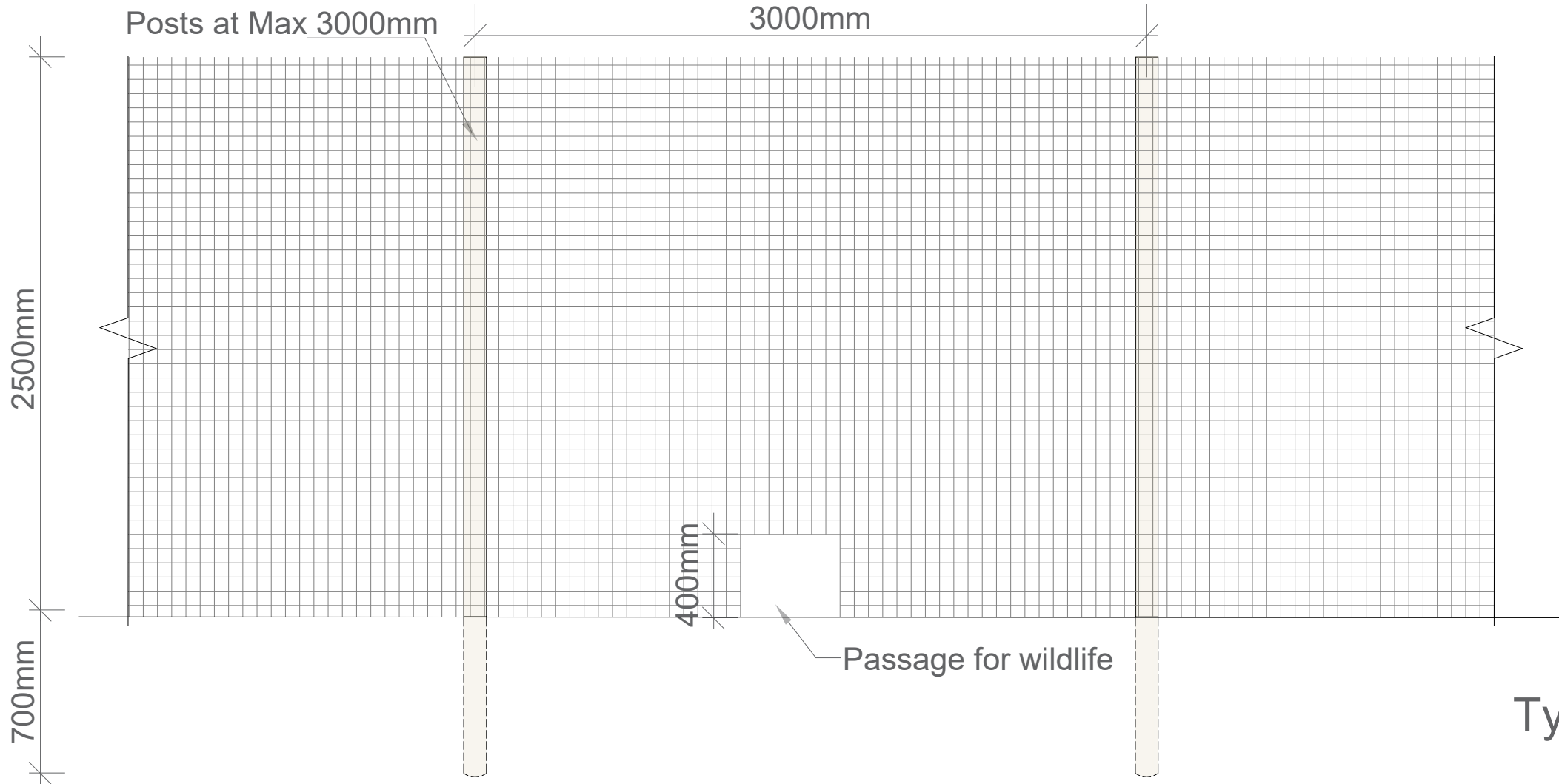
G.L. - GROUND LEVEL | ● 132kV CABLE SINGLE CORE AL OR COPPER (TBC) | ● 400kV CABLE SINGLE CORE AL OR COPPER (TBC) | ● FIBRE CABLE | ——— 1 X 110MM SDR11 BLACK ELECTRIC DUCTING | ——— 3 X 160MM SDR11 BLACK ELECTRIC DUCTING

General Legend:	

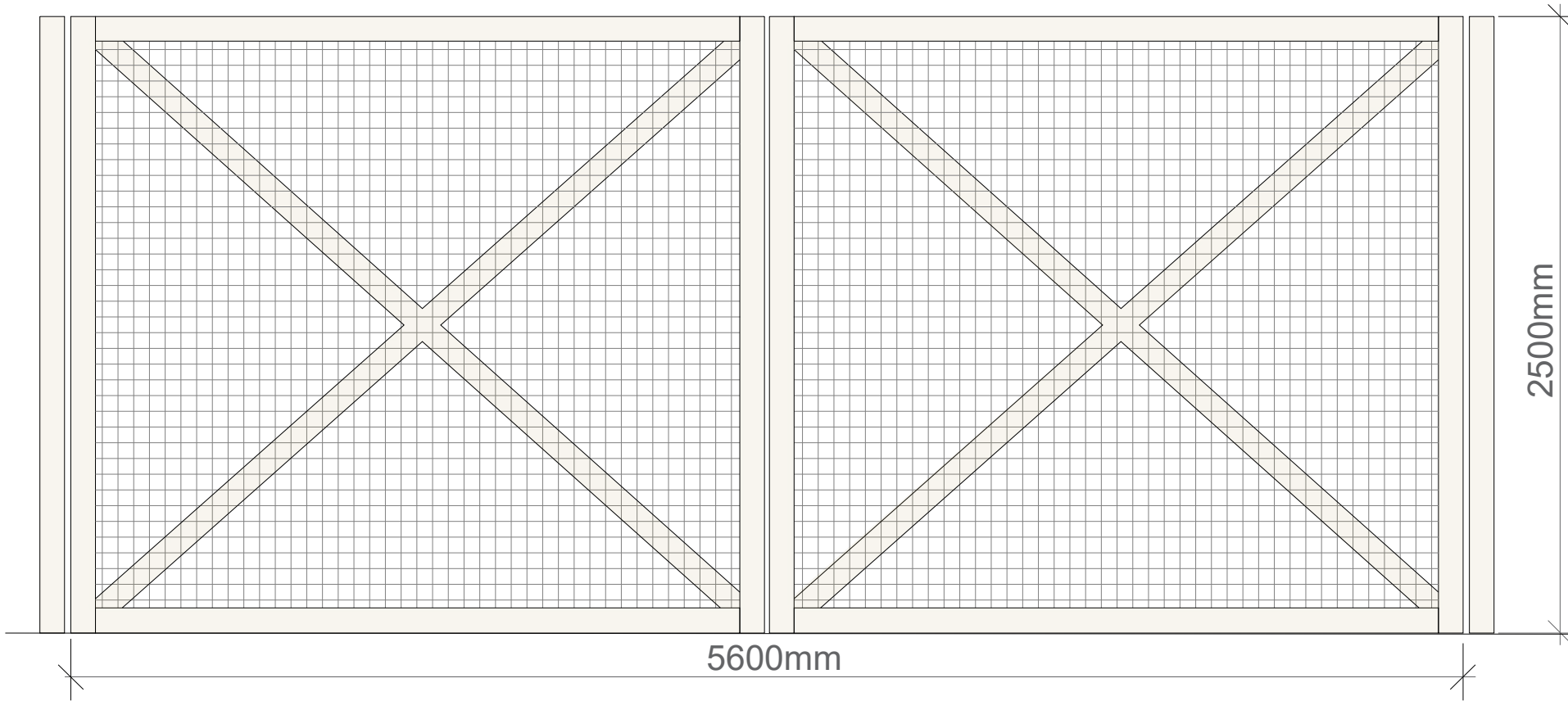


Project:	West Burton Solar Project		
Project Location:	Land near Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, United Kingdom		
Ownership:	West Burton Solar Project Limited		
Document Title:	HDD Trench Section for 132kV, 400kV and Fibre Cables		
Sheet Format:	A3 "420 x 297"	Scale:	1:75
Document Version:	v.1	Date:	14/02/2023
Author:	M.N.	Comments:	
Company:	Island Green Power UK Limited Unit 20.2, Coda Studios 189 Munster Road, London SW6 6AW		

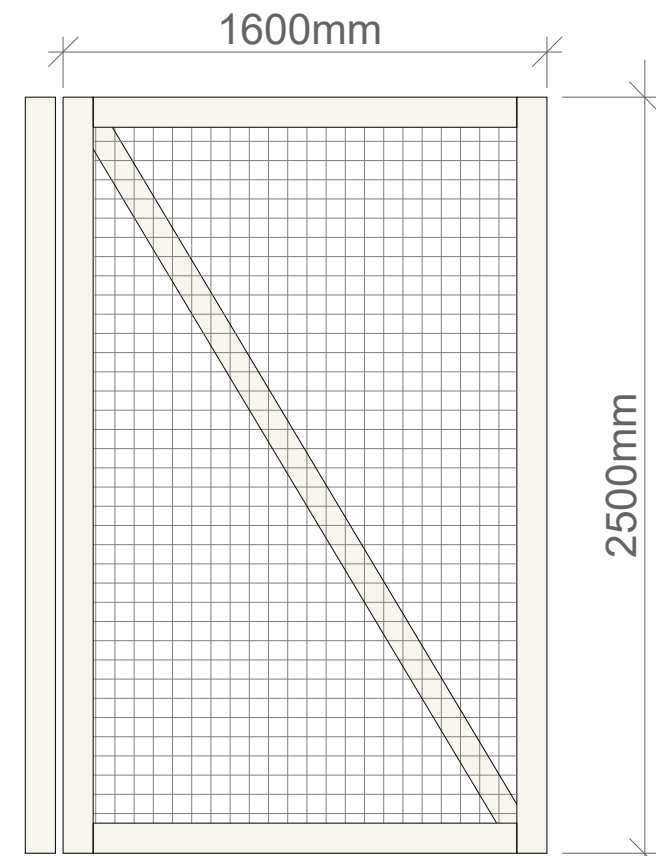
Typical Deer Fencing Panel



Typical Vehicle Gates

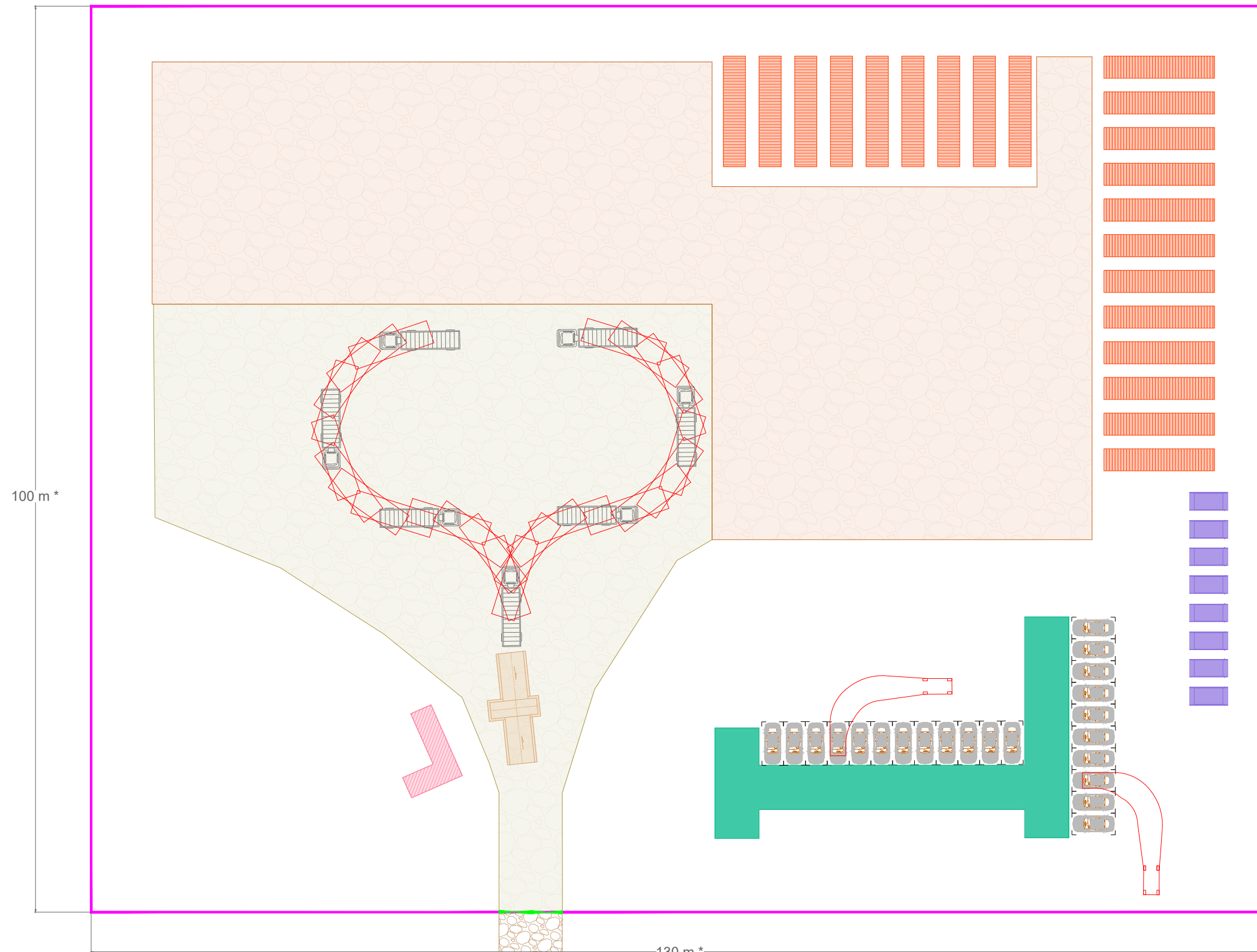


Typical Pedestrian Gate



General Legend:

Project:	West Burton Solar Project		
Project Location:	Land near Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, United Kingdom		
Ownership:	West Burton Solar Project Limited		
Document Title:	Deer Fencing		
Sheet format:	A3 420 x 297	Scale:	1:25
Document version:	v.1	10/01/2023	M.N.
Company:	Island GREEN POWER	Island Green Power UK Limited	Unit 20.2, Coda Studios 189 Munster Road, London SW6 6AW



* Dimensions are indicative only

General Legend:	
	Construction Compound Boundary
	Gates
	Reception Area
	Turning Area for Delivery Vehicles
	Laydown Area
	Office and Welfare Unit
	Skip / Water Area
	Storage Containers
	Vehicle Wheel Washers
	Vehicle Sweep Path
	Parking Area
	Temporary Track

Project:	West Burton Solar Project
Project Location:	Land near Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, United Kingdom
Ownership:	West Burton Solar Project Limited
Document Title:	Temporary Construction and Decommissioning Laydown Area
Sheet format:	A3 '420 x 297'
Scale:	1:500
Revision:	v.1 31/01/2023 M.N.
Comments:	
Company:	Island Green Power UK Limited Unit 20 Z, Coda Studios 189 Munster Road, London SW6 6AW

