

West Burton Solar Project

Summary of Oral submissions made by Interested Parties at Open Floor Hearing 1 and the Applicant's Response

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Issue Sheet

**Report Prepared for: West Burton Solar Project Ltd.
Examination Deadline 1**

Summary of Oral submissions made by Interested Parties at Open Floor Hearing 1 and the Applicant's Response

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

1.1.1 An Open Floor Hearing (OFH) was held on 8 November 2023. The hearing provided an opportunity for registered Interested Parties (IPs) and other local people to make oral representations about the application. Each IP making an oral submission was requested to provide a written summary note to the ExA for Deadline 1 (24 November 2023).

1.2 Purpose of this Document

1.2.1 This document sets out the Applicant's response to the comments made at the OFH. The comments have been grouped by the Applicant into topics where the matters raised are considered similar. Where the Applicant has made commitments on the topic, the relevant application documentation is identified.

1.2.2 This document also provides a written summary of the oral submissions made on behalf of the Applicant at OFH1 in the time allocated by the Examining Authority.

1.3 Summary of the Applicant's Oral Submissions at OFH1

1.3.1 Claire Brodrick, Legal Director at Pinsent Masons, on behalf of the Applicant thanked the IPs for their comments and clear and detailed submissions on a wide range of topics. The Applicant appreciates that there is a large volume of material, and that questions were raised about whether certain impacts have been considered by the Application. Clear cross-references will be provided on where the relevant information can be found.

1.3.2 The Issue Specific Hearings will cover some of the points raised in more detail, in particular issues around generation, energy storage and site selection. Recordings of each hearing will be available to watch if IPs are not able to attend.

1.3.3 A Non-Technical Summary of the Environmental Statement is available, with Project Library Reference **[EN010132/EX1/WB6.5_A]**. This provides a summary of the assessment of the Scheme impacts, including on flooding and ecology. It also provides information about compliance with relevant legislation, in particular in respect of protected species and hedgerows.

1.3.4 The Applicant will need to comply with Requirements contained in Schedule 2 to the draft Development Consent Order **[EN010132/EX1/WB3.1_A]**. These require the Applicant to submit a range of management plans to the relevant planning authority for approval, and follow these plans. The management plans deal with some of the issues raised, particularly around drainage, landscaping, energy storage safety and decommissioning. A failure to comply with the Requirement is a criminal offence under the Planning Act 2008, and IPs can therefore have confidence that the management plans will be complied with.

- 1.3.5 The Applicant requests that, where figures have been quoted by IPs, the sources are included in the IPs' written submissions. This will enable the Applicant to provide more detailed responses in writing at a future deadline.

Table 2.1: Concerns Raised by IPs and Applicant's Response

ID	Matter raised by IPs	Applicant's Response	Where commitment is secured in the DCO (if applicable)
RE00 Renewable Energy – <i>Concerns were raised about the reliability and generative capacity of solar</i>			
RE01	<p>The Applicant has provided over-simplistic information about the role that solar plays. Electricity supply must match the highly variable demand at all times. Solar is intermittent, with the lowest load factor of any renewable technology, delivering 9-11% of the headline power.</p> <p>Peak solar output is typically lowest when demand is highest, on winter evenings. Too much power is generated in summer days and must be switched off, with the developer compensated. This wastes 15-30% of the energy because the system cannot handle it. Solar makes only a limited contribution to the energy system.</p>	<p>Section 3.3 of document 7.11 Statement of Need [APP-320], describe the Government's view that large capacities of low-carbon generation will be required to meet increased demand and replace output from retiring (fossil fuel) plants, and that <i>"a secure, reliable, affordable, Net Zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar"</i>. This support for large scale solar as part of the 'answer' to net zero and energy security has been repeated in its recent policy documents published in March 2023.</p> <p>The March 2023 draft Revised NPS EN-1 also sets out the emerging policy position in favour of electricity storage: <i>"Storage has a key role to play in achieving net zero and providing flexibility to the energy system, so that high volumes of low carbon power, heat and transport can be integrated."</i>[Para 3.3.25].</p> <p>Solar will work with other technologies as part of a multi-technology energy system, ensuring that the UK's electricity supplies are low-carbon, secure and affordable.</p>	

ID	Matter raised by IPs	Applicant's Response	Where commitment is secured in the DCO (if applicable)
		<p>The Respondent argues that because solar does not generate over the winter 'evening peak' it is not suitable for UK deployment. In response the Applicant would make the following points.</p> <p>The Government's aim is to decarbonise the electricity system by 2035, this means it needs low-carbon stand by plant to augment renewable power (including wind and solar) whenever renewable generation is not sufficient to meet demand. Low-carbon storage is a critical measure to provide such a service. Storage will charge at times of an abundance of low-carbon power and discharged when needed. Solar will play its part in providing periods of abundance at all times of the year, especially at times of low wind generation.</p> <p>Security of supply, and adequacy, is a year-round consideration, and at times of lower wind generation (seasonally: summers, variably: possible at any time including winters) alternate sources of low-carbon power will be required to meet system adequacy. Narrowing an assessment to a single 'type' of need is a performative approach which is not consistent with the whole-system thinking approach which has been adopted by the</p>	

ID	Matter raised by IPs	Applicant's Response	Where commitment is secured in the DCO (if applicable)
		<p>Government, National Grid, the National Infrastructure Commission and others, as a pathway to Net Zero 2050.</p> <p>The fact that solar may have a lower load factor than other renewable technologies is not relevant because solar generates energy at different times and under different weather conditions than other renewable generation technologies which means it provides an essential diversity of supply to the UK electricity system (see Figure 8.2 of 7.11 Statement of Need [APP-320]).</p> <p>Further, Table 7.1 [APP-320] shows the electricity generated per hectare by different low-carbon technologies. At the UK's average solar load factor (11%), solar generation produces much more energy per hectare than biogas, and generates a similar amount of energy as onshore wind. Paragraph 7.6.8 [APP-320] states that: "Draft NPS EN-3 includes an anticipated range of 2 to 4 acres for each MW of output generally required for a solar farm along with its associated infrastructure." The Scheme as proposed delivers a large-scale solar generation asset which is consistent with this range. This demonstrates that the proposed location is a suitable site which will provide for an asset which is consistent with government's view of best practice ratios of land take and installed capacity.</p>	

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		<p>The Applicant does not agree with 7000 acres' statement that <i>"Too much power is generated in summer days and must be switched off, with the developer compensated. This wastes 15-30% of the energy because the system cannot handle it"</i> and asks that evidence be provided to back up this statement, in particular the volumes of and costs associated with solar generation in the UK over recent summer days, to which 7000 acres' comment is assumed to refer.</p>	
RE02	<p>Generating the country's total demand for electricity from nuclear or gas would take around 3000 acres of land; the Scheme covers 2000 acres and generates 0.14% of the country's electricity. It does this at the wrong times of day and year.</p> <p>By comparison, Sizewell C will be able to produce 7% of the country's power requirement in 170 acres. The Scheme would not produce large amounts of low carbon electricity, but would consume large and disproportionate amounts of farmland.</p> <p>The energy produced is out of sync with demand, and does not help with the shortfall of electricity</p>	<p>Chapter 4 of 7.11 Statement of Need [APP-320] sets out the UK's legal requirement to decarbonise and explains how that requirement has created an increased need and urgency to meet the UK's obligations under the Paris Agreement (2015) as detailed within para. 4.2.7. The Chapter summarises the latest expert views on the urgency for low-carbon infrastructure needed to deliver the UK's Net Zero legal obligations, and demonstrates that there is an urgent need for the development of large-scale solar schemes.</p> <p>Paragraph 8.9.3 describes how in 2021, the Government "unveiled plans to decarbonise UK power system by 2035. The plans focus on building a secure, home-grown energy</p>	

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	<p>supply, peaking at midday with a limited generation curve.</p>	<p>sector that reduces reliance on fossil fuels and exposure to volatile global wholesale energy prices".</p> <p>Section 5.4 of 7.11 Statement of Need [APP-320] analyses the contribution that nuclear power can make to the urgent need to decarbonise and concludes that the development timeframes associated with that technology mean that it is highly unlikely that new nuclear will make any contribution to decarbonisation in the critical pre-2030 timeframe beyond the commissioning of Hinkley Point C, currently scheduled for 2028. Sizewell C <i>"will take 9-12 years to build"</i> following the decision to commence construction, and in its Energy White Paper (2020) Government committed <i>"To bring at least one large scale nuclear project to the point of Final Investment Decision by the end of this Parliament [i.e. no later than May 2024], subject to clear value for money and all relevant approvals."</i> implying that Sizewell C, if it gets the go-ahead, will not generate electricity before 2033.</p> <p>The Applicant's response RE01 discusses security of supply and the importance of a diverse range of low-carbon sources of electricity which generate to meet national demand with suitable adequacy at all times and under different weather conditions, also providing at times an abundance of power which will enable low-carbon flexible</p>	

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		solutions such as storage, to augment renewable sources in meeting demand at other times and when required.	
RE03	Renewable energy companies must be recompensed to turn off production. Solar only works when the sun shines, which is the time of least need.	<p>The Applicant's response RE04 addresses the concerns relating to the alleged compensation to renewable energy companies to turn off energy production.</p> <p>The Applicant's response RE01 discusses security of supply and the importance of a diverse range of low-carbon sources of electricity which generate to meet national demand with suitable adequacy at all times and under different weather conditions, also providing at times an abundance of power which will enable low-carbon flexible solutions such as storage, to augment renewable sources in meeting demand at other times and when required.</p>	
RE04	<p>The UK has one of the lowest areas of solar gain worldwide. The amount of power that can be produced in the UK is one of the lowest in the world. It is not the obvious choice that Lincolnshire should become the world's largest concentration of solar panels.</p> <p>The Applicant is seeking to address the low yield by putting more panels down, then limiting output to the grid connection. It does not utilise</p>	<p>The Applicant recognises that solar is being developed in other countries which are sunnier than the UK but is conscious of the fact that none of those developments reduce the need for solar in the UK, or make solar in the UK any less efficient or effective than the level supported by evidence which the Applicant has provided.</p> <p>Paragraph 8.9.5 of 7.11 Statement of Need [APP-320] quotes from the British Energy Security Strategy: "If we're going to get prices down and keep them there for the long</p>	

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	<p>the 9-11% of solar capacity generation that is achieved in the UK.</p> <p>Supply matching is important, but solar supply is lowest when demand is highest. In the summer, the excess will be switched off and the Applicant will be paid for this.</p>	<p>term, we need a flow of energy that is affordable, clean and above all, secure. We need a power supply that's made in Britain, for Britain". [p3]</p> <p>Figure 10.3 and 10.4 [APP-320] shows that solar in the UK, which by virtue of its carbon-and-cost free input fuel (sunlight) has a lower levelised cost of generation than all non-renewable technologies and is set to become the lowest cost form of renewable generation in the UK as well.</p> <p>The Applicant's response RE01 discusses security of supply and the importance of a diverse range of low-carbon sources of electricity supply to meet national demand with suitable adequacy at all times and under different weather conditions, also providing at times an abundance of power which will enable low-carbon flexible solutions such as storage, to augment renewable sources in meeting demand at other times and when required.</p> <p>The Applicant does not agree with the statement made by 7000 Acres that <i>"In the summer, the excess will be switched off and the Applicant will be paid for this"</i> and asks 7000 Acres to provide evidence to substantiate their statement. The Applicant's position is that market frameworks will encourage large-scale solar schemes such</p>	

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		<p>as the Scheme, to 'self-curtail' if market prices fall below zero and the Scheme is not likely to be paid 'to switch off'. Equally storage facilities and consumers will be incentivised to shift their consumption to times of abundant energy production reducing curtailment, and reducing consumer costs through the procurement of cheap energy.</p>	
<p>AL00 Alternatives – Concerns were raised about alternatives to utility scale solar</p>			
AL01	<p>Wind will power 50% or more of the UK; the 130GW of solar in the queue for grid connections is contributing to delays in securing grid connections. There is inadequate wind and nuclear generation in the UK.</p> <p>Solar is already close to annual capacity to meet government demands, undermining the Applicant's call for extensive acceleration of solar deployment to achieve the ambition of 70GW of solar.</p> <p>Solar should be deployed in a way that recognise its contribution and where there are the lowest impacts: rooftops.</p>	<p>The Government maintains in its draft Revised NPS EN-1 (March 2023) that its analysis shows that <i>"a secure, reliable, affordable, net zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar"</i> [Para 3.3.20] .</p> <p>The Applicant has an agreement with National Grid to connect at the West Burton National Grid substation in 2028. The Applicant is not aware of any wind or nuclear schemes in the queue to connect at West Burton (the STEP nuclear fusion programme is targeting a prototype plant by 2040) and therefore the Applicant does not believe that this Scheme is contributing to any delays to connect any assets but would be happy to review any evidence the</p>	

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		<p>Respondent would like to bring forward in support of their statement.</p> <p>The British Energy Security Strategy calls for a five-fold increase in solar deployment to reach 70GW by 2035, implying that an increase in deployment levels at the time the Strategy was published, is required.</p> <p>Continued deployment of any technology requires the continued consent of schemes which come forward, and the Applicant is bringing this Scheme forward for consent to support the Government's aims as described above.</p> <p>Paragraph 7.6.3 of 7.11 Statement of Need [APP-320] analyses the potential contribution of "brownfield" solar sites to the national need for solar generation. Brownfield sites, including rooftop and other community energy systems, are likely to grow in the UK and will make a contribution to decarbonisation of the UK energy system. However, 7.11 Statement of Need [APP-320] concludes in Section 7.6, that on their own, brownfield developments are unlikely to be able to meet the national need for solar. Paragraph 8.5.10 and Section 8.5 [APP-320] more generally describe and express agreement with Government's view that decentralised and community energy systems are unlikely to lead to the significant</p>	

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		<p>replacement of large-scale infrastructure. The Applicant therefore supports Government's view that large scale solar must be deployed to meet the urgent national need for low-carbon electricity generation.</p> <p>Para 8.5.9 [APP-320] states that <i>"it is the Applicant's view that large-scale solar must be considered as additional to, as opposed to instead of, the need for continued development in distribution connected, smaller scale solar, and this includes the development of rooftop solar."</i></p> <p>The Applicant welcomes growth in rooftop solar as a means to supporting plans to decarbonise but does not agree that rooftop solar diminishes the need for the scheme, for reasons described in Section 7.6 [APP-320].</p>	
AL02	<p>Wind is a more robust, higher yielding renewable energy option that allows agriculture to continue. Rooftop solar has an efficient and important role to play. Ground mounted solar is unnecessary and cannot be justified.</p>	<p>The Government maintains in its draft Revised NPS EN-1 (March 2023) that its analysis shows that <i>"a secure, reliable, affordable, net zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar"</i> [Para 3.3.20] .</p> <p>Table 7.1 [APP-320] shows the electricity generated per hectare by different low-carbon technologies. At the UK's average solar load factor (11%), solar generation produces</p>	

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		<p>much more energy per hectare than biogas, and generates a similar amount of energy as onshore wind.</p> <p>A large proportion of the agricultural land within the solar farm development can be retained in agricultural use during the operational phase of the Scheme for uses such as grazing sheep, as stated in paragraph 19.3.3 of 6.2.19 Environmental Statement - Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [APP-057].</p> <p>The Applicant's response AL01 addresses the purpose of rooftop solar and the need for large scale solar development.</p>	
AL03	Solar belongs on brownfield sites, rooftops and new builds, not on agricultural land in rural areas. This is not done as there is no profit in it.	See response to AL02	
AL04	Solar should be encouraged on rooftops, not farmland. Industrial, manufacturing and logistics sites with large, flat rooftops should be targeted, and housing. There should be a national rooftop strategy, such as that proposed by the Council for the Protection of Rural England. Without a	See response to AL02	

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	<p>rooftop approach, there could be the loss of 280,000 acres of farmland.</p>		
AL05	<p>The UK is a windy island. Over 70% of electricity will be generated by wind by 2050. There is a need to build offshore wind farms and the infrastructure for these to connect to the grid.</p> <p>The adverse impacts of solar can be largely avoided by rooftop solar and development on a smaller scale.</p>	<p>See response to AL02.</p> <p>Solar is now a leading low-cost generation technology and Figure 10.3 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] shows that on a levelised cost of energy basis (the estimated cost per unit of energy across the productive lifetime of an electricity generating station), large scale solar is already cheaper than offshore wind, and the Government's projections are that it will remain cheaper in the future. In 2021, Great Britain sourced 42% of its electricity from renewables, of which approximately 9.4% was from solar.</p>	
AL06	<p>A common issue is a request for solar on rooftops. The Applicant's response to this was that an assessment of commercial rooftops in West Lindsey and Bassetlaw did not identify rooftops of adequate area. 10km² of rooftops in a rural area was never a credible proposition.</p> <p>There is a need for solar, but rooftops are still being built without solar. It makes no sense that there is a climate emergency that ignores rooftops.</p>	<p>See response to AL02</p>	

ID	Matter raised by IPs	Applicant's Response	Where commitment is secured in the DCO (if applicable)
AL07	There should be a return to wind power. The Government is allowing this on land now. There are countless old windmills in the area – the wind blows here. It is an alternative green option and whilst not ideal, there is a need for green energy.	See response to AL02	
FS00 Food Security – Concerns were raised about the impact of the Scheme on food security			
FS01	<p>Ground mounted solar uses a colossal amount of space and has a concentrated impact on the immediate area. There is wider pressure on agricultural crop land, and some will need to be lost to trees. Climate change will change the yield of UK farmland and there is growing demand for food security because of global insecurity.</p> <p>The reference to best and most versatile (BMV) 3a or 3b land is a distraction from the need to use land efficiently. Solar is an inefficient land use.</p>	<p>It is the Applicant's view that the concerns raised regarding solar farm effects on food security and sustainability are misplaced.</p> <p>A large proportion of the agricultural land within the solar farm development can be retained in agricultural use during the operational phase of the Scheme for uses such as grazing sheep, as stated in paragraph 19.3.3 of 6.2.19 Environmental Statement - Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [APP-057]. The agricultural land resource being used for the Scheme is not lost permanently as confirmed in paragraph 19.9.3 [APP-057].</p> <p>Food security is not a material planning consideration. Nonetheless, as outlined in paragraph 19.5.2 [APP-057] a solar farm requires considerably less land to produce a kWh of electricity than energy crops such as miscanthus, biodiesel and crops for anaerobic digestion. Defra's report</p>	

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		<p>on Food Security for the UK¹ notes that trends in proportion of food consumption grown in the UK, have remained stable for several decades regardless of changes in population, and that the most serious risks to UK food security include climate change and soil degradation.</p> <p>Solar farms have existed on sites across the UK for several years now and are routinely grazed by livestock. Please see BRE (2014) Agricultural Good Practice Guidance for Solar Farms. Ed J Scurlock.</p> <p>There is no proposed loss of trees, in particular trees protected under any Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs).</p>	
FS02	<p>Supply routes are being curtailed and food and imports will be more expensive and less available. Wheat exports are down, rice yield is down. If we don't grow food as a country, we will be more reliant on imports at a time when people cannot afford to heat their homes.</p>	<p>Defra produce a UK food security report ², the most recent of which was published in 2021. It notes that key risks to UK food security include climate change and soil degradation. Development of UK agricultural land is not noted among these risks. In addition to renewable energy, the Scheme is anticipated to enable the recovery of soil organic matter through the reversion of arable land to less intensive agricultural uses for the duration of the operation of the Scheme. For further details please see</p>	

¹ UK Food Security Report 2021, Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

² UK Food Security Report 2021, Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

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		Paragraph 19.9.14 of 6.2.19 Environmental Statement - Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [APP-057] .	
FS03	Where will products that are no longer being grown be sourced from? There is food deprivation in the world, and to imply that the UK can import food is arrogant. You cannot expect sheep to be used for grass management or improving soils, as there are not enough sheep, shepherds or infrastructure.	Please see response to FS01-FS02	
FS04	Farmers are expected to take care of the land, keep and replace hedges, encourage wildlife and produce food. The Scheme is the mass industrialisation of the countryside. Land is a finite resource and food production has to be high on the list. The land will be ruined for generation and never returned to farming.	Agricultural land resource is not lost to or degraded by solar farm development. Please see response to FS01-FS02. The effects of scale and visual impact of the Scheme have been taken into consideration in the assessment of both the landscape and visual effects, which is set out within the 6.2.8 Environmental Statement - Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-046] (the 'LVIA'). The detailed assessment information can be found within the individual receptor sheets at 6.3.8.2 Environmental Statement - Appendix 8.2 Assessment of Potential Landscape Effects [APP-073] and 6.3.8.3 Environmental Statement - Appendix 8.3 Assessment of Potential Visual Effects [APP-074] .	Schedule 2 Requirements 7 and 8.

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		<p>Section 9.7 of 6.2.9 Environmental Statement - Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-047] sets out the extensive findings of all ecological investigations undertaken within the Order Limits together with an appraisal of the relative importance of each species or species group, habitat or designated site. A comprehensive package of mitigation measures have been identified, in tandem with embedded mitigation (see Section 9.6) which is secured through the ecologically sensitive design of the Scheme (and includes measures such as the wide buffering of all field boundaries and the use of existing hedgerow gaps for accesses). These measures have been further detailed within 7.17 Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [APP-326] and 7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan Revision A [EN010132/EX1/WB7.3_A] which will ensure that all identified impacts are minimised as far as possible. In many cases, the reversion from intensive agriculture to pasture or meadow grassland with additional hedgerow, scrub, tree and wetland habitat creation will bring about positive effects for wildlife. In particular, terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates, botanical diversity, small mammals and many species of bird all stand to benefit as set out in Section 9.7 in 6.2.9 Environmental Statement - Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-047].</p>	

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FS05	<p>The energy produced by solar is miniscule in comparison to the food produced on the same area of land. Rural Lincolnshire is at stake, with as much as 15% of farmland being lost. Lincolnshire is the bread basket of England, and we want this to be its future, as well as its past and present.</p> <p>The NPPF has a presumption against building on agricultural grade 1, 2, and 3a land. There is no difference between 3a and 3b land for the purpose of growing wheat and grain. The soil assessment attempts to convince the reader that the land is 3b, but the farmers have seen no difference.</p> <p>Good agricultural land should be protected and brownfield sites should be given priority. The Scheme uses no brownfield. There must be greater awareness of land use; a Land Use Framework is being developed that will be released in the next few months.</p> <p>The Scheme is a threat to food security and therefore to world security. It is important to</p>	<p>Section 3.3 of 7.11 Statement of Need [APP-320] describes Government's view that large capacities of low-carbon generation will be urgently required to meet increased demand and replace output from retiring (fossil fuel) plants, and that "a secure, reliable, affordable, Net Zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar".</p> <p>Section 8.5 [APP-320] describes and agrees with Government's view that large scale solar must be deployed to meet the urgent national need for low-carbon electricity generation.</p> <p>The Applicant's response AL01 addresses the purpose of rooftop solar and the need for large scale solar development.</p> <p>The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) methodology was developed by Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) specifically to inform land use planning decisions. Information on the ALC Methodology is given in paragraphs 2.1.1 to 2.2.5 of 6.3.19.1 Environmental Statement – Appendix 19.1 Agricultural Land Quality, Soil Resources and Farming Circumstances Report [APP-137]. ALC grade is determined by reference to specific physical characteristics of climate, site and soils, not by cropping or yield.</p>	

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	grow as much food as possible, and it is best to grow enough to export.	Please see response to FS01-FS03 on food security.	
FS06	Land use in the UK is under pressure. Much of this comes from climate change, including the need for reservoirs, different farming practices and crops for biofuels. There is a need for housing, recreation, economic development and food security.	The Applicant notes the Interested Party's comment on the demand for more housing, recreation and economic development and notes that any other development proposals will be subject to their own assessments and application of the planning balance.	
FS07	Food security is a concern. The situation in Ukraine is one unexpected demand on UK farmland. Last year saw a 1 in 25 year event of bumper crops. Given the uncertainty of climate change, the heavier land in the area is better able to withstand the hot summers, making it more valuable for food production. Every year, a bumper crop would be lost.	Please see response to FS01-FS03 on food security.	
FS08	There was food rationing during the Second World War that led to a debt to the USA for years. The land is needed for food production. The Scheme will use prime crop growing land in the area. The world situation is in turmoil and we should not allow this to happen.	Please see response to FS01-FS03 on food security.	

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FS09	<p>The Scheme will see good agricultural land transformed into industrial land. In Edge of England by Derek Turner, Lincolnshire is notable to the agronomist and economist as a high functioning version of Ukraine. It is the bread basket of England. Do we really want to limit our ability to produce food?</p>	<p>Please see response to FS01-FS03 on food security.</p>	
<p>DC00 Decarbonisation – <i>Concerns were raised about the effectiveness of solar in decarbonising the energy sector</i></p>			
DC01	<p>The amount of energy wasted through solar means it makes only a limited contribution to the energy system and decarbonisation. The Applicant must not be allowed to overstate and simplify the benefits.</p> <p>Three major reports assess the decarbonisation of the power sector: by the UK Climate Change Committee; the National Audit Office; and BEIS Committee. Existing rates of solar deployment are not a concern.</p> <p>Uncoordinated deployment of solar may exacerbate issues of excess renewable supply and demand; create additional clutter in the</p>	<p>See response to AL01 and RE01.</p>	

ID	Matter raised by IPs	Applicant's Response	Where commitment is secured in the DCO (if applicable)
	queue for grid connections; and divert resources away from key decarbonisation targets.		
DC02	How much carbon is released in the creation, transportation and installation of solar? Carbon offset only takes into account an approximation of gas use that may be reduced. Generation is not guaranteed to facilitate this assumed reduction. There is no upper limit for generation capacity within the DCO, leaving the site open for additional development, including other forms of generation, unless explicitly excluded.	<p>Section 7.4 of 6.2.7_A Environmental Statement Chapter 7 Climate Change Revision A [EN010132/EX1/WB6.2.7_A] considers the Greenhouse Gases that arise from the lifecycle of the Scheme with emissions from activities taking place within the parcels, indirect emissions from activities outside of the Site and embodied carbon within the construction materials. It concludes that the construction and decommissioning stages of the scheme will result in minor adverse impact which is not significant in EIA terms. Conversely, the overall operational stage will likely have a major significant beneficial effect.</p> <p>The approach of not including a maximum capacity is also referred to in Paragraph 3.10.47 of draft EN-3 which states that there is no need to limit generating capacity given that the impacts of the Scheme will be limited by the use of the Rochdale Envelope approach. The Applicant has provided more detail at their summary of the response to Agenda Item 3b in WB8.1.6 Written Summary of the Applicant's Oral Submissions at the Issue Specific Hearing (ISH1) [EN010132/EX1/WB8.1.6].</p>	

ID	Matter raised by IPs	Applicant's Response	Where commitment is secured in the DCO (if applicable)
DC03	The 10 point decarbonisation plans do not mention solar. There must be a comprehensive, integrated approach, not a mad rush for solar.	<p>The Ten Point Plan demonstrates the UK's significant and continuing commitment to tackling greenhouse gas emissions. This document is just one of many that have been published by the Government setting out how it aims to achieve net zero by 2050.</p> <p>Section 3.3 of document 7.11 Statement of Need [APP-320], describe the Government's view that large capacities of low-carbon generation will be required to meet increased demand and replace output from retiring (fossil fuel) plants, and that "a secure, reliable, affordable, Net Zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar". This support for large scale solar as part of the 'answer' to net zero and energy security has been repeated in its recent policy documents published in March 2023.</p>	
DC04	There is a moral dimension to consider. We must feed ourselves, generate power and decarbonise.	Please see response to FS01 and RE02.	
WI00 Wildlife Impacts – Concerns were raised about the impact of the Scheme on wildlife and wildlife supporting environments			
WI01	There are numerous pieces of legislation that protect wildlife. The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 covers four areas: wildlife protection; nature conservation; countryside and national	Section 9.3 of Environmental Statement - Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-047] details all the relevant national and international wildlife legislation as well as local and national planning policy with which the	

ID	Matter raised by IPs	Applicant's Response	Where commitment is secured in the DCO (if applicable)
	<p>parks; and public rights of way. Putting solar on the land will wipe out a lot of wildlife. There is a badger sett in the area that has been there for as long as the IP can remember, but it can now be moved because it suits the Applicant.</p> <p>There is a lot of legislation that prohibits damage, destruction and obstruction in the countryside [that is being ignored].</p>	<p>Scheme is compliant. The assessment within this document is bound by the need to achieve compliance with the terms of such legislation, and is strongly guided by the objectives of the relevant planning policy.</p> <p>Badger setts within the Order Limits were specifically searched for during site walkover visits and have been recorded in several locations. As a result, 10m, 20m and 30m development free buffer zones around all known setts according to their status have been designed into the Scheme. No badger setts will be moved.</p>	
WI02	<p>Why is it necessary to remove the hedgerows and trees? This is vandalism, and it is folly to remove established hedges. A hedgerow consultation in June 2023 identified a need to create more hedgerows, yet solar schemes are removing them. Hedgerows are great for wildlife.</p>	<p>The applicant's intention is to retain and enhance trees and hedgerows where practicable.</p> <p>In light of the inconsistencies between the Draft Development Consent Order and the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) Report, 7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan Revision A [EN010132/EX1/WB7.3_A] (the 'OLEMP') is revised and secured by the Requirement 7 of Schedule 2 of 3.1_A Draft Development Consent Order Revision A [EN010132/EX1/WB3.1_A].</p> <p>The revised OLEMP sets out in paragraph 1.1.5 that wherever feasible, the Scheme utilises existing access</p>	Requirements 7 and 9, Schedule 2

ID	Matter raised by IPs	Applicant's Response	Where commitment is secured in the DCO (if applicable)
		<p>points to accommodate internal access between fields, land areas, solar panel areas, substation sites and battery storage areas.</p> <p>The extent of tree and hedgerow removal is proportionally set out but in certain locations where existing access points do not exist some minor hedgerow works (pruning and removal) is required, as set out in Appendix C – Hedgerow Removal Plans within the OLEMP [EN010132/EX1/WB7.3_A].</p> <p>These minor hedgerow works (pruning and removal) differentiate between the temporary hedgerow removal for construction, such as indicative access and abnormal indivisible load (AIL) locations and the removal that will be in place during the full operational lifetime of the Scheme.</p> <p>6.3.9.12 ES Appendix 9.12 Biodiversity Net Gain Report [APP-088] sets out how a significant net gain for biodiversity has been calculated and will be secured via Requirement 9 of Schedule 2 of 3.1_A Draft Development Consent Order Revision A [EN010132/EX1/WB3.1_A] for the life of the Scheme alongside the implementation of the LEMP 7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010132/EX1/WB7.3_A], as secured by Requirement 7 of 3.1_A Draft Development Consent Order Revision A [EN010132/EX1/WB3.1_A]. The BNG</p>	

ID	Matter raised by IPs	Applicant's Response	Where commitment is secured in the DCO (if applicable)
		<p>Report [APP-088] shows that a net gain of 96.09% for habitat units, 70.22% for hedgerow units and 10.69% for river units is anticipated to be achieved through the Scheme. The LEMP provides for regular ecological monitoring and adaptation of the management prescriptions in response to changing conditions within the Order Limits so as to ensure the long-term achievement of its aims and persistence of net gain.</p>	
WI03	<p>You cannot desecrate and destroy an ecosystem and say that there is a 10% net increase. You cannot train wildlife to return, especially when they will be surrounded by fences, lights and cameras.</p>	<p>6.3.9.12 ES Appendix 9.12 Biodiversity Net Gain Report [APP-088] sets out how a significant net gain for biodiversity has been calculated and will be secured via Requirement 9 of Schedule 2 of 3.1_A Draft Development Consent Order Revision A [EN010132/EX1/WB3.1_A] for the life of the Scheme alongside the implementation of the LEMP 7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010132/EX1/WB7.3_A], as secured by Requirement 7 of 3.1_A Draft Development Consent Order Revision A [EN010132/EX1/WB3.1_A]. The BNG Report [APP-088] shows that a net gain of 96.09% for habitat units, 70.22% for hedgerow units and 10.69% for river units is anticipated to be achieved through the Scheme. The LEMP provides for regular ecological monitoring and adaptation of the management prescriptions in response to changing conditions within</p>	<p>Requirements 7 and 9, Schedule 2</p>

ID	Matter raised by IPs	Applicant's Response	Where commitment is secured in the DCO (if applicable)
		<p>the Order Limits so as to ensure the long-term achievement of its aims and persistence of net gain. Aside from the very significant and extensive valuable habitats of trees, hedgerows and diverse grassland types both beneath panels and within the wide buffer zones at the edge of fields, other habitats as set out in the BNG Report [APP-088] and the Outline LEMP [APP-339] (as secured by Requirement 7 of 3.1_A Draft Development Consent Order Revision A [EN010132/EX1/WB3.1_A]) include wetland such as ponds for invertebrates and amphibians, scrapes for ground nesting birds such as lapwing and set aside-type habitat for turtle dove. These habitats have been arranged and designed in such a way that they contribute to the aims of the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership's Biodiversity Opportunities Mapping in order to create a more joined-up network of natural habitats for wildlife.</p> <p>The majority of animal species will be able to freely move through the operational site and the boundary fencing in the same way as they are currently able to in other locations where deer fencing is used. An impact on the movement of deer is likely (Bullet point 9 within paragraph 9.6.5 of 6.2.9 Environmental Statement - Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-047]), although it is</p>	

ID	Matter raised by IPs	Applicant's Response	Where commitment is secured in the DCO (if applicable)
		<p>acknowledged from the ecological monitoring of numerous active solar schemes that deer are regularly noted within the fenced areas having exploited locations of undulating terrain and other opportunities for entry.</p> <p>The potential impact of lighting on ecology and biodiversity has been assessed within 6.2.9 Environmental Statement - Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-047].</p>	
WI04	The Scheme will result in the destruction of flora and fauna.	<p>Section 9.7 of 6.2.9 Environmental Statement - Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-047] sets out the extensive findings of all ecological investigations undertaken within the Order Limits together with an appraisal of the relative importance of each species or species group, habitat or designated site.</p> <p>A comprehensive package of mitigation has been provided, in tandem with embedded mitigation (see Section 9.6 which sets out the details of the embedded mitigation which has been established through the ecologically sensitive design of the Scheme, such as the wide buffering of all field boundaries and the use of existing hedgerow gaps for accesses). These additional mitigation measures are been further detailed within 7.17 Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy</p>	Requirements 7-9 of Schedule 2

ID	Matter raised by IPs	Applicant's Response	Where commitment is secured in the DCO (if applicable)
		<p>[APP-326] (as secured by Requirement 8 of Schedule 2 of 3.1_A Draft Development Consent Order Revision A [EN010132/EX1/WB3.1_A] and 7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010132/EX1/WB7.3_A] (as secured by Requirement 7 of Schedule 2 of 3.1_A Draft Development Consent Order Revision A [EN010132/EX1/WB3.1_A]) which will ensure that all identified impacts are minimised as far as possible. In many cases, the reversion from intensive agriculture to pasture or meadow grassland with additional hedgerow, scrub, tree and wetland habitat creation will bring about beneficial effects for wildlife. In particular, terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates, botanical diversity, small mammals and many species of bird all stand to benefit. In this way, an anticipated substantial net gain for biodiversity will be achieved (see 6.3.9.12 Environmental Statement - Appendix 9.12 Biodiversity Net Gain Report [APP-088]), predominantly through the creation of extensive low-input grassland resulting in a net gain of 96.09% in habitat units, but also several new ponds and wetland habitat parcels resulting in a net gain of 10.69% in river units, and the planting of several kilometres of species-rich hedgerow resulting in a net gain of 70.22% in hedgerow units. Requirement 9 of Schedule 2</p>	

ID	Matter raised by IPs	Applicant's Response	Where commitment is secured in the DCO (if applicable)
		of 3.1_A Draft Development Consent Order Revision A [EN010132/EX1/WB3.1_A] provides that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a biodiversity net gain strategy has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority, in consultation with the relevant statutory nature conservation body."	
WI05	The Scheme will destroy wildlife. Deer fencing destroys habitat and wildlife.	Please refer to responses for WI03 and WI04 above.	
WI06	The wildlife in the area is rich and varied. Skylarks nest in dew ponds in fields, and there are deer, hares, voles, bees and other insects. These will not be here if the Scheme goes ahead as they cannot possibly survive.	The potential for effects on skylark have been assessed within Section 9.7 of 6.2.9 Environmental Statement - Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-047] . A comprehensive package of mitigation has been provided for skylark and other ground nesting birds which are included within Section 9.7 [APP-047] and further detailed within 7.17 Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [APP-326] (as secured by Requirement 8 of Schedule 2 of 3.1_A Draft Development Consent Order Revision A [EN010132/EX1/WB3.1_A]) and 7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010132/EX1/WB7.3_A] (as secured by Requirement 7 of Schedule 2 of 3.1_A Draft Development Consent Order Revision A	Requirements 7-8 of Schedule 2

ID	Matter raised by IPs	Applicant's Response	Where commitment is secured in the DCO (if applicable)
		<p>[EN010132/EX1/WB3.1_A] which will ensure that all identified impacts are minimised as far as possible.</p> <p>In many cases, the reversion from intensive agriculture to pasture or meadow grassland with additional hedgerow, scrub, tree and wetland habitat creation will bring about beneficial effects for wildlife. In particular, terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates, botanical diversity, small mammals and many species of bird all stand to benefit. In this way, an anticipated substantial net gain for biodiversity will be achieved (see 6.3.9.12 Environmental Statement - Appendix 9.12 Biodiversity Net Gain Report [APP-088]), predominantly through the creation of extensive low-input grassland resulting in a net gain of 96.09% in habitat units, but also several new ponds and wetland habitat parcels resulting in a net gain of 10.69% in river units, and the planting of several kilometres of species-rich hedgerow resulting in a net gain of 70.22% in hedgerow units.</p>	
CH00 Community & Health Impacts – Concerns were raised about the impact of the Scheme on the local community and their health			
CH01	The IP feels intimidated in her own home, from both a person in March 2023 taking photographs of her home, and from the impact of all the various schemes in the area. The Scheme is destroying Sturton le Steeple. Only the houses	The Applicant was in contact with Mrs Warren at the time she reported that somebody was taking photographs of her property. The Applicant checked with all of their	Requirement 18, Schedule 2

ID	Matter raised by IPs	Applicant's Response	Where commitment is secured in the DCO (if applicable)
	<p>will be left. The long term health risks associated with electromagnetic fields are not known.</p> <p>There will be impacts to public rights of way, above existing difficulties with a landowner trying to stop an existing right of way being recorded.</p>	<p>consultant team and it was confirmed to her that the person taking photographs was not related to the Scheme.</p> <p>The Applicant's position regarding EMF has not changed since the above response was provided to the resident Party and is set out in Section 21.2 in of 6.2.21 Environmental Statement – Chapter 21- Other Environmental Matters [APP-059].</p> <p>The World Health Organisation have published information and guidance³ surrounding electromagnetic fields which recognises that <i>"short-term exposure to very high levels of electromagnetic fields can be harmful to health", but that "despite extensive research, to date there is no evidence to conclude that exposure to low level electromagnetic fields is harmful to human health."</i></p> <p>Public Rights of Way may be subject to short-term temporary diversions or closures to facilitate cable laying as set out in para 3.13 of 6.3.14.3 Environmental Statement - Appendix 14.3 Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan [APP-128]. All Public Rights of Way on and surrounding the Sites are to remain open during construction where feasible, and all existing Public</p>	

³ World Health Organization (2016) Radiation: Electromagnetic fields. Available at <https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/radiation-electromagnetic-fields>

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		<p>Rights of Way are to be retained during the Scheme's operational lifetime.</p> <p>A Public Rights of Way Management Plan that is substantially in accordance with the outline PRowMP [APP-128] will be implemented during the construction phase of the Scheme, and will be submitted and approved prior to the commencement of development, as secured through Requirement 18 of Schedule 2 of 3.1_A Draft Development Consent Order Revision A [EN010132/EX1/WB3.1_A].</p>	
CH02	<p>The villages in the Lincolnshire countryside are visited by tourists. The history, tourism and agriculture are important for the economy. The communities here will be affected by the industrialisation of the countryside. There will be no escape, and residents will feel imprisoned by the schemes.</p> <p>A 400kV substation will be located close to Marten Academy.</p> <p>There is a nationwide shortage of housing rental accommodation. This will be taken during construction.</p>	<p>The Applicant recognises the significance of the tourism industry in the local economy and has assessed the employment and economic impact of the Scheme to the tourism and recreation sector in Section 18.7 of 6.2.18 Environmental Statement - Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-056].</p> <p>The impacts from the Scheme on the tourism and recreation industry in the Local Impact Area (of which West Lindsey is in Lincolnshire) have been assessed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During construction, both employment in (para. 18.7.19) and economic performance of (para. 18.7.50) the tourism and recreation industry are anticipated to experience a neutral effect. 	

ID	Matter raised by IPs	Applicant's Response	Where commitment is secured in the DCO (if applicable)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During operation, the worst case impact on employment in (para. 18.7.80) and economic performance of (para. 18.7.97) the tourism and recreation industry is anticipated to be a minor, long-term adverse effect. • During operation, the worst case impact on employment in (para. 18.7.126) and economic performance of (para. 18.7.137) the tourism and recreation industry is anticipated to be a minor, medium-term adverse effect. <p>None of these effects are considered to be significant.</p> <p>The substation which is located within West Burton 3 is located approximately 1.1km south east of Marton Academy (at their closest points) as shown in 6.4.4.3 Environmental Statement – Figure 4.3 Illustrative Site Layout Plan West Burton 3 [APP-144]. The design evolution of the substation design in West Burton 3 is set out in paragraphs 5.4.19 and 5.5.19 of 7.6 Design and Access Statement – Part 1 of 2 [APP-314].</p> <p>Impacts on the local supply of housing and on temporary accommodation has been assessed across the Local Impact Area (Bassetlaw and West Lindsey districts) in Section 18.7 of 6.2.18 Environmental Statement -</p>	

ID	Matter raised by IPs	Applicant's Response	Where commitment is secured in the DCO (if applicable)
		<p>Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-056]. Paragraphs 18.5.9-12 identify that the local authorities are currently demonstrating an excess of housing supply in relation to housing need. Paragraph 18.7.37 goes on to demonstrate that the estimated construction employment housing need can be accommodated, taking approximately 7.6% of this excess capacity. As such, no adverse impact on access to housing is assessed.</p>	
CH03	<p>Local residents will be severely impacted by the Scheme. Farmland will be industrialised, and this is reckless and lacking judgment.</p>	<p>Please see response to FS04</p>	
CH04	<p>Residents wish to live in a rural area, not an industrial estate. The Lincolnshire Rural Support Network has seen an increase of 229% in calls to the mental health and stress call line. There will be a mental health crisis. The Scheme will be disastrous to people's way of life, communities and the environment.</p>	<p>The Applicant seeks to assure the public that the human health, mental health and wellbeing have been assessed by the Applicant in the Environmental Statement. The Applicant is cognisant of the significance of the countryside for physical and mental wellbeing and, as such, likely impacts on the desirability and use of recreational facilities in the countryside, have been assessed in Section 18.7 of 6.2.18 Environmental Statement - Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-056]. The greatest level of effect to access, desirability and use of recreational facilities is</p>	

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		<p>limited to short- to medium-term moderate adverse effects on long distance recreational routes (the Trent Valley Way and National Byways) during construction (see Table 18.15 and para. 18.7.62). This is a significant adverse effect. This is however the only significant adverse effect anticipated, with no greater than moderate-minor adverse anticipated to any other recreational receptor during construction (see paras. 18.7.60 to 18.7.69), or to any recreational receptor during operation (see paras. 18.7.107 to 18.7.117) and decommissioning (see paras. 18.7.147 to 18.7.157). These effects are not anticipated to be significant.</p> <p>No other significant adverse effects to human health and safety have been identified in the Environmental Statement, as summarised in Section 21.5 of 6.2.21 Environmental Statement - Chapter 21 Other Environmental Matters [APP-059]. As such, it is not considered that the Scheme will have any significant adverse impact on personal health and wellbeing, including mental health, as a result of the Scheme.</p>	
CH05	Ground mounted solar should never be imposed on communities. This is what the Applicant is trying to do with this Scheme. The opposition of	The Applicant is confident that the methods used, level of consultation undertaken and information presented throughout the pre-application stage met the legislative requirements of the Planning Act 2008 and associated	

ID	Matter raised by IPs	Applicant's Response	Where commitment is secured in the DCO (if applicable)
	<p>residents has near unanimity. The Scheme will undermine rural culture, result in monstrous over development and is opposed by residents.</p>	<p>guidance, which makes clear the importance of consulting local communities and parish councils. This is set out in detail in the 5.1 Consultation Report [APP-022], which was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and accepted for examination.</p> <p>Table 1.2 of Chapter 1 [APP-022], details how the Applicant provided a six-week community consultation, the publication of materials for this and methods to provide feedback.</p> <p>Chapter 11 of 5.1 Consultation Report [APP-022] describes the significant volume of responses received to Section 47 consultation (local community), including the issues raised and how these were considered by the Applicant. This is further evidenced by 5.12 Appendix 5.12: Consultation Report Appendix – Section 47 Applicant Response [APP-036].</p>	
CH06	<p>The Scheme will dwarf the communities it surrounds. There will be massive disruption. There is no sensitivity to the region or its people. The villages are not affluent and have few amenities. They have a tranquil rural setting with open views shaped by agriculture. This setting will be decimated by the Scheme.</p>	<p>6.2.8 Environmental Statement - Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-046] (the 'LVIA') considers the impacts and effects on the surrounding area and villages with residential receptors as part of the assessment process. The assessment has considered residential receptors within the 1km Study Area for the Scheme and the 0.5km Study Area from the outer boundary of the Cable Route Corridor (para. 8.4.12). The</p>	Requirement 7, Schedule 2

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		<p>detailed analysis of these residential receptors is set out at 6.3.8.3 Environmental Statement - Appendix 8.3 Assessment of Potential Visual Effects [APP-074].</p> <p>The mitigation measures are shown on the WB6.4.8.18.1- to WB6.4.8.18.3 Figures 8.18.1 to 8.18.3 Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans [EN010132/EX1/WB6.4.8.18.1 to WB6.4.8.18.3]. Please also refer to 7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan Revision A [EN010132/EX1/WB7.3_A] which is secured by Requirement 7 in Schedule 2 of 3.1_A Draft Development Consent Order Revision A [EN010132/EX1/WB3.1_A].</p>	
CH07	<p>There is a younger generation that wants to live in rural areas for the next 40-60 years. The IP would not be aware of the Scheme if he had not been informed of it by his parents. The generation most affected is resigned to the Scheme happening, but will be living through the construction, ambiguous lifespan and uncertain demolition of the Scheme.</p>	<p>The Applicant is confident that the level of consultation undertaken, and information presented throughout the pre-application stage was in accordance with the Planning Act 2008 and associated guidance. This has been evidenced in 5.1 Consultation Report [APP-022], which was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and accepted for examination.</p>	
CH08	<p>The Scheme will affect mental health in the area. There is very little in the documentation about the impact of the Scheme on human health and</p>	<p>Please see response to CH04</p>	<p>Requirement 20, Schedule 2</p>

ID	Matter raised by IPs	Applicant's Response	Where commitment is secured in the DCO (if applicable)
	<p>wellbeing during operation; the focus is on the construction and decommissioning phases. The communities will need to endure looking at these structures and this needs to be addressed.</p> <p>The cumulative impact is concerning, with worsened health inequalities and further marginalisation of areas where deprivation exists, such as Gainsborough.</p> <p>Depression is increasing. There will be impacts from the changing environment, as green spaces benefit mental health. The loss of the countryside will manifest in grief, affecting physical and mental health. Older people may be further isolated, becoming more vulnerable. The reliance on earnings data from 2011 is not good enough to form a satisfactory view on how the Scheme will make people feel emotionally, physically and in their mental health.</p> <p>It is surprising that no health impact is provided; this should have been done in partnership with Public Health, accounting for all schemes as one scheme of magnitude. A desktop search to assess health is not sufficient.</p>	<p>Cumulative impacts on human health, mental health, and wellbeing have been assessed in Section 18.10 of .2.18 Environmental Statement - Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-056]. No additional significant adverse effects have been determined from the cumulative Schemes on human health and wellbeing in the Local Impact Area, including in regard to deprivation, mental health and wellbeing, socio-demographic health receptors, nor access to primary healthcare such as GPs.</p> <p>The Applicant has however assessed a residual and cumulative significant beneficial effects on deprivation in the Local Impact Area as a result of increased access to employment and education and skills opportunities during the Scheme's construction as a result of the measures set out in 7.10 Skills Supply Chain and Employment Plan [APP-319], which is secured in Requirement 20, Schedule 2 to the Draft Development Consent Order Revision A [EN010132/EX1/WB3.1_A].</p>	

ID	Matter raised by IPs	Applicant's Response	Where commitment is secured in the DCO (if applicable)
	A single GP looks after around 2000 people. The construction of all schemes in the area will bring in around 2000 contractors. How will their health requirements be resourced?		
CI00 Cumulative Impacts – <i>Concerns were raised about the role of a number of NSIP solar farms in the area</i>			
CI01	It is very difficult to find out who is responsible for each scheme – the battery packs, cables, quarry and solar panels.	<p>West Burton Solar Project is a nationally significant infrastructure project. It consists of three solar generating stations each with a capacity of over 50MW together with associated development. The Scheme comprises a number of land parcels which are described as West Burton 1, 2 and 3 in the DCO Application documents.</p> <p>The components or work numbers of the Scheme are set out in Schedule 1 of the draft DCO [EN010132/EX1/WB3.1_A]. Schedule 1 should be read in conjunction with the Works Plans [EN01032/EX1/WB2.3_B]. Article 3 of the draft DCO permits each work number to be carried out within the corresponding numbered area shown of the works plans.</p> <p>West Burton Solar Project has no involvement with the quarry development.</p>	Schedule 1 Article 3
CI02	West Burton and Cottam are promoted by the same developer and account for 5532 acres.	Please see response to CI06.	

ID	Matter raised by IPs	Applicant's Response	Where commitment is secured in the DCO (if applicable)
	There will be solar and security fencing on both sides of the B1241, resulting in lack of clear visibility for road users.		
CI03	In total there are 12 NSIPs and 78,000 acres proposed to be used for solar projects in the county.	The Applicant notes the comment.	
CI04	Information put out by developers of the solar NSIPs in the area is incredibly compartmentalised. It is only possible to see one site at a time. Getting the information about the combined sites is difficult and engagement is poor.	<p>A cumulative effects assessment has been prepared for the Application within the Environmental Statement [APP-039 to APP-061]. Cumulative effects assessments for each environmental topic are set out in each of the ES Chapters and include the assessment of the impacts of the Scheme cumulatively with other identified NSIPs in the local area (see paragraph 2.5.9 of 6.2.2 Environmental Statement - Chapter 2 EIA Process and Methodology [APP-040]).</p> <p>This assessment has been carried out in accordance with Schedule 4 of the 2017 EIA Regulations and PINS Advice Note 17. The mitigation measures set out across the ES therefore account for anticipated cumulative effects.</p>	
CI05	The scale of the solar proposals in the area is overwhelming. A smaller area, say 1000 acres, would be reasonable. The cumulative effects are such that these schemes should be considered	Please see response to CI04	

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	as one. They cannot be considered individually and the combined impact is significant. The projects in the area total some 26,000 acres.		
CI06	4.5 metre solar panels over an area the size of a city is not minimising impacts.	<p>The landscape mitigation measures also seek to provide new planting to mitigate the potential impacts and effects of glint and glare for the Scheme's operational lifetime. This mitigation includes new native hedgerows and tree cover, and covers management and maintenance.</p> <p>The mitigation measures are shown on the WB6.4.8.18.1_A- to WB6.4.8.18.3_A Figures 8.18.1_A to 8.18.3_A Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans [EN010132/EX1/WB6.4.8.18.1 to WB6.4.8.18.3]. Please also refer to 7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan Revision A [EN010132/EX1/WB7.3_A] which is secured by Requirement 7 in Schedule 2 of 3.1_A Draft Development Consent Order Revision A [EN010132/EX1/WB3.1_A].</p>	Requirement 7, Schedule 2
CI07	The four NSIPs in the area are one project. The companies all have directors in common and are all using the same legal teams. They are all using the same trench to reach the grid connections. How are they four separate entities? The	Whilst the Cottam Solar Project and West Burton Solar Project have a common parent company (Island Green Power), they are distinct and separate projects. The Gate Burton Energy Park, and Tillbridge Solar Project are owned and directed by entirely different companies from Cottam and West Burton. The Applicant does however	

ID	Matter raised by IPs	Applicant's Response	Where commitment is secured in the DCO (if applicable)
	<p>Planning Inspectorate should have the power and desire to consider all applications as one.</p>	<p>acknowledge that legal counsel for all four projects is being provided by the same company.</p> <p>The Shared Cable Corridor has been devised to reduce environmental effects across the four (albeit at the time of submission, three) NSIPs by having a collaborative approach. This is described in more detailed at Paragraph 4.3.8 of 6.2.4 Environmental Statement - Chapter 4 Scheme Description [APP-042].</p> <p>Consideration of cumulative or overlapping effects is governed by the Planning Inspectorate for each of the DCO applications.</p>	
CI08	<p>There should be a health impact assessment provided that looks at the cumulative impact of all schemes on people. This should have been done in partnership with Public Health and be a single document across all schemes, looking at them as a single scheme of one magnitude.</p>	<p>A health impact assessment was not requested at the EIA Scoping stage. That notwithstanding, assessment of health impacts from the Scheme in isolation, and cumulatively with other NSIPs in West Lindsey have undertaken throughout the Environmental Statement [APP-039 to APP-061]. The summary compiled at Section 21.5 of 6.2.21 Environmental Statement - Chapter 21 Other Environmental Matters [APP-059] identifies only one significant adverse effect to public health and wellbeing as a result of short- to medium-term moderate adverse effect on the desirability and use of long distance recreational</p>	

ID	Matter raised by IPs	Applicant's Response	Where commitment is secured in the DCO (if applicable)
		routes (the Trent Valley Way and National Byways) during construction.	
AI00 Administrative Impacts – Concerns were raised about the administration of the NSIP process and Examination of the Scheme			
AI01	<p>There is only unreliable broadband in rural areas. Virtual-only hearings are inappropriate to get meaningful engagement. Had the Examination commenced on 7 September, a village-wide internet outage would have meant it was impossible for IPs to join remotely. Virtual-only events should be avoided.</p> <p>Three NSIP projects in the area result in the public being disadvantaged. The documents repeat the same arguments, resulting in an excessive timewasting exercise. Will the ExA have discretion, where a reference is to a different NSIP, to allow the IP an opportunity to correct their submissions?</p>	The Applicant notes this comment but notes that the Examination venues and administration are dealt with by the Planning Inspectorate.	
AI02	It is difficult to attend meetings when working. The IP knows a number of people that could not attend the OFH.	Please see response to AI01	

ID	Matter raised by IPs	Applicant's Response	Where commitment is secured in the DCO (if applicable)
AI03	<p>The same process four-times over is confusing to people, especially where it is running concurrently. It is hard to understand and remember what has been responded to. It is more likely that errors in evidence will occur. Is it possible that evidence submitted to one NSIP Examination could be automatically transferred to the other three?</p>	<p>Please see response to AI02</p>	
AI04	<p>The Application documentation is all focused on technical topics, missing any genuine consideration of people in the area. There is nothing to address the deprivation of livelihoods and landscape.</p> <p>The NSIP is a machine that the community has no real say in. There are thousands of pages of documents, but in response nothing changes and the Applicant provides more pages that restate its position.</p>	<p>Please see response to AI01</p>	
AI05	<p>The processes are hard to understand and it is difficult to get time off. The IP took the afternoon off to attend the planned OFH in September, only for this to be cancelled at short notice.</p>	<p>Please see response to AI01</p>	

ID	Matter raised by IPs	Applicant's Response	Where commitment is secured in the DCO (if applicable)
AI06	The venue is not appropriate for the local population who may need a lift to attend. Some IPs may be unable to drive in the dark, and the last bus leaves Lincoln at 17:30.	Please see response to AI01	
CR00 Consultation Report – <i>Concerns were raised about the extent of consultation and how feedback has been taken on board</i>			
CR01	Finding the right person to talk to is difficult, and when you do talk to someone, they won't talk to you again. The IP feels intimidated in their home because of what is going on around them.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges this comment and is confident that the level of consultation undertaken and information presented throughout the pre-application stage is in accordance with the Planning Act 2008 and associated guidance. This has been evidenced in 5.1 Consultation Report [APP-022], which was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and accepted for examination.</p> <p>As described in Chapter 2 of 5.1 Consultation Report [APP-022], the Applicant undertook two phases of community consultation to share information and invite feedback at different stages of Scheme development.</p> <p>Chapter 7 of 5.1 Consultation Report [APP-022] describes the Applicant's approach to statutory consultation, including consulting with relevant authorities on a draft Statement of Community Consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant notes that it has engaged with the developer of Gate Burton Energy Park (Low Carbon) to</p>	

ID	Matter raised by IPs	Applicant's Response	Where commitment is secured in the DCO (if applicable)
		<p>manage consultation activities to reduce the risks of consultation fatigue and confusion for communities. This included avoiding any overlap when arranging public information events and presenting a graphic which showed the locations of the Scheme, West Burton Solar Project, and Gate Burton Energy Park.</p> <p>Table 7.1 sets out the comments received from authorities on the Applicant's approach to consultation and how these were considered by the Applicant. Table 7.3 in Chapter 7 describes how the Applicant complied with commitments made in the Statement of Community Consultation when undertaking statutory consultation.</p> <p>Chapter 8 of 5.1 Consultation Report [APP-022] describes how the Applicant undertook a six-week statutory phase two consultation on the Scheme, during which the Applicant presented consultees with environmental information sufficient for consultees to understand the potential likely significant effects of the Scheme in a Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR). A non-technical summary was published to accompany the PEIR, with public information events and free-to-use communications channels open to help aid accessibility and understanding of the Scheme. A Consultation Summary Report for this phase of statutory</p>	

ID	Matter raised by IPs	Applicant's Response	Where commitment is secured in the DCO (if applicable)
		<p>consultation was published on the dedicated Scheme website, shared with elected representatives and stakeholders and issued to over 9,000 properties within the vicinity of the Scheme, to help consultees understand how their feedback was being considered. A copy of the Phase Two Consultation Summary Report is provided as 5.7 Appendix 5.7: Phase Two Community Consultation Materials [APP-029].</p> <p>Chapter 11 of 5.1 Consultation Report [APP-022] describes the significant volume of responses received to Section 47 consultation (local community), including the issues raised and how these were considered by the Applicant. This is further evidenced by 5.12 Appendix 5.10: Consultation Report Appendix - Section 47 Applicant Response [APP-036].</p> <p>The Applicant notes that it will continue to provide free, open communication methods following the submission of the West Burton Solar Project, for members of the community to ask questions, request information (including in alternative formats) and provide feedback.</p>	
CR02	The IP provided consultation feedback in November 2022 about changes to the Scheme that was acknowledged by an automated reply,	The Applicant remains confident that the level of consultation undertaken throughout the pre-application stage meets the requirements of the Planning Act 2008	

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	<p>followed shortly by an email of a 'mailbox full', permanent error. The IP called the helpline number and left messages without receiving a reply. The helpline was then disconnected after the consultation period, without the IP hearing from the Applicant. The IP is concerned that other may have been unable to provide feedback. The lack of consultation responses has skewed the consultation documentation to suggest that there were no comments; the IP objects to this conclusion. The IP's feedback was not taken into account.</p> <p>Consultation must work correctly and accurately so people can engage.</p>	<p>and associated guidance. This has been evidenced in 5.1 Consultation Report [APP-022], which was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and accepted for examination.</p> <p>The Applicant acknowledges this comment and notes that the consultation feedback (local community) received to West Burton targeted consultation can be found in table 5.12.12 of 5.12 Consultation Report - Appendix 5.12 - Section 47 Applicant Response [APP-036]. The Applicant notes that the code '03WB002' was assigned to the IP's feedback, and can be found in this Appendix.</p> <p>The Applicant notes that consultation feedback (statutory stakeholders) received to West Burton targeted consultation can be found in table 5.13.2 of 5.13 Consultation Report - Appendix 5.13 - Section 42 Applicant Response [APP-037].</p> <p>Chapter 8 of 5.1 Consultation Report [APP-022] details how the Applicant publicised the consultation information and response deadline by distributing a Community Letter explaining the consultation opportunities and updated proposals to all properties within a defined targeted consultation zone. The Applicant notes that this is consistent with the principles established in the Applicant's SoCC, this targeted consultation zone extended</p>	

ID	Matter raised by IPs	Applicant's Response	Where commitment is secured in the DCO (if applicable)
		<p>a minimum of 2km from the site boundary, and included 1,979 properties.</p> <p>The Applicant notes that it will continue to provide free, open communication methods following the submission of the West Burton Solar Project, for members of the community to ask questions, request information (including in alternative formats) and provide feedback.</p>	
CR03	<p>Many of the community have failed to engage as the process is complicated, people are busy, and the amount of information is overwhelming. People think that it is a foregone conclusion.</p>	<p>Please see response to CR01</p> <p>Additionally, Chapter 12 of 5.1 Consultation Report [APP-022] describes the significant volume of responses received to the Section 42 consultation (statutory stakeholders), including the issues raised and how these were considered by the Applicant. This is further evidenced by 5.13 Appendix 5.13: Consultation Report Appendix – Section 42 Applicant Response [APP-037].</p>	
CR04	<p>The NSIP process is a machine that the community has no real say in. The Applicant has not sought to have due regard to feedback. The IP asks what the Applicant did in response to 49% of people advising that they found materials 'not informative', and 79% of people strongly opposing the Scheme.</p>	<p>Please see response to CR01</p> <p>Additionally, Chapter 12 of 5.1 Consultation Report [APP-022] describes the significant volume of responses received to the Section 42 consultation (statutory stakeholders), including the issues raised and how these were considered by the Applicant. This is further</p>	

ID	Matter raised by IPs	Applicant's Response	Where commitment is secured in the DCO (if applicable)
	<p>The Applicant advises of a high level of engagement, but only a few hundred people responded. This is less than 2% of people in the region. The Applicant has contributed massively to the confusion in the area by making separate applications for the Cottam and West Burton schemes.</p> <p>The purpose of consultation is not to tick a box, but to engage at a meaningful level to ensure the Scheme is not an imposition on the community.</p>	<p>evidenced by 5.13 Appendix 5.13: Consultation Report Appendix – Section 42 Applicant Response [APP-037].</p>	
CR05	<p>The IP is only aware of the Scheme because of his parents. The IP's generation is most affected but is missing from the hearing.</p>	<p>Please see response to CR01</p> <p>Additionally, Chapter 12 of 5.1 Consultation Report [APP-022] describes the significant volume of responses received to the Section 42 consultation (statutory stakeholders), including the issues raised and how these were considered by the Applicant. This is further evidenced by 5.13 Appendix 5.13: Consultation Report Appendix – Section 42 Applicant Response [APP-037].</p>	
CR06	<p>The documents that assist in making a decision currently lean heavily towards the Applicant. They need to be reviewed by independent researchers looking at the relevant areas.</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment and recognises the importance of the Examination process and notes their responsibility to provide information to the Planning Inspectorate as required.</p>	

ID	Matter raised by IPs	Applicant's Response	Where commitment is secured in the DCO (if applicable)
FR00 Flood Risk – <i>Concerns were raised about the risk of flooding and the role of the Scheme in exacerbating this risk</i>			
FR01	<p>The land in this area is clay based, and water sits on top of the land. Sturton le Steeple has flooded in the rain. Sheep can't swim, but will need to if they are placed below the solar panels.</p> <p>The road to West Burton power station has no culverts; no one has done anything about it.</p>	<p>The proposed development will not have a detrimental impact with regards to flood risk in the area and areas that currently flood will continue to flood as existing. Flood Risk is considered throughout 6.3.10.1 Environmental Statement - Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy Report [APP-089] and supporting Annexes 6.3.10.2 Environmental Statement - Appendix 10.2 FRA DS Cable Route [APP-090], 6.3.10.3 Environmental Statement - Appendix 10.3 FRA DS West Burton 1 [APP-091], 6.3.10.4 Environmental Statement - Appendix 10.4 FRA DS West Burton 2 [APP-092], 6.3.10.5 Environmental Statement - Appendix 10.5 FRA DS West Burton 3 [APP-093].</p> <p>The proposed drainage strategy is detailed within Section 5.0 of 6.3.10.1 Environmental Statement - Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy Report [APP-089].</p> <p>It is considered that the panelled areas will not alter the existing surface water run-off regime and will therefore not be formally drained. Areas of increased hardstanding such as smaller areas of hardstanding formed as footings for electrical infrastructure will utilise SuDS principles and</p>	Requirement 11, Schedule 2

ID	Matter raised by IPs	Applicant's Response	Where commitment is secured in the DCO (if applicable)
		<p>attempt to mimic the existing surface water run-off regime as existing. It is not considered appropriate at this stage to detail specific SuDS features for the footings for electrical infrastructure however, it is likely to take the form of surrounding 'french drain' features which will arrest lateral surface water flows and retain water within subgrade allowing local infiltration.</p> <p>The BESS area within the Scheme is considered within an area specific drainage strategy included within Section 3.0 of 6.3.10.5 Environmental Statement - Appendix 10.5 FRA DS West Burton 3 [APP-093].</p> <p>The drainage strategy and detailed drainage design will be developed during the detailed design process. As secured by Requirement 11 in Schedule 2 of the 3.1_A Draft Development Consent Order Revision A [EN010132/EX1/WB3.1_A] "No part of the authorised development may commence until written details of the surface water drainage scheme and (if any) foul water drainage system for that part have been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority."</p>	
FR02	There is historic flooding in the area around Saxby. On 20 October 2023, the River Till burst its banks, with flooding making the roads impassable. Lincoln City was under flood water.	Please see response to FR01	

ID	Matter raised by IPs	Applicant's Response	Where commitment is secured in the DCO (if applicable)
	<p>Bransby Horses equine centre experienced flooding in 2019 and moved to a new site. Floodwater meant the land was unable to support grazing. There has been further flooding. The surface water run off rate into rivers is concerning. These areas are floodplains. There is hardstanding and concrete support for solar panels – how will the Applicant prevent greater flooding? The Applicant has denied that there has ever been any flooding.</p> <p>There is no amount of swales that could capture the rainwater. Where will the flood water be redirected? What measures are in place with the fire service when there is flooding, especially as this will strain resources? How will the environmental impacts of flooding be managed?</p> <p>The Flood Risk Assessment, at Table 3, summarises the risk of flooding as negligible to low.</p>		
<p>BS00 Battery Storage – Concerns were raised around the safety of battery energy storage</p>			
BS01	The Applicant changed the scheme to move battery storage and substation infrastructure to	The Applicant acknowledges this comment but is confident that the level of consultation undertaken, and	

ID	Matter raised by IPs	Applicant's Response	Where commitment is secured in the DCO (if applicable)
	<p>West Burton 3. Many people do not know of this changes and the danger of battery storage.</p>	<p>information presented throughout the pre-application stage was in accordance with the Planning Act 2008 and associated guidance. This has been evidenced in 5.1 Consultation Report [APP-022], which was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and accepted for examination.</p> <p>Chapter 11 of 5.1 Consultation Report [APP-022] describes the significant volume of responses received to Section 47 consultation (local community), including the issues raised and how the Applicant has had regard to these in developing the Scheme. This is further evidenced by 5.12 Consultation Report - Appendix 5.12 - Section 47 Applicant Response [APP-036]. Table 5.12.12 of this appendix details the responses received to Section 47 regarding targeted consultation on updated proposals for the West Burton 3 site area.</p> <p>Chapter 12 of 5.1 Consultation Report [APP-022] describes the significant volume of responses received to Section 42 consultation (statutory consultees), including the issues raised and how the Applicant has had regard to these in developing the Scheme. Table 5.13.2 of Consultation Report – Appendix 5.13- Section 42 Applicant Response [APP-037] details the responses received to consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 regarding targeted consultation on updated proposals for the West Burton 3 site area.</p>	

ID	Matter raised by IPs	Applicant's Response	Where commitment is secured in the DCO (if applicable)
		<p>The host authorities have confirmed that the statutory consultation process was adequate [AoC-001 to AoC-013].</p> <p>The technical report 6.3.17.4 Environmental Statement - Appendix 17.4 BESS Fire Technical Note [APP-136] assesses potential impacts associated with a battery fire at the West Burton BESS Site (located within the West Burton 3 Site). The closest residential receptors are located more than 490m away from the BESS Site boundary. The assessment report concluded that there is low risk of adverse effects at the closest receptors and good practice BESS fire safety measures have been produced in the case of a BESS fire at the proposed development.</p>	
BS02	<p>The Scheme includes proposed battery energy storage. This is a worry around fire and pollution risks. A recent field harvest fire was scary due to the speed it travelled. Two fire engines were required to put it out. The IP doubts that this would be possible with a solar fire.</p>	Please see comment to BS01	
<p>SC00 Supply Chain – <i>Concerns were raised about the supply chain for the Scheme</i></p>			
SC01	<p>Dealing with China should be avoided. Germany is rueing the day it relied on China. Its economy is failing and it is having to buy nuclear energy</p>	<p>Paragraph 7.3.1 of 7.10 Skills Supply Chain and Employment Plan [APP-319] confirms that the Applicant is a signatory of the UK Industry Supply Chain which states <i>"We, members of the UK solar energy industry, condemn</i></p>	Requirement 20, Schedule 2

ID	Matter raised by IPs	Applicant's Response	Where commitment is secured in the DCO (if applicable)
	<p>from France. The UK will get in the same situation if it deals with China.</p>	<p><i>and oppose any abuse of human rights, including forced labour, anywhere in the global supply chain. We support applying the highest possible levels of transparency and sustainability throughout the value chain, and commit to the development of an industry-led traceability protocol to help to ensure our supply chain is free of human rights abuses."</i></p> <p>Paragraph 5.4.7 of [APP-319] states that "Any procurement of supplies internationally will comply with both national and international law, and all policy and safety measures will be adhered to in the transportation of supplies."</p> <p>The Applicant refers the Party to paragraph 7.5.4 of 6.2.7_A Environmental Statement Chapter 7 Climate Change Revision A [EN010132/EX1/WB6.2.7_A] which states that it is anticipated that the PV panels will be sourced from China or a country of similar distance from the UK. Therefore, the Applicant has noted and accounted for the sourcing of panels within its assessment and that the manufacture and transport of products will likely be the largest sources of GHG emissions from the Scheme.</p>	

ID	Matter raised by IPs	Applicant's Response	Where commitment is secured in the DCO (if applicable)
SC02	China is something to be well rid of. We do not want anything to do with that country.	Please see response to SC01	
SC03	There is an over reliance on China. This state is not potentially friendly.	Please see response to SC01	
SC04	Solar in China sees the involvement of its racist, totalitarian government. Can the Applicant give a 100% guarantee that no slave labour will be used in its projects in China, such as in the production of solar panels?	Please see response to SC01	
LV00 Landscape and Visual – <i>Concerns were raised about the reliability and generative capacity of solar</i>			
LV01	<p>The change to West Burton 3 has doubled the height of busbars and tripled the capacity of the substation. The compound will be hugely visible for miles, including from the A1500 in both directions. It will be nearly the whole extent of the roadside.</p> <p>The solar panels along both sides of the B1241 will result in a lack of clear visibility and glint and glare for road users. In some areas there are no hedges resulting in good visibility [of the panels].</p>	<p>6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-046] (the 'LVIA') takes account of the landscape and visual features that are likely to appeal to visitors, tourists or new people to the region. The LVIA also takes account of intervisibility between the Scheme and Lincoln Castle and Lincoln Cathedral.</p> <p>Detailed overlap and consultation with the Heritage topic areas has also been undertaken when developing the landscape and visual baseline and in identifying landscape and visual effects for the LVIA in the context of heritage</p>	

ID	Matter raised by IPs	Applicant's Response	Where commitment is secured in the DCO (if applicable)
	<p>The Lincoln Cliff escarpment and cathedral are visible, along with views along the B1398 from Lincoln Cliff. These will be affected by the Scheme.</p> <p>There will be no escape from the solar arrays and people will feel imprisoned.</p>	<p>receptors. Please refer to 6.3.8.4.3 ES Appendix 8.4 Consultation responses [APP-075].</p> <p>There are potential long-distance views to Lincoln Cathedral and Lincoln Castle and while Lincoln lies approximately 8.5km to the southeast of West Burton 1 and West Burton 2, the intervisibility between the Sites and the Study Area have been taken into consideration in the LVIA (paras. 8.4.11 and 8.5.77).</p>	
LV02	<p>Data has been manipulated to hide the facts. Vistas have been hidden through the choice of locations for photographs.</p>	<p>The LVIA [APP-046] has taken into account and assessed viewpoints, residential, transport and PRow receptors with both open and enclosed views across the landscape.</p> <p>The LVIA includes a suite of 67 viewpoints and there are also an additional 25 viewpoints at the request of Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) that were agreed at the LVIA Workshops held prior to submission that are included in the LVIA assessment. Please refer to 6.3.8.4.3 ES Appendix 8.4 Consultation responses [APP-075].</p> <p>The additional LCC viewpoints have been discussed in more detail during continued consultation with LCC. Viewpoint assessment sheets are provided for each of the viewpoints and panoramas/level of AVR are agreed for each and set out within LVIA at Appendix 8.3 [APP-074].</p>	

ID	Matter raised by IPs	Applicant's Response	Where commitment is secured in the DCO (if applicable)
LV03	Solar is needed but in a way that minimises the impacts. 4.5 metre tall panels over an area the size of a city is not minimising impacts.	<p>6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-046] (the 'LVIA') considers both the landscape and visual effects of the Scheme on the local environment.</p> <p>Mitigation, including offsets and planting, has been proposed to address and minimise adverse effects on the character of the landscape and promote wildlife conservation. This is in line with the agreed methodology and the hierarchy of approach advocated by the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition and matters agreed with LCC at the series of workshops set out in 6.3.8.4 ES Appendix 8.4 Consultation [APP-075].</p> <p>Planting mitigation can be found within ES Figures 8.18.1 to 8.18.3 [EN010132/EX1/WB6.4.8.18.1 to WB6.4.8.18.3] that illustrate the existing vegetation and key areas of mitigation within the Scheme. The Applicant and its LVIA consultants at Lanpro have worked closely with the ecology consultant throughout the application process to inform the LVIA and associated mitigation plans.</p> <p>This planting mitigation is also set out in 7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan Revision A [EN010132/EX1/WB7.3_A] and secured through</p>	Requirement 7, Schedule 2

ID	Matter raised by IPs	Applicant's Response	Where commitment is secured in the DCO (if applicable)
		Requirement 7 in Schedule 2 of 3.1_A Draft Development Consent Order Revision A [EN010132/EX1/WB3.1_A] .	
LV04	The Scheme will destroy the view from Lincoln Edge which has great landscape value.	<p>6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-046] (the 'LVIA') takes account of the landscape and visual features that are likely to appeal to visitors, tourists or new people to the region. The LVIA also takes account of intervisibility between the Scheme and Lincoln Castle and Lincoln Cathedral.</p> <p>Detailed overlap and consultation with the Heritage topic areas has also been undertaken when developing the landscape and visual baseline and in identifying landscape and visual effects for the LVIA in the context of heritage receptors. Please refer to 6.3.8.4.3 ES Appendix 8.4 Consultation responses [APP-075].</p> <p>There are potential long-distance views to Lincoln Cathedral and Lincoln Castle and while Lincoln lies approximately 8.5km to the southeast of West Burton 1 and West Burton 2, the intervisibility between the Sites and the Study Area have been taken into consideration in the LVIA (paras. 8.4.11 and 8.5.77).</p>	

ID	Matter raised by IPs	Applicant's Response	Where commitment is secured in the DCO (if applicable)
LV05	<p>The panels are too high and are not capable of being effectively screened. The Scheme will dwarf the communities it surrounds.</p>	<p>6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-046] (the 'LVIA') considers both the landscape and visual effects of the Scheme on the local environment.</p> <p>Mitigation, including offsets and planting, has been proposed to address and minimise adverse effects on the character of the landscape and promote wildlife conservation. This is in line with the agreed methodology and the hierarchy of approach advocated by the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition and matters agreed with LCC at the series of workshops set out in 6.3.8.4 ES Appendix 8.4 Consultation [APP-075].</p> <p>Planting mitigation can be found within ES Figures 8.18.1 to 8.18.3 [EN010132/EX1/WB6.4.8.18.1 to WB6.4.8.18.3] that illustrate the existing vegetation and key areas of mitigation within the Scheme. The Applicant and its LVIA consultants at Lanpro have worked closely with the ecology consultant throughout the application process to inform the LVIA and associated mitigation plans.</p> <p>This planting mitigation is also set out in 7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan Revision A [EN010132/EX1/WB7.3_A] and secured through</p>	<p>Requirement 7, Schedule 2</p>

ID	Matter raised by IPs	Applicant's Response	Where commitment is secured in the DCO (if applicable)
		Requirement 7 in Schedule 2 of 3.1_A Draft Development Consent Order Revision A [EN010132/EX1/WB3.1_A] .	
LV06	<p>The landscape has been shaped by historical events, from a glacial mass retracting through climate change, inhabitation by neolithic hunter gatherers, the bronze and iron age communities, and the Romans. The Norman Conquest resulted in numerous churches and cathedrals. In the modern era, the Trent Valley power stations dominate the horizons.</p> <p>It is now proposed to use the land to accommodate solar. This will not enhance the landscape; it will destroy it. If allowed to go ahead, the Scheme will have the worst impact on the land for time immemorial. This will not be reversed.</p>	<p>6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-046] (the 'LVIA') at section 8.5 has taken account of recognised documents and guidance such as The Historic Landscape Character Assessment of the County of Lincolnshire (September 2011) to ensure the Scheme has been designed in a way that is sensitive to the historic landscape. The relevant section for the Scheme is TVL1 – The Northern Cliff Foothills.</p> <p>'LVIA specific' consultation has been undertaken and it was agreed that the East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment, the West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment and The Historic Landscape Character Assessment of the County of Lincolnshire (September 2011) would provide sufficient and relevant baseline for the LVIA.</p>	
MS00 Miscellaneous – Concerns were raised about other matters			
MS01	The goal of the Applicant is to make money; generation of electricity is only a byproduct.	Section 4.3 of 6.2.4 Environmental Statement - Chapter 4 Scheme Description [APP-042] sets out the need for flexibility in design, layout and technology and is	Requirement 5, Schedule 2

ID	Matter raised by IPs	Applicant's Response	Where commitment is secured in the DCO (if applicable)
	<p>Commenting on outline documents does not allow for an informed decision to be made. The Applicant should be using a detailed design, not relying on Schedules that are illustrative examples.</p>	<p>recognised in National Policy Statement EN-1 as elements of a development may not be finalised. The flexibility is needed given that technology changes at a rapid pace and so the most efficient technology will be selected at the point of construction. To accommodate flexibility, a 'Rochdale Envelope' approach is used, as described in the Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 9 (Ref 4.2). 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 6.2.2 Environmental Statement - Chapter 2 EIA Process and Methodology [APP-040].</p> <p>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 WB7.13_A Concept Design Parameters and Principles Revision A [EN010132/EX1/WB7.13_A] which is secured by Requirement 5 in Schedule 2 to the draft DCO [EN010132/EX1/WB3.1_A].</p> <p>Table 4.1 in Chapter 4 summarises the optionality or flexibility being sought for the Scheme. This includes the</p>	

ID	Matter raised by IPs	Applicant's Response	Where commitment is secured in the DCO (if applicable)
		ability to use fixed or tracker panels and a range of solutions for the fire suppression system. In each case, the ES has assessed the worst case scenario for each ES topic.	
MS02	There is no reference to the type of PV panels that will be used. Is it known what will be installed? Or is this left to the developer, post-consent?	Please see response to SC01.	
MS03	Everyone wants to have access to land and the right to roam. The HS2 fiasco is an example of what to expect, with lives ruined by compulsory purchase and no accountability or recompense. If the Scheme is sold on to foreign investors, will the safeguards be adhered to? Who will police the Scheme for 40 years?	The Applicant note this comment. Paragraph 2.3.3 of 4.2 Funding Statement [APP-020] states that, should development consent be granted for the Scheme, Island Green Power would seek further funding with the support of its legal and financial advisors, as is common in privately funded infrastructure projects. Article 34 of the draft DCO [EN010132/EX1/WB3.1_A] states that the DCO is solely for the benefit of the Applicant. If the Applicant wished to transfer the Scheme to another entity it would need to get consent from the Secretary of State in accordance with Article 35 of the draft DCO unless a number of limited exceptions applied. The DCO contains (through the requirements set out in Schedule 2) various management plans that must be 'implemented as approved' throughout the construction,	Article 34 Article 35

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		operation and decommissioning of the Scheme, which are considered to appropriately set the parameters for, and control the impacts of, the Scheme.	
MS04	The access route for HGVs in Willingham by Stowe is a quiet residential lane used by dog walkers, horse riders and children. There will be nowhere safe to go if all of the Schemes are put through. Other quiet lanes will be made wholly unsafe for locals.	The village of Willingham is not proposed to be used a route for construction vehicles for the West Burton Solar Project.	
MS05	The NSIP process is one designed for HS2-type projects, being massive infrastructure benefitting the whole country. West Burton does not fulfil these characteristics. It is a system designed to get past the local planning authority by producing enough electricity.	Paragraph 4.2.1 of 6.2.4 Environmental Statement - Chapter 4 Scheme Description [APP-042] outlines that the Scheme is defined as a "nationally significant infrastructure project" (NSIP) under Sections 14(1)(a) and 15(2) of the Planning Act 2008, meaning that (in accordance with Section 103 of the 2008 Act) the application must be determined by the Secretary of State rather than the local planning authority.	
MS06	The Scheme has no benefit to local people, only a few landowners and entrepreneurs. The local people are up against planning barristers with vast resources – a David and Goliath situation.	The Applicant notes this comment and is cognisant that the operational lifetime of the Scheme will be felt as substantial to those living in the surrounding area. the assessments within the Environmental Statement [APP-039 to APP-061] assess the effects of the Scheme throughout its operational lifetime. Furthermore, the	Schedule 2

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		<p>mitigation and enhancement measures set out in the ES and secured through the relevant control documents will be in place for the lifetime of the Scheme. This therefore means that enhancement measures that form part of the Scheme will also be in place for at least the assessed operational lifetime. These enhancement measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancements to local employment and to qualification and skills attainment (please refer to 6.2.18 Environmental Statement - Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-056] and 7.10 Outline Skills Supply Chain and Employment Plan [APP-319]); • Enhancements to recreational walking as a result of a new permissive path (please refer to 6.2.4 Environmental Statement - Chapter 4 Scheme Description [APP-042] and 6.2.18 Environmental Statement - Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-056]); • Biodiversity Net Gain (please refer to 6.2.9 Environmental Statement - Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-047] and 6.3.9.12 Environmental Statement - Appendix 9.12 Biodiversity Net Gain Report [APP-088]); 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape and ecological enhancements (please refer to 6.4.8.18.1_A-6.4.8.18.3_A Environmental Statement - Figures 8.18.1 to 8.18.3 - Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Measures [EN010132/EX1/WB6.4.8.18.1 to WB6.4.8.18.3] and 7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan Revision A [EN010132/EX1/WB7.3_A]); and • Community Benefit Fund (refer to paragraph 4.8.1 of 7.5 Planning Statement [APP-313]) (it is noted that this does not form part of the DCO application, but is being delivered as a separate commitment by the Applicant). <p>The environmental benefits from the Scheme as identified in the Environmental Statement, its appendices, and other documents supporting the DCO Application, are secured by the requirements as set out in Schedule 2 of 3.1_A Draft Development Consent Order Revision A [EN010132/EX1/WB3.1_A].</p>	
MS07	Small aircraft in trouble may look to farms as the only safe landing option. What is the impact of solar arrays on aircraft safety?	6.3.16.1 Environmental Statement - Appendix 16.1 Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study [APP-132] considers glint and glare effects upon receptors such as Public Rights of Way, dwellings, roads, railway	

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		infrastructure as well as aviation receptors (see the executive summary (pg.3 [APP-132]).	
MS08	There is no programme for the retrofitting of solar and new properties are allowed without solar.	The Applicant notes the comment but this is outside of the scope of this Scheme.	
MS09	If the Scheme is allowed, generating electricity in this inefficient form, our children will blame us. This is all for easy money. The Applicant cares only for money, not for people.	The Applicant notes the comment.	
MS10	Future generations will look back critically on the poor stewardship of the land. We should not condemn swathes of countryside to solar.	The Applicant notes the comment.	
MS11	Some of the impact statements are flowered up with the use of outdated material.	<p>The Applicant is confident that the information presented in the DCO application submission documents is accurate and up to date at the time of submission.</p> <p>Any information which requires updating during the examination due to new policy and/or guidance, will be completed by the Applicant and submitted at the next appropriate deadline.</p>	

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MS12	<p>The IP cannot find any documentation to support various areas, due to the combined scale of the projects. The IP requests information on the impacts to:</p> <p>Food;</p> <p>Tourism;</p> <p>House prices;</p> <p>Community health and welfare;</p> <p>Long-term existence of communities;</p> <p>Reinstatement after decommissioning;</p> <p>Wildlife.</p>	<p>The Applicant points the commenter to the following sections of the Environmental Statement or provides comments on the topics raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food - Food security is not a material planning consideration. • Tourism - 6.2.18 Environmental Statement - Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-056] • House Prices - Property value is not a consideration for decision making on development consent orders. As such, impacts on property values have not been assessed as part of the Application. Nonetheless, there is no strong evidence to show solar farms negatively affect nearby property values, and it is more likely that other factors have more significant effects on property values. • Community health and welfare - The Applicant seeks to assure the public that the only identified significant adverse effect on human health and wellbeing as a result of the Scheme is anticipated to be a short- to medium-term temporary moderate adverse effect during construction (see 	Requirement 21, Schedule 2

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		<p>Table 18.15 and para. 18.7.62 of 6.2.18 Environmental Statement - Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-056]).</p> <p>No other significant adverse effects to human health and well-being have been identified in the Environmental Statement, as summarised in Section 21.5 of 6.2.21 Environmental Statement - Chapter 21 Other Environmental Matters [APP-059].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term existence of communities - The Applicant is unsure what this point relates to. • Reinstatement after decommissioning - As set out in the Outline Decommissioning Statement [APP-310], the land within the Scheme's Sites will be returned to the respective landowners and to its original use after decommissioning, after which the Applicant will have no control over its future use. The Applicant confirms that the following is secured through Requirement 21 of Schedule 2 of 3.1_A Draft Development Consent Order Revision A [EN010132/EX1/WB3.1_A]: "Within 12 months of the date that the undertaker decides to decommission any part of the authorised development, the undertaker must submit to the 	

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		<p>relevant planning authority for that part a decommissioning plan for approval" where "The decommissioning plan must be substantially in accordance with the outline decommissioning statement."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife - 6.2.9 Environmental Statement - Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-047] 	
MS13	<p>The IP is stunned that £1.4bn has been paid to electricity supplies to switch off generation. This should be spent on levelling up communities.</p>	<p>It is important to put in context, the current reasons for curtailment in the UK, and the prices paid to generators to curtail.</p> <p>Currently, curtailment is experienced on the UK's large-scale wind fleet. Much of this is due to transmission constraints: the transmission wires between the asset, where energy is generated, and the major points of consumption, do not have the capacity to transmit all of the generation. In the 12 months starting 1st October 2022 and ending 30th September 2023, National Grid data records metered wind to be 63TWh. Constraints due to location totalled 3.3TWh (5% off net generation) and constraints due simply to there being 'too much wind energy on the system' totalled 0.6TWh, or less than 1% of net generation.</p>	

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		<p>Chapter 9 of 7.11 Statement of Need [APP-320] describes that the Scheme proposes to connect to a well-connected section of the NETS which has available transmission capacity and is unlikely to cause the scheme to be curtailed.</p> <p>The Applicant's position is that market frameworks will encourage large-scale solar schemes such as the Scheme, to 'self-curtail' if market prices fall below zero, and the Scheme is not likely to be paid 'to switch off'. Equally storage facilities and consumers will be incentivised to shift their consumption to times of abundant energy production reducing curtailment, and reducing consumer costs through the procurement of cheap energy.</p>	