

**7000Acres Comments on the Applicant's Joint Report on Interrelationships
between Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects Revision B
EX2/WBB.1.9_B**

Deadline 4

February 2024

1. 7000Acres wishes to state that the Applicant's Report is incomplete and does not show the entirety of the schemes in the local area, and so cannot be a true assessment of the cumulative impact on this rural area. 7000Acres will submit a map showing the true extent of the solar schemes in this area.

2. We share the concerns shown made by WLDC, that:
'that the cumulative change to the landscape will be considerable and significant, and the combination of two or more sites has the potential to change the local landscape character at a scale that would be of more than local significance. The cumulative impact of the four adjacent NSIP scale solar schemes has the potential to affect the landscape at a regional scale through predominantly a change in land use: from arable to solar, creating what may be perceived as an 'energy landscape' as opposed to rural or agricultural one at present.'

3. The Applicant's use of "*professional judgement*", without supporting evidence, results in a conflicting view from those expressed by the Councils' experts and some of those expressed by the specialist employed by the Gate Burton solar NSIP. The Applicant has stated that the proposed development will have a negligible or beneficial cumulative impact on the landscape. However, within the Applicant's own documentation they argue the opposite. Paragraph 18.7.112 of the Socio-economic chapters (Doc. Ref. EN010133/APP/C6.2.18) states that the Scheme will 'have a long-term impact on the landscape character of some tourism and recreation receptors that are reliant on the landscape context for their value, such as viewpoints, landmarks, and cultural heritage assets'. This statement from the Applicant undermines their LVIA findings and conversely the LVIA findings undermine the Socio-economic statements as cited.

Summary

In the opinion of 7000Acres, this document does not provide a true and accurate assessment of the monumental cumulative impact the numerous solar NSIP schemes will have on the region.