

# West Burton Solar Project

## Draft Statement of Common Ground with Lincolnshire County Council Revision A

Prepared by: Lanpro Services  
April 2024

PINS reference: EN010132  
Document reference: EX6/WB8.3.1\_A

Planning Act 2008  
Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010



## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b><u>INTRODUCTION</u></b>	<b>3</b>
1.1	PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT	3
1.2	PARTIES TO THIS STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND	3
1.3	TERMINOLOGY	3
1.4	TOPIC REFERENCING FOR ALL MATTERS	4
<b>2</b>	<b><u>RECORD OF ENGAGEMENT</u></b>	<b>5</b>
2.1	SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION	5
<b>3</b>	<b><u>MATTERS AGREED</u></b>	<b>10</b>
3.1	MATTERS AGREED (AIR QUALITY)	10
3.2	MATTERS AGREED (ALTERNATIVES AND DESIGN EVOLUTION)	11
3.3	MATTERS AGREED (CLIMATE CHANGE)	11
3.4	MATTERS AGREED (ECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY)	12
3.5	MATTERS AGREED (ENERGY NEED)	13
3.6	MATTERS AGREED (GLINT AND GLARE)	14
3.7	MATTERS AGREED (HYDROLOGY, FLOOD RISK AND DRAINAGE)	15
3.8	MATTERS AGREED (MINERALS)	16
3.9	MATTERS AGREED (NOISE AND VIBRATION)	18
3.10	MATTERS AGREED (OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS)	19
3.11	MATTERS AGREED (PLANNING HISTORY)	20
3.12	MATTERS AGREED (PLANNING POLICY)	21
3.13	MATTERS AGREED (PRINCIPLE OF DEVELOPMENT)	22
3.14	MATTERS AGREED (SCHEME DESCRIPTION)	22
3.15	MATTERS AGREED (SOCIO-ECONOMICS, TOURISM AND RECREATION)	23
3.16	MATTERS AGREED (SOILS AND AGRICULTURE)	24
3.17	MATTERS AGREED (TRANSPORT AND ACCESS)	24
3.18	MATTERS AGREED (WASTE)	26
<b>4</b>	<b><u>MATTERS NOT AGREED</u></b>	<b>28</b>
4.1	MATTERS NOT AGREED (GENERAL)	28
4.2	MATTERS NOT AGREED (PRINCIPLE OF DEVELOPMENT)	29
4.3	MATTERS NOT AGREED (SOILS AND AGRICULTURE)	30
4.4	MATTERS NOT AGREED (WASTE)	35
<b>5</b>	<b><u>SIGNATORIES</u></b>	<b>38</b>

### **APPENDIX A: CULTURAL HERITAGE POSITION STATEMENT**

### **APPENDIX B: LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL POSITION STATEMENT**

### **APPENDIX C: WASTE FIGURE (WAS-02)**

## Issue Sheet

**Report Prepared for: West Burton Solar Project Ltd.  
Examination Deadline 6**

### **Statement of Common Ground Lincolnshire County Council Revision A**

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## **1 Introduction**

### **1.1 Purpose of the Document**

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared as part of the proposed West Burton Solar Project Development Consent Order (the Application) made by West Burton Solar Project Ltd (the Applicant) to the Secretary of State for Energy Security & Net Zero (the Secretary of State) pursuant to the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008).
- 1.1.2 This SoCG does not seek to replicate information which is available elsewhere within the Application documents. All documents are available in the deposit locations and/or the Planning Inspectorate website.
- 1.1.3 This SoCG has been produced to confirm to the Examining Authority (ExA) where agreement has been reached between the parties, and where agreement has not yet been reached. SoCGs are an established means in the DCO consenting process of allowing all parties to identify and focus on specific issues that may need to be addressed during the examination.

### **1.2 Parties to this Statement of Common Ground**

- 1.2.1 This SoCG has been prepared by (1) West Burton Solar Project Ltd. as the Applicant and (2) Lincolnshire County Council. Lincolnshire County Council is a host authority for the three Sites, referred to as West Burton 1, 2, and 3, that will house the PV panels, BESS and associated development.
- 1.2.2 Collectively, West Burton Solar Project Ltd. and Lincolnshire County Council are referred to as 'the parties'.

### **1.3 Terminology**

- 1.3.1 In the tables in **Sections 3 - 5** of this SoCG:
- "Agreed" indicates where the issue has been resolved.
  - "Not Agreed" indicates a final position, and
  - "Under discussion" indicates where these points will be the subject of ongoing discussion wherever possible to resolve, or refine, the extent of disagreement between the parties.



## 1.4 Topic Referencing for All Matters

1.4.1 All matters agreed, under discussion and not agreed have been given unique references which relate to the topic matter. The referencing system is defined as follows:

**Table 1.1: Topic Referencing**

Topic	Unique Identifying Code
Air Quality	AIR-xx
Alternatives and Design Evolution	ALT-xx
Climate Change	CLI-xx
Cultural Heritage	CUL-xx
Ecology and Biodiversity	ECO-xx
Energy Need	ENE-xx
General	GEN-xx
Glint and Glare	GLI-xx
Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	HFD-xx
Landscape and Visual Impact	LAN-xx
Minerals	MIN-xx
Noise and Vibration	NOI-xx
Other Environmental Matters	OEM-xx
Planning History	PHI-xx
Planning Policy	PPO-xx
Principle of Development	PRI-xx
Scheme Description	SCH-xx
Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation	STR-xx
Soils and Agriculture	SOI-xx
Transport and Access	TRA-xx
Waste	WAS-

1.4.2 The agreed position on all landscape and visual matters and cultural heritage matters; including the record of engagement on these topics, have been removed from this version of this document and are covered by standalone Position Statements appended to this Statement of Common Ground.

## 2 Record of Engagement

### 2.1 Summary of Consultation

2.1.1 The parties have been engaged in consultation since September 2021 prior to the Non-Statutory Consultation which ran from November to December 2021. A summary of the meetings and correspondence that has taken place between West Burton Solar Project and Lincolnshire County Council in relation to the Application is outlined in **Table 2.1**.

**Table 2.1: Record of Engagement**

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
<b>Principle of Development/General</b>		
15 <sup>th</sup> September 2021	Initial Project kick off meeting	The range of topics addressed in the SoCG. The representatives of LCC present were: Neil McBride – Head of Planning Emily Anderson – Trainee Planner
6 <sup>th</sup> June 2022	Councillor Briefing	The applicant and consultant team briefed the Planning Committee at Lincolnshire County Council.
	Monthly meetings with Planning Officers.	Covering the range of topics addressed in the SoCG. The representatives of LCC present at these meetings is: Neil McBride – Head of Planning
<b>Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage</b>		

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
12 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	Meeting with Ian Field, Growth Manager – Special Projects, LCC	<p>Discussion of Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy Report and Environmental Statement Chapter for Hydrology Flood Risk and Drainage.</p> <p>LCC requested that drainage strategies would be required for large areas of infrastructure, runoff rates should be limited to greenfield rates with appropriate SuDS measures provided.</p> <p>LCC highlighted that the issue of point erosion should be considered within the Drainage Strategies.</p> <p>LCC also requested that resilience to surface water flooding should be considered within the design of solar sites.</p>
1 <sup>st</sup> August 2022	Section 42 Consultation response	<p>Discussion of Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy Report and Environmental Statement Chapter for Hydrology Flood Risk and Drainage.</p> <p>LCC stated that they were encouraged that a hydrological assessment had to be undertaken and that the Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy <b>[APP-089]</b> to be submitted with the DCO application will include a review and summary of relevant legislation and national, regional and local planning policy relevant to the water environment.</p>
<b>Minerals</b>		
14 <sup>th</sup> April 2022	Meeting with Lincolnshire County Council	<p>Representatives of LCC present were:</p> <p>Richard Leonard – Minerals Officer</p> <p>Discussion over Study Area/Scope of Minerals Assessment.</p> <p>Acknowledgement from LCC that mineral deposits would be affected.</p> <p>Discussion that the Scheme only impacts on a relatively small part of a much larger area of safeguarded mineral reserves and Area of Search for future aggregate supply. Given the</p>

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
		<p>temporary nature of the Scheme, no concerns regarding sterilisation of mineral resources or impacts on mineral supply were raised by LCC.</p> <p>The cabling options for connection to the national grid, east of the River Trent are within a Sand and Gravel Mineral Safeguarding Area. No specific concerns were expressed by LCC given the relatively small land take.</p>
<b>Transport and Access (Lincolnshire County Council Highways)</b>		
25 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	Scoping Opinion response	<p>Scoping of <b>6.2.14 Environmental Statement - Chapter 14 Transport and Access [APP-052]</b>, <b>6.3.14.1_C Environmental Statement - Appendix 14.1 Transport Assessment Revision C [REP4-036]</b>, and <b>6.3.14.2_D Environmental Statement - Appendix 14.2 Construction Traffic Management Plan Revision D [REP4-038]</b>.</p> <p>LCC Commented that <i>“The proposed scope for Transport and Access is acceptable to the Council as the Highway Authority”</i>.</p>
22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2022	Pre-application Meeting (MS Teams)	<p>Scoping of <b>6.3.14.1_C Environmental Statement - Appendix 14.1 Transport Assessment Revision C [REP4-036]</b>, and <b>6.3.14.2_D Environmental Statement - Appendix 14.2 Construction Traffic Management Plan Revision D [REP4-038]</b>.</p> <p>Discussion between TPA and Ian Field (Growth Manager (Special Projects)) at LCC via MS Teams where LCC agreed that the construction vehicle routes and accesses that are proposed are appropriate, and the construction vehicle trip generation is unlikely to cause any highway capacity issues. However, LCC noted that the Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) <b>[REP4-038]</b> should include measures to prevent construction vehicle movements during the peak hours (08:00-09:00 and 17:00-18:00).</p>

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
		LCC also requested a cumulative assessment that considers all proposals in the area. This was undertaken and included in <b>6.2.14 Environmental Statement - Chapter 14_Transport and Access [APP-052]</b> and <b>6.3.14.1_C Environmental Statement - Appendix 14.1 Transport Assessment Revision C [REP4-036]</b> .
1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022	Section 42 Consultation Response	<p><b>6.3.14.1_C Environmental Statement - Appendix 14.1 Transport Assessment Revision C [REP4-036]</b>, and <b>6.3.14.2_D Environmental Statement - Appendix 14.2 Construction Traffic Management Plan Revision D [REP4-038]</b>.</p> <p>LCC commented “Chapter 14 Transport and Access-the assessment included in this chapter is acceptable, it is based on reasonable assumptions of trip rates, construction duration and route assignment. The results show that the predicted construction traffic would not cause capacity problems on the local highway network, it is noted that some routes will experience large percentage increases in HGV movements (&gt;100%) however these are currently very low trafficked routes. Details of access arrangements, swept paths, parking, storage and plant areas and a Travel Plan for construction staff are proposed to be provided in a Construction Management Traffic Plan”.</p>
8th June 2023	DCO Relevant Representation	<p><b>6.2.14 Environmental Statement - Chapter 14_Transport and Access [APP-052]</b>, <b>6.3.14.1_C Environmental Statement - Appendix 14.1 Transport Assessment Revision C [REP4-036]</b>, and <b>6.3.14.2_D Environmental Statement - Appendix 14.2 Construction Traffic Management Plan Revision D [REP4-038]</b>.</p> <p>LCC commented “Consider that the assessment within the Transport and Access Chapter is appropriate and provides a reasonable estimate of HGV and car traffic associated with the development during construction. For most of the construction routes the impact will be within acceptable levels on the highway network.</p>

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
		<p>However, concern is raised regarding the access route proposed for West Burton 1...".</p> <p>LCC and the Applicant are working to resolve LCC's concerns with regards to access to West Burton 1.</p>
13 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	DCO Relevant Representation Meeting (MS Teams)	<p>Meeting to discuss LCC relevant representation on highways matters, in particular the access route to West Burton 1.</p> <p>Agreed that the Applicant will prepare a technical response note to include drawings showing an indicative location for pass-by bays on the West Burton 1 access route. Also agreed that the Applicant will provide swept path analysis for the abnormal load vehicle using the West Burton 1 access route.</p>

2.1.2 It is agreed that this is an accurate record of the key meetings and consultation undertaken between (1) West Burton Solar Project Ltd. and (2) Lincolnshire County Council in relation to the issues addressed in this SoCG.

### 3 Matters Agreed

Tables 3.1 to 3.21 below detail by topic the matters agreed with Lincolnshire County Council.

#### 3.1 Matters Agreed (Air Quality)

Table 3.1

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
AIR-01 Air Quality	Baseline Conditions	The baseline conditions which are detailed within Section 17.5 of <b>6.2.17 Environmental Statement - Chapter 17 Air Quality [APP-055]</b> are representative of the site conditions.
AIR-02 Air Quality	Methodology and Assessment	The methodology adopted within the Air Quality assessment ( <b>Environmental Assessment - Appendices 17.1-17.4 [APP-133 to APP-136]</b> ) has been derived from the information obtained through consultation with stakeholders and by reviewing relevant guidance and studies. The assessment methodology is detailed within Section 17.4 of <b>6.2.17 Environmental Statement - Chapter 17 Air Quality [APP-055]</b> and is considered acceptable.
AIR-03 Air Quality	Methodology and Assessment (Construction Vehicles)	As detailed within the Air Quality assessment ( <b>Environmental Assessment - Appendices 17.1-17.4 [APP-133 to APP-136]</b> ) the proposed construction vehicle numbers will not exceed the relevant IAQM/EPUK thresholds e.g., 100 HGV Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT), therefore there is no requirement for detailed construction air quality modelling. Assessment has therefore been scoped out of <b>6.2.17 Environmental Statement - Chapter 17 Air Quality [APP-055]</b> . This approach is considered acceptable.
AIR-04 Air Quality	Methodology and Assessment (Operational Vehicles)	As detailed within the Air Quality assessment ( <b>Environmental Assessment - Appendices 17.1-17.4 [APP-133 to APP-136]</b> ) the proposed operational vehicle numbers will be limited and will not exceed the relevant IAQM/EPUK thresholds (e.g., 100 HGV Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT), therefore there is no requirement for detailed air quality modelling. Assessment has therefore been scoped out of <b>6.2.17 Environmental Statement - Chapter 17 Air Quality [APP-055]</b> . This approach is considered acceptable.

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
AIR-05 Air Quality	Mitigation	The proposed mitigation measures set out within Section 17.8 of <b>6.2.17 Environmental Statement - Chapter 17 Air Quality [APP-055]</b> are acceptable.

### 3.2 Matters Agreed (Alternatives and Design Evolution)

Table 3.2

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
ALT-01 Alternatives and Design Evolution	Site Selection Assessment	The methodology used in <b>6.3.5.1_A Environmental Statement - Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment Revision A [AS-004]</b> is appropriate given that there is no standard methodology for the site selection of solar farms and NPS EN-1 4.4.3 states <i>"the consideration of alternatives in order to comply with policy requirements should be carried out in a proportionate manner"</i> .
ALT-02 Alternatives and Design Evolution	ES Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution	The scope of <b>6.2.5 Environmental Statement - Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-043]</b> including the assessment of alternatives and description of design evolution has been carried out in a proportionate manner and is considered acceptable.

### 3.3 Matters Agreed (Climate Change)

Table 3.3

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
CLI-01 Climate Change	ES Chapter 7: Baseline Conditions	The baseline conditions detailed within Section 7.6 of <b>6.2.7_A Environmental Statement - Chapter 7 Climate Change Revision A [REP1-012]</b> are considered representative of the baseline site conditions and therefore acceptable.



Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
CLI-02 Climate Change	ES Chapter 7: Methodology and Assessment	The assessment methodology detailed within Section 7.4 of <b>6.2.7_A Environmental Statement - Chapter 7_Climate Change Revision A [REP1-012]</b> is considered acceptable.
CLI-03 Climate Change	ES Chapter 7: Mitigation	Section 7.9 of <b>6.2.7_A Environmental Statement - Chapter 7 Climate Change Revision A [REP1-012]</b> has not identified the need for any additional mitigation or enhancement measures
CLI-04 Climate Change	Construction Outcomes	The Scheme will have a negligible impact on CO <sub>2</sub> e emissions during the construction phase from the production of materials, transport and construction work on site as set out within Section 7.8, paragraph 7.8.46 of <b>6.2.7_A Environmental Statement - Chapter 7 Climate Change Revision A [REP1-012]</b> .
CLI-05 Climate Change	Operational Outcomes	The development will have a major significant beneficial effect on Climate Change as the development will reduce reliance on fossil fuels and will result in a net reduction in Carbon Dioxide and Equivalent emissions as set out within Section 7.8, paragraph 7.8.68 and 7.8.69 of <b>6.2.7_A Environmental Statement - Chapter 7 Climate Change Revision A [REP1-012]</b> .

### 3.4 Matters Agreed (Ecology and Biodiversity)

Table 3.4

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
ECO-01 Ecology and Biodiversity	Methodology	The methodology adopted within Section 9.4 of <b>6.2.9 Environmental Statement - Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-047]</b> has been derived from the information obtained through consultation and engagement with stakeholders and by reviewing relevant guidance and studies and is considered acceptable in so far as it relates to those elements of the Scheme within Lincolnshire County.

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
ECO-02 Ecology and Biodiversity	Baseline Conditions	The baseline conditions which are detailed within Section 9.5 of <b>6.2.9 Environmental Statement - Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-047]</b> are representative of the baseline site conditions in so far as they relate to those elements of the Scheme within Lincolnshire County.
ECO-03 Ecology and Biodiversity	Mitigation	The proposed mitigation measures set out within Section 9.8 of <b>6.2.9 Environmental Statement - Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-047]</b> are acceptable in so far as they relate to those elements of the Scheme within Lincolnshire County.
ECO-04 Ecology and Biodiversity	Residual Effects	The judgements on the likely residual effects and conclusions for the effects to ecology set out within Section 9.7 of <b>6.2.9 Environmental Statement - Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-047]</b> are considered acceptable in so far as they relate to those elements of the Scheme within Lincolnshire County.

### 3.5 Matters Agreed (Energy Need)

Table 3.5

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
ENE-01 Energy Need	Need for Large Scale Solar	The principle of the need for large scale solar projects is established in national planning policy, as detailed in Section 4 of <b>7.5_C Planning Statement Revision C [EX6/WB7.5_C]</b> and <b>7.11 Statement of Need [APP-320]</b> ; and the principle that large scale solar is an essential part of the UK's generation mix which will bring benefits to national decarbonisation and energy security agendas as well as support the affordability of clean electricity is supported by Lincolnshire County Council.

### 3.6 Matters Agreed (Glint and Glare)

Table 3.6

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
GLI-01 Glint and Glare	Baseline Conditions	As agreed with LCC, the baseline conditions detailed at Section 16.5 of <b>6.2.16 Environmental Statement - Chapter 16 Glint and Glare [APP-054]</b> and within Section 5 of <b>6.3.16.1 Environmental Statement - Appendix 16.1 Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study [APP-132]</b> are representative of the baseline site conditions within Lincolnshire County.
GLI-02 Glint and Glare	Methodology and Assessment	The assessment methodology adopted in the Glint and Glare assessment has been agreed with LCC. The methodology has been derived from the information obtained through consultation with stakeholders and by reviewing any relevant guidance and studies. The assessment methodology is detailed within Section 16.4 of <b>6.2.16 Environmental Statement - Chapter 16 Glint and Glare [APP-054]</b> and within Appendix A of <b>6.3.16.1 Environmental Statement - Appendix 16.1 Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study [APP-132]</b> . The methodology used in the report has been used in other 1,000 glint and glare assessment and has been tested for NSIP solar schemes before. Therefore, it is considered to be acceptable.
GLI-03 Glint and Glare	Significance of Impacts and Mitigation Measures	No significant impacts are predicted because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where effects are predicted to have a 'Moderate' impact or higher the Applicant has proposed mitigation in the form of screening to significantly obstruct the visibility of the reflective area;</li> <li>• Where effects are predicted to have a 'Low' impact mitigation is not recommended.</li> <li>• Therefore, once the proposed mitigation strategy is in place, the overall impact of the Scheme upon the nearby identified receptors is predicted to be 'Minor/Negligible Adverse', in EIA terms.</li> </ul>

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
		Further information can be found in Section 16.8 and 16.9 of <b>6.2.16 Environmental Statement - Chapter 16 Glint and Glare [APP-054]</b> and Section 7 of <b>6.3.16.1 Environmental Statement - Appendix 16.1 Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study [APP-132]</b> .

### 3.7 Matters Agreed (Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage)

Table 3.7

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
HFD-01 Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	Methodology	The methodology adopted within Section 10.4 of <b>6.2.10 Environmental Statement - Chapter 10 Hydrology Flood Risk and Drainage [APP-048]</b> has been derived from the information obtained through consultation with stakeholders and by reviewing relevant guidance and studies and is considered acceptable.
HFD-02 Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	Baseline Conditions	The baseline conditions which are detailed within Section 10.5 of <b>6.2.10 Environmental Statement - Chapter 10 Hydrology Flood Risk and Drainage [APP-048]</b> are representative of the baseline site conditions within Lincolnshire County.
HFD-03 Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	Mitigation	The proposed mitigation measures set out within Section 10.8 of <b>6.2.10 Environmental Statement - Chapter 10 Hydrology Flood Risk and Drainage [APP-048]</b> are acceptable.
HFD-04 Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	Surface Water Flooding	It is agreed that Surface Water Flood Risk is appropriately addressed at this stage as set out in Section 3.0 of <b>6.3.10.1 Environmental Statement - Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy Report [APP-089]</b> .
HFD-05	Drainage	Paragraph 10.8.19 of <b>6.2.10 Environmental Statement - Chapter 10 Hydrology Flood Risk and Drainage [APP-048]</b> details maintaining the existing surface water run-off regime by

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage		<p>utilising permeable surfacing for the site accesses, linear infiltration trenches around any proposed infrastructure (substations and batteries) and wildflower planting at the leeward edge of solar panels will ensure that the Scheme is unlikely to generate surface water runoff rates beyond the baseline scenario.</p> <p>Lincolnshire County Council have stated that <i>'The surface water drainage strategy is appropriate for the development and an appropriate worded requirement can be included within the DCO for the full details.'</i></p> <p>Requirement 11, 'Surface and Foul Water Drainage' is included within <b>3.1_E Draft Development Consent Order Revision E [REP4-024]</b>. Additional detail regarding the proposed surface water drainage strategies in accordance with SuDS principles for proposed areas of hardstanding will need to be provided to ensure greenfield run-off rates are maintained. Requirement 11 of the DCO secures written details of the surface water drainage scheme and (if any) foul water drainage scheme through a plan which must be substantially in accordance with the outline drainage strategy.</p>

### 3.8 Matters Agreed (Minerals)

Table 3.8

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
MIN-01 Minerals	Legislation and Planning Policy	The summary of relevant legislation and planning policy set out within Section 12.3 of <b>6.2.12 Environmental Statement - Chapter 12 Minerals [APP-050]</b> , is relevant to the Minerals Assessment and is up to date and complete for the purposes of the decision-making process.
MIN-02 Minerals	Assessment Methodology and	The assessment methodology and significance criteria set out within Section 12.4 of <b>6.2.12 Environmental Statement - Chapter 12 Minerals [APP-050]</b> provides an appropriate approach to assessing the potential likely significant effects on mineral resources.

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
	Significance Criteria	
MIN-03 Minerals	Study Area/identification of known resources (baseline)	The extent of the Study Area/ identification of known resources set out within Section 12.5 of <b>6.2.12 Environmental Statement - Chapter 12 Minerals [APP-050]</b> are sufficient to inform the Minerals assessment.
MIN-04 Minerals	Identification and Evaluation of Likely Significant Effects: Assessment of Impact on Mineral Resources (sand and gravel)	The conclusion set out within Section 12.7 of <b>6.2.12 Environmental Statement - Chapter 12 Minerals [APP-050]</b> that Scheme only impacts on a relatively small area of safeguarded mineral reserves and Area of Search for future aggregate supply. The safeguarded mineral reserves and Area of Search relate to a much larger area of deposits associated with the Trent Valley. Given the nature and characteristics of the Scheme, there would be minimal impact in terms of any sterilisation of mineral resources or mineral supply within the County.
MIN-05 Minerals	Identification and Evaluation of Likely Significant Effects: Assessment of Impact on Mineral Resources (Petroleum)	The conclusion set out within Section 12.7 of <b>6.2.12 Environmental Statement - Chapter 12 Minerals [APP-050]</b> that the Scheme does not affect an existing oil field or associated mineral consultation zone. The Scheme would not have any implications for existing or proposed exploration and eventual exploitation of oil and gas resources.
MIN-06 Minerals	Mitigation Measures: Cable Route Corridor	The mitigation set out within Section 12.8 of <b>6.2.12 Environmental Statement - Chapter 12 Minerals [APP-050]</b> addresses the impact on the Safeguarded Mineral Resource in the Trent Valley within the Cable Route Corridor and states that, wherever possible, cable routes should follow existing infrastructure corridors or alternatively follow the edge of significant landscape

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
		features rather than directly crossing open fields to avoid creating further obstructions to future mineral exploitation. This is agreed in so far as it relates to Lincolnshire County Council.

### 3.9 Matters Agreed (Noise and Vibration)

Table 3.9

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
NOI-01 Noise and Vibration	Baseline Monitoring	The baseline noise monitoring detailed within Section 15.5 of <b>6.2.15 Environmental Statement - Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration [APP-053]</b> and <b>6.3.15.1 Environmental Statement - Appendix 15.1 Noise Survey Information [APP-129]</b> is representative of the sound levels in the vicinity of the Sites and experienced by nearby sensitive receptors. The selected sensitive receptors represent those locations which would potentially be worst affected by noise and vibration.
NOI-02 Noise and Vibration	Methodology and Assessment	The methodology detailed in Section 15.4 and the assessments in Sections 15.7, 15.8 and 15.9 of <b>6.2.15 Environmental Statement - Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration [APP-053]</b> and <b>6.3.15.3 Environmental Statement - Appendix 15.3 Assessment of Key Effects [APP-131]</b> for noise and vibration associated with both the construction and operational phases of the Scheme is acceptable.
NOI-03 Noise and Vibration	Assessment Outcomes	The effects of noise and vibration detailed in <b>6.2.15 Environmental Statement - Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration [APP-053]</b> and <b>6.3.15.3 Environmental Statement - Appendix 15.3 Assessment of Key Effects [APP-131]</b> from the construction and operational phases of the Scheme have been assessed robustly in accordance with relevant policy and guidance on noise and vibration assessments and do not result in any significant impacts and are therefore acceptable.

### 3.10 Matters Agreed (Other Environmental Matters)

Table 3.10

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
OEM-01 Other Environmental Matters	Electromagnetic Fields	The technical reporting in paragraphs 21.2.3 to 21.2.8 in <b>6.2.21 Environmental Statement - Chapter 21 Other Environmental Matters [APP-059]</b> is sufficient to demonstrate there are no adverse impacts to human health from electromagnetic fields.
OEM-02 Other Environmental Matters	Telecommunications, Utilities and Television Receptors	The information provided within Section 21.3 of <b>6.2.21 Environmental Statement - Chapter 21 Other Environmental Matters [APP-059]</b> is sufficient, and the protective mitigation measures set out in <b>7.1_D Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan Revision D [EX6/WB7.1_D2]</b> ; <b>7.14_C Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan Revision C [REP4-054]</b> and <b>7.15_B Crossing Schedule Revision B [REP4-056]</b> are appropriate and therefore acceptable.  Protective provisions for the protection of electricity, gas, water and sewerage undertakers and operators of electronic communications code networks are included in Parts 1 and 2 of Schedule 16 to the <b>3.1_G Draft Development Consent Order Revision G [EX6/WB3.1_G]</b> and, where relevant, bespoke protective provisions are being negotiated or have been agreed to protect the assets of statutory undertakers that interface with the Scheme.
OEM-03 Other Environmental Matters	Major Accidents and Disasters (excluding fire safety)	The scope and methodology of the assessment undertaken throughout the ES and signposted within Section 21.6 of <b>6.2.21 Environmental Statement - Chapter 21 Other Environmental Matters [APP-059]</b> including the identification of likely significant effects and likely significant cumulative effects has been carried out in a robust and proportionate manner and is considered acceptable.
OEM-04	Major Accidents and Disasters (fire safety)	The assessment undertaken and relevant mitigation measures provided with regard to fire safety as set out within Section 21.6 of <b>6.2.21 Environmental Statement - Chapter 21 Other Environmental Matters [APP-059]</b> and as set out in <b>7.9_B Outline Battery Fire Safety</b>



Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
Other Environmental Matters		<b>Management Plan Revision B [EX6/WB7.9_B]</b> have been carried out in a robust and proportionate manner and are considered acceptable. The design of the BESS is suitable to address the requirements of the Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service.
OEM-05 Other Environmental Matters	Human Health	The scope and methodology of the assessment undertaken throughout the ES and signposted in Section 21.5 of <b>6.2.21 Environmental Statement - Chapter 21 Other Environmental Matters [APP-059]</b> including the identification of likely significant effects and likely significant cumulative effects has been carried out in a robust and proportionate manner and is considered acceptable.

### 3.11 Matters Agreed (Planning History)

**Table 3.11**

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
PHI-01 Planning History	Planning History	The relevant planning history for the Scheme insofar as it relates to land within Lincolnshire is set out at <b>7.5_C Planning Statement Revision C [EX6/WB7.5_C]</b> in Appendix A: Planning Application History Search West Burton Sites (pg.152-160) and Appendix B: Planning Application History Search Cable Route Corridor (pg.161-167) respectively.

### 3.12 Matters Agreed (Planning Policy)

**Table 3.12**

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
PPO-01 Planning Policy	Legislation and Policy	<p>The updated National Policy Statements were published on 22 November 2023 and designated by the Secretary of State on 17 January 2024. Section 1.6 of NPS EN-1 (November 2023) sets out the transitional provisions and states that for DCO applications submitted prior to the designation of the November 2023 NPSs (such as the Scheme), the 2011 suite of NPSs will continue to have effect and therefore the DCO application for the Scheme will be determined under s105 of the Planning Act 2008.</p> <p>The extent to which the updated NPS's are relevant is a matter for the relevant Secretary of State to consider within the framework of the Planning Act 2008 and with regard to the specific circumstances of each Development Consent Order application. The Applicant considers that the NPSs designated in January 2024 will be an important and relevant consideration for the Secretary of State in determining the application for the Scheme.</p> <p>The Scheme has been assessed against the relevant and up to date Lincolnshire planning policies as set out within Section 6 of <b>7.5_C Planning Statement Revision C [EX6/WB7.5_C]</b>.</p>

### 3.13 Matters Agreed (Principle of Development)

**Table 3.13**

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
PRI-01 Principle of Development	Project Components	Whether the siting of the individual project components, as set out in <b>3.1_G Draft Development Consent Order Revision G [EX6/WB3.1_G]</b> and <b>7.6 Design and Access Statement [APP-314 to APP-315]</b> , are acceptable.
PRI-02 Principle of Development	Acceptability of Development Consent Order and Requirements	Whether the drafting of <b>3.1_G Draft Development Consent Order Revision G [EX6/WB3.1_G]</b> is acceptable, including the scope and wording of the requirements.

### 3.14 Matters Agreed (Scheme Description)

**Table 3.14**

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
SCH-01 Scheme Description	Scheme Description	The Scheme description set out at <b>6.2.3 Environmental Statement - Chapter 3 The Order Limits [APP-041]</b> is accurate.

### 3.15 Matters Agreed (Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation)

**Table 3.15**

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
STR-01 Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation	Methodology	The methodology used in the assessment of socio-economic, tourism and recreation impacts as set out within Section 18.4 of <b>6.2.18 Environmental Statement - Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-056]</b> is appropriate, given that there is no standard methodology for the assessment of socio-economic and associated impacts for EIA.
STR-02 Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation	Assessment Scope	The scope of the assessment undertaken within Sections 18.7, 18.9, and 18.10 of <b>6.2.18 Environmental Statement - Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-056]</b> including the identification of likely significant effects and likely significant cumulative effects has been carried out in a robust and proportionate manner and is considered acceptable.
STR-04 Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation	Public Rights of Way	Works that may cause disruption to public rights of way, including diversions and temporary closures where necessary are controlled through the measures set out in <b>6.3.14.3_D Environmental Statement - Appendix 14.3 Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan Revision D [REP4-040]</b> . This is secured through Requirement 18 in Schedule 2 of <b>3.1_G Draft Development Consent Order Revision G [EX6/WB3.1_G]</b> . The measures set out in this Plan are deemed to be acceptable.
STR-05 Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation	Community Benefits	<p>The proposed embedded and additional enhancement measures as set out in Sections 18.6 and 18.9 of <b>6.2.18 Environmental Statement - Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-056]</b> are proportionate and acceptable to provide sufficient socio-economic, tourism and recreational benefits.</p> <p>The Applicant has committed to the provision of a Community Benefit Fund, as stated at Section 4.8 of <b>7.5_C Planning Statement Revision C [EX6/WB7.5_C]</b>. However, this falls outside the remit of the DCO Application as it is not required to mitigate the impacts of the Scheme. Accordingly, as set out in paragraph 4.8.1 of the <b>7.5_C Planning Statement Revision C [EX6/WB7.5_C]</b>, the Community Benefit Fund must not be given any weight or taken into</p>

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
		account by the Secretary of State when balancing the positives or negatives of the Scheme. The Applicant is, however, open to continuing discussions with LCC regarding the potential mechanisms for the fund distribution post close of the examination.

### 3.16 Matters Agreed (Soils and Agriculture)

Table 3.16

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
SOI-01 Soils and Agriculture	Baseline Conditions	The baseline conditions detailed within Section 19.8 of <b>6.2.19 Environmental Statement - Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [APP-057]</b> and within <b>6.3.19.1 Environmental Statement - Appendix 19.1 Agricultural Land Quality, Soil Resources and Farming Circumstances Report [APP-137]</b> are representative of the site conditions within Lincolnshire County.
SOI-02 Soils and Agriculture	Methodology and Assessment	The assessment methodology detailed within Section 19.6 of <b>6.2.19 Environmental Statement - Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [APP-057]</b> is considered acceptable.

### 3.17 Matters Agreed (Transport and Access)

Table 3.17

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
TRA-01 Transport and Access	Methodology	The methodology adopted within Section 14.4 of <b>6.2.14 Environmental Statement - Chapter 14 Transport and Access [APP-052]</b> has been derived from the information obtained through consultation and engagement with stakeholders and by reviewing relevant policy, guidance and studies and is considered acceptable.

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
TRA-02 Transport and Access	Baseline Assessment	The baseline conditions which are detailed in Section 14.5 of <b>6.2.14 Environmental Statement - Chapter 14 Transport and Access [APP-052]</b> are representative of the baseline site conditions.
TRA-03 Transport and Access	Mitigation	The proposed mitigation measures set out within Section 14.6 of <b>6.2.14 Environmental Statement - Chapter 14 Transport and Access [APP-052]</b> are considered acceptable.
TRA-04 Transport and Access	Transport Assessment and Construction Traffic Management Plan: Construction Vehicle (HGV Route)	All HGVs associated with the construction phase of the Scheme will follow the designated routes as illustrated in the following figures set out in <b>6.3.14.1_C Environmental Statement - Appendix 14.1 Transport Assessment Revision C [REP4-036]</b> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Figure 6.1: West Burton 1 Construction Vehicle Route</li> <li>Figure 6.2: West Burton 2 Construction Vehicle Route</li> <li>Figure 6.3: West Burton 3 Construction Vehicle Route</li> <li>Figure 6.4: Cable Route Corridor Construction Vehicle Route</li> </ul> Figure 7.1: Construction Vehicle Route – Abnormal Loads
TRA-05 Transport and Access	Vehicle Movements: Trip Generation	The forecast number of construction vehicles set out at Table 5.1 (HGV deliveries), Table 5.2 (construction worker vehicle movements) and paragraph 5.17 (cable route corridor vehicle movements) of <b>6.3.14.1_C Environmental Statement - Appendix 14.1 Transport Assessment Revision C [REP4-036]</b> is accepted and will not have a material impact upon the capacity, operation, and safety of the Local Highway Network.
TRA-06 Transport and Access	Abnormal indivisible Loads	The routes identified for the delivery of abnormal loads, as set out in Figure 7.1 and described at paragraph 7.10 of <b>6.3.14.1_C Environmental Statement - Appendix 14.1 Transport Assessment Revision C [REP4-036]</b> , are acceptable.
TRA-07 Transport and Access	Construction Traffic	The measures set out in <b>6.3.14.2_D Environmental Statement - Appendix 14.2 Construction Traffic Management Plan Revision D [REP4-038]</b> are appropriate to manage the effects of construction traffic on the Local Highway Network. The CTMP has been updated to include

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
	Management Measures	Applicant commitment to pay for approval of heavy duty access crossings and minor works permits relating to access works.
TRA-08 Transport and Access	Access to West Burton 1	LCC has requested pass-by bays on the approach to the West Burton 1 Site. This has been undertaken by the Applicant's transport consultants and indicative drawings have been provided in <b>6.3.14.1_C Environmental Statement - Appendix 14.1 Transport Assessment Revision C [REP4-036]</b> . These matters are agreed.

### 3.18 Matters Agreed (Waste)

Table 3.18

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
WAS-01 Waste	Waste Policy	Applicable waste policy is set out within Section 20.3 of <b>6.2.20 Environmental Statement - Chapter 20 Waste [APP-058]</b> and is agreed with the exception of the relevance of policies within the MWLP. See WAS-05 below.
WAS-02 Waste	Waste Site Safeguarding	<p>The Order limits as set out in <b>2.1_B Location Plan Revision B [REP4-004]</b> confirm no existing or safeguarded proposed waste sites are impacted by the location of the Scheme.</p> <p>LCC can confirm no allocated sites/areas are impacted as per page 23 of the 2017 SLD.</p> <p>A map providing an excerpt from LCC's MWLP Core Strategy and Development Management Policies document Figure 6: Existing Minerals and Waste Sites in West Lindsey District, has been appended to this SoCG (Appendix C). This demonstrates that no existing or allocated waste sites as identified in the MWLP lie within the Order Limits. The nearest, site 91 Willow Tree Farm Recycling Centre, is located approximately 300m from the southwest corner of West Burton 2 but is not anticipated to be affected by the development of the Scheme.</p>

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
WAS-03 Waste	Assessment scope	The scope of the assessment undertaken within Sections 20.7, 20.9, and 20.10 of <b>6.2.20 Environmental Statement - Chapter 20 Waste [APP-058]</b> including the identification of likely significant effects and likely significant cumulative effects has been carried out in a robust and proportionate manner and is considered acceptable.
WAS-04 Waste	Proposed Mitigation	<p>The proposed embedded and additional mitigation measures as set out within Sections 20.6 and 20.9 of <b>6.2.20 Environmental Statement - Chapter 20 Waste [APP-058]</b> are considered proportionate and acceptable.</p> <p>The Applicant has committed to providing a scheme of monitoring of waste facility capacity and technical capability through a Waste Management Strategy, to be approved by the relevant waste planning authority as secured by Requirement 14 of Schedule 2 to the <b>3.1_G Draft Development Consent Order Revision G [EX6/WB3.1_G]</b>. This has been set out, including the recommended text additions from LCC in <b>7.14_C Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan Revision C [REP4-054]</b>.</p>



## 4 Matters Not Agreed

Tables 4.1 to 4.4 below detail by topic matters “not agreed” with Lincolnshire County Council.

### 4.1 Matters Not Agreed (General)

Table 4.1

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Not Agreed	Council/Applicant Comment
GEN-01 General	Examination of Cumulative Effects	The Applicant will provide a summary of significant cumulative effects anticipated to be generated by the multiple solar NSIPs proposed in Lincolnshire. This will be submitted to the examination for the Scheme, so that the Examining Authority can be best placed to understand and consider the identified cumulative effects. The Applicant is also open to the holding of joint examination hearings with other local solar NSIP developers wherein cumulative effects are examined in public.	<b>LCC:</b> It is a requirement to ensure that the decision maker has up to date assessments of cumulative impacts at the time a decision is made. - There is insufficient assessment of the combinations between different projects to enable the decision maker to make a sound decision on all cumulative projects. - In the event that the decision maker determines all three DCO applications (Cottam, Gate Burton and West Burton) at the same time, the current assessment only allows them to either find the cumulative impacts of all three ‘acceptable, or ‘unacceptable’. If the cumulative impacts are concluded to be ‘unacceptable’, the only decisions able to be made are to either grant just one of the projects, or all three of them must be refused. - There is no cumulative environmental assessment to allow a decision on whether two projects could be granted in such a situation.

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Not Agreed	Council/Applicant Comment
			<p><b>Applicant:</b> The Applicant disagrees with LCC's position. There is no need to cumulatively assess the various potential combination of projects as the Applicant has assessed the worst case. In the event that the Secretary of State considers that the cumulative significant effects of all three projects is not acceptable in the planning balance, they can request further information during the decision-making period to establish whether the cumulative significant effects of only two of the projects would be acceptable. In any event, the Applicant's position is that the benefits of the Scheme outweigh the significant cumulative effects identified.</p>

## 4.2 Matters Not Agreed (Principle of Development)

Table 4.2

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Not Agreed	Council/Applicant Comment
PRI-03 Principle of Development	Project Components	Whether the siting of the individual project components, as set out in <b>3.1_F Draft Development Consent Order Revision F [EN010132/EX5/WB3.1_F]</b> and <b>7.6 Design and Access Statement [APP-314 to APP-315]</b> , are acceptable.	<p><b>LCC:</b> Yes agree that this point is picked up within landscape and visual impact considerations (see Appendix B: landscape and visual impact position statement).</p> <p><b>Applicant:</b> The Applicant considers the project layout to be acceptable. It is noted that LCC have</p>

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Not Agreed	Council/Applicant Comment
			not provided comments specifically on matters of good design or site selection within the Local Impact Report or previous written submissions. The Council's concerns with regard to siting are, therefore, understood to relate primarily to matters of landscape and visual impact. The position between the Applicant and LCC on landscape and visual impact matters is set out in the position statement appended to this Statement of Common Ground.

### 4.3 Matters Not Agreed (Soils and Agriculture)

Table 4.3

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Not Agreed	Council/Applicant Comment
SOI-03 Soils and Agriculture	Assessment Outcomes – impacts to ALC graded land and soil quality	Natural England document Agricultural Land Classification: protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land (TIN049) <a href="https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/35012">https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/35012</a> explains the Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) system and its use in informing land use planning decisions for agricultural land. The Applicant has submitted an ALC assessment for agricultural land within the Sites showing it is predominantly ALC Grade 3b, not best and most versatile agricultural land.	<b>LCC:</b> The Proposed Development is likely to have a cumulative or defined negative impact that will result in the loss of agricultural production in the development area generally and/or the permanent loss of production from mostly medium quality agricultural land.  The permanent loss of BMV arable land within the main development site and that required for the corridor route which is classed as best and most versatile agricultural land would have a cumulative or defined negative impact that will result in the loss of agricultural production in the

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Not Agreed	Council/Applicant Comment
		<p>The Scheme is unlikely to result in loss of best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Scheme will be decommissioned at the end of its operational life;</li> <li>• Land will retain its existing Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) grade baseline after decommissioning of the Scheme as set out at Section 19.10 of <b>6.2.19 Environmental Statement - Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [APP-057]</b>;</li> <li>• The Scheme will have minimal impact on soil quality as set out at Section 19.10 of <b>6.2.19 Environmental Statement - Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [APP-057]</b>;</li> </ul> <p>A Soil Management Plan (SMP) will be included within the agreed Construction, Operational and Decommissioning Environmental Management Plans (CEMP, OEMP, DEMP) with the aim of conserving the soil resource and its functional capacity for support of agricultural production as set out at paragraph 19.10.1 of <b>6.2.19 Environmental Statement - Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [APP-057]</b>.</p>	<p>area generally and/or the permanent loss of agricultural production from mostly medium quality agricultural land.</p> <p>LCC estimate that 50+% of the cable route will be BMV and identify issues of concern for farmers and landowners relating to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land drainage</li> <li>• Weed burden</li> <li>• Biosecurity for plant diseases</li> <li>• Timeliness of soil stripping and storage</li> </ul> <p>During the construction phase there will be significant damage to soil structure particularly on heavy clay soils. There is inevitably a lot of trafficking of vehicles on the land to erect the panels and if this work is undertaken when soils are wet, there can be significant damage. Much of this damage can be remedied post construction, but not all and it is possible that long term drainage issues occur on the site due to the construction.</p> <p>The loss of any agricultural land can impact upon arable food production with knock on effects in terms of the associated food production economy and to farm enterprises affected by the development. The Council is of the view that the cumulative negative impacts of the loss of arable</p>

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Not Agreed	Council/Applicant Comment
			<p>agricultural land places pressure on the function of this important part of the local and wider Lincolnshire rural economy as well as raising questions more generally regarding food security and the carbon footprint impacts as a result of the need to import food due to the consequential changes in land-use. In the case of the Cottam whilst the time proposed is for a specified period for a period that this could be extended beyond the 60 year permission as technology improves the solar infrastructure could be in place for longer than this and therefore the impacts are also much greater as potentially Cottam could result in the permanent loss of the agricultural land and so should not be seen as reversible.</p> <p>The Council considers this loss to represent a significant negative impact not only within the local area but also when considered in combination with the loss of land from other potential NSIP scale solar developments that are also being promoted and considered across the County.</p> <p>The Council maintains its position to object to the loss of any BMV land to facilitate the development and as the proposal includes</p>

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Not Agreed	Council/Applicant Comment
			<p>development on BMV land the Council cannot agree on this point.</p> <p><b>Applicant:</b></p> <p><u>Loss of Agricultural production in County</u></p> <p>Agricultural land within the Scheme can continue in agricultural use throughout the operational period, grazing livestock. Such use is not required to maintain the status of agricultural land.</p> <p>Farmers are currently being offered Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) payments for turning fields over to wild bird seed mix or pollen and nectar mix with no livestock grazing or harvest of any food, fibre or energy crop.</p> <p>Farmers are also arable land for energy crops such as whole crop maize. Such land use requires in excess of an order of magnitude more land than solar PV per MWh of land per year.</p> <p>Against this backdrop of national SFI payments, LCC's concern regarding loss of agricultural production is misplaced.</p> <p><u>Permanent Loss of Production</u></p> <p>Consent would be temporary and agricultural production can be maintained throughout the</p>

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Not Agreed	Council/Applicant Comment
			<p>operational phase. There is no permanent loss of production.</p> <p><u>Loss of BMV land in the CRC</u></p> <p>Cable trenching work will be brief over a small area. Agricultural land will not be lost to this work and ALC Grade will not deteriorate. Agricultural land routinely has similar trenches dug to renew field drains.</p> <p>The LCC claim that over 50% of the CRC is BMV land is not substantiated and LCC have not conducted an ALC survey.</p> <p>Any field drains encountered by the trench works can be reconnected prior to backfilling the trench. Excavated soil material will be placed to the side of the trench prior to back filling with no mixing and movement of soil. Work will not therefore spread weeds or threaten biosecurity.</p> <p><u>Disturbing Heavy Soils When Wet</u></p> <p>The outline SMP includes measures to assess soil consistence after rain with soil handling and trafficking suspended for plastic material until it has dried to a friable consistence.</p> <p><u>Food Security</u></p>

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Not Agreed	Council/Applicant Comment
			<p>The Defra UK Food Security report <sup>1</sup> notes that the UK is largely self sufficient in grain production (page 96). Key future risks to UK food security are stated to be climate change and soil degradation. The Scheme addresses climate change and allows recovery of soil health so is a beneficial investment for UK food security.</p> <p><u>Not Reversible</u></p> <p>The Scheme would have temporary consent. Most of the area can continue in agricultural production throughout the operational period and decommissioning will not result in any loss of or degradation to agricultural land. The use of agricultural land is therefore reversible.</p>

#### 4.4 Matters Not Agreed (Waste)

Table 4.4

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Not Agreed
WAS-05	Relevance of MWLP Policies	<b>LCC:</b> LCC consider that whilst these policies are from the Minerals and Waste Local Plan and are not directly related to solar it is considered that as they have recently been through a Local Plan examination and confirmed by a Planning Inspector as being in conformity with the NPPF they do offer some value in respect of the criteria that needs to be taken into account when

<sup>1</sup> [United Kingdom Food Security Report 2021 19may2022.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)



Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Not Agreed
		<p>assessing developments as being sustainable, affecting the Historic Environment, Impacts on Landscape and Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land. With the Government proposal for reviewing Local Plans preparation procedures with the use of generic Development Management policies in all Development Plan documents it does demonstrate that it is appropriate to give weight to the Development Management policies of a Local Plan that is in conformity with the NPPF even if it has not been prepared for the particular development being assessed as they do offer relevance and value to all developments.</p> <p><b>Applicant:</b> The Applicant asserts policies as set out in the MWLP are generally not considered relevant as they refer to new minerals and waste developments, and as such are not relevant to the Scheme. Policies W2-W7, W9 and Policies DM2-DM17 are not relevant to the Scheme and therefore have not been considered.</p> <p>Policy W1 refers to identification of future requirement for new waste facilities – under which the likely waste streams from the Scheme and other solar NSIPs in Lincolnshire should be considered by LCC to ensure that there are sufficient future waste handling facilities. Whilst the Scheme has been assessed against current waste handling capacity, the Applicant is confident that <b>6.2.20 Environmental Statement - Chapter 20 Waste [APP-058]</b> can provide a useful tool to LCC to determine the estimated additional waste streams from this Scheme and the cumulatively assessed NSIPs in the Till Valley Area of Lincolnshire.</p> <p>Policy W8 refers to safeguarding of existing waste management sites – which the Scheme is not anticipated to have any safeguarding impacts upon (see response to request for map below at WAS-02). This therefore has been considered, but not explored further. Similarly, Policy DM1 has been considered as it is not explicitly worded whether it is, or is not, directed towards minerals and waste developments. Therefore, this policy has been considered, but not explored further as it is deemed to be inherently complied with as the Applicant understands the Scheme to be compliant with the NPPF.</p>

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Not Agreed
		<p>The Applicant believes the level of detail provided at 20.3.13 <b>[APP-058]</b> is suitable due to the potential at the point of DCO application for the emerging MWLP to have been consulted upon in parallel with the examination of the DCO. As such, it was deemed a prudent approach to ensure the application was live to emerging policy wording, or if there were consultation comments that may have been useful to make towards the emerging policies.</p>

## 5 Signatories

5.1.1 The above SoCG is agreed between West Burton Solar Project Ltd. (the Applicant) and Lincolnshire County Council as specified below.

Duly authorised for and on behalf of **West Burton Solar Project Ltd.**

Name:	
Job Title:	
Date:	
Signature:	

Duly authorised for and on behalf of **Lincolnshire County Council**

Name:	
Job Title:	
Date:	
Signature:	

# West Burton Solar Project

## Cultural Heritage Position Statement Lincolnshire County Council

Prepared by: Lanpro Services  
April 2024

PINS reference: EN010132  
Document reference: EX6/WB8.3.1\_A

Planning Act 2008  
Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010



## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1	PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT	3
1.2	PARTIES TO THIS CULTURAL HERITAGE POSITION STATEMENT	3
1.3	TERMINOLOGY	3
1.4	TOPIC REFERENCING FOR ALL MATTERS	4
<b>2</b>	<b>RECORD OF ENGAGEMENT</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1	SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION	5
<b>3</b>	<b>ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT WORKS</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>MATTERS AGREED</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>MATTERS NOT AGREED</b>	<b>27</b>

## Issue Sheet

**Report Prepared for: West Burton Solar Project Ltd.  
Examination Deadline 5**

### **Cultural Heritage Position Statement Lincolnshire County Council**

**Prepared by:**

Name: Alice James

Title: Technical Director

**Approved by:**

Name: Jane Crichton

Title: Associate Director MRTPI

Revision	Date	Prepared by:	Approved by:
0	30/04/2024	AJ	JC

## **1 Introduction**

### **1.1 Purpose of the Document**

- 1.1.1 This Cultural Heritage Position Statement (CHPS) has been prepared as part of the proposed West Burton Solar Project Development Consent Order (the Application) made by West Burton Solar Project Ltd (the Applicant) to the Secretary of State for Energy Security & Net Zero (the Secretary of State) pursuant to the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008).
- 1.1.2 This CHPS does not seek to replicate information which is available elsewhere within the Application documents. All documents are available in the deposit locations and/or the Planning Inspectorate website.
- 1.1.3 This CHPS has been produced as an addendum to the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) with Lincolnshire County Council to confirm to the Examining Authority (ExA) where agreement has been reached between the parties, and where agreement has not yet been reached. SoCGs are an established means in the DCO consenting process of allowing all parties to identify and focus on specific issues that may need to be addressed during the examination.

### **1.2 Parties to this Cultural Heritage Position Statement**

- 1.2.1 This CHPS has been prepared by (1) West Burton Solar Project Ltd. as the Applicant and (2) Lincolnshire County Council. Lincolnshire County Council is a host authority for the three Sites, referred to as West Burton 1, 2, and 3, that will house the PV panels, BESS and associated development.
- 1.2.2 This CHPS has been prepared in consultation with Lincolnshire Historic Places Team (LHPT), who provide archaeological advice for West Lindsey, Lincolnshire and Bassetlaw, Nottinghamshire, and the Nottinghamshire County Council Archaeologist. LHPT and the Nottinghamshire County Council Archaeologist share the same position on all matters detailed in this document.
- 1.2.3 Collectively, West Burton Solar Project Ltd., Nottinghamshire County Council and Lincolnshire County Council are referred to as 'the parties'.

### **1.3 Terminology**

- 1.3.1 In the tables in **Sections 4 - 5** of this SoCG:
- "Agreed" indicates where the issue has been resolved.
  - "Not Agreed" indicates a final position

## 1.4 Topic Referencing for All Matters

1.4.1 All topics have been given unique references which relate to the topic matter. The referencing system is defined as follows:

**Table 1.1: Topic Referencing**

Topic	Unique Identifying Code
Cultural Heritage	CUL-xx



## 2 Record of Engagement

### 2.1 Summary of Consultation

2.1.1 The parties have been engaged in consultation since September 2021 prior to the Non-Statutory Consultation which ran from November to December 2021. A summary of the meetings and correspondence that has taken place between West Burton Solar Project and Lincolnshire County Council in relation to the Application is outlined in **Table 2.1**.

**Table 2.1: Record of Engagement**

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
<b>Cultural Heritage (Lincolnshire County Council Historic Places Team (LHPT))</b>		
9 <sup>th</sup> June 2022	Online meeting with The Planning Inspectorate, Lincolnshire County Council (including LHPT) and the Applicant	<p>Discussion on Trial Trench Requirements. Due to the disagreement regarding evaluation trial trenching sample in 'blank' areas, no trenching works were able to commence prior to the meeting with PINS, which caused delay to the commencement of intrusive archaeological works.</p> <p>Full details of the meeting are set out in ES Chapter Appendix 13.9.1 <b>[APP-124]</b>. Discussions referred to in the LHPT relevant representations include:</p> <p><i>"LCC confirmed that it had requested 3+1% trenching, which it considered was required in order to ensure that impacts on unknown buried archaeological remains would be avoided. It particularly highlighted the impact of piling on burials. LCC suggested that its approach was proportionate to characterise the baseline to inform decision making. It also highlighted the limitations of magnetometry surveys in the Trent Valley area, which it emphasised was very sensitive archaeologically. LCC stated that the very large sites should not be treated differently from other sites and that their size did not remove the need for comprehensive evaluation."</i></p>

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
		<p><i>“LCC confirmed that it is broadly content with the draft WSI for trenching in areas of archaeological sensitivity identified by geophysical survey. It stated that here is no need to delay work for these agreed trenching locations. The Applicant welcomed this approach. LCC remained of the view that trenching in blank areas would require further discussion and potentially remain an area of disagreement and a matter for examination. ”</i></p> <p><i>“The Inspectorate questioned whether there were any means of focussing the survey approach for trenching activity in blank areas. LCC suggested that features such as geology and other desk-based/survey data could be used to focus trenching activity but could not fully be relied upon and that staged approaches to trenching were possible, e.g., using soil strip rather than full trial trenching.”</i></p> <p><i>“The Inspectorate also queried whether some works could be undertaken post-consent drawing on examples such as the Cleeve Hill and Triton Knoll projects. LCC highlighted the need to provide sufficient information on baseline, impacts and mitigation to satisfy the requirements of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, however it acknowledged that some works could be undertaken post-consent. The Applicant’s legal representative supported this position.”</i></p> <p><i>“Both parties acknowledged that whilst they anticipated that there may be some continued disagreement, their goals are to achieve common ground and move forward. LCC emphasised that provided the Applicant can provide further detail in relation to the impacts of the Proposed Development, this would enable LCC to work with them to develop a targeted survey approach for blank areas.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• LCC agreed that work could commence on trenching of sensitive locations identified by the geophysical survey;</i></li> <li><i>• Applicant committed to provide additional information on specific locations of intrusive works required for the Proposed Development; and</i></li> </ul>

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>LCC continues to recommend that the EIA needs to contain sufficient information on the archaeological potential which will be impacted by the development to allow for an appropriate mitigation strategy."</i></li> </ul>
07/2022 to 10/2022	Sites visits with LHPT and the Applicant	<p>Numerous site visits were undertaken between July and October 2022 in line with the written scheme of investigation agreed with LHPT for the evaluation trial trenching. During site visits LHPT and the Applicant concurred that the standard of archaeological evaluation fieldwork undertaken was adequate, and parcels of land where trenches were completed were signed off, for full details see <b>[APP-124]</b>.</p>
23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2023	Online meeting with LHPT, The Gate Burton Scheme, The Cottam Scheme and the Applicant.	<p>Meeting to discuss the archaeological assessment works undertaken for the shared cable route corridor—which runs between Stow Park Road and the Cottam Power Station—and agree mitigation strategy between all attendees.</p> <p>LHPT agreed that the scope and extent of archaeological assessment works were sufficient, and that the proposed mitigation strategy was appropriate to safeguard buried archaeological remains.</p>
22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2023	Online meeting with Historic England (HE), LHPT and the Applicant for the Cottam Solar Project.	<p>Meeting to establish a SoCG between LHPT and the Applicant for the Cottam Solar Project. As the same methodology has been adopted in accruing baseline information and formulating a mitigation strategy for the Cottam and West Burton Schemes, topics discussed in the meeting are considered by the Applicant to be relevant to reaching common ground on the West Burton scheme.</p> <p>Three main topics were discussed within the meeting: baseline information, evaluation trial trenching, and mitigation strategy.</p> <p>No concerns were raised by LHPT or HE regarding desk-based research or information acquired through non-intrusive evaluation techniques (i.e., air photo and LiDAR analysis, geophysical survey and desk-based geoarchaeological assessment).</p>

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
		<p>LHPT were concerned by the lack of evaluation trial trenching in areas where geophysical survey (along with other non-intrusive techniques) had not identified any archaeological potential. Subsequently, LHPT were of the opinion that a mitigation strategy could not be prepared for areas that had not been subject to evaluation trial trenching. LHPT questioned whether there was enough information to demonstrate that concrete anchors would not impact on archaeological remains during commissioning, operation and decommissioning phases. Consequently, LHPT believed that there was insufficient information to understand the impact of the development and so considered the proposed mitigation strategy to be inadequate.</p> <p>HE considered that the areas not subjected to evaluation trial trenching appeared to be quite large and so the Scheme contained a high level of risk. HE believed that a middle ground (between no trenching or a high sample of trenching) should be found to proportionately manage risk. HE stated “whilst it would be preferable to address additional trenching pre-consent, a phase of additional conditioned trenching post-consent (but as far ahead of construction as possible) would be a the next-best option to de-risk ‘blank’ areas once the client has DCO/further funds.”</p> <p>No issues were raised by LHPT or HE regarding the archaeological evaluation undertaken or the proposed mitigation for the ‘shared cable corridor’ running between Till Bridge Lane and the Cottam Power Station. LHPT concerned by the lack of evaluation trial trenching on the Cable Route Corridor running between Cottam 3 and Till Bridge Lane, which was evaluated using geophysical survey.</p>
27 <sup>th</sup> March 2023 – 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	Email exchange between Historic England, LHPT and the Applicant for the Cottam Solar Project	Email exchange following the meeting on 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2023 to establish the SoCG for the Cottam Solar Project on the 22.03.2023. As the same methodology has been adopted in accruing baseline information and formulating a mitigation strategy for the Cottam and West Burton Schemes, points raised in the following email discussion are considered

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
		<p>by the Applicant to be relevant to reaching common ground on the West Burton scheme.</p> <p>In line with comments from Historic England (see notes above for meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> March), the Applicant for the Cottam Solar Project proposed a programme of post-determination trenching with a 1% sample in an email dated 27.03.2023 to LHPT and Historic England.</p> <p>No objections were raised from Historic England to the Applicants proposal of post-determination trenching, who recommended that any programme of trenching should be discussed with the LHPT (email dated 30.03.2023).</p> <p>In an email dated 03.04.2023, LHPT rejected the proposal for a programme of post-determination trenching. They believed there was insufficient baseline information to identify and assess the impact on known and potential heritage assets as required by Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, and that it was necessary that the whole scheme, including the cable route, was evaluated using trial trenching pre-determination with a 2% sample (plus 2% contingency).</p> <p>In an email dated 04.04.2023 the Applicant for the Cottam Solar Project requested further information to clarify LHPT's refusal for post-determination trenching at a 1% sample rate in areas where no evaluation trenching had been undertaken. Specifically the Applicant for the Cottam Solar Project requested LHPT to clarify why:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• their position on post-determination trenching was in discord with the opinions of the Planning Inspectorate (meeting note dated 09.06.2022), Historic England (meeting dated 22.04.2023), as well as other Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) in the East and North of England (the Applicant has identified case studies of schemes in Nottinghamshire, Norfolk, Cambridgeshire, North Yorkshire, East Riding of Yorkshire and County Durham).</li> </ul>

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>there is inconsistency in the area percentages of the trench samples that LHPT have required for other proposed solar DCOs. The Applicant highlighted that the Gate Burton Scheme, which lies in close proximity to the Cottam Scheme (and West Burton Scheme), and was referenced by LHPT in the meeting on 22.03.23, undertook an evaluation trial trenching sample of 1.07%, which is significantly lower than the 2% sample (plus 2% contingency) requested for the Cottam Scheme.</li> </ul> <p>In their response (email dated 05.04.2023) LHPT stated that sufficient pre-determination evaluation was required and has been a principle of the archaeological process since Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning was published. Consequently, LHPT will only agree proposed mitigation in areas where evaluation trial trenching has been undertaken (which totals c.17.5% of the Cottam Solar Project). Although they were unable to address specific questions relating to other schemes, LHPT stated the Gate Burton Scheme contained significant areas of woodland (estimated by the Applicant to total c.23ha or c.3.2% of the Scheme) and exclusion areas (estimated by the Applicant to total c.33ha or c.4.6% of the Scheme) that were not required to be trenched (the Applicant estimates that with omission of woodland and exclusion zones not trenched the evaluation trial trenching for the Gate Burton Scheme totalled 1.16% of its area). LHPT stated that they had more confidence in the Gate Burton Scheme undertaking evaluation works as determined reasonable by LHPT. No further reasoning was provided to demonstrate the difference in approach required for the two projects. LHPT concluded that they had originally asked for a sample of 3% (with a 1% contingency) and <i>“in the spirit of cooperation following the Planning Inspectorate meeting”</i> agreed to a reduction of 2% trenching with a 2% contingency, which they did not believe to be a high sample.</p>
8 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	Lincolnshire County Council Relevant	LHPT are of the opinion that <i>“inadequate field evaluation has been undertaken with 342 trenches across 886ha, less than 0.34% of the red line boundary. Informed appropriate</i>

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
	Representations [RR-188]	<p><i>mitigation measures therefore cannot exist for nearly 80% of the site, and proposed 'preservation in situ' mitigation for those archaeologically sensitive areas which have been identified would cause damage and destruction to uninvestigated and unrecorded significant archaeology. Neither evaluation nor proposed mitigation has been competently undertaken and the submitted documents are not robust."</i></p> <p>LHPT highlighted their concern during the pre-application stage to the Applicant's proposed coverage of trial trench evaluation. LHPT stated that <i>"a meeting was held with LCC archaeologists, the applicant, their archaeological consultants (Lanpro) and the Planning Inspectorate. The applicant agreed in the meeting to a programme of around 2% evaluation trenching (with a 2% contingency) of the entire redline boundary..."</i>. LHPT believe that a 2% sample is required across all areas within the Scheme to adequately inform the EIA, ES Chapter and provide a basis for a mitigation strategy. LHPT believe that large areas of the Scheme have not been evaluated and consequently stated <i>"all the areas within the redline boundary and the grid connection corridor which have not been subject to evaluation trenching remain unknown in terms of archaeological potential, therefore impact cannot be determined nor can there be informed effective reasonable mitigation"</i>.</p> <p>LHPT consider that concrete anchors are unacceptable form of mitigation as there will be impacted to buried archaeological remains during installation, operation (i.e. compaction), and decommissioning phases. LHPT stated mitigation using concrete anchors is <i>"entirely inappropriate and unacceptable and would cause any surviving archaeology, especially in areas of shallow deposits which encompasses much of this agricultural landscape, to be damaged or destroyed without investigation and recording."</i></p> <p>LHPT also stated that no archaeological mitigation is proposed from <i>"ground impacts from other proposed mitigations such as wildlife ponds, miscanthus planting, woodland and shelterbelt planting, and bird habitat scrapes up to 0.5m deep."</i></p>

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
		<p>LHPT concluded that <i>“insufficient evaluation has been undertaken to allow for an understanding of the archaeological potential or to provide the basis for reasonable mitigation to deal with the impacts of this development. Sufficient baseline information on the archaeology to be impacted across the site is required by NPPF, EIA Regulations and National Policy Statement EN-1”.</i></p>
30 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	Email from the Applicant to LHPT	<p>Email from the Applicant to LHPT to confirm if the approach required by LHPT would be in line with that required for the nearby Cottam Solar Scheme (See communications above regarding online meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March and email exchange between 27<sup>th</sup> March and 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023 between LHPT and the Applicant for the Cottam Solar Project).</p> <p>In summary the Applicant requested confirmation that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LHPT required evaluation trial trench evaluation with a 2% sample (plus 2% contingency) pre-determination across all areas within the West Burton Solar Scheme</li> <li>• as agreed in a meeting on the 23.01.2023, LHPT were still in agreement with the proposed mitigation for the Shared Cable Route running between Stow Park Road and land to the west of the River Trent</li> <li>• LHPT agreed with mitigation in the form of no development areas, ‘strip, map and sample’, open excavation, and archaeological watching brief in areas where evaluation trial trenching had been completed.</li> <li>• LHPT agreed with mitigation in the form of ‘strip, map and sample’ where geophysical survey has identified concentrations of archaeological remains along the cable route for the West Burton scheme (i.e. external to the cable route shared with the Gate Burton and Cottam Schemes)</li> </ul>



Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LHPT consider concrete anchors to be an unacceptable form of mitigation for archaeological remains as they consider that there is a potential for impact during installation, operation (i.e. compaction), and decommissioning phases.</li> </ul>
3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2023	Email from LHPT to the Applicant	<p>In response to the Applicant’s email dated 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023, LHPT stated:</p> <p><i>“Regarding Baseline Information/Evaluation these questions have all been answered in all our previous responses and discussions, and we will continue to ask for the same.</i></p> <p><i>In relation to Mitigation we will be able to discuss appropriate methodologies once an appropriate level of baseline evaluation across the redline boundary can provide the basis for meaningful discussion.</i></p> <p><i>If you wish to put forward site-specific mitigation proposals for those areas which have been sufficiently evaluated we would be pleased to discuss this.</i></p> <p><i>We maintain our position on those areas which have not been sufficiently evaluated.”</i></p>
November 2023	Email exchange between LHPT, The Nottinghamshire County Council Senior Practitioner for Archaeology and the Applicant	<p>Email exchange between representatives for LCC and NCC (LHPT and The Nottinghamshire County Council Senior Practitioner for Archaeology) and the Applicant to establish a meeting to discuss the SoCG.</p> <p>Links to all documents, which are available on the PINS website, were emailed to LHPT and The Nottinghamshire County Council Senior Practitioner for Archaeology on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November.</p>
1 <sup>st</sup> December 2023	Online meeting with LHPT, The Nottinghamshire	Online meeting to discuss the SoCG for LCC and NCC. The basis of the meeting was to identify the areas which we can agree on, as well as those where there was a difference

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
	County Council Senior Practitioner for Archaeology and the Applicant.	<p>in opinion, with particular attention being given to the WSI submitted as part of the application.</p> <p>The Nottinghamshire County Council Senior Practitioner for Archaeology was unable to attend the meeting due to unforeseen circumstances, and LHPT were unable to discuss any elements of the SoCG / WSI for the West Burton scheme, including those elements that solely lie within Lincolnshire, as LHPT believed all parties were required to be in attendance for discussion to move forward.</p> <p>In an email directly after the meeting the Applicant requested a follow up meeting and feedback on the WSI.</p>
21 <sup>st</sup> February 2024	Email from Applicant to LHPT and The Nottinghamshire County Council Senior Practitioner for Archaeology	<p>In response to ISH4 the Applicant prepared a Without Prejudice WSI that includes a requirement to undertake further trenching post-determination of the application, in advance of construction of the Scheme.</p> <p>The Without Prejudice WSI, along with a revised WSI to reflect the change application, was issued to LHPT and The Nottinghamshire County Council Senior Practitioner for Archaeology on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024.</p>
28 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Email from LHPT to the Applicant	LHPT provided comments for the WSIs, which were prepared in consultation with The Nottinghamshire County Council Senior Practitioner for Archaeology.

2.1.2 It is agreed that this is an accurate record of the key meetings and consultation undertaken between (1) West Burton Solar Project Ltd. and (2) Lincolnshire County Council in relation to the issues addressed in this SoCG.

### 3 Archaeological Assessment Works

**Table 3.1** Details the assessment works undertaken to inform the Cultural Heritage Environmental Impact Assessment for the Scheme, as detailed in ES Chapter 13 on Cultural Heritage, and support the DCO Application.

**Table 3.1 – Archaeological Assessment Works undertaken to inform the Cultural Heritage Environmental Impact Assessment for the Scheme**

Document Reference	Assessment / Document	Applicant Comment	LCC Comment
APP-105 to APP-108	Desk-based assessment (DBA)	<p>As agreed with LHPT, full and detailed desk-based assessments have been completed and have been used to inform ES Chapter 13: Cultural Heritage [APP-051], intrusive field evaluation (ES Chapter Appendix 13.6) [APP-105 and APP-108] and the production of a detailed mitigation strategy (WSI; ES Chapter Appendix 13.7) [REP4-034].</p> <p>Desk-based assessments included an assessment of the full range of cartographic sources, and the following available archaeological records: National Heritage List for England (NHLE), National Record of Historic Environment (NRHE), Historic Environment Record (HER) data, Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS), National Mapping Programme (NMP) and Historic Landscape Character (HLC), as well as the results of specifically</p>	Agreed

		commissioned a geoarchaeological assessment, air photo and LiDAR analysis and geophysical survey (ES Chapter Appendices 13.1, 13.2 and 13.4) <b>[APP-109 to APP-114 and APP-116]</b> .	
APP-109 to APP-114:	Geophysical Survey	<p>The scope and extent of non-intrusive survey was discussed with LHPT during a meeting on 23.02.2022. A WSI for geophysical survey along the Cable Route Corridor was agreed by email on 11.04.2022.</p> <p>Both parties were in agreement that the scope, extent, and quality of collected data was sufficient to inform ES Chapter 13: Cultural Heritage <b>[APP-051]</b>, and a programme of evaluation trial trenching (ES Chapter Appendix 13.6) <b>[APP-120 and APP-121]</b>.</p>	Agreed. Although had we known the trenching programme would be so limited we would have recommended the use of additional geophysical survey methods.
APP-115	Geoarchaeological DBA	<p>Geoarchaeological desk-based assessment of all areas within the Order Limits.</p> <p>HE Science advisor consulted during the pre-application phase as part of initial assessment and archaeological evaluation works (see Table APP 13.9.1.2 <b>[APP-124]</b>).</p>	Please consult the HE regional science advisor on the scope and extent of geo-archaeological work.

APP-116	Air Photo and LiDAR Mapping	<p>The scope and extent of non-intrusive survey was discussed with LHPT during a meeting on 23.02.2022.</p> <p>Both parties were in agreement that the scope, extent, and quality of collected data was sufficient to inform ES Chapter 13: Cultural Heritage <b>[APP-051]</b>, and a programme of evaluation trial trenching (ES Chapter Appendix 13.6) <b>[APP-120 and 121]</b>.</p>	<p>The non-intrusive survey was sufficient to inform the trenching programme. The ES requires trenching results across the full impact zone.</p>
APP-120 – APP-121	Evaluation trial trenching	<p>The WSI for trial trench evaluation was agreed with LHPT on the 17.06.2022. Trench plans for individual areas were signed-off by LHPT between June and September 2022. Numerous site visits were undertaken between July and November 2022.</p> <p>The Applicant and LCC/ LHPT agreed that where evaluation trial trenching was completed, the standard of fieldwork that was undertaken was completed to a sufficient level to understand the character, quality and preservation, and significance of identified archaeological remains.</p>	<p>We would like it to be noted here that we repeatedly asked for an overall site plan showing progress of the trenching across the scheme to ensure full coverage. It only became clear looking at the evaluation reports in the submission on the PINS website that only a fraction of the site was trenched. The design of a successful mitigation strategy requires sufficient trial trenching.</p> <p>The applicant's comment that the standard of fieldwork was completed to a sufficient level implies quantity rather than quality, and only applies to those parts of the site which were adequately trenched. For clarity we suggest the wording 'the standard of fieldwork that was undertaken was satisfactory and where sufficient archaeological evaluation</p>

			<p>was undertaken it was sufficient to understand the character, quality and preservation, and significance of identified archaeological remains.' We would like to make clear the fact that sufficient trenching was not undertaken on 79% of the site where the character, quality and preservation and significance has yet to be determined.</p>
APP-122	<p>Written Scheme of Investigation (Original version submitted with the DCO application)</p>	<p>WSI which set out proposed archaeological mitigation. Mitigation proposed includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informative Trenching</li> <li>• Open-area Excavation</li> <li>• Strip, Map and Sample Excavation</li> <li>• Archaeological monitoring (watching brief)</li> <li>• Preservation in situ</li> </ul>	<p>As they currently stand we cannot agree either of the two WSIs. Our position remains that they have failed to adequately evaluate the site in line with professional guidance and standard archaeological practice and as such we cannot recommend either of the proposed post consent strategies.</p> <p>Trial trenching is a vital prospection technique not a mitigation technique. Trenching results are essential as the basis for informing an appropriate and fit for purpose mitigation, trenching therefore cannot be a mitigation measure.</p> <p>As we have consistently stated throughout the NSIP process, adequate trial trenching is required to inform an appropriate and fit for purpose mitigation</p>

			<p>strategy to adequately deal with the developmental impacts. This trenching should cover the full impact zone including the redline boundary and cable routes and be undertaken pre-consent to be in accordance with NPPF paragraphs 200 and 201 and the EIA Regulation 5 (2d)).</p> <p>Trenching results are essential not only to inform mitigation but to ensure effective risk management and allows the developer to present a programme that is deliverable. As we are now in the post-submission stage we would do our best to facilitate completion of an appropriate scheme of trenching evaluation before the determination, to allow the results to inform a reasonable and robust site specific mitigation strategy.</p>
REP4-034	<p>Written Scheme of Investigation</p> <p>(updated versions to reflect change application and comments from the Archaeological Advisors to the relevant Local Planning Authorities)</p>	<p>Version A of WSI [REP4-034] prepared to reflect Change Application:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Widening of a section of cable route to the east of West Burton 3</li> </ol> <p>Version B <b>[EX5/WB6.3.13.7_B]</b> of the WSI was prepared in response to comments provided by LHPT, which were prepared in consultation with The Nottinghamshire</p>	<p>As they currently stand we cannot agree either of the two WSIs. Our position remains that they have failed to adequately evaluate the site in line with professional guidance and standard archaeological practice and as such we cannot recommend either of the proposed post consent strategies.</p>

		<p>County Council Senior Practitioner for Archaeology.</p>	<p>Trial trenching is a vital prospection technique not a mitigation technique. Trenching results are essential as the basis for informing an appropriate and fit for purpose mitigation, trenching therefore cannot be a mitigation measure.</p> <p>As we have consistently stated throughout the NSIP process, adequate trial trenching is required to inform an appropriate and fit for purpose mitigation strategy to adequately deal with the developmental impacts. This trenching should cover the full impact zone including the redline boundary and cable routes and be undertaken pre-consent to be in accordance with NPPF paragraphs 200 and 201 and the EIA Regulation 5 (2d)).</p> <p>Trenching results are essential not only to inform mitigation but to ensure effective risk management and allows the developer to present a programme that is deliverable. As we are now in the post-submission stage we would do our best to facilitate completion of an appropriate scheme of trenching evaluation before the determination, to allow the results to</p>
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			inform a reasonable and robust site specific mitigation strategy.
REP4-075	Without Prejudice Written Scheme of Investigation	<p>Without Prejudice WSI [REP4-075] that provides for informative trenching in 'blank' areas post-determination of the DCO application.</p> <p>Version A [EX5/WB8.2.9_A] of the Without Prejudice WSI was prepared in response to comments provided by LHPT, which were prepared in consultation with The Nottinghamshire County Council Senior Practitioner for Archaeology.</p>	<p>As they currently stand we cannot agree either of the two WSIs. Our position remains that they have failed to adequately evaluate the site in line with professional guidance and standard archaeological practice and as such we cannot recommend either of the proposed post consent strategies.</p> <p>Trial trenching is a vital prospection technique not a mitigation technique. Trenching results are essential as the basis for informing an appropriate and fit for purpose mitigation, trenching therefore cannot be a mitigation measure.</p> <p>As we have consistently stated throughout the NSIP process, adequate trial trenching is required to inform an appropriate and fit for purpose mitigation strategy to adequately deal with the developmental impacts. This trenching should cover the full impact zone including the redline boundary and cable routes and be undertaken pre-consent to be in accordance with NPPF paragraphs</p>

			<p>200 and 201 and the EIA Regulation 5 (2d)).</p> <p>Trenching results are essential not only to inform mitigation but to ensure effective risk management and allows the developer to present a programme that is deliverable. As we are now in the post-submission stage we would do our best to facilitate completion of an appropriate scheme of trenching evaluation before the determination, to allow the results to inform a reasonable and robust site specific mitigation strategy.</p>
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## 4 Matters Agreed

**Tables 4.1** sets out the Applicant and Lincolnshire County Council’s (LCC) positions on Cultural Heritage, and details by topic the matters agreed.

**Table 4.1 – Matter Agreed**

Main Topic	Sub-topic	The Applicant’s Position	LCC’s Position
CUL-02 Cultural Heritage	Baseline Conditions – Desk-Based Assessments: Scope and level of desk-based research	<p>As agreed with LHPT, full and detailed desk-based assessments have been completed and have been used to inform <b>6.2.13 Environmental Statement - Chapter 13_Cultural Heritage [APP-051]</b>, intrusive field evaluation (<b>6.3.13.6 Environmental Statement - Appendix 13.6 Archaeological Evaluation Trenching Reports [APP-120 and APP-121]</b>) and the production of a detailed mitigation strategy (<b>6.3.13.7 Environmental Statement - Appendix 13.7 Archaeological Mitigation WSI [APP-122]</b>).</p> <p>Desk-based assessments included an assessment of the full range of cartographic sources, and the following available archaeological records: Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS), Historic Landscape Character (HLC), National Record of Historic Environment (NRHE), National Heritage List for England (NHLE), National Mapping Programme (NMP) and Historic Environment Record (HER) data, as well as the results of specifically commissioned air</p>	Agreed

Main Topic	Sub-topic	The Applicant's Position	LCC's Position
		photo and LiDAR analysis and geophysical survey. Please see <b>6.3.13.1 Environmental Statement - Appendix 13.1 Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments [APP-105 to APP-108]</b> ; <b>6.3.13.2 Environmental Statement - Appendix 13.2 Archaeological Geophysical Survey Reports [APP-109 to APP-114]</b> ; and <b>6.3.13.4 Environmental Statement - Appendix 13.4 AP and LiDAR Reports [APP-116]</b> .	
CUL-03 Cultural Heritage	Baseline Conditions: Scope of non-intrusive survey (geophysical survey, air photo and LiDAR analysis and geo-archaeological desk-based assessment).	<p>The scope and extent of non-intrusive survey was discussed with LHPT during a meeting on 23.02.2022. A WSI for geophysical survey along the cable route corridor was agreed by email on 27.07.2022.</p> <p>Both parties were in agreement that the methodology used, scope, extent, and quality of collected data was sufficient to inform the baseline for <b>6.2.13 Environmental Statement - Chapter 13_Cultural Heritage [APP-051]</b>.</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>LHPT and NCC defer to HE science advisor to comment on the quality of the geo-archaeological aspects of the desk-based assessment.</p>
CUL-04 Cultural Heritage	Intrusive Archaeological Evaluation Fieldwork: Characterisation of identified	The WSI for trial trench evaluation was agreed with LHPT on the 14.07.2022. Trench plans for individual areas were signed-off by LHPT between July and September 2022. Numerous	<p>Agreed where the trenching was undertaken.</p> <p>It has not been made clear that trenching has not been undertaken across the impact zone as agreed. The selective approach to areas with sufficient trenching to inform mitigation of</p>

Main Topic	Sub-topic	The Applicant's Position	LCC's Position
	archaeological features.	<p>site visits were undertaken between July and October 2022.</p> <p>Where evaluation trial trenching was completed, the standard of fieldwork that was undertaken was sufficient to understand the character, quality and preservation, and significance of identified archaeological remains.</p>	development impact was not made clear until we compared the location plans of the four evaluation reports in the DCO submission.
CUL-05 Cultural Heritage	Baseline Conditions / Archaeological Evaluation Fieldwork / Approach to Additional Archaeological Mitigation: Shared Cable Corridor	<p>The scope and results of works carried out to assess the potential impact on archaeological remains within the 'shared cable route corridor', proposed to be shared by the Cottam Solar Project, the West Burton Solar Project and the Gate Burton Solar Project, between Stow Park Road and land to the west of the River Trent were discussed and agreed during meetings between the Applicant and LHPT on 12.01.2023, 22.02.2023 and 22.03.2023.</p> <p>LCC/LHPT are in agreement that the extent and quality of collected baseline data was sufficient to inform an appropriate mitigation strategy set out in <b>6.3.13.7 Environmental Statement - Appendix 13.7 Archaeological Mitigation WSI [APP-122]</b>.</p>	This work on the shared corridor was undertaken as part of the Gate Burton scheme. Sufficient evaluation was undertaken and results informed an effective mitigation strategy which has been agreed.
CUL-06	Approach to Additional	In line with LHPT's response to the PEIR (2022; see appendix 13.9.2 of <b>6.3.13.9 Environmental</b>	No further comment.

Main Topic	Sub-topic	The Applicant's Position	LCC's Position
Cultural Heritage	Archaeological Mitigation: Reinstatement of earthworks	<p><b>Statement - Appendix 13.9 Consultation Response Tables [APP-124]</b>, the Applicant agrees that earthworks impacted by construction phases of the Scheme will be reinstated as set out in Section 13.8 of <b>6.2.13 Environmental Statement - Chapter 13_Cultural Heritage [APP-051]</b> and are provided for in <b>6.3.13.7 Environmental Statement - Appendix 13.7 Archaeological Mitigation WSI [APP-122]</b>. These provisions are secured in <b>3.1 Draft Development Consent Order [APP-017]</b>, through Requirement 12 of Schedule 2, which states that <i>"the authorised development must be implemented in accordance with the written scheme of investigation."</i></p>	

## 5 Matters Not Agreed

**Tables 5.1** sets out the Applicant and Lincolnshire County Council’s (LCC) positions on Cultural Heritage, and details by topic the **matters not agreed**.

For three topics CUL-07 to CUL-09 LHPT agree that the proposed mitigation is a suitable option, but are unable to agree any site specific mitigation options until such time as sufficient trenching as determined by LHPT is completed.

Based on the Lincolnshire Local Impact Report [**REP1A-002**] and correspondence to date (detailed in Table 2.1), the Applicant understands that there are five areas of disagreement (Table 5: CUL-07 to CUL-13):

- Approach to intrusive archaeological evaluation: extent of evaluation trial trenching
- Approach to Archaeological mitigation: informative trenching as detailed in the WSI [**REP4-025**]
- Approach to Archaeological mitigation: use of concrete feet: as detailed in the WSI [**REP4-025**]
- Approach to Archaeological mitigation: archaeological monitoring (watching brief) on the West Burton cable route corridor as detailed in the WSI [**REP4-025**]
- Approach to decommissioning

**Table 5.1 – Matter Not Agreed**

Main Topic	Sub-topic	The Applicant’s Position	LCC’s Position
CUL-01 Cultural Heritage	Legislation and Planning Policy / Assessment Methodology	As agreed with LHPT, all assessments undertaken were completed in line with local (Lincolnshire Archaeology Handbook 2019) and national guidance (National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3), draft	We do not agree. Trial trenching has not been undertaken across the full extent of the impact zone, this is not in accordance with any of the cited policies.

Main Topic	Sub-topic	The Applicant's Position	LCC's Position
	Standards and guidance used	<p>National Policy Statements for Energy EN-1 and EN-3, NPPF, ClfA Guidance, Historic England Guidance).</p> <p>The methodology for the geophysical survey was discussed with LHPT during a meeting on 23.02.2022, and a WSI for geophysical survey along the cable route corridor was agreed by email on 27.07.2022. A WSI for the trial trench evaluation was agreed on 14.07.2022. Numerous site visits were undertaken between LHPT and the Applicant between July and October 2022. All parties agreed that the standards of works (i.e. quality) that was undertaken was completed to a sufficient level and in line with appropriate professional standards and guidance.</p> <p>The Applicant highlights that the Legislation and Planning Policy / Assessment Methodology Standards and guidance used for the Scheme is the same as that adopted for the Cottam Solar Project, which was agreed with LCC (please see CUL-01 in Table 4.1 of Appendix A: Cultural Heritage Position Statement of the Lincolnshire County Council Statement of Common Ground</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>The WSI methodology was agreed and the standard of what fieldwork which was undertaken was acceptable but insufficient trenching evaluation has been undertaken. Until the outstanding trenching is completed in line with the agreed WSI mitigation can only be agreed in those areas where trenching is completed and the results have informed the mitigation measures required in accordance with the significance and extent of the archaeology and the impact of the development upon it.</p>



Main Topic	Sub-topic	The Applicant's Position	LCC's Position
		<p>for the Cottam Solar Project<sup>1</sup>). The Applicant therefore highlights that lack of consistency from LCC across the two Schemes.</p> <p>Please see Appendix A of the Applicant's Responses to ExA Second Written Questions [REP6-006] for the Applicant's approach to archaeological management and mitigation with consideration to relevant legislation, policy and guidance.</p>	
CUL-07	Approach to Additional Archaeological Mitigation as detailed in the WSI [EX5/WB6.3.13.7_B]: Strip map and sample / excavation / watching brief (solar sites)	<p>The Applicant enquired in an email dated 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 if mitigation in the form of strip, map and sample, excavation and watching brief was considered sufficient mitigation. In a response email dated 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023 LHPT stated that they would be able to discuss <i>"site-specific mitigation proposals for those areas which have been sufficiently evaluated."</i></p> <p>Areas proposed for archaeological mitigation are detailed in <b>6.3.13.7 Environmental Statement -</b></p>	<p>LHPT and NCC agree that Strip map and record / open excavation / archaeological monitoring is an option.</p> <p>LHPT and NCC do not agree any site-specific mitigation options until such time as sufficient trenching as determined by LHPT and NCC is completed.</p>

<sup>1</sup> Cottam Solar Project (2024) Deadline 6 Submission – C8.3.2 \_E Lincolnshire County Council Statement of Common Ground Final (Available online, last accessed 30.04.2024) [https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010133/EN010133-001804-C8.3.2\\_D%20Lincolnshire%20County%20Council%20SoCG%20Draft.pdf](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010133/EN010133-001804-C8.3.2_D%20Lincolnshire%20County%20Council%20SoCG%20Draft.pdf)

Main Topic	Sub-topic	The Applicant's Position	LCC's Position
		<b>Appendix 13.7 Archaeological Mitigation WSI [REP4-034].</b>	
CUL-08	Approach to Additional Archaeological Mitigation as detailed in the WSI [EX5/WB6.3.13.7_B]: Strip map and record (Cable Route)	<p>The Applicant enquired in an email dated 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 if mitigation in the form of strip, map and sample was considered sufficient mitigation. In a response email dated 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023 LHPT stated that they would be able to discuss <i>"site-specific mitigation proposals for those areas which have been sufficiently evaluated."</i></p> <p>Areas proposed for archaeological mitigation are detailed in <b>6.3.13.7 Environmental Statement - Appendix 13.7 Archaeological Mitigation WSI [REP4-034].</b></p>	<p>LHPT and NCC agree that Strip map and record / open excavation / archaeological monitoring is an option.</p> <p>LHPT and NCC do not agree any site-specific mitigation options until such time as sufficient trenching as determined by LHPT is completed.</p>
CUL-09	Approach to Additional Archaeological Mitigation: Decommissioning	<p>The Applicant is committed to preparing a Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan prior to decommissioning, which will be sufficient to safeguard any archaeological remains during the decommissioning phase (paragraph 13.7.54 of <b>ES Chapter 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-051]</b>) and secured through the draft DCO [EX5/C3.1_G].</p>	<p>LHPT and NCC are of the opinion that any potential impacts caused by the decommissioning phase should be mitigated during the constructional phase. LHPT and NCC believe that insufficient trial trench evaluation has been undertaken across the Order Limits for the Scheme, and as a consequence it is not possible to agree adequate mitigation works in those areas where LHPT and NCC believe sufficient trenching has not been undertaken as part of a post-consent Requirement during the construction phase (see CUL-10).</p>

Main Topic	Sub-topic	The Applicant's Position	LCC's Position
CUL-10	Intrusive Archaeological Evaluation Fieldwork: Identification of presence/absence of Archaeological features	<p>There is presently a lack of agreement regarding what constitutes a sufficient level of archaeological field evaluation to identify the absence/presence of archaeological features in order to inform the DCO application, and what works could be undertaken as part of a post-consent requirement.</p> <p>The Applicant considers that the programme of geophysical survey, which covered all accessible areas within the Scheme, and informed trial trenching was a sufficient evaluation and fulfilled the standard for an archaeological field evaluation as defined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeology (CIfA) <i>Standards for Archaeological Field Evaluation</i> (2023): <i>"Archaeological field evaluation is a programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which seeks to determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts. It may form a single or final phase of work within a defined area or site on land, in an inter-tidal zone or under water."</i></p>	<p>LHPT and NCC are of the opinion that <i>"baseline evidence is woefully inadequate and effective and appropriate mitigation cannot be determined outside of the trenched areas"</i> (Lincolnshire County Council Relevant Representations 28.03.2023, Ref EN010133). LHPT and NCC believe non-intrusive survey (i.e. geophysical survey) is not a sufficient field evaluation method for identifying the archaeological potential of the development area, and that a programme of evaluation trial trenching that covers a 2% (plus contingency either at 1 or 2%) area sample of the whole scheme is required to identify the absence/presence of archaeological remains.</p>
CUL-11	Approach to Additional Archaeological Mitigation:	<p>There is presently a lack of agreement regarding the suitability of a programme of informative trenching post-DCO determination.</p>	<p>LHPT and NCC are of the opinion that the information derived from trial trench evaluation is critical to inform the DCO application, and consider post-consent trenching to impose too</p>

Main Topic	Sub-topic	The Applicant's Position	LCC's Position
	Informative Trenching	<p>A post-determination programme of informative trenching targeting geophysical anomalies and cropmarks identified from air photo and LiDAR mapping interpreted as having an unknown origin, in line with that detailed in the WSI [REP4-034], was discussed between LHPT and the Applicant of the Cottam Solar Project on the 22.03.2023.</p> <p>The Applicant is of the opinion that the field evaluation, comprising geophysical survey and targeted evaluation trenching, was sufficient to inform the archaeological assessment of the Scheme that was undertaken for the DCO application, and the scope of works undertaken as a post-consent requirement. A programme of uninformed trial trenching with a high sample rate (i.e., 2%) is considered by the Applicant to be disproportionate to the assessed archaeological potential of the land within the Order Limits. If further trenching across the Scheme is deemed necessary, the Applicant considers that, in line with correspondence with the Planning Inspectorate and Historic England and guided by case studies across LPAs in the North and East of England, this should be undertaken post DCO determination at a low sample, and limited to areas where the</p>	<p>much risk upon the developer/Scheme (meeting 03.10.2023 see table 2.1). Consequently LHPT and NCC believe that evaluation trial trenching should be undertaken pre-determination across the whole site at a sample of 2% (plus contingency). LHPT and NCC consider that evaluation trenches need to cover known and suspected areas of archaeology and also the so-called "blank" areas because there will be archaeology which is not picked up in other evaluation techniques, for example burials do not show up in geophysical survey and in cropmarks later activity may mask earlier surviving archaeology. Unexpected Saxon skeletons were found within 20cm of the ground surface in trenching of blank areas, and on another NSIP all the mitigation areas were identified from trenching, not other evaluation techniques. Our concern is that currently there will be unidentified unexamined archaeology which will be damaged or destroyed by the development process.</p>

Main Topic	Sub-topic	The Applicant's Position	LCC's Position
		proposed development will cause a high level of ground disturbance.	
CUL-12	Approach to Embedded Archaeological Mitigation: Use of concrete feet	<p>There is presently a lack of agreement regarding whether there is sufficient information to support the use of concrete anchors as a form of archaeological mitigation by design to preserve buried archaeological remains in situ.</p> <p>The Applicant considers that concrete anchors are a nationally recognised method for archaeological mitigation by design, as demonstrated by guidance provided by Cornwall Council (<a href="#">BRE National Solar Centre, 2013</a>, P.13), and the numerous examples of solar schemes where LPAs have agreed the use of concrete anchors to safeguard buried archaeological remains (i.e. Nottinghamshire, North Yorkshire, North Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk etc).</p> <p>As detailed in Appendix 13.7 Archaeological Mitigation WSI [REP4-034], all areas recommended by the Applicant for archaeological mitigation using concrete feet have been subject to field evaluation using geophysical survey and trial trenching.</p>	<p>LHPT and NCC are of the opinion that the use of concrete anchors is unacceptable. They consider that there is insufficient information to demonstrate that there is no impact on shallow buried archaeological remains during the construction, operational (i.e., compaction) and decommissioning phases of concrete anchors. LHPT and NCC believe that concrete anchors are part of the range of mitigation options and the use of concrete anchors is not a concern where the archaeology that will be impacted is robust and suitable for such mitigation. LHPT and NCC consider that the Applicant's use of this mitigation type in unevaluated areas where the nature, depth, extent, significance and type of archaeology has not been determined. The unexpected Saxon remains found near the ground surface for example would be damaged and destroyed without investigation or recording if the area had been subject to concrete anchors without trenching.</p>

Main Topic	Sub-topic	The Applicant's Position	LCC's Position
CUL-13	Approach to Additional Archaeological Mitigation: archaeological monitoring (cable route)	<p>There is presently a lack of agreement regarding whether a watching brief is a sufficient form of mitigation along the cable route.</p> <p>The Applicant is of the opinion that geophysical survey is a sufficient field evaluation to identify the absence/presence of buried archaeological remains. Archaeological mitigation in the form of strip, map and sample is proposed in Appendix 13.7 Archaeological Mitigation WSI <b>[REP4-034]</b>, where geophysical survey has identified concentrations of buried archaeological deposits. The Applicant considers that an archaeological monitoring (watching brief) is sufficient to record any discrete features not detected by the geophysical survey.</p>	<p>LHPT and NCC are of the opinion that mitigation cannot be determined outside of the areas where evaluation trial trenching was completed. LHPT does not agree that archaeological monitoring would be sufficient without sufficient trenching results to inform whether it is an appropriate strategy.</p>



# West Burton Solar Project

## Landscape and Visual Position Statement Lincolnshire County Council

Prepared by: Lanpro Services  
April 2024

PINS reference: EN010132  
Document reference: EX6/WB8.3.1\_A

Planning Act 2008  
Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010





Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed	AAH/LCC Comment	Applicant Comment
LAN-01 Landscape and Visual Impact	ES Chapter 8: Appendices and Figures	The Appendices and Figures listed within Section 8.1 of <b>6.2.8 Environmental Statement - Chapter 8_Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-046]</b> , are presented in sufficient detail to inform the baseline, underpin the LVIA process and to identify the likely significant effects of the Scheme.	This is Agreed	Noted and Agreed
LAN-02 Landscape and Visual Impact	Meetings and Workshops	The meetings and workshops with statutory consultees set out within Section 8.2 of <b>6.2.8 Environmental Statement - Chapter 8_Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-046]</b> and <b>6.3.8.4 Environmental Statement - Appendix 8.4 Consultation [APP-075]</b> , have been effective in informing decision making and monitoring the LVIA assessment process of the Scheme to date. The engagement has been timely and has been a valuable tool in seeking understanding and agreement about the key issues.	This is Agreed	Noted and Agreed
LAN-03 Landscape and Visual Impact	Legislation and Planning Policy	The summary of relevant legislation and planning policy set out within Section 8.3 of <b>6.2.8 Environmental Statement - Chapter 8_Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-046]</b> , is relevant to the landscape and visual assessment is up to date and complete, for the purposes of the decision making process on the DCO application.	This is Agreed	Noted and Agreed

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed	AAH/LCC Comment	Applicant Comment
LAN-04 Landscape and Visual Impact	Assessment Methodology and Significance Criteria	The methodology adopted within Section 8.4 of <b>6.2.8 Environmental Statement - Chapter 8_Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-046]</b> has been derived from the information obtained through consultation and engagement with stakeholders and by reviewing relevant guidance and studies and is considered acceptable in so far as it relates to those elements of the Scheme within Lincolnshire County.	This is Agreed	Noted and Agreed
LAN-05 Landscape and Visual Impact	Study Area/Scope of Assessment	The Study Areas and Scope of Assessment set out within Section 8.5 of <b>6.2.8 Environmental Statement - Chapter 8_Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-046]</b> is sufficient to inform the assessment baseline conditions.	This is Agreed	Noted and Agreed
LAN-06 Landscape and Visual Impact	Baseline Conditions	The description of the existing baseline landscape and visual conditions set out within Section 8.5 of <b>6.2.8 Environmental Statement - Chapter 8_Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-046]</b> and <b>6.3.8.2 Environmental Statement - Appendix 8.2 Assessment of Potential Landscape Effects [APP-073]</b> and <b>6.3.8.3 Environmental Statement - Appendix 8.3 Assessment of Potential Visual Effects [APP-074]</b> , is representative of the baseline site conditions and therefore acceptable to inform the assessment.	This is Agreed	Noted and Agreed

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed	AAH/LCC Comment	Applicant Comment
LAN-07 Landscape and Visual Impact	Landscape Character Assessments	The published landscape character assessments that are relied upon at the national, regional, and local level and set out within Section 8.5 of <b>6.2.8 Environmental Statement - Chapter 8_Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-046]</b> and <b>6.3.8.2 Environmental Statement - Appendix 8.2 Assessment of Potential Landscape Effects [APP-073]</b> and <b>6.3.8.3 Environmental Statement - Appendix 8.3 Assessment of Potential Visual Effects [APP-074]</b> , are considered acceptable to inform the assessment baseline conditions.	This is Agreed	Noted and Agreed
LAN-08 Landscape and Visual Impact	Visual Receptors: Assessment Viewpoints for the main Sites	The viewpoints set out within Section 8.5 of <b>6.2.8 Environmental Statement - Chapter 8_Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-046]</b> and <b>6.3.8.3 Environmental Statement - Appendix 8.3 Assessment of Potential Visual Effects [APP-074]</b> are considered acceptable to inform the assessment baseline conditions.	This is Agreed	Noted and Agreed
LAN-09 Landscape and Visual Impact	Visual Receptors: Additional Assessment Viewpoints for the Cable Route Corridor	The viewpoints set out within Section 8.5 of <b>6.2.8 Environmental Statement - Chapter 8_Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-046]</b> and <b>6.3.8.3 Environmental Statement - Appendix 8.3 Assessment of Potential Visual Effects [APP-074]</b> are considered acceptable to inform the baseline	This is Agreed	Noted and Agreed

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed	AAH/LCC Comment	Applicant Comment
		conditions for the Cable Route Corridor and Substations.		
LAN-10 Landscape and Visual Impact	Landscape Receptors: Value	The judgements on value for the landscape receptors, as set out within Section 8.5 of <b>6.2.8 Environmental Statement - Chapter 8_Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-046]</b> and <b>6.3.8.2 Environmental Statement - Appendix 8.2 Assessment of Potential Landscape Effects [APP-073]</b> , are considered acceptable to inform the assessment baseline conditions.	This is Agreed	Noted and Agreed
LAN-11 Landscape and Visual Impact	Visual Receptors: Value	The judgements on value for the visual receptors, as set out within Section 8.5 of <b>6.2.8 Environmental Statement - Chapter 8_Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-046]</b> and <b>6.3.8.3 Environmental Statement - Appendix 8.3 Assessment of Potential Visual Effects [APP-074]</b> , are considered acceptable to inform the assessment baseline conditions.	This is Agreed	Noted and Agreed
LAN-12 Landscape and Visual Impact	Embedded Design Mitigation	The approach and proposals for embedded mitigation set out within Section 8.6 of <b>6.2.8 Environmental Statement - Chapter 8_Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-046]</b> and <b>6.3.8.2 Environmental Statement - Appendix 8.2 Assessment of Potential Landscape Effects [APP-073]</b> and <b>6.3.8.3 Environmental Statement -</b>	This is Agreed	Noted and Agreed

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed	AAH/LCC Comment	Applicant Comment
		<b>Appendix 8.3 Assessment of Potential Visual Effects [APP-074]</b> , considers the landscape and visual matters associated with the Scheme as part of an iterative process. LCC also acknowledge the establishing planting will add a positive element to this landscape and vegetation removal, as shown on the Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Rev A), is relatively minimal.		
LAN-13 Landscape and Visual Impact	Additional Mitigation	The approach and proposals for additional mitigation set out within Section 8.6 of <b>6.2.8 Environmental Statement - Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-046]</b> and <b>6.3.8.2 Environmental Statement - Appendix 8.2 Assessment of Potential Landscape Effects [APP-073]</b> and <b>6.3.8.3 Environmental Statement - Appendix 8.3 Assessment of Potential Visual Effects [APP-074]</b> , considers the landscape and visual matters associated with the Scheme as part of an iterative process. LCC also acknowledge the establishing planting will add a positive element to this landscape and vegetation removal, as shown on the Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Rev A), is relatively minimal.	This is Agreed	Noted and Agreed

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed	AAH/LCC Comment	Applicant Comment
LAN-14 A Landscape and Visual Impact	In – Combination Effects Landscape Construction Year 1	<p>It is agreed by both parties that there are no In – Combination Significant Adverse Effects on the following Landscape receptors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Scale Landscape Character Area LCT 3a Flood Plain Valleys.</li> <li>• Regional Scale Landscape Character Area LCT 4b Wooded Vales.</li> <li>• Regional Scale Landscape Character Area LCT 6a Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes.</li> <li>• Local Scale Landscape Character MNPZ 5: Leverton.</li> <li>• Local Scale Landscape Character TWPZ 21: Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands.</li> <li>• Local Scale Landscape Character TWPZ 22: Cottam River Meadowlands.</li> <li>• Local Scale Landscape Character TWPZ 23: Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands.</li> <li>• Local Scale Landscape Character TWPZ 24: Littleborough River Meadowlands.</li> <li>• Local Scale Landscape Character TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands.</li> <li>• Local Scale Landscape Character 2: Trent Valley.</li> <li>• Local Scale Landscape Character 4: The Cliff.</li> <li>• Topography and Watercourses.</li> <li>• Communication and Infrastructure.</li> <li>• Settlements, Industry, Commerce and Leisure.</li> </ul>	This is Agreed	Noted and Agreed

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed	AAH/LCC Comment	Applicant Comment
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public Rights of Way and Access.</li> <li>National and Locally Designated Landscapes.</li> <li>Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens.</li> <li>Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations.</li> </ul>		
LAN-14 B Landscape and Visual Impact	In – Combination Effects Landscape Residual (Year 15)	<p>It is agreed by both parties that there are no In-Combination Significant Adverse Residual Effects to the following Landscape receptors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All Regional Scale Landscape Character Areas.</li> <li>All Local Scale Landscape Character Areas.</li> <li>Topography and Watercourses.</li> <li>Communication and Infrastructure.</li> <li>Settlements, Industry, Commerce and Leisure.</li> <li>Public Rights of Way and Access.</li> <li>National and Locally Designated Landscapes.</li> <li>Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens.</li> <li>Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations.</li> </ul>	<p>This is Agreed</p> <p>However, the residual effects are dependent upon the successful establishment of planting associated with the landscape mitigation scheme.</p>	Noted and Agreed
LAN-14 C Landscape and Visual Impact	In – Combination Effects Landscape and Visual All Assessment Years	<p>It is agreed by both parties that there are no In-Combination Significant Adverse Effects to any Receptor associated with the Cable Route Corridor at any point in time.</p>	This is Agreed	Noted and Agreed
LAN-14 D	In – Combination Effects Landscape Construction	<p>It is agreed by both parties that LCC maintain a position that In-Combination Significant Adverse</p>	This is Agreed	Noted and Agreed

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed	AAH/LCC Comment	Applicant Comment
Landscape and Visual Impact	Year 1	<p>Effects are associated with the following Landscape Receptors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Scale LCT- 4a: Unwooded Vales.</li> <li>Local Scale Landscape Character 3: The Till Vale.</li> <li>Land Use.</li> </ul> <p>These landscape receptors represent the Site itself and the Scheme's host landscape character areas.</p>		
LAN-14-E Landscape and Visual Impact	In - Combination Effects Landscape Residual (Year 15)	<p>It is agreed by both parties that LCC maintain a position that In-Combination Significant Adverse Effects are associated with the following Landscape Receptor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land Use.</li> </ul>	This is Agreed	Noted and Agreed
LAN-14-H Landscape and Visual Impact	Cumulative Effects Landscape Construction Year 1	<p>It is agreed by both parties that there are no Cumulative Significant Adverse Effects on the following landscape receptors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Scale Landscape Character Area LCT 3a Flood Plain Valleys.</li> <li>Regional Scale Landscape Character Area LCT 4b Wooded Vales.</li> <li>Regional Scale Landscape Character Area LCT 6a Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes.</li> <li>Local Scale Landscape Character MNPZ 5: Leverton.</li> </ul>	This is Agreed	Noted and Agreed



Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed	AAH/LCC Comment	Applicant Comment
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Scale Landscape Character TWPZ 21: Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands.</li> <li>• Local Scale Landscape Character TWPZ 22: Cottam River Meadowlands.</li> <li>• Local Scale Landscape Character TWPZ 23: Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands.</li> <li>• Local Scale Landscape Character TWPZ 24: Littleborough River Meadowlands.</li> <li>• Local Scale Landscape Character TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands.</li> <li>• Local Scale Landscape Character 4: The Cliff.</li> <li>• Topography and Watercourses.</li> <li>• Communication and Infrastructure.</li> <li>• Settlements, Industry, Commerce and Leisure.</li> <li>• Public Rights of Way and Access.</li> <li>• National and Locally Designated Landscapes.</li> <li>• Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens.</li> <li>• Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations.</li> </ul>		
LAN-14-J Landscape and Visual Impact	Cumulative Effects Landscape Residual (Year 15)	<p>It is agreed by both parties that there are no Cumulative Significant Adverse Residual Effects to the following Landscape receptors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Scale Landscape Character Area LCT 3a Flood Plain Valleys.</li> <li>• Regional Scale LCT- 4b: Wooded Vales.</li> </ul>	This is Agreed	Noted and Agreed

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed	AAH/LCC Comment	Applicant Comment
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Scale Landscape Character Area LCT 6a Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes.</li> <li>• Local Scale Landscape Character MNPZ 5: Leverton.</li> <li>• Local Scale Landscape Character TWPZ 21: Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands.</li> <li>• Local Scale Landscape Character TWPZ 22: Cottam River Meadowlands.</li> <li>• Local Scale Landscape Character TWPZ 23: Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands.</li> <li>• Local Scale Landscape Character TWPZ 24: Littleborough River Meadowlands.</li> <li>• Local Scale Landscape Character TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands.</li> <li>• Local Scale Landscape Character 4: The Cliff.</li> <li>• Topography and Watercourses.</li> <li>• Communication and Infrastructure.</li> <li>• Settlements, Industry, Commerce and Leisure.</li> <li>• Public Rights of Way and Access.</li> <li>• National and Locally Designated Landscapes.</li> <li>• Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens.</li> <li>• Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations.</li> </ul>		
LAN-14-J	Cumulative Effects Landscape and Visual	It is agreed by both parties that there are no Cumulative Significant Adverse Effects to any	This is Agreed	Noted and Agreed

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed	AAH/LCC Comment	Applicant Comment
Landscape and Visual Impact	All Assessment Years	Receptor associated with the Cable Route Corridor at any point in time.		
LAN-14-K Landscape and Visual Impact	Cumulative Effects Landscape All Assessment Years	<p>It is agreed by both parties that LCC maintain a position that Cumulative Significant Adverse Effects are associated with the following Landscape Receptors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Scale LCT- 4a: Unwooded Vales.</li> <li>• Local Scale Landscape Character 2: Trent Valley</li> <li>• Local Scale Landscape Character 3: The Till Vale.</li> <li>• Land Use.</li> </ul> <p>These landscape receptors represent the Site itself and the Scheme's host landscape character areas.</p>	This is Agreed	Noted and Agreed
LAN-15 Landscape and Visual Impact	Presentation of Assessment Findings	<p>The approach to the assessment being an independent chapter text backed up with detailed technical appendices is acceptable. The volume of the information in the appendices (rather than the chapter) is in part due to the fragmented nature of the Scheme and cable routes over a wide area, creating additional elements to consider beyond a simple singular red line boundary.</p> <p>The Applicant has submitted a summary of effects at Deadline 1 set out in the Supplementary ES Landscape</p>	This is Agreed	Noted and Agreed

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed	AAH/LCC Comment	Applicant Comment
		Information: Landscape Effects Tables <b>[EN010132/PEX/WB8.2.1]</b> and in Supplementary ES Landscape Information: Visual Effects Tables <b>[EN010132/PEX/WB8.2.2]</b> which summarises the main findings of the LVIA. This non-technical summary is to assist readers understand the conclusions of the LVIA and contains a list of potentially affected receptors with summarising narrative to provide context and identify what the key issues are.		
LAN-16 Landscape and Visual Impact	Detail within Assessment Findings	A lot of supporting information is provided within associated appendices which provide very detailed information relating to the assessment.	This is Agreed	Noted and Agreed
LAN-17 Landscape and Visual Impact	Summary of assessment findings	The Applicant has prepared summaries of the assessment of effects to landscape receptors and visual receptors which were submitted to the Examination at Deadline 1, please refer to <b>REP1-058</b> West Burton Solar Project Limited Deadline 1 Submission - 8.2.1 Supplementary Landscape Effects Tables and <b>REP1-059</b> West Burton Solar Project Limited Deadline 1 Submission - 8.2.2 Supplementary Visual Effects Tables  These supplementary tables communicate the main findings as a clear summary, which signposts out to	Summary tables have been received. LCC understand that the findings presented within the summary tables supersedes those presented within the main LVIA chapter, which contains some errors, and the summary table should be referred to for the final assessment of effects.	Noted and Agreed

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed	AAH/LCC Comment	Applicant Comment
		where the detailed information is available in the LVIA chapter and appendices. This new documentation is aimed to benefit nontechnical readers by providing a narrative that summarises the assessment undertaken and identifies what the key issues are.		
LAN-20 Landscape and Visual Impact	Close Range Views: Justification and Clarification	The LVIA identifies 6 viewpoints, 2 PROW, and 2 transport receptors, that would experience Significant adverse residual effects, and also 18 viewpoints, 2 PROW, and 6 transport receptors that would experience adverse residual effects (Not Significant). LCC are in agreement with the findings of the visual assessment.	Summary tables have been received. LCC understand that the findings presented within the summary tables supersedes those presented within the main LVIA chapter, which contains some errors, and the summary table should be referred to for the final assessment of effects.	Noted and Agreed
LAN-21 Landscape and Visual Impact	ES Chapter 8: Wider Highways Elements	The judgements and conclusions on the likely significant impacts and effects for the landscape receptors are set out within Section 8.7 of ES Chapter: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment <b>[APP-043]</b> . Wherever feasible, construction vehicle access to the Sites will utilise existing highways and associated access points.  The Applicant considers that in certain locations where existing accesses do not exist, some very minor hedgerow removal is necessary to accommodate the access road between fields, land parcels and solar panel areas. Hedgerows to be removed are set out in	This is Agreed	Noted and Agreed

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed	AAH/LCC Comment	Applicant Comment
		<p>WB8.2.3 Hedgerow Removal Plans [EN010132/EX1/WB8.2.3]. This removal will involve only very short sections of hedgerow to accommodate internal access roads and will not involve loss of trees, in particular trees protected under any Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs).</p> <p>Following further development of the Scheme, more detailed planting plans including detail of areas of landscape mitigation, location and types of planting (species), as well as number, density and specification will be provided prior to any works commencing. The detailed landscape proposals will consist of the area and extent of the Scheme shown on 6.4.8.18.1_A to 6.4.8.18.3_A Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Figures 8.18.1_A to 8.18.3_A) [REP1-026, REP1-028 and REP1-030]. The Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan D [REP4-044] (the 'OLEMP') is secured by the [REP4-024] Requirement 7 of Schedule 2 of WB3.1_E Draft Development Consent Order Revision E (Clean).</p>		
LAN-22 Landscape and Visual Impact	Existing Trees and Hedgerows	<p>Wherever feasible, construction vehicle access to the Sites will utilise existing highways and associated access points.</p> <p>This removal will involve only very short sections of hedgerow to accommodate internal access roads and</p>	This is Agreed	Noted and Agreed

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed	AAH/LCC Comment	Applicant Comment
		<p>will not involve loss of trees, in particular trees protected under any Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs).</p> <p>The Applicant considers that in certain locations where existing accesses do not exist, some very minor hedgerow removal is necessary to accommodate the access road between fields, land parcels and solar panel areas. Hedgerows to be removed are set out in WB8.2.3 Hedgerow Removal Plans [EN010132/EX1/WB8.2.3]. This removal will involve only very short sections of hedgerow to accommodate internal access roads and will not involve loss of trees, in particular trees protected under any Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs).</p> <p>Following further development of the Scheme, more detailed planting plans including detail of areas of landscape mitigation, location and types of planting (species), as well as number, density and specification will be provided prior to any works commencing. The detailed landscape proposals will consist of the area and extent of the Scheme shown on 6.4.8.18.1_A to 6.4.8.18.3_A Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Figures 8.18.1_A to 8.18.3_A) [REP1-026, REP1-028 and REP1-030]. The Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan D [REP4-044] (the 'OLEMP') is secured by the [REP4-024]</p>		

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed	AAH/LCC Comment	Applicant Comment
		Requirement 7 of Schedule 2 of WB3.1_E Draft Development Consent Order Revision E (Clean).		
LAN-23 Landscape and Visual Impact	Long Range Views	<p>The Applicant considers that the LVIA recognises the importance of these long views and that the effects would be 'Not Significant' (in EIA terms). The LVIA includes a suite of 57 initial viewpoints, some of which cover long range views and there are also an additional 15 viewpoints that were included in the assessment at the request of LCC covering long-range views as agreed at the LVIA Workshops held prior to submission.</p> <p>The development would not be conspicuous in long distance views, including from the ridge and wider Till Vale due to vegetation and distance, and subsequently would not result in significant adverse effects to receptors in these locations.</p>	While the Ridge provides an elevated vantage point across the Till Vale, and while a concern that the development would be prominent in the view, the information presented within the LVIA and subsequent information throughout the examination period has identified that it is unlikely the development would be conspicuous in the view due to vegetation and distance, and subsequently would be unlikely to provide significant adverse effects to receptors in this location.	Noted and Agreed
LAN-25 Landscape and Visual Impact	Landscape and Ecological Management Plan: Landscape and Ecological Improvements	Following further development of the Scheme, more detailed planting plans including detail of areas of landscape mitigation, location and types of planting (species), as well as number, density and specification will be provided prior to any works commencing. The detailed landscape proposals will consist of the area and extent of the Scheme shown on 6.4.8.18.1_A to 6.4.8.18.3_A Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Figures 8.18.1_A to 8.18.3_A)	This is Agreed	Noted and Agreed



Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed	AAH/LCC Comment	Applicant Comment
		[REP1-026, REP1-028 and REP1-030]. The Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan D [REP4-044] (the 'OLEMP') is secured by the [REP4-024] Requirement 7 of Schedule 2 of WB3.1_E Draft Development Consent Order Revision E (Clean).		
LAN-26 Landscape and Visual Impact	Wording of Requirements: Embedded Mitigation	Following further development of the Scheme, more detailed planting plans including detail of areas of landscape mitigation, location and types of planting (species), as well as number, density and specification will be provided prior to any works commencing. The detailed landscape proposals will consist of the area and extent of the Scheme shown on 6.4.8.18.1_A to 6.4.8.18.3_A Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Figures 8.18.1_A to 8.18.3_A) [REP1-026, REP1-028 and REP1-030]. The Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan D [REP4-044] (the 'OLEMP') is secured by the [REP4-024] Requirement 7 of Schedule 2 of WB3.1_E Draft Development Consent Order Revision E (Clean).	This is Agreed	Noted and Agreed
LAN-27 Landscape and Visual Impact	Wording of Requirements: Additional Mitigation	Following further development of the Scheme, more detailed planting plans including detail of areas of landscape mitigation, location and types of planting (species), as well as number, density and specification will be provided prior to any works commencing. The detailed landscape proposals will consist of the area	This is Agreed	Noted and Agreed

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed	AAH/LCC Comment	Applicant Comment
		and extent of the Scheme shown on 6.4.8.18.1_A to 6.4.8.18.3_A Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Figures 8.18.1_A to 8.18.3_A) [REP1-026, REP1-028 and REP1-030]. The Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan D [REP4-044] (the 'OLEMP') is secured by the [REP4-024] Requirement 7 of Schedule 2 of WB3.1_E Draft Development Consent Order Revision E (Clean).		
LAN-28 Landscape and Visual Impact	Wording of Requirements: Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP)	Following further development of the Scheme, more detailed planting plans including detail of areas of landscape mitigation, location and types of planting (species), as well as number, density and specification will be provided prior to any works commencing. The detailed landscape proposals will consist of the area and extent of the Scheme shown on 6.4.8.18.1_A to 6.4.8.18.3_A Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Figures 8.18.1_A to 8.18.3_A) [REP1-026, REP1-028 and REP1-030]. The Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan D [REP4-044] (the 'OLEMP') is secured by the [REP4-024] Requirement 7 of Schedule 2 of WB3.1_E Draft Development Consent Order Revision E (Clean).	This is Agreed	Noted and Agreed
LAN-29	Wording of Requirements: No Further Mitigation Sought	LCC require that any further landscape and ecological mitigation measures should be further explored and refined at the detailed design stages.	This is Agreed	Noted and Agreed

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed	AAH/LCC Comment	Applicant Comment
Landscape and Visual Impact		<p>The Applicant considers that no further mitigation is considered necessary to that already identified within the suite of application documents, particularly 7.17 Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [APP-326] and Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Environmental Statement - Figures 8.18.1 to 8.18.3 [APP-281 to APP-283]). The mechanisms for securing the Embedded and Additional Mitigation measures for the Scheme are acceptable.</p> <p>The detailed landscape proposals will consist of the area and extent of the Scheme shown on 6.4.8.18.1_A to 6.4.8.18.3_A Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Figures 8.18.1_A to 8.18.3_A) [REP1-026, REP1-028 and REP1-030]. The Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan D [REP4-044] (the 'OLEMP') is secured by the [REP4-024] Requirement 7 of Schedule 2 of WB3.1_E Draft Development Consent Order Revision E (Clean).</p>		
LAN-30 Landscape and Visual Impact	Wording of Requirements: Correlation between LEMP [APP-326] and Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plans (Figures	The detailed landscape proposals will consist of the area and extent of the Scheme shown on 6.4.8.18.1_A to 6.4.8.18.3_A Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Figures 8.18.1_A to 8.18.3_A) [REP1-026, REP1-028 and REP1-030]. The Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan D [REP4-	This is Agreed	Noted and Agreed

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed	AAH/LCC Comment	Applicant Comment
	8.18.1 to 8.13.3) [APP-281 to APP-283].	044] (the 'OLEMP') is secured by the [REP4-024] Requirement 7 of Schedule 2 of WB3.1_E Draft Development Consent Order Revision E (Clean).		

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Not Agreed	AAH/LCC Comment	Applicant Comment
LAN-18 Landscape and Visual Impact	Landscape Character Effects	<p>LCC considers that the mass and scale of the Scheme would lead to significant adverse effects on landscape character spread throughout a wide area with an over-reliance on landscape mitigation in assessing the residual effects as being beneficial.</p> <p>The detailed matters relating to the Landscape Character Effects within the LVIA and associated appendices are under discussion with LCC.</p>	<p>LCC are in disagreement in regards to the LVIA's identification of all beneficial landscape effects. LCC maintain the position that the development of a large-scale solar scheme will not bring about any beneficial landscape effects that have been identified in the LVIA.</p> <p>LCC maintain that while residual effects will reduce, this is dependent upon the successful establishment of planting.</p>	<p>Noted. Not Agreed.</p> <p>The Scheme is considered to lead to adverse and neutral landscape effects during Construction and Year 1 phases of the Scheme, but by Year 15, following establishment of the proposed mitigation and landscape enhancement planting, effects on certain receptors are considered beneficial, but only ever at most, minor (Regional Scale LCT- 4a: Unwooded Vales and Local Scale Landscape Character 3: The Till Vale,). No Significant (adverse or beneficial) In-Combination effects are identified. Beneficial Landscape effects are derived from the significant amount of landscaping provided by the environmental masterplan. Across the West Burton scheme, there would be approximately 7.1km of new native hedgerow will be planted, 13.7ha of woodland and over 900ha of various grassland types.</p> <p>This new landscaping has been designed to build upon and positively respond to the aims and management guidelines of the Regional and Local Landscape</p>

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Not Agreed	AAH/LCC Comment	Applicant Comment
				Character Assessments. For example, the planting of large blocks of woodland have been avoided, instead native woodland shelter belts and individual trees have been utilised to support the existing character of this area. Where visible from within the wider landscape, the new planting would reinforce the well layered landscape with a backdrop of wooded vegetation in places on the horizon. Both new and existing vegetation would have established and begun to mature, creating a much stronger structure to the landscape locally, retaining and enhancing the overall character of the area.
LAN-19 Landscape and Visual Impact	Visual Amenity Effects	The LVIA identifies 6 viewpoints, 2 PROW, and 2 transport receptors, that would experience Significant adverse residual effects, and also 18 viewpoints, 2 PROW, and 6 transport receptors that would experience adverse residual effects (Not Significant). LCC are in agreement with the findings of the visual assessment.	The LVIA identifies 6 viewpoints, 2 PROW, and 2 transport receptors, that would experience Significant adverse residual effects, and also 18 viewpoints, 2 PROW, and 6 transport receptors that would experience Not Significant adverse residual effects. By reason of its mass and scale, we would expect there to be adverse visual effects, and are generally in agreement with the assessment.	Noted. Not agreed. GLVIA3 defines types of cumulative visual effect as either: Combined (in the same view) or Sequential, (different developments revealed in succession as a series of sequential views.) Table 7.1 regarding Cumulative visual effects states: <i>“Sequential: Occurs when the observer has to move to another viewpoint to see the same or different developments.</i>

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Not Agreed	AAH/LCC Comment	Applicant Comment
			<p>However, LCC judge that the adverse effects identified are likely to be exacerbated when traveling through the area either along PROW or local roads between villages, and the sequential visual effects of a large scale solar development, spread over extensive and fragmented redline boundaries, has the potential to create a perception of being surrounded by solar development. Frequent sequential views would create a change to the experience of visual receptors – these don't necessarily need to be clear open views of the scheme and may be glimpsed, potentially over several kilometres of travel.</p> <p>While these views would not necessarily be from scenic routes or long distance or promoted PROW, the frequency and extent of views overall would undoubtedly increase the significance of sequential visual effect.</p>	<p><i>Sequential effects may be assessed for travel along regularly used routes such as major roads or popular paths:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•<i>Frequently Sequential: Where features appear regularly and with short time lapses between instances depending on speed of travel and distance between the viewpoints.</i></li> <li>•<i>Occasionally sequential: Where longer time lapses between appearances would occur because the observer is moving very slowly and/or there are larger distances between viewpoints."</i></li> </ul> <p>GLVIA3 goes on to state at para 7.34: <i>"Users of linear routes, especially footpaths or other rights of way, or transport routes, may potentially see the different developments revealed in succession as a series of sequential views."</i></p> <p>Given GLVIA3s referral to linear routes and specifically major roads, it is important to note that the Department for Transport classifies Major Roads to include motorways and all class 'A' roads. These roads usually have high traffic flows and are often the main arteries to major destinations. Minor roads comprise 'B' and 'C' classified</p>

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Not Agreed	AAH/LCC Comment	Applicant Comment
				<p>roads in addition to unclassified roads. Major roads locally to the West Burton scheme are limited to the A15 and the A1500, with all other roads locally being classified as being Minor.</p> <p>As set out within the LVIA, there is no anticipated intervisibility (cumulative or sequential) associated with the West Burton Solar Project and any of the other Cumulative Schemes from the A1500, and due to being set back east of the cliff edge, there is no visibility of the West Burton Scheme from the A15.</p> <p>GLVIA3 also suggests that popular paths should also be included within Sequential assessments, however, as confirmed by LCC, their consideration of sequential views would not be from scenic routes or long distance or promoted PROW, which are those typically considered 'popular paths'.</p> <p>This is a large scale, flat landscape which with appropriate mitigation (as proposed) has the ability to absorb the development. The mitigation planting has been designed to provide screening of the solar infrastructure limiting opportunities for residual effects. As</p>



Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Not Agreed	AAH/LCC Comment	Applicant Comment
				<p>such views towards the sites would be of established vegetation that is helping create an enhanced landscape character, which could therefore not be construed to be adverse across the landscape.</p> <p>GLVIA3 then goes on to state at para 7.38:</p> <p><i>“Higher levels of significance may arise from cumulative visual effects related to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>•developments that are in close proximity to the main project and are clearly visible together in views from the selected viewpoints;</i></li> <li><i>•developments that are highly inter-visible, with overlapping ZTVs - even though the individual developments may be at some distance from the main project and from individual viewpoints, and when viewed individually not particularly significant, the overall combined cumulative effect on a viewer at a particular viewpoint may be more significant.”</i></li> </ul> <p>Given that neither of the above factors are applicable to the West Burton Scheme, it must be assumed that even if there was sequential visual harm, (as</p>

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Not Agreed	AAH/LCC Comment	Applicant Comment
				suggested by LCC), that this could not be considered to be of the highest level of significance.
LAN-24a	In-Combination Effects Landscape <i>Residual (Year 15)</i>	LPA Significant Residual In-Combination Effects: Land Use: Moderate Adverse	LCC maintains that In – Combination, there would be Moderate Adverse (Significant) Residual Effects to Land Use.	Noted. Not Agreed. Applicant maintains that In – Combination, there would be Minor Beneficial (Not Significant) Effects to Land Use.
LAN-24b	Cumulative Effects Landscape <i>Residual (Year 15)</i>	LPA Significant Residual Cumulative Effects: Cottam Solar, Gate Burton Solar, Tillbridge Solar & West Burton Solar. Regional Scale LCT- 4a: Unwooded Vales: Moderate Adverse. Local Scale Landscape Character 2: Trent Valley: Moderate Adverse. Local Scale Landscape Character 3: The Till Vale: Moderate Adverse. Land Use: Moderate to Major Adverse.	LCC maintains that there would be Moderate Adverse (Significant) Residual Cumulative Effects to Regional Scale LCT- 4a: Unwooded Vales, Local Scale Landscape Character 2: Trent Valley and Local Scale Landscape Character 3: The Till Vale.  LCC maintains that there would be Moderate to Major Adverse (Significant) Residual Cumulative Effects on Land Use.	Noted. Not Agreed. Applicant maintains that there would be Negligible Neutral (Not Significant) Residual Cumulative Effects to Regional Scale LCT- 4a: Unwooded Vales, Local Scale Landscape Character 2: Trent Valley and Local Scale Landscape Character 3: The Till Vale. Applicant maintains that there would be Minor Beneficial (Not Significant) Residual Cumulative Effects on Land Use.

# West Burton Solar Project

## Draft Statement of Common Ground with Lincolnshire County Council Appendix C: Waste (WAS-02)

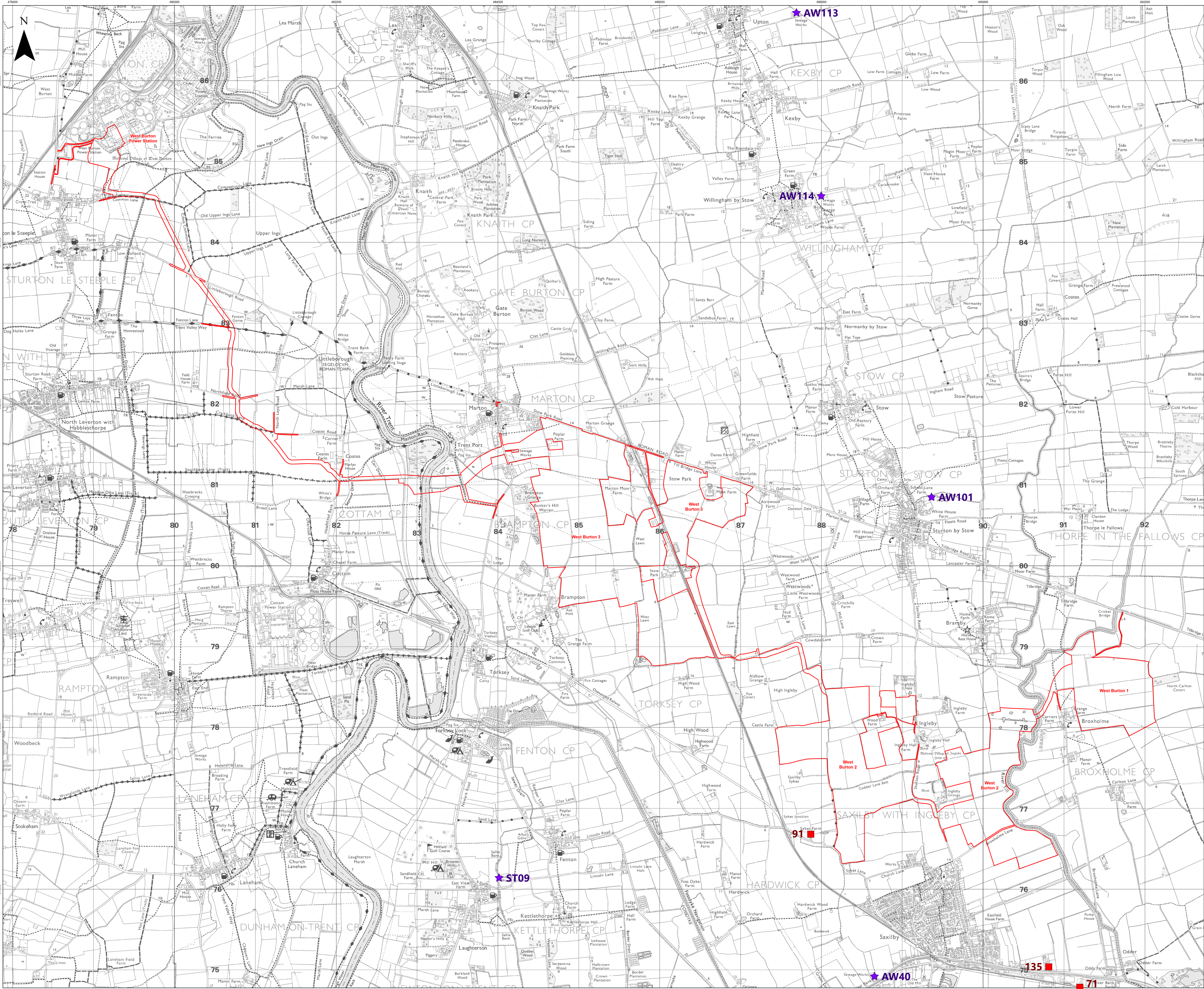
Prepared by: Lanpro Services  
April 2024

PINS reference: EN010132  
Document reference: EX6/WB8.3.1\_A

Planning Act 2008  
Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010







★AW113

★AW114

★AW101

★ST09

★AW40

71

91

West Burton 3

West Burton 3

West Burton 1

West Burton 2

West Burton 2

West Burton Power Station

Map labels include: Upton, KEXBY CP, Knaith, Knaith CP, Marton, STURTON STOW CP, STURTON LE STEEPLE CP, GATE BURTON CP, MORTON CP, STOW CP, STURTON STOW CP, THORPE IN THE FALLOWES CP, RAMPTON CP, TORKSEY CP, FENTON CP, LANEHAM CP, DUNHAM ON-TRENT CP, KETTLETHORPE CP, HARDWICK CP, SAXILBY WITH INGLEBY CP, BROXHOOLME CP, and various farm names like West Burton Power Station, Marton, Stow, Ingleby, and Broxholme.