

# Cottam Solar Project

## Environmental Statement Chapter 3:

### The Order Limits

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## Issue Sheet

**Report Prepared for: Cottam Solar Project Ltd.  
DCO Submission**

### **Environmental Statement Chapter 3: The Order Limits**

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## 3 The Order Limits

### 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 This chapter provides a description of the Order Limits within which the Scheme will be situated and the surrounding area. The Scheme Site comprises the following elements, which are described below:

- The four Solar Array Sites;
- The Cable Route Corridor; and
- Associated accesses.

3.1.2 This chapter should be read in conjunction with ES Figure 1.1 (Location Plan) [EN010133/APP/C6.4.1.1], which defines the Order Limits; the Works Plans [EN010133/APP/C2.4]; and

- **Figure 3.1**, Field Numbering Plan, Cottam 1 [EN010133/APP/C6.4.3.1];
- **Figure 3.2**, Field Numbering Plan, Cottam 2 [EN010133/APP/C6.4.3.2];
- **Figure 3.3**, Field Numbering Plan, Cottam 3 (3a and 3b) [EN010133/APP/C6.4.3.3].

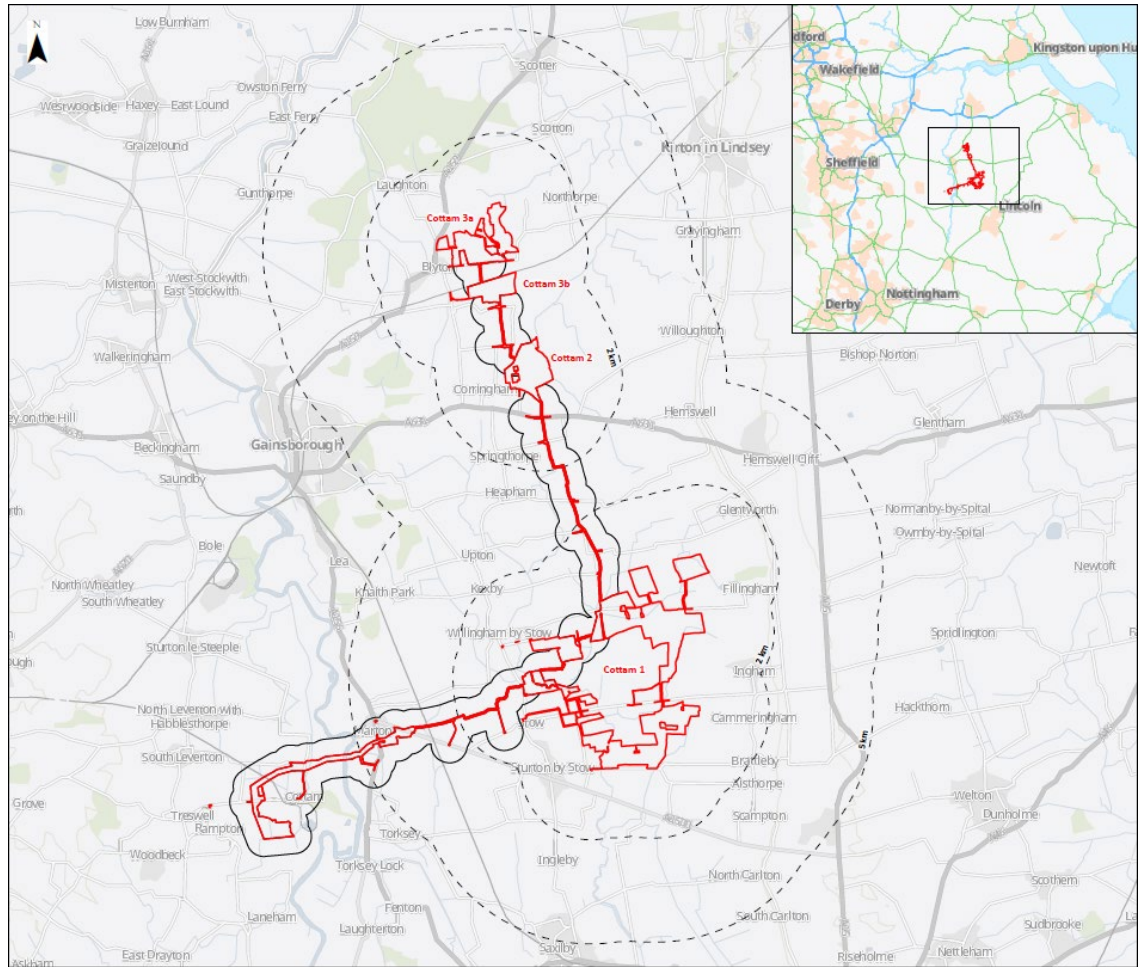
### 3.2 Existing Conditions Within and Surrounding the Order Limits

3.2.1 The Scheme is located within a 19km radius of the Point of Connection (POC) at the former Cottam Power Station. The majority of the Scheme will be located within the jurisdiction of West Lindsey District Council and Lincolnshire County Council. The POC at the former Cottam Power Station and a part of the Cable Route Corridor are located within the jurisdiction of Bassetlaw District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council.

3.2.2 The wider area is predominantly rural with a scattering of small settlements and villages throughout. The main highways routes in the vicinity of the Order limits are the A1500 which runs broadly east to west situated to the south of Cottam 1; the A631 which runs broadly east to west situated to the south of Cottam 2; the B1205 broadly running east to west in the vicinity of Cottam 3a and 3b; and the A15 running north to south and situated to the east of the Sites.

3.2.3 The land within the Order limits is not covered by any statutory landscape designations, i.e., National Parks, or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The Cottam and West Burton Power Station structures situated to the west of the Sites, are dominant structures within the landscape.

### Plate 3.1 Order Limits



3.2.4 The Solar Array Sites are all situated within the District of West Lindsey. Cottam 1 is made up of a number of sites / fields clustered within an area of countryside centred around the village of Coates. Cottam 2 sits to the north of Cottam 1 and is located to the east of the village of Corringham. Cottam 3 sits to the north of Cottam 2 and is split in to two areas:

- Cottam 3a, to the east of the village of Blyton; and
- Cottam 3b, to the east of Pilham.

3.2.5 The total extent of the Order limits is 1451.23 ha.

### 3.3 Cottam 1 (COT1)

3.3.1 **Size:** 894ha

3.3.2 **Use:** The entirety of the Cottam 1 Site is in agricultural use. Isolated parts of the landholding are used for storing materials associated with farming.

3.3.3 **Features:** The topography at Cottam 1 is relatively flat and the development Sites are predominantly well screened from their immediate surroundings by tall hedges around the boundaries of the Site.

3.3.4 The fields are generally large and typically have dividing hedgerows. There are only isolated trees outside of field margins. The Site is interspersed with other landholdings that accommodate farmsteads. The Site includes existing farm access tracks and field accesses.

3.3.5 The River Till meanders in a predominantly north to south orientation across the western portion of the landholding. In some areas the river comprises part of the red line area identified, and in others it adjoins the boundary. The banks of the river are lined with trees. A section of river, joining the River Till, in the north-eastern portion of the landholding, appears to have been canalised. Where this has taken place there are wide open riverbanks with only low-lying vegetation.

3.3.6 There are many woodland blocks adjoining and within close proximity to, and in some cases abutting the Site, the eastern portion of the landholding. There is a total of 22 overhead lines (OHL) which cross the Site, all of which are 11kV electric cables that supply rural properties and farmsteads. Two OHLs cross east to west in the north of the Cottam 1 parcel. One cable crosses north to south between Moor Farm and Lowfield Farm. There are four OHLs which cross in and around Side Farm. There are five OHLs that branch off from the Ingham Road in Stow, to the southwest of the River Till. There are two OHLs that cross east to west above the Coates Gorse with one OHL running in a northeast to southwest orientation to the northeast of Thorpe Wood. One OHL runs northwest to southeast to the east of Fleets Cottages. One OHL runs between Cold Harbour and the Ingham Road. There are five OHLs located around Normandy By Stow.

3.3.7 **Settlements and Roads:** There is a chain of villages on the B1398. The B1398 runs north to south and lies to the east of the Cottam 1. The villages within close proximity to the Site are:

- Glentworth (1.75km to the northeast of the nearest COT1 Site)
- Fillingham (950m to the southeast of the nearest COT1 Site)
- Ingham (2.16km to the east of the nearest COT1 Site)
- Cammeringham (1.53km to the east of the nearest COT1 Site)
- Brattleby (2.72km to the east of the nearest COT1 Site)
- Aisthorpe (2.76km to the southeast of the nearest COT1 Site)

- Scampton (3.02km to the southeast of the nearest COT1 Site)
- 3.3.8 There is also a chain of villages on the B1241 which runs north to south and lies to the west of the Site. The closest villages are:
- Kexby (2.01km to the northwest of the nearest COT1 Site)
  - Willingham by Stow (850m to the west of the nearest COT1 Site)
  - Normanby by Stow (50m to the west of the nearest COT1 Site)
  - Sturton by Stow (850m to the south of the nearest COT1 Site)
  - Bransby (1.63km to the southwest of the nearest COT1 Site).
- 3.3.9 Thorpe Lane runs along the southern edge of the Site, connecting the settlement of Thorpe in the Fallows (with around five dwellings in total, with some slightly offset from the Site) to Sturton by Stow, to the west, and Brattleby, to the east.
- 3.3.10 Ingham Road, turning into Stow Lane runs east to west through the centre of the landholding, connecting the villages of Stow and Ingham. Part of the Site boundary adjoins the road. The settlement of Stow Pasture lies on this road, comprising around seven dwellings. The Site boundary adjoins the gardens of some of these properties and is in close proximity to others.
- 3.3.11 The small settlement of Coates, comprising around ten houses is accessed off of the Ingham Road, and lies within the centre of the landholding area. Whilst the settlement is in the centre of the landholding, the closest Site boundary to any dwelling is over 500m. The settlement also contains the historically important St Edith's Church which is Grade I listed.
- 3.3.12 The closest larger settlements are Gainsborough, approximately 7km northwest of the landholding, and Lincoln, approximately 9km southeast of the landholding. The landholding is situated in the centre of a 'square' of A roads: The A15, A57, A156 and A631. The closest of these, the A15, is approximately 4km east of the landholding.
- 3.3.13 **Railway Lines:** The railway line to the west of the landholding, connecting Lincoln and Gainsborough is 3.08km to the east of the Site.
- 3.3.14 **Public Rights of Way:** There are public footpaths and bridleways running alongside and through the Site. These are identified on the Public Rights of Way Plan accompanying the DCO application [EN010133/APP/C2.5]. The most notable of these are:
- The public footpath that connects Ingham, to the villages of Coates and Stow Pasture 'Stow/83/1' (part of which runs through the Site);
  - The bridleway that connects Thorpe in the Fallows to Ingham Road 'Camm/31/1' (part of which runs through the Site);
  - The bridleways extending northwest from Ingham, running alongside the Site: 'Fill/86/1' and 'Fill/85/2';



- The public footpath 'Stur/73/1' that extends to the east of Sturton by Stow terminates at the Site; and
- The public footpath running north from Broxholme 'TLFe/32/1' extends to Thorpe Lane (which runs along the south of the Site) joins the Site boundary.

3.3.15 **Power Stations:** The decommissioned Cottam Power Station is 7.88km from the Site. West Burton Power Station is 9.50km to the northwest of the Site.

3.3.16 **Airfields:** There are airfields in the surrounding area including Scampton around 3.5km to the southeast of the landholding; and Sturgate around 3.5km to the northwest of the Site.

3.3.17 **Rivers:** The River Till meanders in a predominantly north to south direction across the western portion of the Site. In some areas the river is within the Order limits, and in others it adjoins the boundary. The banks of the river are lined with trees. A section of river, joining the River Till, in the north-eastern portion of the landholding has been canalised. Here, the riverbanks are wide and are covered with low lying vegetation.

3.3.18 **Woodland:** There are numerous woodland blocks adjoining to, and in some cases abutting the Site, and within close proximity to the eastern portion of the Site.

3.3.19 **Local Administrative Boundaries:** The Site is situated within West Lindsey District distributed across the parishes of: Fillingham, Willingham, Stow, Cammeringham, Brattleby and Sturton by Stow. The Site also adjoins the parishes of Thorpe in the Fallows, Kexby and Glentworth.

#### **Historic Designations**

3.3.20 **Conservation Areas:** A number of the villages on the B1398, to the east of the Site, accommodate conservation areas. The villages with conservation areas are:

- Hemswell (4.33km to the north of the nearest COT1 Site)
- Glentworth (1.75km to the northeast of the nearest COT1 Site)
- Fillingham (950m to the southeast of the nearest COT1 Site)
- Ingham (2.16km to the east of the nearest COT1 Site)
- Brattleby (2.72km to the east of the nearest COT1 Site)
- South Carlton (5.32km to the southeast of the nearest COT1 Site)
- Burton-by-Lincoln (7.38km to the southeast of the nearest COT1 Site)
- Springthorpe (4.90km to the northwest of the nearest COT1 Site)
- Saxilby (5.58km to the south of the nearest COT1 Site)

**Listed Buildings:** There are a considerable number of listed buildings in the settlements around the Site. These are fully listed (and the impacts on them considered in Chapter 13 of the ES (Cultural Heritage) [EN010133/APP/C6.2.13].



3.3.21 **Archaeology:** There are no scheduled monuments (SMs) within the Site boundary of Cottam 1. Scheduled monument (reference: 1016978 'Thorpe Medieval Settlement') abuts the southernmost Cottam 1 Site (Cottam 1d) and lies to the south of the Site boundary. Scheduled monument (reference: 1016979 'Coates medieval settlement and moated site') lies to the northwest of the Coates settlement which is more broadly centred within the ring of the Cottam 1 development.

3.3.22 Heritage assets and archaeological features are identified and comprehensively addressed in Chapter 13 of the ES (Cultural Heritage) **[EN010133/APP/C6.2.13]**.

### **Landscape Designations**

3.3.23 **Areas of Great Landscape Value (AGLV):** There is an AGLV which runs along the chain of villages on the B1398, to the east of the Sites. It extends on average between 500-900 metres from the road to the west. This AGLV comprises the B1398 'Cliff Road' and its immediate views over the landscape to the west. The Sites are generally over 1.5km west of the designation, however the undulating shape of the designation around the village of Fillingham means the closest landholding at Cottam 1 is 200 metres from the designation.

3.3.24 There is an AGLV designated around the town of Gainsborough, which encompasses woodland and surrounding farmland.

3.3.25 These AGLV designations are addressed in Chapter 8 of the ES (Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment) **[EN010133/APP/C6.2.8]**.

### **Ecological Designations**

3.3.26 **Biodiversity improvement areas:** A significant portion of the Site is identified by Central Lincolnshire as either an opportunity for creation or an opportunity for management as part of the ecological network.

3.3.27 A detailed Biodiversity Net Gain assessment has been carried out to support the DCO application. It is concluded in Appendix 9.12 **[EN010133/APP/C6.3.9.12]** of the ES that the Scheme will result in a significant Net Gain for biodiversity, with 96.09% gains provided in habitat, 70.22% gains in hedgerow and 10.69% gains in river units, in line with local and national planning policies.

3.3.28 **Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSI):** There are none within close proximity to the Site. The nearest SSSI to the Site is the Lea Marsh SSSI which is 7.02km to the northwest of the nearest COT1 Site.

3.3.29 **Special Areas of Conservation (SAC):** There are none within close proximity to the Site. The nearest SAC to the Site is the Hatfield Moor SAC which is 28.20km to the northwest of the nearest COT1 Site.

3.3.30 **Special Protection Areas (SPA):** There are none within close proximity to the Site. The nearest SPA to the Site is the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA which is 28.00km to the northwest of the nearest COT1 Site.

- 3.3.31 **Local Wildlife Sites (LWS):** There is a single wildlife site – ‘Willingham to Fillingham Road Verge LWS’. It is located along road verges within the boundary of the Site.
- 3.3.32 Ecological designations are further addressed in Chapter 9 of the ES (Ecology and Biodiversity) [EN010133/APP/C6.2.9].

### **Geological Designations**

- 3.3.33 **Minerals safeguarding areas:** The majority of the Site at Cottam 1 to the north of the woodland ‘Normanby Gorse’, west of Normanby by Stow, is designated as a Sand and Gravel Area of Search in the Lincolnshire Minerals Local Plan. There are small parts of the Cottam 1 Site which also have this designation, around Lowfield farm and the corner of the field on the edge of the Site next to the bridge leading to Sturton by Stow from Thorpe in the Fallows.
- 3.3.34 The entirety of the Site is designated as a Petroleum Exploration Development Licence (PEDL) Block.
- 3.3.35 Ground conditions are addressed in Chapter 11 of the ES (Ground Conditions and Contamination) [EN010133/APP/C6.2.11]; and Chapter 12 of the ES (Minerals) [EN010133/APP/C6.2.12].

### **Flood Risk and Drainage Designations**

- 3.3.36 Small parts of the Site are located in flood zones 2 and 3 and are at risk from Surface Water flooding.
- 3.3.37 Detailed Flood Risk Assessments have been appended to ES Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010133/APP/C6.2.10].

## **3.4 Cottam 2 (COT2)**

- 3.4.1 **Size:** 132ha
- 3.4.2 **Use:** The entirety of the Site is in agricultural use.
- 3.4.3 **Features:** The Site at Cottam 2 is bounded by Corringham Beck to the northwest, and Yewthorpe Beck to the east. Corringham Beck is canalised, with wide and vegetated banks. Yewthorpe Beck is a meandering river with established vegetation and interspersed trees lining the banks. There is a farmstead and a house that are surrounded by, but not included within, the Site within the western edge of the parcel. The land is relatively flat and is predominantly well screened from its immediate surroundings by tall hedges around the boundary of the Site. The field parcels are large and regular in shape. The fields are separated by either hedgerows or irrigation trenches. There are only isolated trees along the field margins. The Site benefits from a few existing field accesses: one to the north of the Site, running west along the northern edge of Corringham Beck and a more established access to the south of the Farmstead. There is an OHL electricity cable which crosses the Site in an east to west orientation and runs along the southern edge of the farmstead. An overhead cable branches off to the south of the farmstead and heads north concluding at the dwelling which is surrounded by the Site. There is also an

underground gas line which runs southwest to northeast which enters the Site along the southern boundary before exiting the eastern boundary.

3.4.4 **Settlements and Roads:** The Site is situated 6.11km to the east of Gainsborough. There is the village of Corringham which sits between the Site and Gainsborough. The nearest villages to the Site are:

- Corringham (900m to the southwest of the COT2 Site)
- Aisby (900m to the northwest of the COT2 Site)
- Pilham (2.00km to the northwest of the COT2 Site)
- Springthorpe (1.91km to the southwest of the COT2 Site)

3.4.5 The main road surrounding the area is the A631 which runs east to west and is 500m to the south of the Site. The A631 joins the north to south oriented A15 to the east of the Site.

3.4.6 **Railway Lines:** The railway line which runs between Gainsborough and Kirton in Lindsey runs in a southwest to northeast direction and lies 2.00km to the north of the Site.

3.4.7 **Public Rights of Way:** There are no public footpaths or bridleways within close proximity of the Cottam 2 although public footpaths of note are:

- 'Corr/22/1' which is a public footpath to the north of Corringham village and is 500 metres to the west of the Cottam 2 Site. The footpath runs between Corringham and Aisby.

3.4.8 **Power Stations:** The West Burton Power Station is 10km to the southwest of the Site. The Cottam Power Station is 14km to the southwest of the Site.

3.4.9 **Airfields:** The closest airfield is Sturgate which is 3km south of Cottam 2.

3.4.10 **Rivers:** Cottam 2 is bounded by Corringham Beck to the northwest, and Yewthorpe Beck to the east. Corringham Beck is canalised, with wide and vegetated banks. Yewthorpe Beck is a meandering river with established vegetation and occasional trees lining the banks.

3.4.11 **Woodland:** There is limited woodland in the area surrounding the Sites, save for Laughton Forest, which is 6.30km to the northwest of the Site.

3.4.12 **Local Administrative Boundaries:** The Site is situated within West Lindsey District and is within the Parish Council boundary of Corringham.

### **Historic Designations**

3.4.13 **Conservation Areas:** There are two conservation areas within close proximity to the Site. The Conservation Area covering Hemswell is located 4.35km to the east of the Site. The Conservation Area covering Springthorpe is located 2.2km to the south of the Site.

3.4.14 **Listed Buildings:** There are no listed buildings within the Site. The nearest listed buildings to the Site are the Corringham Windmill which is Grade II listed and is 600m to the south of the Site. There is also the Old Hall which is Grade II listed and is 400m to the west of the Site. There are four other listed buildings within Corringham (ranging from 600m to 1.14km to the west of the Site) with Old Hall being the closest to the Site. These are fully listed (and the impacts on them considered) in Chapter 13 of the ES (Cultural Heritage) **[EN010133/APP/C6.2.13]**.

3.4.15 **Archaeology:** There are no scheduled monuments (SMs) within the Site of Cottam 2.

3.4.16 Heritage assets and archaeological features are identified and comprehensively addressed in Chapter 13 of the ES (Cultural Heritage) **[EN010133/APP/C6.2.13]**.

### **Landscape Designations**

3.4.17 **Areas of Great Landscape Value (AGLV):** There is an AGLV which surrounds Gainsborough and extends to south of the Town. This AGLV generally tracks along the Gainsborough to Lincoln rail line. The AGLV is 2.16km to the west of the Cottam 2 Site. The AGLV which runs along the chain of villages on the B1398 extends north to south and passes 4.53km to the east of the Cottam 2 Site.

3.4.18 These AGLV designations are addressed in Chapter 8 of the ES (Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment) **[EN010133/APP/C6.2.8]**.

### **Ecological Designations**

3.4.19 **Biodiversity improvement areas:** There are no Biodiversity Opportunity Areas designated on the Site.

3.4.20 **Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSI):** There are none within close proximity of the Site. The closest SSSI is to the southwest of Waddingham and is 8.05km to the northwest of the Site.

3.4.21 **Special Areas of Conservation (SAC):** There are no SACs within close proximity of the Site. The nearest SAC is the Hatfield Moor SAC which is 23.20km to the northwest of the Site.

3.4.22 **Special Protection Areas (SPA):** There are no SPAs within close proximity of the Site. The nearest SPA is the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA which is 23.10km to the northwest of the Site -Site Locations.

3.4.23 Ecological designations are further addressed in Chapter 9 of the ES (Ecology and Biodiversity) **[EN010133/APP/C6.2.9]**.

### **Geological Designations**

3.4.24 **Minerals safeguarding areas:** The fields to the west of Cottam 2 are designated as a Sand and Gravel Minerals Safeguarding Area as per the Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

- 3.4.25 The entirety of Cottam 2 is designated as a Petroleum Exploration Development Licence (PEDL) Block.
- 3.4.26 Ground conditions are addressed in Chapter 11 of the ES (Ground Conditions and Contamination) [EN010133/APP/C6.2.11]; and Chapter 12 of the ES (Minerals) [EN010133/APP/C6.2.12].

### **Flood Risk and Drainage**

- 3.4.27 A small portion of Cottam 2 is in Flood Zone 3 with some parts of the Site subject to an increased risk from Surface Water flooding.
- 3.4.28 A detailed Flood Risk Assessment has been appended to ES Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010133/APP/C6.2.10].

## **3.5 Cottam 3a (COT 3a)**

- 3.5.1 **Size:** 168ha.
- 3.5.2 **Use:** The entirety of the Site is in agricultural use; this includes an area in the southwest of the Site which is used for the storage of farm related goods.
- 3.5.3 **Features:** Part of the Site at Cottam 3a comprises a former airfield. Two former runways running northwest to southeast and northeast to southwest cross the Site. Their positioning is still visible from aerial imagery. Kirton Road (B1205) runs along the southern boundary of the Site. The boundary with Kirton Road benefits from a reasonably well-established hedgerow with interspersed trees. Given the raised profile of the Kirton Road in places however, the height of the hedgerow is slightly undermined as a form of screening.
- 3.5.4 The remainder of the former airfield, parts of which adjoin the Site, and parts of which are surrounded by the Site, are used for motorsport, storage and distribution. There is also a house next to the storage and distribution area, which adjoins the northwestern part of the Site. The Site includes vehicular access from Kirton Road, which is shared with these other land uses. There are two isolated houses to the south of the B1205 which are 200m from the Site.
- 3.5.5 The A159 Laughton Road runs north to south along the western extent of the Site. There is reasonably well-established hedging with trees along the boundary.
- 3.5.6 The village of Blyton is 250 metres to the southwest of Cottam 3a. An assessment of the views from Blyton into the Site has been conducted and detailed within ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [EN010133/APP/C6.2.8]. Additionally, there are scattered isolated dwellings to the north of the landholding, all of which are more than 500 meters from the Site's boundary.
- 3.5.7 The fields are generally large, and some are bounded by dividing hedgerows. There are only isolated trees outside of field margins. There is a total of four OHLs which cross Cottam 3a. All OHLs are powerlines with three of them being 11kV cables and the other being 132kV. The 132kV OHL runs from the southwest to the northeast and runs to the east of the village of Blyton. The 11kV OHLs are interconnected and

branch off of one another within the eastern edge of the Site, the main 11kV OHL of those runs north to south to the west of Blenheim Farm.

3.5.8 **Settlements and roads:** The Site is situated 7.10km to the northeast of Gainsborough. There are smaller villages between Gainsborough and the Site, these include:

- Corringham (4.05km to the south of the COT3a Site)
- Aisby (2.00km to the south of the COT3a Site)
- Pilham (1.31km to the southwest of the COT3a Site)
- Blyton (600m to the southwest of the COT3a Site)

3.5.9 There are other villages within close proximity of the Site which include:

- Northorpe (2.84km to the northeast of the COT3a Site)
- Scotton (3.90km to the northeast of the COT3a Site)
- Laughton (2.86km to the northwest of the COT3a Site)

3.5.10 The main roads in the surrounding area are the A159 Laughton Road which runs north to south along the western extent of Cottam 3a and the B1205 Kirton Road, which runs east to west along the southern boundary of Cottam 3a.

3.5.11 **Railway Lines:** The railway line between Gainsborough and Kirton in Lindsey runs in a northeast to southwest orientation to the south of Cottam 3a.

3.5.12 **Public Rights of Way:** There are no public footpaths or bridleways within close proximity of the Cottam 3a Site. The nearest public footpaths and bridleways are:

- 'Pilh/20/1' is a public footpath 950m to the south of the Site which runs east to west between Pilham and Bonsdale Farm.
- 'Blyt/32/1' is a public footpath 850m to the west of the Site which runs north to south between Blyton and Laughton.

3.5.13 **Power Stations:** The Cottam Power Station is 16.70km to the southwest of the Site. The West Burton Power Station is 12.75km to the southwest of the Site.

3.5.14 **Airfields:** The closest airfield is Sturgate which is 7.65km to the south of Cottam 3a.

3.5.15 **Rivers:** Cottam 3a is bounded to the east by an irrigation trench which is lined with dense vegetation and some interspersed trees. The river Trent is 6.44km to the northwest of the Site.

3.5.16 **Woodland:** There is limited woodland in the area surrounding the Site, save for Laughton Forest, which is 3.10km north of the Site.

3.5.17 **Local Administrative Boundaries:** The Site is situated within West Lindsey District and is within the Parish Council boundaries of Blyton and Laughton.

### **Historic Designations**



3.5.18 **Conservation Areas:** There is only one conservation area within close proximity to the Site. The Hemswell Conservation Area is 7.55km to the southeast of the Site.

3.5.19 **Listed Buildings:** There are no listed buildings within the Site. The nearest listed buildings to the Site are the Old Railway Station which is Grade II listed and is 700m to the south of the Site. The Matt Hall is also a Grade II listed building and is 550m to the southeast of the Site. These listings are fully detailed (and the impacts on them considered) in Chapter 13 of the ES (Cultural Heritage) [EN010133/APP/C6.2.13].

3.5.20 **Archaeology:** There are no Scheduled monuments (SM) within the Site. There is one SM in close proximity to the Site, being St Martins Church, which is 1.35km to the southeast of the Site in Blyton.

3.5.21 Heritage assets and features are identified and comprehensively addressed in Chapter 13 (Cultural Heritage) of the ES [EN010133/APP/C6.2.13].

### **Landscape Designations**

3.5.22 **Areas of Great Landscape Value (AGLV):**

3.5.23 There is an AGLV which surrounds Gainsborough and extends to south of the Town. This AGLV generally tracks along the Gainsborough to Lincoln rail line. The AGLV is 2.60km to the southwest of the Cottam 3a Site. The AGLV which runs along the chain of villages on the B1398 extends north to south and passes 4.45km to the east of the Cottam 3a Site. A final AGLV covers and extends across Laughton Woods. This AGLV is located 1.05km to the north of the Site.

3.5.24 These AGLV designations are addressed in Chapter 8 of the ES (Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment) [EN010133/APP/C6.2.8].

### **Ecological Designations**

3.5.25 **Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSI):** The nearest SSSI to the Site is Scotton Common which is 2.30km to the north of Cottam 3a.

3.5.26 **Special Areas of Conservation (SAC):** There are no SACs within close proximity of the Site. The nearest SAC is the Hatfield Moor SAC which is 19km to the northwest of the Site.

3.5.27 **Special Protection Areas (SPA):** There are no SPAs within close proximity of the Site. The nearest SPA is the Thome and Hatfield Moors SPA which is 19km to the northwest of the Site.

3.5.28 Ecological designations are further addressed in Chapter 9 of the ES (Ecology and Biodiversity) [EN010133/APP/C6.2.9].

### **Geological Designations**

3.5.29 The western part of Cottam 3a is designated as a Sand and Gravel Area of Search in the Lincolnshire Minerals Local Plan – Site Locations.



- 3.5.30 The entirety of Cottam 3a is designated as a Petroleum Exploration Development Licence (PEDL) Block.
- 3.5.31 Ground conditions are addressed in Chapter 11 of the ES (Ground Conditions and Contamination) [EN010133/APP/C6.2.11]; and Chapter 12 of the ES (Minerals) [EN010133/APP/C6.2.12].
- 3.5.32 **Flood Risk and Drainage Designations**
- 3.5.33 A small portion of Cottam 3a is in Flood Zones 2 and 3 with some parts of the Site subject to increased risks from Surface Water flooding, especially along the eastern boundary of the Site.
- 3.5.34 A detailed Flood Risk Assessment has been appended to ES Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010133/APP/C6.2.10].

### 3.6 Cottam 3b (COT 3b)

- 3.6.1 **Size:** 73ha
- 3.6.2 **Use:** The entirety of the Site is in agricultural use.
- 3.6.3 **Features:** Cottam 3b comprises of large regularly shaped agricultural fields. The fields are principally defined by mature hedgerows. The fields within the south and west of Cottam 3b are more frequently defined by unpaved vehicle tracks. Cottam 3b is 400m to the east of the village of Pilham. The northern boundary of the Site is defined by a railway line.
- 3.6.4 **Settlements and roads:** The Site is situated 7.25km to the northeast of Gainsborough. There are smaller villages between Gainsborough and the site, these include:
- Corringham (2.87km to the south of the COT 3b Site)
  - Aisby (1.28km to the south of the COT 3b Site)
  - Pilham (650m to the southwest of the COT 3b Site)
- 3.6.5 There are other villages within close proximity of the Site which include:
- Blyton (1.25km to the northwest of the COT 3b Site)
  - Northorpe (3.33km to the northeast of the COT 3b Site)
  - Scotton (4.82km to the northeast of the COT 3b Site)
  - Laughton (3.55km to the northwest of the COT 3b Site)
- 3.6.6 The main road in the surrounding area is Station Road which is 600m to the west of the Site and connects Pilham with Blyton. Pilham Lane runs east off of Pilham and is located 150m to the south of the Site.
- 3.6.7 **Railway Lines:** The railway line between Gainsborough and Kirton in Lindsey runs in a northeast to southwest orientation to the north of Cottam 3b.

- 3.6.8 **Public Rights of Way:** There is one public footpath which transects Cottam 3b. 'Pilh/20/1' runs from Pilham to Bonsdale Farm in an east to west orientation. The nearest public footpath to Cottam 3b beyond the Site boundary is 'Blyt/24/2' which runs south from Blyton and is 800m to the west of the Site.
- 3.6.9 **Power Stations:** The Cottam Power Station is approximately 15.81km to the southwest of the Site. The West Burton Power Station is 11.72km to the southwest of the Site.
- 3.6.10 **Airfields:** The closest airfield is Sturgate which is 6.50km to the south of Cottam 3b.
- 3.6.11 **Rivers:** There are no rivers or irrigation trenches within Cottam 3b. The nearest irrigation trench runs east to west 100m to the north of the northern Site boundary. The river Trent is 6.18km to the northwest of the Site.
- 3.6.12 **Woodlands:** There is limited woodland in the area surrounding the Site, save for Laughton Forest, which is 4.15km to the north of the Site.
- 3.6.13 **Local Administrative Boundaries:** The Site is situated within West Lindsey District and is within the Parish Council boundaries of Pilham and Blyton.

#### **Historic Designations**

- 3.6.14 **Conservation Areas:** There are two conservation areas within close proximity to the Site. The Hemswell Conservation Area is 6.34km to the southeast of the Site. The Springthorpe Conservation Area is 4.50km to the south of the Site.
- 3.6.15 **Listed Buildings:** There are no listed buildings within the Site. The nearest listed buildings to the Site include the Old Railway Station which is Grade II listed is 350m to the west of the Site. Firs Farm, Lime Cottage and Chruch Gate and Railings are also Grade II listed building and are between 450-600m to the southwest of the Site. The Church of All Saints is Grade II\* listed and is 600m to the southwest of the Site.
- 3.6.16 These listings are fully detailed (and the impacts on them considered) in Chapter 13 of the ES (Cultural Heritage) **[EN010133/APP/C6.2.13]**.
- 3.6.17 **Archaeology:** There are no Scheduled monuments (SM) within the Site. There is one SM in close proximity to the Site, being St Martins Church, which is 1.35km to the northeast of the Site in Blyton.
- 3.6.18 Heritage assets and features are identified and comprehensively addressed in Chapter 13 (Cultural Heritage) of the ES **[EN010133/APP/C6.2.13]**.

#### **Landscape Designations**

- 3.6.19 There is an AGLV which surrounds Gainsborough and extends to the south of the Town. This AGLV generally tracks along the Gainsborough to Lincoln rail line. The AGLV is 1.75km to the southwest of the Cottam 3b Site. The AGLV which runs along the chain of villages on the B1398 extends north to south and passes 4.55km to the east of the Cottam 3b Site. A final AGLV covers and extends across Laughton Woods. This AGLV is located 3.35km to the north of the Site.

3.6.20 These AGLV designations are addressed in Chapter 8 of the ES (Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment) [EN010133/APP/C6.2.8].

#### **Ecological Designations**

3.6.21 **Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSI):** There are none within close proximity to the Site. The nearest SSSI is the Scotton Common which is 3.94km to the north of Cottam 3b.

3.6.22 **Special Areas of Conservation (SAC):** There are no SACs within close proximity of the Site. The nearest SAC is the Hatfield Moor SAC which is 19.15km to the northwest of the Site.

3.6.23 **Special Protection Areas (SPA):** There are no SPAs within close proximity of the Site. The nearest SPA is the Thome and Hatfield Moors SPA which is 19.10km to the northwest of the Site.

3.6.24 Ecological designations are further addressed in Chapter 9 of the ES (Ecology and Biodiversity) [EN010133/APP/C6.2.9].

#### **Geological Designations**

3.6.25 The entirety of Cottam 3b is designated as a Petroleum Exploration Development Licence (PEDL) Block.

3.6.26 Ground conditions are addressed in Chapter 11 of the ES (Ground Conditions and Contamination) [EN010133/APP/C6.2.11]; and Chapter 12 of the ES (Minerals) [EN010133/APP/C6.2.12].

#### **Flood Risk and Drainage Designations**

3.6.27 The entirety of Cottam 3b is located within Flood Zone 1. Regarding surface water flooding, the majority of the site is located on land which has a low probability of flooding. Small extents of the Site to the south and the northeast in particular are vulnerable to surface water flooding with a surface water flood risk probability of 1 in 30.

3.6.28 A detailed Flood Risk Assessment has been appended to ES Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010133/APP/C6.2.10].

### **3.7 Cable Route Corridor between Cottam 3a and 3b**

3.7.1 The Cable Route Corridor between Cottam 3a and 3b runs through primarily agricultural land in the open countryside and is required to make a crossing at the B1205 and the Gainsborough to Kirton in Lindsey rail line.

#### **Historic Designations**

3.7.2 There are several listed buildings contained within the village of Pilham, which is within 1km to the southwest of the Cable Route Corridor. Pilham is also recognised as a HER 'Monuments' Area. Sandwiched between the Cable Route Corridor and Pilham is a Scheduled Monument.

- 3.7.3 These listings are fully detailed (and the impacts on them considered) in Chapter 13 of the ES (Cultural Heritage) [EN010133/APP/C6.2.13].

#### **Landscape Designations**

- 3.7.4 The Cable Route Corridor between Cottam 3a and 3b lies at the rough center of three AGLVs, being the Laughton Woods AGLV, the AGLV which surrounds Gainsborough and the AGLV which runs north to south along the chain of villages on the B1398.
- 3.7.5 These AGLV designations are addressed in Chapter 8 of the ES (Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment) [EN010133/APP/C6.2.8].

#### **Ecological Designations**

- 3.7.6 There are no SSSI, SPA or SAC designations within proximity of the Cable Route Corridor. Ecological designations relating to the cable between Cottam 3a and 3b have been addressed in Chapter 9 of the ES (Ecology and Biodiversity) [EN010133/APP/C6.2.9].

#### **Geological Designations**

- 3.7.7 The Cable Route Corridor is designated as a Petroleum Exploration Development Licence (PEDL) Block.
- 3.7.8 Ground conditions are addressed in Chapter 11 of the ES (Ground Conditions and Contamination) [EN010133/APP/C6.2.11]; and Chapter 12 of the ES (Minerals) [EN010133/APP/C6.2.12].

### **3.8 Cable Route Corridor between Cottam 3b and Cottam 2**

- 3.8.1 The Cable Route Corridor between Cottam 3b and Cottam 2 runs through agricultural land within a rural setting. The Cable will be required to cross two rural lanes between Aisby and Pilham.

#### **Historic Designations**

- 3.8.2 There are several listed buildings contained within the village of Pilham, which is within 1km to the west of the Cable Route Corridor. Pilham is also recognised as a HER 'Monuments' Area. Sandwiched between the Cable Route Corridor and Pilham is a Scheduled Monument.
- 3.8.3 1km to the west of the Cable Route Corridor is the village of Aisby. Aisby is recognised as a HER 'Monuments' Area and contains a listed building. To the northwest of Aisby is a Scheduled Monument, HER 'Monuments' Area and another listed building.
- 3.8.4 2km to the east of the Cable Route Corridor, along the River Eau, is a HER 'Monuments' Area, a Scheduled Monument and a listed building. A HER 'Monuments' Area also abuts the Cable Route Corridor to the east.
- 3.8.5 These listings are fully detailed (and the impacts on them considered) in Chapter 13 of the ES (Cultural Heritage) [EN010133/APP/C6.2.13].

### **Landscape Designations**

- 3.8.6 The Cable Route Corridor between Cottam 3b and 2 is sandwiched between the AGLV which surrounds Gainsborough and the AGLV which runs north to south along the chain of villages on the B1398.
- 3.8.7 These AGLV designations are addressed in Chapter 8 of the ES (Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment) **[EN010133/APP/C6.2.8]**.

### **Ecological Designations**

- 3.8.8 There are no SSSI, SPA or SAC designations within proximity of the Cable Route Corridor. Ecological designations relating to the cable between Cottam 3b and 2 have been addressed in Chapter 9 of the ES (Ecology and Biodiversity) **[EN010133/APP/C6.2.9]**.

### **Geological Designations**

- 3.8.9 The Cable Route Corridor is designated as both a Petroleum Exploration Development Licence (PEDL) Block and as a Sand and Gravel Area of Search according to the Lincolnshire Minerals Local Plan
- 3.8.10 Ground conditions are addressed in Chapter 11 of the ES (Ground Conditions and Contamination) **[EN010133/APP/C6.2.11]**; and Chapter 12 of the ES (Minerals) **[EN010133/APP/C6.2.12]**.

## **3.9 Cable Route Corridor between Cottam 2 and Cottam 1**

- 3.9.1 The Cable Route Corridor between Cottam 2 and Cottam 1 runs through agricultural land within a rural setting. The Cable will be required to cross the A631 as well as several small rural lanes. The Cable Route Corridor runs north to south to the east of a string of villages along the Springthorpe Road.

### **Historic Designations**

- 3.9.2 Along the western edge of the Cable Route Corridor are several HER 'Monuments' Areas as well as some interspersed listed buildings. The most notable clustering's of listed buildings are contained within the villages of Corringham and Sturgate. The village of Springthorpe is also designated as a conservation area.
- 3.9.3 To the east of the Cable Route Corridor are a handful of listed buildings at varying distances from the corridor. The closest listed building is located within a HER 'Monuments' Area which abuts the Cable Route Corridor.
- 3.9.4 To the northeast of the Cable Route Corridor is HER 'Monuments' Area which contains a handful of listed buildings and encompasses the village of Yawthorpe.
- 3.9.5 These listings are fully detailed (and the impacts on them considered) in Chapter 13 of the ES (Cultural Heritage) **[EN010133/APP/C6.2.13]**.

### **Landscape Designations**

3.9.6 The Cable Route Corridor between Cottam 2 and 1 is sandwiched between the AGLV which surrounds Gainsborough and the AGLV which runs north to south along the chain of villages on the B1398.

3.9.7 These AGLV designations are addressed in Chapter 8 of the ES (Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment) **[EN010133/APP/C6.2.8]**.

#### **Ecological Designations**

3.9.8 There are no SSSI, SPA or SAC designations within proximity of the Cable Route Corridor. Ecological designations relating to the cable between Cottam 2 and 1 have been addressed in Chapter 9 of the ES (Ecology and Biodiversity) **[EN010133/APP/C6.2.9]**.

#### **Geological Designations**

3.9.9 The Cable Route Corridor is designated a Petroleum Exploration Development Licence (PEDL) Block according to the Lincolnshire Minerals Local Plan

3.9.10 Ground conditions are addressed in Chapter 11 of the ES (Ground Conditions and Contamination) **[EN010133/APP/C6.2.11]**; and Chapter 12 of the ES (Minerals) **[EN010133/APP/C6.2.12]**.

### **3.10 Cable Route Corridor between Cottam 1 and Cottam Power Station**

3.10.1 The Cable Route Corridor between Cottam 1 and Cottam Power Station runs through agricultural land within a rural setting. The Cable will be required to cross the B1241, the A1500 and the A156 as well as several small rural lanes. Running northeast to southwest from Cottam 1 to Cottam Power Station, the Cable Route Corridor will be required to cross the River Till as well as the River Trent. At Stow Park, the Cable Route Corridor will run parallel to the route of an existing solar PV farm.

#### **Historic Designations**

3.10.2 Along the northern edge of the Cable Route Corridor are several HER 'Monuments' Areas, most notably within the villages of Willingham By Stow and Gate Burton. Both villages also contain concentrations of listed buildings. The greatest concentration of listed buildings to the north of the Cable Route Corridor are within the village of Marton. There is also Scheduled Monument within the village of Littleborough which is 1.75km to the north of the Cable Route Corridor.

3.10.3 There is a clustering of HER 'Monuments' Areas to the southeast of the Cable Route Corridor, along the B1241. There are no Scheduled Monuments within close proximity of the southern boundary of the Cable Route Corridor. 2.10km to the southwest of the Cottam Power Station within the villages of Torksey and Torksey Lock, where the Cable Route Corridor makes its connection with the National Grid, there is a clustering of listed buildings, a Scheduled Monument and several HER 'Monuments' Areas.

- 3.10.4 These listings are fully detailed (and the impacts on them considered) in Chapter 13 of the ES (Cultural Heritage) **[EN010133/APP/C6.2.13]**.

#### **Landscape Designations**

- 3.10.5 The Cable Route Corridor between Cottam 1 and Cottam Power Station lies to the south of the AGLV which surrounds and extends to the south of Gainsborough.
- 3.10.6 This AGLV designation is addressed in Chapter 8 of the ES (Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment) **[EN010133/APP/C6.2.8]**.

#### **Ecological Designations**

- 3.10.7 There are no SSSI, SPA or SAC designations within proximity of the Cable Route Corridor. Ecological designations relating to the cable between Cottam 2 and 1 have been addressed in Chapter 9 of the ES (Ecology and Biodiversity) **[EN010133/APP/C6.2.9]**.

#### **Geological Designations**

- 3.10.8 The Cable Route Corridor is designated as a Petroleum Exploration Development Licence (PEDL) Block. In sections, the Cable Route Corridor crosses into areas designated as a Sand and Gravel Area of Search according to the Lincolnshire Minerals Local Plan
- 3.10.9 Ground conditions are addressed in Chapter 11 of the ES (Ground Conditions and Contamination) **[EN010133/APP/C6.2.11]**; and Chapter 12 of the ES (Minerals) **[EN010133/APP/C6.2.12]**.