



**Canal &  
River Trust**

Making life better by water

**By email only:**

The Planning Inspectorate  
Cottam Solar Project  
Gate Burton Energy Park  
West Burton Solar Project  
Tillbridge Solar Project  
The Crown Estate

**Your Ref** EN010131, EN010132,  
EN010133, EN010142  
**Our Ref** River Trent cable crossing  
(IPP-146, IPP-148, IPP-153,  
IPP166)

4<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Dear Sirs and Madams,

**Cable crossing under the River Trent, south of Trent Port, Marton, Gainsborough**  
**Cottam Solar Project EN010133**  
**Gate Burton Energy Park EN010131**  
**West Burton Solar Project EN010132**  
**Tillbridge Solar Project EN010142**

I write on behalf of the Canal & River Trust, the charity which looks after 2,000 miles of inland waterways. The Trust is a statutory consultee for the purposes of the Planning Act 2008 and is navigation authority for the River Trent.

It has come to my and my colleagues' attention that there are potentially four nationally significant infrastructure projects proposing a cable route under the River Trent at the same location. Cottam Solar Project, Gate Burton Solar Project and West Burton Solar Project have recently had applications accepted for examination. The Trust is leaseholder of the River Trent where the cable crossing point is proposed within these applications. Tillbridge Solar Project have notified the Planning Inspectorate of their intention to submit an application and consulted with the Trust on their pre-application documentation.

In the interests of efficiency, we should be grateful if a representative from each project would confirm to the Trust that the proposed cable route under the River Trent has indeed been identified as being in the same location for those projects (see for example [Works Plan](#) Sheet 17 of 19 for the Cottam Solar Project accepted 9 February 2023, reference number C2.4; the [Works Plan](#) Sheet 13 for the Gate Burton Energy Park accepted 22 February 2023, reference number 2.5; and the [Works Plan](#) Sheets 7 and 8 for the West Burton Solar Project accepted 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023, reference number WB2.3).

If it is the case that the cable routes are the same, or similar, please indicate whether or not the project teams are working together to achieve development consent and how the Trust can engage most effectively with the projects.

If the cable crossing under the River Trent is the same, or similar, for the four projects, the Trust would welcome suggestions from the Planning Inspectorate as to how the Trust's interests in respect of that part of each project can be dealt with most efficiently. An early joint online meeting with all parties would be supported by the Trust.

We look forward to hearing from you all.

Yours faithfully

**Hazel Smith MRTPI**  
Area Planner – Midlands

**Canal & River Trust Planning Team**

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### Canal & River Trust Planning Team

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