

Cottam Solar Project

The Applicant's Responses to Relevant Representations

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Issue Sheet

Report Prepared for: Cottam Solar Project Ltd.

The Applicant's Responses to Relevant Representations

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1 Introduction and summary

1.1 Purpose of this document

- 1.1.1 This document provides Cottam Solar Project Limited (the 'Applicant's') response to the Relevant Representations (the 'RRs') which were published by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) on 13 April 2023, relating to the Development Consent Order Application (the 'Application') for Cottam Solar Project (the 'Scheme').
- 1.1.2 The period for registering as an Interested Party, through the submission of a relevant representation, ran from 16 February to 30 March 2023. The Applicant confirmed that it had complied with Sections 56 and 51 of the Planning Act 2008 and Regulation 16 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 on 23 February 2023 and 25 April 2023 respectively. The Application and accompanying documents and information have therefore been published in the required manner.
- 1.1.3 A total of 543 RRs were submitted to the Examining Authority by Interested Parties in response to the Scheme. All RRs were published on 13 April 2023 to the Planning Inspectorate's website (PINs Reference: EN010133).
- 1.1.4 A further 2 RRs were received late and accepted at the discretion of the Examining Authority. These RRs were made by the following parties:
- AS-002 EDF Energy – Thermal Generation Limited; and
 - AS-003 – The Coal Authority.
- 1.1.5 A further response was received directly by the Applicant from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) which provides the HSE's Section 56 Response for the Cottam Solar Project.

1.2 Structure of the report

- 1.2.1 This document provides responses from the Applicant to the matters raised in the Relevant Representations and is structured as follows:
- **Table 1.1** lists those RRs received from the host local authorities (Lincolnshire County Council, North Kesteven District Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and West Lindsey District Council), Parish Councils and Neighbourhood Planning Committees. The Applicant notes that Bassetlaw District Council, a host local authority, has not made a representation at this stage. These RRs have been broken down chronologically in verbatim and are responded to in full through **Section 2.1** of this document.
 - **Table 1.2** lists those RRs received from all other statutory consultees, international agencies, undertakers, elected representatives and those whose interests would be affected by the Order (as listed within **C4.3_B Book of Reference Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C4.3_B]**). These RRs have been broken down chronologically in verbatim and are responded to in full through **Section 2.2** of this document.

- **Table 1.3** lists the 'Theme Options' through which those RRs from members of the public and all remaining organisations and businesses are categorised into and responded to in **Section 2.3** of this document.

1.2.2 References to the Application documentation, as submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 12 January 2023, are provided in accordance with the referencing system as set out in the Planning Inspectorate's 'Cottam Solar Farm Examination Library'.

1.2.3 Revision suffixes have also been attached to documents which, since submission, have been revised for and resubmitted by Deadline 1 to the Planning Inspectorate.

1.2.4 Additionally, submissions to the Planning Inspectorate post 12 January 2023 carry revised indications to identify by which deadline the submission had been made to the Planning Inspectorate. All documents submitted to the Planning Inspectorate by 12 January 2023 carry **'/APP'** within their document reference. Those new submissions made to the Planning Inspectorate post-submission and during the pre-examination stage carry **'/PEX'** instead of **'/APP'** within the document reference, to reflect the submission being made during the pre-examination stage. Those new submissions, such as this document, being submitted for and by Deadline 1 carry **'/EX1'** within the document reference.

1.2.5 This document is accompanied by the following Appendices:

- Appendix A – Cultural Heritage Summary of Consultation
- Appendix B - Canal and Rivers Trust Proposed Protective Provisions
- Appendix C – Health and Safety Executive Section 56 Response

Table 1.1: List of organisations whose Relevant Representations are responded to in Section 2.1.

PINS Reference	Acronym	Relevant Representation received from
RR-001	LCC-XX	Lincolnshire County Council
RR-002	NKDC-XX	North Kesteven District Council
RR-003	NCC-XX	Nottinghamshire County Council
RR-004	WLDC-XX	West Lindsey District Council
RR-005	BVPM-XX	Brampton Village Parish Meeting
RR-006	BPC-XX	Brattleby Parish Council
RR-007	BLPC-XX	Burton by Lincoln Parish Council
RR-008	CPC-XX	Cammeringham Parish Council
RR-009	FPM-XX	Fillingham Parish Meeting
RR-010	GPC-XX	Glentworth Parish Council
RR-011	HCPC-XX	Hemswell Cliff Parish Council
RR-012	IPC-XX	Ingham Parish Council
RR-013	KPCL-XX	Kexby Parish Council, Lincolnshire
RR-014	KPC-XX	Knaith Parish Council
RR-015	MGBPC-XX	Marton and Gate Burton Parish Council
RR-016	SPC-XX	Scampton Parish Council
RR-017	SPM-XX	Springthorpe Parish Meeting
RR-018	STPC-XX	Stow Parish Council
RR-019	SSPC-XX	Sturton by Stow Parish Council
RR-020	UPC-XX	Upton Parish Council
RR-021	WSPC-XX	Willingham by Stow Parish Council
RR-038	NPC-XX	Neighbourhood Planning Committee
RR-042	SSSNPG-XX	Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Planning Group

Table 1.2: List of organisations whose Relevant Representations are responded to in Section 2.2.

PINS Reference	Acronym	Relevant Representation received from
RR-022	NRIL-XX	Network Rail Infrastructure Limited
RR-023	TBHS-XX	The British Horse Society
RR-024	CGL-XX	Cadent Gas Limited
RR-025 (See Appendix B also)	CRT-XX	Canal and Rivers Trust
RR-026	EA-XX	The Environment Agency
RR-027	FC-XX	Forestry Commission
RR-028	GBEPL-XX	Gate Burton Energy Park Limited
RR-029	HE-XX	Historic England
RR-030	AWSL-XX	Anglian Water Services Limited
RR-031	WBSP-XX	West Burton Solar Project Ltd.
RR-032	LWT-XX	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
RR-033	LNT-XX	LNT Aviation Limited
RR-034	KTFL-XX	Knightwood Trust Farms Limited
RR-035	NGET-XX	National Grid Electricity Transmission plc
RR-036	NH-XX	National Highways
RR-037	NE-XX	Natural England
RR-039	NHFT-XX	Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
RR-040	NGED-XX	National Grid Electricity Distribution
RR-041	7A-XX	7000 Acres
RR-043	TSL-XX	Tillbridge Solar Limited
RR-044	UKHSA-XX	UK Health Security Agency
RR-045	UWIDB-XX	Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board
RR-046	NPPLC-XX	Weightmans LLP on behalf of Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) PLC
RR-047	WL-XX	Winterquay Limited
RR-048	TWT-XX	The Woodland Trust
RR-188	EMH-XX	Emma Hill
RR-172	ELMP-XX	Sir Edward Leigh MP

RR-265	CJM-XX	Former Councillor Jessie Milne
AS-002	EDF-XX	EDF Energy
AS-003	TCA-XX	The Coal Authority
RR not made (See Appendix C)	HSE-XX	Health and Safety Executive
RR-060	AAW-XX	Alison Amanda Wood
RR-160	TDF-XX	The Derry Family
RR-189	EK-XX	Emma Kimberley
RR-289	JCD-XX	Jonathan Carl Danes
RR-386	NIH-XX	Nicholas Hill
RR-468	SHD-XX	Sarah Helen Danes
RR-512	SMS-XX	Susan Mary Sharp

Table 1.3: List of Theme Options in which Relevant Representations from members of the public and all remaining organisations and businesses are categorised into and responded to in Section 2.3.

Theme Options	Acronym	Relevant Representations responded to through the Theme Option
Air Quality	AIR-XX	RR-062; RR-063; RR-064; RR-073; RR-074; RR-079; RR-129; RR-136; RR-147; RR-148; RR-152; RR-156; RR-157; RR-163; RR-165; RR-173; RR-180; RR-185; RR-194; RR-201; RR-204; RR-207; RR-210; RR-212; RR-216; RR-234; RR-236; RR-243; RR-249; RR-250; RR-251; RR-268; RR-269; RR-273; RR-274; RR-276; RR-277; RR-307; RR-337; RR-342; RR-356; RR-358; RR-362; RR-371; RR-382; RR-388; RR-393; RR-401; RR-403; RR-431; RR-437; RR-438; RR-439; RR-455; RR-459; RR-482; RR-484; RR-485; RR-488; RR-490; RR-492; RR-515; RR-527; RR-531; RR-538
Alternatives and Design Evolution	ALT-XX	RR-051; RR-053; RR-056; RR-057; RR-058; RR-059; RR-061; RR-063; RR-064; RR-065; RR-066; RR-067; RR-068; RR-069; RR-070; RR-073; RR-075; RR-076; RR-077; RR-078; RR-079; RR-081; RR-083; RR-085; RR-086; RR-089; RR-092; RR-094; RR-096; RR-097; RR-098; RR-099; RR-100; RR-101; RR-102; RR-104; RR-105; RR-106; RR-107; RR-108; RR-109; RR-113; RR-117; RR-118; RR-120; RR-122; RR-123; RR-125; RR-126; RR-129; RR-131; RR-135; RR-136; RR-139; RR-143; RR-147; RR-148; RR-149; RR-150; RR-152; RR-157; RR-158; RR-159; RR-161; RR-163; RR-165; RR-166; RR-168; RR-170; RR-171; RR-173; RR-175; RR-177; RR-179; RR-180; RR-182; RR-183; RR-185; RR-191; RR-192; RR-193; RR-197; RR-203; RR-204; RR-205; RR-206; RR-209; RR-210; RR-214; RR-215; RR-216; RR-217; RR-220; RR-221; RR-223; RR-226; RR-228; RR-232; RR-233; RR-234; RR-235; RR-237; RR-238; RR-240; RR-244; RR-246; RR-249; RR-251; RR-253; RR-254; RR-255; RR-256; RR-258; RR-263; RR-264; RR-266; RR-267; RR-268; RR-269; RR-270; RR-271; RR-273; RR-274; RR-275; RR-276; RR-278; RR-281; RR-282; RR-283; RR-284; RR-287; RR-288; RR-291; RR-292; RR-293; RR-294; RR-296; RR-297; RR-298; RR-299; RR-301; RR-302; RR-303; RR-304; RR-308; RR-312; RR-313; RR-314; RR-315; RR-316; RR-319; RR-322; RR-323; RR-327; RR-328; RR-329; RR-332; RR-335; RR-338; RR-342; RR-344; RR-345; RR-352; RR-354; RR-355; RR-356; RR-357; RR-358; RR-359; RR-360; RR-365; RR-366; RR-367; RR-368; RR-369; RR-371; RR-374; RR-377; RR-378; RR-381; RR-382; RR-390; RR-391; RR-395; RR-397; RR-398; RR-401; RR-403; RR-404; RR-406; RR-408; RR-409; RR-410; RR-412; RR-413; RR-414; RR-416; RR-417; RR-418; RR-419; RR-421; RR-422; RR-426; RR-427; RR-428; RR-429; RR-430; RR-431; RR-434; RR-437; RR-438; RR-439; RR-440; RR-442; RR-443; RR-444; RR-446; RR-448; RR-452; RR-455; RR-461; RR-463; RR-464; RR-465; RR-466; RR-467; RR-469; RR-470; RR-472; RR-475; RR-481; RR-482; RR-483; RR-484; RR-485; RR-486; RR-488; RR-489; RR-491; RR-492; RR-494; RR-495; RR-499; RR-501; RR-502; RR-503; RR-504; RR-508; RR-511; RR-513; RR-517; RR-518;

		RR-519; RR-520; RR-521; RR-524; RR-525; RR-526; RR-529; RR-530; RR-531; RR-534; RR-535; RR-536; RR-538; RR-539; RR-540; RR-541; RR-542; RR-543
Climate Change	CC-XX	RR-057; RR-067; RR-100; RR-131; RR-170; RR-173; RR-180; RR-193; RR-210; RR-217; RR-218; RR-250; RR-269; RR-276; RR-279; RR-319; RR-334; RR-335; RR-340; RR-371; RR-371; RR-382; RR-393; RR-401; RR-403; RR-403; RR-406; RR-409; RR-418; RR-427; RR-431; RR-439; RR-452; RR-526; RR-528
Cultural Heritage	CUL-XX	RR-057; RR-151; RR-180; RR-181; RR-239; RR-343; RR-371; RR-400; RR-403; RR-432
Ecology and Biodiversity	ECO-XX	RR-051; RR-056; RR-057; RR-059; RR-061; RR-062; RR-063; RR-064; RR-065; RR-066; RR-067; RR-073; RR-075; RR-076; RR-079; RR-080; RR-081; RR-085; RR-089; RR-091; RR-093; RR-094; RR-095; RR-096; RR-098; RR-105; RR-106; RR-108; RR-116; RR-118; RR-128; RR-129; RR-130; RR-131; RR-136; RR-140; RR-141; RR-148; RR-153; RR-154; RR-155; RR-156; RR-157; RR-162; RR-165; RR-168; RR-175; RR-178; RR-180; RR-181; RR-185; RR-187; RR-190; RR-191; RR-193; RR-194; RR-197; RR-199; RR-201; RR-207; RR-210; RR-216; RR-217; RR-218; RR-220; RR-223; RR-237; RR-239; RR-241; RR-243; RR-244; RR-246; RR-249; RR-250; RR-256; RR-263; RR-266; RR-267; RR-270; RR-271; RR-273; RR-274; RR-290; RR-293; RR-297; RR-298; RR-303; RR-309; RR-310; RR-312; RR-313; RR-319; RR-320; RR-327; RR-328; RR-329; RR-330; RR-332; RR-334; RR-335; RR-337; RR-339; RR-342; RR-343; RR-347; RR-351; RR-353; RR-354; RR-355; RR-356; RR-358; RR-359; RR-366; RR-367; RR-371; RR-375; RR-376; RR-378; RR-381; RR-382; RR-384; RR-385; RR-389; RR-390; RR-396; RR-400; RR-401; RR-403; RR-408; RR-409; RR-412; RR-416; RR-417; RR-418; RR-419; RR-427; RR-428; RR-429; RR-432; RR-436; RR-443; RR-451; RR-452; RR-453; RR-455; RR-456; RR-458; RR-461; RR-462; RR-463; RR-464; RR-466; RR-467; RR-472; RR-473; RR-479; RR-482; RR-484; RR-485; RR-486; RR-490; RR-491; RR-492; RR-496; RR-497; RR-498; RR-504; RR-506; RR-514; RR-515; RR-519; RR-522; RR-524; RR-526; RR-529; RR-530; RR-531; RR-532; RR-533; RR-534; RR-535; RR-536; RR-538; RR-542
Energy Need	ENG-XX	RR-050; RR-082; RR-104; RR-111; RR-115; RR-145; RR-180; RR-206; RR-217; RR-247; RR-254; RR-260; RR-312; RR-317; RR-324; RR-364; RR-372; RR-374; RR-399; RR-408; RR-411; RR-424; RR-425; RR-436; RR-444; RR-445; RR-449; RR-451; RR-455; RR-456; RR-457; RR-477
General Comments	GEN-XX	RR-057; RR-064; RR-073; RR-079; RR-093; RR-098; RR-100; RR-104; RR-108; RR-114; RR-118; RR-119; RR-123; RR-131; RR-138; RR-146; RR-150; RR-157; RR-163; RR-164; RR-165; RR-167; RR-173; RR-180; RR-181; RR-193; RR-194; RR-195; RR-203; RR-210; RR-211; RR-216; RR-218; RR-219; RR-222; RR-225; RR-243; RR-249; RR-256; RR-268; RR-269; RR-270; RR-273; RR-276; RR-288; RR-290; RR-293; RR-294; RR-296; RR-297; RR-305; RR-307; RR-308; RR-319; RR-322; RR-327;

		RR-332; RR-335; RR-337; RR-343; RR-347; RR-350; RR-354; RR-356; RR-358; RR-360; RR-370; RR-371; RR-377; RR-382; RR-387; RR-398; RR-401; RR-403; RR-407; RR-411; RR-412; RR-417; RR-418; RR-431; RR-432; RR-439; RR-443; RR-452; RR-455; RR-467; RR-481; RR-482; RR-488; RR-490; RR-503; RR-509; RR-515; RR-516; RR-530; RR-537; RR-538; RR-539; RR-542; RR-543
Glint and Glare	GG-XX	RR-057; RR-079; RR-097; RR-114; RR-129; RR-148; RR-152; RR-173; RR-180; RR-181; RR-204; RR-263; RR-276; RR-293; RR-375; RR-403; RR-429
Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	HY-XX	RR-057; RR-079; RR-154; RR-173; RR-175; RR-180; RR-185; RR-236; RR-249; RR-277; RR-281; RR-371; RR-427; RR-452; RR-455
Landscape and Visual Impact	LAN-XX	RR-057; RR-064; RR-065; RR-074; RR-076; RR-077; RR-081; RR-084; RR-088; RR-089; RR-090; RR-092; RR-093; RR-096; RR-097; RR-099; RR-100; RR-104; RR-105; RR-107; RR-110; RR-112; RR-118; RR-123; RR-129; RR-135; RR-136; RR-139; RR-140; RR-141; RR-148; RR-152; RR-153; RR-157; RR-159; RR-165; RR-169; RR-171; RR-172; RR-173; RR-179; RR-180; RR-181; RR-182; RR-185; RR-190; RR-191; RR-192; RR-193; RR-194; RR-196; RR-197; RR-199; RR-200; RR-201; RR-203; RR-204; RR-205; RR-206; RR-214; RR-215; RR-217; RR-218; RR-220; RR-221; RR-223; RR-224; RR-226; RR-231; RR-236; RR-237; RR-239; RR-241; RR-243; RR-246; RR-248; RR-249; RR-250; RR-251; RR-253; RR-255; RR-256; RR-262; RR-263; RR-266; RR-268; RR-269; RR-270; RR-273; RR-276; RR-277; RR-281; RR-283; RR-286; RR-292; RR-294; RR-296; RR-298; RR-299; RR-300; RR-303; RR-306; RR-307; RR-310; RR-312; RR-313; RR-314; RR-315; RR-322; RR-329; RR-338; RR-341; RR-342; RR-343; RR-347; RR-350; RR-352; RR-353; RR-354; RR-358; RR-362; RR-366; RR-371; RR-373; RR-375; RR-376; RR-382; RR-384; RR-387; RR-388; RR-389; RR-391; RR-392; RR-395; RR-398; RR-400; RR-401; RR-403; RR-406; RR-410; RR-412; RR-416; RR-417; RR-418; RR-425; RR-426; RR-427; RR-428; RR-430; RR-431; RR-432; RR-434; RR-436; RR-437; RR-438; RR-439; RR-443; RR-444; RR-450; RR-452; RR-453; RR-454; RR-455; RR-458; RR-461; RR-463; RR-464; RR-465; RR-466; RR-467; RR-470; RR-472; RR-474; RR-475; RR-480; RR-482; RR-486; RR-488; RR-489; RR-490; RR-491; RR-492; RR-495; RR-496; RR-500; RR-503; RR-504; RR-506; RR-507; RR-508; RR-511; RR-515; RR-516; RR-519; RR-521; RR-522; RR-523; RR-524; RR-526; RR-527; RR-528; RR-529; RR-531; RR-533; RR-534; RR-535; RR-536; RR-538; RR-539; RR-542; RR-543
Noise and Vibration	NOI-XX	RR-073; RR-136; RR-212; RR-216; RR-239; RR-242; RR-343; RR-371; RR-393; RR-403; RR-432; RR-515

Other Environmental Matters	OEM-XX	RR-100; RR-133; RR-207; RR-265; RR-277; RR-281; RR-403; RR-491; RR-494; RR-535
Planning Policy and Process	PLA-XX	RR-124; RR-173; RR-180; RR-185; RR-396; RR-407; RR-429; RR-450; RR-505; RR-525; RR-539
Principle of Development	PD-XX	RR-055; RR-057; RR-065; RR-066; RR-067; RR-073; RR-074; RR-079; RR-080; RR-082; RR-091; RR-094; RR-096; RR-097; RR-100; RR-107; RR-109; RR-113; RR-114; RR-118; RR-126; RR-129; RR-131; RR-132; RR-135; RR-140; RR-146; RR-147; RR-148; RR-150; RR-152; RR-156; RR-159; RR-165; RR-170; RR-173; RR-176; RR-180; RR-181; RR-183; RR-185; RR-191; RR-193; RR-194; RR-197; RR-199; RR-201; RR-203; RR-204; RR-206; RR-210; RR-213; RR-216; RR-217; RR-218; RR-225; RR-226; RR-228; RR-229; RR-234; RR-236; RR-238; RR-240; RR-241; RR-243; RR-244; RR-245; RR-249; RR-250; RR-251; RR-253; RR-256; RR-266; RR-268; RR-269; RR-270; RR-273; RR-274; RR-275; RR-276; RR-277; RR-281; RR-284; RR-285; RR-286; RR-288; RR-290; RR-294; RR-296; RR-307; RR-311; RR-312; RR-315; RR-318; RR-319; RR-328; RR-330; RR-333; RR-335; RR-336; RR-337; RR-338; RR-340; RR-347; RR-351; RR-356; RR-358; RR-359; RR-362; RR-365; RR-370; RR-371; RR-377; RR-379; RR-380; RR-381; RR-382; RR-387; RR-391; RR-393; RR-396; RR-401; RR-402; RR-403; RR-409; RR-411; RR-412; RR-417; RR-418; RR-419; RR-420; RR-425; RR-426; RR-427; RR-431; RR-434; RR-436; RR-439; RR-447; RR-448; RR-450; RR-451; RR-453; RR-455; RR-458; RR-459; RR-460; RR-461; RR-465; RR-467; RR-474; RR-475; RR-478; RR-480; RR-482; RR-485; RR-486; RR-488; RR-490; RR-493; RR-495; RR-497; RR-500; RR-502; RR-503; RR-514; RR-516; RR-518; RR-519; RR-521; RR-522; RR-525; RR-527; RR-531; RR-533; RR-538; RR-539; RR-542; RR-543
Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation	STR-XX	RR-053; RR-063; RR-064; RR-065; RR-066; RR-075; RR-079; RR-080; RR-089; RR-094; RR-095; RR-098; RR-099; RR-103; RR-104; RR-105; RR-106; RR-109; RR-116; RR-118; RR-128; RR-129; RR-130; RR-131; RR-140; RR-152; RR-154; RR-165; RR-172; RR-173; RR-179; RR-180; RR-181; RR-182; RR-183; RR-185; RR-190; RR-193; RR-194; RR-201; RR-203; RR-207; RR-214; RR-216; RR-220; RR-222; RR-226; RR-236; RR-241; RR-242; RR-246; RR-250; RR-251; RR-253; RR-255; RR-256; RR-263; RR-266; RR-269; RR-272; RR-273; RR-275; RR-276; RR-277; RR-281; RR-286; RR-292; RR-294; RR-304; RR-306; RR-307; RR-308; RR-312; RR-316; RR-318; RR-319; RR-322; RR-327; RR-330; RR-332; RR-333; RR-337; RR-339; RR-340; RR-342; RR-350; RR-353; RR-358; RR-359; RR-367; RR-371; RR-381; RR-382; RR-384; RR-385; RR-387; RR-391; RR-395; RR-397; RR-398; RR-399; RR-401; RR-403; RR-406; RR-408; RR-412; RR-416; RR-418; RR-422; RR-427; RR-429; RR-431; RR-436; RR-442; RR-452; RR-453; RR-454; RR-455; RR-458; RR-465; RR-467; RR-476; RR-480; RR-482; RR-485; RR-487;

		RR-488; RR-490; RR-491; RR-497; RR-498; RR-506; RR-508; RR-516; RR-519; RR-520; RR-521; RR-522; RR-524; RR-530; RR-531; RR-532; RR-533; RR-534; RR-540; RR-542; RR-543
Soils and Agriculture	SAA-XX	RR-051; RR-054; RR-057; RR-061; RR-062; RR-063; RR-064; RR-065; RR-066; RR-068; RR-069; RR-070; RR-072; RR-073; RR-074; RR-075; RR-076; RR-077; RR-078; RR-079; RR-080; RR-081; RR-082; RR-083; RR-085; RR-086; RR-087; RR-090; RR-092; RR-093; RR-094; RR-096; RR-098; RR-099; RR-100; RR-101; RR-102; RR-103; RR-104; RR-105; RR-106; RR-108; RR-109; RR-113; RR-114; RR-116; RR-117; RR-118; RR-120; RR-121; RR-122; RR-123; RR-125; RR-127; RR-128; RR-130; RR-131; RR-132; RR-134; RR-135; RR-136; RR-137; RR-139; RR-140; RR-141; RR-142; RR-143; RR-144; RR-147; RR-148; RR-149; RR-150; RR-152; RR-153; RR-155; RR-156; RR-157; RR-158; RR-159; RR-161; RR-162; RR-163; RR-165; RR-166; RR-169; RR-170; RR-172; RR-173; RR-174; RR-175; RR-177; RR-178; RR-179; RR-180; RR-181; RR-183; RR-184; RR-185; RR-186; RR-187; RR-190; RR-191; RR-193; RR-194; RR-195; RR-198; RR-199; RR-200; RR-201; RR-202; RR-203; RR-204; RR-205; RR-206; RR-207; RR-208; RR-209; RR-210; RR-211; RR-212; RR-214; RR-215; RR-216; RR-217; RR-221; RR-223; RR-224; RR-225; RR-226; RR-228; RR-230; RR-231; RR-233; RR-234; RR-235; RR-236; RR-238; RR-240; RR-241; RR-242; RR-243; RR-244; RR-246; RR-248; RR-249; RR-250; RR-251; RR-252; RR-254; RR-255; RR-256; RR-257; RR-258; RR-259; RR-261; RR-262; RR-263; RR-266; RR-267; RR-268; RR-269; RR-270; RR-271; RR-272; RR-273; RR-275; RR-276; RR-277; RR-279; RR-281; RR-282; RR-283; RR-284; RR-286; RR-287; RR-288; RR-290; RR-291; RR-292; RR-294; RR-295; RR-296; RR-297; RR-298; RR-299; RR-300; RR-301; RR-302; RR-306; RR-307; RR-310; RR-312; RR-313; RR-314; RR-315; RR-316; RR-319; RR-320; RR-321; RR-323; RR-324; RR-325; RR-326; RR-328; RR-329; RR-330; RR-331; RR-332; RR-334; RR-335; RR-336; RR-337; RR-339; RR-340; RR-342; RR-348; RR-349; RR-350; RR-351; RR-352; RR-353; RR-354; RR-355; RR-356; RR-357; RR-358; RR-359; RR-361; RR-362; RR-363; RR-365; RR-366; RR-368; RR-369; RR-371; RR-373; RR-375; RR-376; RR-378; RR-379; RR-380; RR-382; RR-383; RR-385; RR-387; RR-388; RR-389; RR-391; RR-392; RR-394; RR-395; RR-397; RR-398; RR-401; RR-403; RR-404; RR-405; RR-406; RR-407; RR-408; RR-409; RR-410; RR-411; RR-413; RR-414; RR-416; RR-419; RR-420; RR-421; RR-422; RR-423; RR-427; RR-428; RR-429; RR-431; RR-433; RR-434; RR-435; RR-436; RR-437; RR-438; RR-439; RR-440; RR-441; RR-442; RR-443; RR-444; RR-445; RR-446; RR-448; RR-450; RR-451; RR-452; RR-453; RR-454; RR-455; RR-458; RR-459; RR-461; RR-462; RR-464; RR-465; RR-466; RR-467; RR-469; RR-472; RR-473; RR-474; RR-480; RR-481; RR-483; RR-484; RR-485; RR-486; RR-487; RR-488; RR-489; RR-491; RR-493; RR-494; RR-495; RR-496; RR-497; RR-499; RR-500; RR-501; RR-502; RR-503; RR-504; RR-505; RR-506; RR-507; RR-508; RR-510; RR-511; RR-513; RR-517; RR-518; RR-519; RR-520; RR-521; RR-524; RR-525; RR-526; RR-527; RR-528; RR-529; RR-530; RR-531; RR-532; RR-533; RR-534; RR-536; RR-538; RR-539; RR-540; RR-541; RR-542; RR-543

Transport and Access	TRA-XX	RR-051; RR-057; RR-064; RR-067; RR-071; RR-073; RR-075; RR-094; RR-106; RR-115; RR-118; RR-119; RR-123; RR-128; RR-157; RR-173; RR-180; RR-183; RR-193; RR-200; RR-203; RR-204; RR-207; RR-208; RR-210; RR-216; RR-227; RR-231; RR-237; RR-239; RR-241; RR-242; RR-250; RR-253; RR-256; RR-262; RR-271; RR-274; RR-277; RR-280; RR-282; RR-293; RR-297; RR-303; RR-308; RR-316; RR-328; RR-332; RR-333; RR-334; RR-337; RR-342; RR-343; RR-346; RR-350; RR-351; RR-354; RR-358; RR-363; RR-367; RR-371; RR-378; RR-384; RR-389; RR-400; RR-403; RR-408; RR-415; RR-420; RR-432; RR-437; RR-438; RR-451; RR-452; RR-471; RR-473; RR-485; RR-490; RR-515; RR-516; RR-519; RR-529; RR-531; RR-535; RR-538; RR-542; RR-543
Waste	WAS-XX	RR-101; RR-102; RR-109; RR-226; RR-273; RR-335; RR-465; RR-467

2 The Applicant's Responses to Relevant Representations.

2.1 The Applicant's responses to the Host Local Authorities, Parish Councils and Neighbourhood Planning Committees.

Lincolnshire County Council [RR-001]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
LCC-01	The Scheme	Examination and Structure of Relevant Representation.	<p>"Following the Planning Inspectorate confirmation that the above project has been accepted as an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to construct a solar energy park, Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) request to be registered as an Interested Party at the Examination.</p> <p>This letter provides a summary of the issues which LCC currently agrees/and or disagrees with together with an appropriate explanation in accordance with Planning Inspectorate note 8.3. In summary an outline of the principal topics which LCC intends to address in relation to the application during the examination will cover the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minerals and waste – as Minerals and Waste Planning Authority; • Highways and Transportation - as Local Highway Authority for Lincolnshire; 	The Applicant notes this comment and has provided responses to each of the matters raised in the Relevant Representation below.

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural Heritage; • Landscape and Visual Impact; • Fire Safety; • Public Rights of Way; • Surface Water, Flooding and Drainage – as Lead Local flood Authority for Drainage; • Carbon Reduction; • Agricultural Land use; • Growth; and • Public Health.” 	
LCC-02	Minerals and Waste	Mineral Safeguarding	<p>“The Council has considered Chapter 12 (Minerals) of the submitted ES and other relevant documents related to mineral safeguarding. The sites, are only a very small part of the safeguarded mineral resources, and these are predominantly isolated and constrained deposits. When considering the nature and characteristics of the project the Council is satisfied that there would be negligible impact in terms of any sterilisation of mineral resources. In respect of energy minerals, whilst there are some existing oil sites in proximity to the proposals, all elements of the scheme are outside of their associated safeguarding areas and so again, no safeguarding implications arise.</p>	The Applicant notes this comment.

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>Regarding the cable route corridors, these have been refined since the PEIR has been produced, and it is noted that, as set out in the ES, "the Cable Route Corridor has been designed so that wherever possible cable routes follow existing infrastructure corridors or alternatively follow the edge of significant landscape features rather than directly crossing open fields. Such an approach avoids creating a further obstruction to the future exploitation of the mineral resource." this approach aligns with the Councils previous discussions with the applicant. It is also noted that the proposed cable route in the vicinity of the River Trent overlaps with those of other proposed solar projects in the area, therefore minimising cumulative impact on the safeguarded mineral resources in this area.</p> <p>The Council therefore have no mineral safeguarding objections to the proposals."</p>	
LCC-03	Transport and Access	ES Chapter and Appendices	"The County Council as Local Highway Authority has been involved in a number of meetings with the applicant pre-submission. The submitted highway	The Applicant notes this comment.

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>details record and update those pre-application discussions.</p> <p>The Council considers that the assessment within the Transport and Access Chapter 14 and draft Construction Environmental Traffic Management Plan is appropriate and provides a reasonable estimate of HGV and car traffic associated with the development during construction and shows that the impact will be within acceptable levels on the highway network. There is also a cumulative assessment (Table 14.26) which includes the other solar farms proposed in the area, due to their locations different minor roads are used for access, so only the A631 and A15 see any noticeable cumulative impact, but again within acceptable levels".</p>	
LCC-04	Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	Surface Water Flood Risk	<p>"The Surface Water Flood Risk is also appropriately addressed at this outline stage, more detail would be needed on areas of the site which are proposed to be made impermeable and these could be conditioned."</p>	<p>The Applicant confirms that following further development of the Scheme, details of areas in which there is proposed to be hardstanding will be developed during the detailed design process.</p> <p>Paragraph 4.2.4 of C6.2.4_A ES Chapter 4 Scheme Description Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.4_A] summarises the Application's work packages. Works No 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9 are to result in the creation of hardstanding elements. C7.15_A Concept Design Parameters and Principles [EN010133/EX1/C7.15_A]</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>when read alongside Additional Submission - Accepted at the discretion of the Examining Authority C2.4_A Works Plan Revision A [AS-007] further details the potential extent of areas which are to be made impermeable. The Applicant confirms that they are willing to provide further details of hardstanding elements at the detailed design process.</p> <p>As stated in C6.3.10.1 ES Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy Report [APP-090], any runoff from hardstanding/small buildings on the Sites will be captured on site, to prevent increasing runoff from the Sites.</p>
LCC-05	Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	Impermeable Surfaces Surface Water, Flooding and Drainage Detail	"The energy storage facility (BESS) may create a large impermeable area and drainage details in accordance with SUDs principle would be needed for this – this is not mentioned in Appendix 10.1, although it is referred to in the Construction Management Plan."	<p>The Applicant confirms that the impermeable area for the proposed BESS will be drained via a comprehensive drainage system in accordance with SuDS principles. The BESS area within Cottam is considered within an area specific drainage strategy included within Section 3.0 of C6.3.10.4 ES Appendix 10.1 Annex D 10.1.3 Cottam 1 West [APP-093]. The drainage strategy and detailed drainage design will be developed during the detailed design process.</p> <p>The Applicant confirms that surface and foul water drainage details are secured by Requirement 11 of Schedule 2 to C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] where it states that "No part of the authorised development may commence until written details of the surface water drainage scheme and (if any) foul water drainage system for that part have been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority."</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>The proposed drainage strategy is detailed within Section 5.0 of C6.3.10.1 ES Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy Report [APP-090].</p> <p>The panelled areas are not considered to alter the existing surface water run-off regime and will therefore not be formally drained. Areas of increased hardstanding such as smaller areas of hardstanding formed as footings for electrical infrastructure will utilise SuDS principles and attempt to mimic the existing surface water run-off regime as existing.</p> <p>The BESS area within the Cottam development area is considered within an area specific drainage strategy included within Section 3.0 of C6.3.10.4 ES Appendix 10.1 Annex D 10.1.3 Cottam 1 West [APP-093]. The drainage strategy and detailed drainage design will be developed during the detailed design process.</p> <p>The Applicant confirms that surface and foul water drainage details are secured by Requirement 11 of Schedule 2 to C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] where it states that "No part of the authorised development may commence until written details of the surface water drainage scheme and (if any) foul water drainage system for that part have been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority."</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
LCC-06	Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	Surface Water, Flooding and Drainage	"In terms of the draft DCO requirements the Council considers that, in connection with surface water flooding, subject for a requirement of details of the site areas which are proposed to be made impermeable to be submitted to and approved in writing by the Council, if these are acceptable. No further additions are required at this stage for those covering highway matters but this will be kept under review during the examination as details of the other solar NSIPs in the area are made available."	<p>The Applicant confirms that following further development of the Scheme, details of areas in which there is proposed to be hardstanding will be developed during the detailed design process.</p> <p>As stated in C6.3.10.1 ES Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy Report [APP-090], any runoff from hardstanding/small buildings on the Sites will be captured on site, to prevent increasing runoff from the Sites.</p> <p>The Applicant confirms that surface and foul water drainage details are secured by Requirement 11 of Schedule 2 to C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] where it states that "No part of the authorised development may commence until written details of the surface water drainage scheme and (if any) foul water drainage system for that part have been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority."</p>
LCC-07	Transport and Access Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation	Public Rights of Way	"The Council will make comments in relation to Public Rights of Way in the LIR (Local Impact Report)."	The Applicant notes this comment.
LCC-08	Cultural Heritage	Archaeology - Adequacy of Evaluation	"Insufficient evaluation has been undertaken to allow for an adequate understanding of the archaeological potential and developmental impacts, or	The Applicant confirms that there was difficulty agreeing an appropriate sample for evaluation trial trenching. The initial request from LHPT of an evaluation trial trench assessment with a high sample. For example, the 3% sample as referenced in

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			to provide the basis for reasonable mitigation to deal with the impacts of this development. Significant concerns were raised regarding the applicant's proposed approach during the pre-application stage, particularly in regard to the evaluation trenching coverage."	<p>C6.3.13.9.1 ES Appendix 13.9.1 Consultation Response Tables [APP-133] was considered by the Applicant to be unreasonable and disproportionate taking into account the nature of the Scheme.</p> <p>The Applicant respectfully disagrees with Lincolnshire Historic Place Team (LHPT) and considers that sufficient evaluation, proportionate to the stage at which the Scheme is at, has been undertaken to inform the DCO Application and any works required as part of a post-consent C6.3.13.7 ES Appendix 13.7 Archaeological Mitigation Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) [APP-131] as secured by Requirement 12 of Schedule 2 in C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>The Applicant considers that they have taken a reasonable, proportionate and consistent approach guided by national and local guidance that has enabled the collection of high-quality reliable data. This has provided an adequate understanding of the archaeological potential and developmental impacts as set out in C6.2.13 ES Chapter 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048] and has been used to formulate an appropriate mitigation strategy as set out in C6.3.13.7 ES Appendix 13.7 Archaeological Mitigation WSI [APP-131].</p> <p>In the first instance the archaeological assessment comprised: C6.3.13.1 ES Appendix 13.1 Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments [APP-109], C6.3.13.2 ES Appendix 13.2 Archaeological Geophysical Survey Reports [APP-110 to APP-122], C6.3.13.3 ES Appendix 13.3 Geoarchaeological Desk-based</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>Assessment (DBA) [APP-123] and C6.3.13.4 ES Appendix 13.4 Air Photo (AP) and LiDAR Reports [APP-124], which successfully identified the absence/ presence/ extent of archaeological sites within the Order limits of the Scheme. An informed programme of C6.3.13.6 ES Appendix 13.6 Archaeological Evaluation Trenching [APP-129 & APP-130] both verified the results of the non-intrusive assessments, and where archaeological deposits had been identified, provided further information regarding their extent, character, preservation, and archaeological significance.</p> <p>The Applicant considers that this approach has provided a sufficient level of baseline information, as captured within Section 13.5 of C6.2.13 ES Chapter 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048], on which the Examining Authority can issue a recommendation and the Secretary of State can determine the DCO Application, allowing for suitable archaeological mitigation to be carried out pursuant to the implementation of C6.3.13.7 ES Appendix 13.7 Archaeological Mitigation WSI [APP-131] which is secured by Requirement 12 of Schedule 2 to C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>
LCC-09	Cultural Heritage	Evaluation Trenching	<p>"A meeting with the Council archaeologists, the applicant, their archaeological consultants (Lanpro) and the Planning Inspectorate was held last year in an attempt to resolve the issues raised. The applicant agreed in the meeting to a programme of around 2% evaluation trenching (with a 1% contingency) of the entire redline</p>	<p>The Applicant acknowledges that there was difficulty agreeing an appropriate sample for evaluation trial trenching. In May 2022 LHPT requested 3% of the Scheme area to be sampled with a 1% contingency. The Applicant considered this request to be unreasonable and disproportionate taking into account the nature of the Scheme. As agreement could not be reached, a meeting was held between the Applicant, LHPT and the Planning Inspectorate on the 09.06.2022, in which LHPT reiterated their requirement for a 3% sample (with a 1% contingency). In the meeting, both parties</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			boundary in order to provide sufficient data to adequately inform the EIA, ES Chapter and provide a basis for an outline mitigation strategy to be submitted with the DCO application."	<p>agreed a staged approach to trenching, commencing on sensitive locations identified by the geophysical survey. At no point during the meeting did the Applicant agree to carry out a 2% sample with a 1% contingency for the entire Scheme area. The WSI for pre-application evaluation trial trenching and initial trench plans focused on areas where geophysical survey had identified buried archaeological deposits, and a sample of 2% coverage of those areas was agreed by LHPT by email on the 17.06.2022.</p> <p>The Applicant respectfully disagrees that works fall short of what was agreed during the pre-application stage. No agreement was reached between the Applicant and LHPT regarding 'blank' areas where geophysical and other non-intrusive surveys had not identified buried archaeological remains as evidenced by meeting notes produced by the Planning Inspectorate that document a meeting between the Planning Inspectorate, LHPT and the Applicant on the 09.06.2022 (Appendix A, Table 3.1 of this Document & C6.3.13.9 ES Appendix 13.9 Consultation Response Tables [APP-133]).</p> <p>The Applicant does not consider that an uninformed high sample (i.e., 2%) of evaluation trenching across the entire Order limits of the Scheme is reasonable or proportionate to understand the likely significant effects of the Scheme on archaeological assets. The approach proposed by LCC does not have regard to baseline and survey data, which has proven to be reliable.</p> <p>The Applicant also considers that this is inconsistent with other NSIP solar Schemes in Lincolnshire currently going through the DCO Application process. For example, it is disproportionate to the</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>sample of evaluation trenching agreed to by LHPT for the nearby Gate Burton Scheme, estimated by the Applicant to be 1.16%, which was considered by LHPT to be sufficient to inform the Gate Burton DCO Application and mitigation strategy. When asked directly, LHPT were unable to provide a reasonable justification for the different trenching samples (for example, LHPT did not refer to the difference in approach being based on differences in the historic environment between the two schemes, such as a major difference in the cultural heritage background of the two sites.) The Applicant therefore considers that LHPT has not adequately justified their request for a programme of trenching with a high 2% (plus contingency) sample.</p> <p>If further informative trenching across the Scheme is assessed to be necessary, the Applicant considers that, in accordance with correspondence with the Planning Inspectorate and Historic England (Appendix 1, Table 3.1 of this Document & C6.3.13.9 ES Appendix 13.9 Consultation Response Tables [APP-133] and communication following submission), and guided by numerous case studies from other local planning authorities, this should be undertaken pre-construction at a 1% sample size. In this case it is estimated that the sample of trenching across the Scheme would total 1.15% (which equates to 17.5% of the Order limits undertaken at a 2% sample completed pre-determination and 82.5% of the Order limits at a 1% sample undertaken pre-construction) and would be in line with what was considered sufficient by LHPT for the nearby Gate Burton Solar Project.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
LCC-10	Cultural Heritage	Evaluation Trenching impacting the Application	"The work undertaken by the applicant to date falls far below that which was agreed in the meeting and the applicant's ES Chapter and proposed mitigation strategy is therefore ill informed and has no adequate evidential basis other than for the limited areas where evaluation has been undertaken."	The Applicant respectfully disagrees with LHPT's comments on the adequacy of the approach adopted and considers that the level of work undertaken has provided sufficient information and enabled the production of a robust C6.2.13 ES Chapter 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048] on which to determine the DCO Application and inform suitable archaeological mitigation to be carried out pursuant to the implementation of C6.3.13.7 ES Appendix 13.7 Archaeological Mitigation Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) [APP-131] which is secured by Requirement 12 of Schedule 2 to C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] .
LCC-11	Cultural Heritage	Trench Plans	"A 2% coverage of the small number of areas within the redline boundary that have been evaluated was achieved, however large areas of the redline boundary and connection corridors have not been evaluated at all. Trench plans were agreed with the Council for individual fields, however an overall evaluation plan of the entire redline boundary was not forthcoming, despite repeated requests. The applicant's consultant consistently agreed to provide this information but has so far failed to provide all of the requested information. This piecemeal reactive approach has been a major concern regarding	The Applicant respectfully disagrees with LHPT and considers that the trenching programme was undertaken as part of a phased approach that resulted in an informed programme of trenching. In a meeting between the Applicant, LHPT and the Planning Inspectorate on the 09.06.2022, all parties agreed a staged approach to trenching, commencing on sensitive locations identified by the geophysical survey (Appendix 1, Table 3.1 of this Document & C6.3.13.9 ES Appendix 13.9 Consultation Response Tables [APP-133] . The location of trenches was informed by C6.3.13.1 ES Appendix 13.1 Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments [APP-109] - including Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS), Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC), National Record of Historic Environment (NRHE), National Heritage List for England (NHLE), National Mapping Programme (NMP) and Historic Environment Record (HER) data and historic map regression - C6.3.13.2 ES Appendix

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			adequate trenching coverage across the site."	<p>13.2 Archaeological Geophysical Survey [APP-110 to APP-122], C6.3.13.3 ES Appendix 13.3 Geoarchaeological Desk-Based Assessment [APP-123] and C6.3.13.4 ES Appendix 13.4 Air Photo (AP) and LiDAR Reports [APP-124], as well as with consideration to walkover surveys and topographic variations.</p> <p>Trench plans were provided to LHPT as produced, and changes were made to the location of trenches as requested by LHPT. Additional trenches, at the Applicant's request, were agreed with LHPT in Cottam 1 Parcel G aimed at better characterising geophysical anomalies.</p> <p>The Applicant considers that the phased approach has enabled a pragmatic and responsive mechanism to deliver an informed programme of trenching, which has provided a sufficient level of baseline information, as captured within Section 13.5 of C6.2.13 ES Chapter 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048], on which the Examining Authority can issue a recommendation and the Secretary of State can determine the DCO Application, and formulate an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy.</p>
LCC-12	Cultural Heritage	Adequacy of baseline evidence	"This means that the baseline evidence is woefully inadequate and effective and appropriate mitigation cannot be determined outside of the trenched areas. All the areas within the redline boundary and the grid connection corridor which have not been subject to evaluation trenching therefore remain	<p>The Applicant respectfully disagrees that baseline evidence is 'woefully inadequate' and considers appropriate mitigation can be determined for areas outside of trenched areas.</p> <p>The Applicant considers that the phased programme of archaeological evaluation was completed to a high standard and has produced high quality data that has sufficiently informed the Environmental Statement submitted as part of the DCO</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>unknown in terms of archaeological potential."</p>	<p>Application, and the need for any pre-construction archaeological works.</p> <p>The first phase of assessment and field evaluation comprising: C6.3.13.1 ES Appendix 13.1 Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments [APP-109], C6.3.13.3 ES Appendix 13.3 Geoarchaeological Desk-Based Assessment [APP-123] and C6.3.13.4 ES Appendix 13.4 Air Photo (AP) and LiDAR Reports [APP-124] and C6.3.13.2 ES Appendix 13.2 Archaeological Geophysical Survey [APP-110 to APP-122] successfully identified numerous previously unrecorded sites. In particular, the geophysical survey, which was undertaken across all accessible areas within the Scheme, identified numerous concentrations of archaeological deposits.</p> <p>Geophysical survey is an internationally recognised evaluation methodology for identifying the absence/presence of buried archaeological remains. The Chartered Institute for Archaeology (CIfA) Standards and Guidance for Field Evaluation (2020) defines a field evaluation as "a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts and their research potential, within a specified area or site on land".</p> <p>There are numerous examples of geophysical survey being used as an evaluation technique either in isolation or with a low sample of targeted evaluation trial trenching to evaluate the archaeological potential of land within solar schemes in the east and north-east of England. Examples of solar schemes approved in</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>the last five years include: Land south-east Of A6108 Darlington Road (21/00931/FULL) in North Yorkshire, Conesby House Farm (PA/2018/2140) in North Lincolnshire, Eastfield Farm (19/04321/STPLF) in East Riding of Yorkshire, Chestnut Farm (P/21/2661/2) in Leicestershire and Vine Farm (S/1067/14/FL) in Cambridgeshire).</p> <p>The results of C6.3.13.2 ES Appendix 13.2 Archaeological Geophysical Survey Reports [APP-110 to APP-122] for the Scheme were verified by a programme of evaluation trial trenching, which targeted both concentrations of geophysical anomalies interpreted as being of an archaeological origin and 'blank' areas where no archaeological anomalies were identified. Where archaeological features were encountered there was an excellent correlation between the results of the geophysical survey and trial trenching, and the trial trench evaluation was sufficient to enhance information regarding the extent, character, preservation and significance of the archaeological features.</p> <p>The combined programme of non-intrusive and intrusive evaluation is considered by the Applicant to have met the objectives of a field evaluation as set out by ClfA (2020) and so is sufficient to inform the DCO Application. Any further archaeological works required will be carried out pursuant to the implementation of C6.3.13.7 ES Appendix 13.7 Archaeological Mitigation WSI [APP-131] which is secured by Requirement 12 of Schedule 2 to C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
LCC-13	Cultural Heritage	Archaeological Potential	"All the areas within the redline boundary and the grid connection corridor which have not been subject to evaluation trenching therefore remain unknown in terms of archaeological potential."	<p>The Applicant respectfully disagrees with LHPT and considers that the results of the geophysical survey (as well as those of other non-intrusive techniques) is sufficient to identify the archaeological potential of areas that were not subject to evaluation trenching, and inform the DCO Application.</p> <p>The results of the evaluation trial trenching were found by the Applicant to correspond with those of the geophysical survey. No unexpected archaeological sites were identified during the evaluation trial trenching; several 'blank' areas, where geophysical survey had not identified archaeological deposits, were tested and found not to contain archaeological remains. For example, the eastern fields in Cottam 1 Parcel F, the east and south of Cottam 2 Field H5, the west of Cottam 2 Field H8, the south of Cottam 3a Field K14 and the west of Cottam 3a Field K18 in C6.3.13.6 ES Appendix 13.6 Archaeological Evaluation Trenching Reports [APP-129 and APP-130].</p> <p>Likewise, where geophysical survey has identified clear concentrations of possible archaeological features within the cable route, the Applicant believes the geophysical survey has provided sufficient evaluation as per ClfA guidelines (2020) to inform a robust C6.3.13.7 ES Appendix 13.7 Archaeological Mitigation WSI [APP-131] which is secured by Requirement 12 of Schedule 2 to C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>
LCC-14	Cultural Heritage	Use of concrete shoes	"The mitigation proposal for concrete shoes is considered unacceptable. Installation, compaction during the	Concrete anchors are a nationally recognised method for archaeological mitigation by design. As demonstrated by guidance provided by Cornwall Council (See

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			operational life of the site and subsequent decommissioning impacts would have a highly negative impact on surviving archaeology, especially in areas of shallow deposits which encompasses much of this agricultural landscape."	https://files.bregroup.com/solar/KN5524_Planning_Guidance_reduced.pdf , P.13), and the numerous examples of solar schemes where LPAs have agreed the use of concrete anchors to safeguard buried archaeological remains. For example, examples of schemes where concrete feet have been considered appropriate mitigation include The Grange (19/01408/FULM) in Nottinghamshire, Land south-east Of A6108 Darlington Road (21/00931/FULL) in North Yorkshire, Eastfield Farm (19/04321/STPLF) in East Riding of Yorkshire, Conesby Solar Park (PA/2018/2140) in North Lincolnshire, Vine Farm, Shingay-cum-Wendy (S/1067/14/FL) in Cambridgeshire.
LCC-15	Cultural Heritage	Use of concrete shoes in untrenched areas	"Further, the use of concrete shoes in mitigation cannot be used in any area that has not been ground-truthed by evaluation trenching and found to be archaeologically negative. It is noted that previously unexpected human remains were found in the first few days of trenching in one area at a depth of 20cm below the ground surface."	As detailed in C6.3.13.7 ES Appendix 13.7 Archaeological Mitigation WSI [APP-131] , all areas recommended by the Applicant for archaeological mitigation using concrete anchors have been subject to field evaluation using geophysical survey and trial trenching. The burials identified in Field G4 are located adjacent to contemporaneous ditches that were recorded by the geophysical survey, and so archaeological features in this area were not unexpected. The burials were located at depths of between 30 and 40cm and had been heavily disturbed by plough damage. Consequently, the Scheme provides a mechanism to record and preserve the inhumations prior to their further impact by agricultural activity. As detailed in Table 6.1.1 of C6.3.13.7 ES Appendix 13.7 Archaeological Mitigation WSI [APP-131] , the Applicant has proposed this area for open excavation, not concrete feet.

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
LCC-16	Cultural Heritage	Standards of archaeological works	"To summarise, the archaeological work for this application has not been undertaken to the standard the Council would expect and therefore the Cultural Heritage section is limited, but is presented by the applicant as the complete and full understanding of the archaeological resource across the site."	<p>The scope and extent of desk-based research and non-intrusive survey works (i.e., geophysical survey, air photo and LiDAR assessment and desk-based geoarchaeological assessment) 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. A WSI for the trial trench evaluation was agreed on 17.06.2023 (see Table App 13.9.1.1: Consultation Prior to PEIR in C6.3.13.9 ES Appendix 13.9 Consultation Response Tables [APP-133]). Numerous site visits were undertaken by Historic England, LHPT and the Applicant between July and November 2022 (as detailed in Appendix 1, Table 3.1 & C6.3.13.9 ES Appendix 13.9 Consultation Response Tables [APP-133]). All parties agreed that works were undertaken to a sufficient level and in line with appropriate professional standards and guidance.</p> <p>The Applicant therefore considers that the standard of works were undertaken to an appropriate level, as agreed with LHPT and as attested by the high-quality data sets presented in the ES Chapter 13 Appendices (C6.3.13.1-C6.3.13.9) [APP-109 to APP-133], and provide a robust and comprehensive understanding of archaeological resource across the Scheme.</p>
LCC-17	Cultural Heritage	Proposed Mitigation	"The mitigation proposed is therefore uninformed and cannot be fit for purpose and the Council consider that further archaeological evaluation within the red line boundary is necessary to understand the extent, nature and significance of surviving archaeology so that appropriate mitigation can be determined."	<p>The Applicant respectfully disagrees with LHPT and considers the mitigation strategy set out in C6.3.13.7 ES Appendix 13.7 Archaeological Mitigation WSI [APP-131] to be informed by a robust archaeological evaluation, and therefore fit for purpose.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
LCC-18	Cultural Heritage	Cultural Heritage Assets	<p>"The Council is concerned with the approach and conclusions made with regard to the impacts of this proposal on cultural heritage assets within Lincolnshire. It is considered that this approach is inadequate and the application details at this time do not meet the evidential requirements as set out in the relevant policy and guidance including Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (Regulation 5 (2d)), National Planning Statement Policy EN1 (Section 5.8) and the National Planning Policy Framework."</p>	<p>The Applicant respectfully disagrees with LHPT and considers the approach taken and conclusions reached in assessing the impacts of the Scheme on cultural heritage assets within Lincolnshire as demonstrated in C6.2.13 ES Chapter 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048] are appropriate and in line with relevant policy and guidance including Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (Regulation 5 (2d)), National Planning Statement Policy EN1 (Section 5.8) and the National Planning Policy Framework.</p> <p>The Applicant considers that the level of works, including the extent of evaluation trial trenching as demonstrated in C6.3.13.6 ES Appendix 13.6 Archaeological Evaluation Trenching Reports [APP-129 & APP-130], has provided sufficient information and enabled the production of a robust ES Chapter on which to determine the DCO Application and inform suitable archaeological mitigation, demonstrated in C6.3.13.7 ES Appendix 13.7 Archaeological Mitigation Written Scheme of Investigation [APP-131], to be secured as part of a post-determination requirement on the Application.</p>
LCC-19	Landscape and Visual Impact	Identification of key landscape and visual issues	<p>"The Council notes the volume of information provided within the LVIA and associated appendices, which while very detailed, makes the identification and clear understanding of key landscape and visual issues (as well as providing succinct review comments) difficult at this stage."</p>	<p>The approach to C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] has been undertaken in consideration of comments made at the Scoping and PEIR Stages of the project and in workshops between the Applicant and the consenting authorities, which included Lincolnshire County Council (LCC). At these workshops, the Applicant explained how they would approach the LVIA and LCC responded as follows:</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>"The approach to the assessment being a succinct 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>This reflects how the assessment has been carried out, as set out in C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043], C6.3.8.1 ES Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology includes 8.1.1-8.1.4 [APP-068], C6.3.8.2 ES Appendix 8.2 Assessment of Potential Landscape Effects includes 8.2.1-8.2.12 [APP-074], C6.3.8.3 ES Appendix 8.3 Assessment of Potential Visual Effects includes 8.3.1-8.3.5 [APP-075], C6.3.8.4 ES Appendix 8.4 Consultation includes 8.4.1-8.4.4 [APP-076], and in C6.3.8.5 Appendix 8.5 Policy Commentary [APP-077].</p> <p>The pre-application engagement with LCC was undertaken as a number of workshops as set out in C6.3.8.4 ES Appendix 8.4 Consultation [APP-076]. The engagement has enabled a consensus on the approach to the assessment and the methodologies to be adopted and the LCC response to this as set out in Relevant Representation [RR-001] 'Landscape and Visual Impact' at page 4, paragraph 1, was as follows:</p> <p>"A lot of supporting information is provided within associated appendices which provided very detailed information relating to the assessment".</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
LCC-20	Landscape and Visual Impact	ES Chapter: Non-Technical Summary	<p>"The main LVIA chapter alone is some 295 pages with no clear summary or narrative of effects to communicate the main findings, relying in cross referencing numerous appendices. The Environmental Statement Volume 4: Non-Technical Summary (C6.5) would particularly benefit from this for non-technical readers as the landscape and visual section contains a list of potentially affected receptors with limited summarising narrative provided to provide context or identify what the key issues are. It is however understood that the volume of information is in part due to the fragmented nature of the development and cable routes over a wide area, creating additional elements to consider beyond a simple singular redline boundary. A lot of the supporting information is provided within associated appendices which provide very detailed information relating to the assessment. Therefore, the Council suggests that in advance of or at an early stage of the examination, the opportunity is taken to provide a clearer and more succinct identification and summary of the key landscape and visual issues and effects."</p>	<p>The Applicant has submitted a summary and narrative of effects at Deadline 1 as set out in C8.2.1 Supplementary Landscape Effects Tables [EN010133/EX1/C8.2.1], C8.2.2 Supplementary Visual Effects Tables [EN010133/EX1/C8.2.2], and the Hedgerow Removal Plans in Appendix C of C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan Revision A [EN010133/EX1PEX/C7.3_A] which summarise 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.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
LCC-21	Landscape and Visual Impact Glint and Glare	Significant Adverse Effects of the Scheme	<p>"By reason of its mass and scale, the proposed development would lead to significant adverse effects upon landscape character and visual amenity. The development has the potential to transform the local landscape by altering the character on a large scale, which is likely to be exacerbated by the fragmented nature of the separate development plots connected by cable routes spread over a wide area."</p>	<p>The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) contained within C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] takes into account the effects on the landscape character in detail, from the national scale, through regional, county district and local scales to the landscape character areas within the 5km Study Area. For further information, please refer to C6.3.8.2 ES Appendix 8.2 Assessment of Potential Landscape Effects includes 8.2.1-8.2.12 [APP-074]. These associated appendices provide a detailed assessment of landscape effects on each landscape receptor.</p> <p>Mitigation, including offsets and planting, has been proposed to address and minimise adverse effects on the character of the landscape. This is in line with the agreed methodology and the hierarchy of approach advocated by the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition and was agreed with LCC at the series of workshops, as set out in C6.3.8.4 ES Appendix 8.4 Consultation [APP-076].</p> <p>The mitigation associated with the landscape receptors for the Scheme is set out in C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A], C6.4.8.16.1 to C6.4.8.16.10 Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Figures 8.16.1 to 8.16.10) [APP-305 to APP-315] and secured by Requirement 7 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]. The LVIA considers the delivery of landscape mitigation to landscape character by addressing biodiversity net gain through the enhancement of existing habitats and green infrastructure. The Outline LEMP also prescribes how</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>the landscape and ecology mitigation measures identified and proposed would be implemented and managed to ensure the effectiveness and certainty in achieving the objectives.</p> <p>Glint and glare effects are assessed in the relevant report C6.3.16.1 ES Appendix 16.1 Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study [APP-140] and summarised in ES Chapter 16 Glint and Glare [APP-051]. The assessment considers glint and glare effects upon receptors such as Public Rights of Way, dwellings, roads, railway infrastructure and aviation (see the executive summary contained within C6.3.16.1 ES Appendix 16.1 Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study [APP-140]. Where the effect is predicted to be of "Moderate" or higher impact (see paragraph 16.8.2 of C6.2.16 ES Chapter 16_Glint and Glare [APP-051] embedded mitigation has been implemented as part of the landscape plan (see C6.4.8.16.1 to C6.4.8.16.10 Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Figures 8.16.1 to 8.16.10) [APP-305 to APP-315]).</p>
LCC-22	Nature of Proposal Landscape and Visual Impact	Changes to land use across a large area	"The Council is particularly concerned about the effects upon the landscape character through changes to the land use, which would be spread throughout a wide area, rather than a more focussed development plot being read as a solar development occupying a single site in a wider landscape."	The Scheme comprises a series of separate parcels of land or Sites (see Sections 3.3 to 3.6 of C6.2.3 ES Chapter 3_The Order Limits [APP-038]) which are set within an extensive agricultural landscape. With large tracts of land between each parcel, each is set apart by their associated features such as robust hedgerows, woodland and tree cover, intervening settlements and road and rail infrastructure (see paragraphs 8.5.88, 8.5.106 and 8.5.124 of C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8_Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043]).

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>The Sites have been informed by a series of design parameters and include offset distances as a result of needing to balance the functionality of the Scheme against the key environmental constraints (see paragraph 8.6.21 of C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8_Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043]).</p> <p>Paragraph 8.3.10 of C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8_Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] notes the IPC's need to "judge whether the visual effects on sensitive receptors, such as local residents, and other receptors, such as visitors to the local area, outweigh the benefits of the project". Resultingly, C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8_Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] has identified offsets with regards to sensitive receptors such as settlement edges, individual residential properties, PRoW and transport routes (see section 8.11 of C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8_Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043]) which further assists the assimilation and dispersion of the Scheme across the landscape.</p> <p>The separate parcels of land in the Scheme are placed far apart such that the solar panels are distributed 'in and amongst' the landscape allowing them to assimilate into the landscape to a comfortable degree.</p> <p>The presence of the intervening landscape also provides scope for areas of mitigation and the ability to build upon the connectivity of green infrastructure and ecology and nature conservation and retain the existing landscape pattern.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
LCC-23	Landscape and Visual Impact	Significant Adverse Effects of the Scheme	"The scale and extent of development would also lead to significant adverse effects on views from receptors, changing from views within an agricultural or rural landscape to that of a landscape containing extensive areas of large-scale solar infrastructure."	C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact [APP-043] includes a full and detailed assessment that deals with both effects on the landscape itself and effects on the visual amenity of people, as well as interrelationships of these with other related topics in the ES. The LVIA process is iterative and as a result, the design of the Scheme changed to respond to the findings of the assessment to ensure that landscape mitigation is fully considered as part of the process. For example, within the Cottam 1 Site, the PRow bridleway (Fill/86/1) leads from Short Lane (at the settlement of Ingham) to join with PRow footpath (Ingh/17/1), then eventually joins with Willingham Road. As a result of the Scheme, the foreground of the view would change from a large, gently sloping arable field to an area of panels. This is set out in C6.3.8.3 ES Appendix 8.3 Assessment of Potential Visual Effects includes 8.3.1 - 8.3.5 [APP-075] on sheet [EN010133/APP/C6.3.8.3.5.2.1] Public Rights of Way Receptor – Fill/86 (Fill/86/1) and on sheet [EN010133/APP/C6.3.8.3.2.3.19]. In this instance (Sheet C6.3.8.3.5.2.1 page 1), the Embedded Mitigation would include panels set a minimum of 15m from the adjacent PRow. Existing hedges would also be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of the existing hedges at close range. Furthermore (Sheet C6.3.8.3.2.3.19 on page 3), in the middle distance, new and augmented hedgerows will provide a series of strong field boundaries both formally strengthening the existing

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>and historical field pattern and also in creating a multi-layered landscape.</p> <p>The LVIA considers that for some aspects of the Scheme (the construction phase in particular), the presence of the panels has been assessed to result in an adverse effect. Where impacts and effects are identified then landscape mitigation measures are applied to offset or remedy any adverse effects.</p> <p>Where the LVIA has identified significant adverse effects, extensive landscape mitigation is set out in C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] and is also shown on C6.4.8.16.1 - C6.4.8.16.10 Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Figures 8.16.1 to 8.16.10) [APP-301 to APP-315]. This mitigation seeks to visually enhance the landscape through the addition of new planting and the positive management of the existing tree and hedgerow stock. This mitigation also seeks to reduce the visibility of the Scheme and help with its assimilation into the landscape from public vantage points including transport routes, public footpaths, permissive footpaths and green lane networks. This mitigation is aimed to benefit the community as a whole as well as tourists, visiting walkers, local residents, ornithologists and cyclists. The landscape mitigation measures will provide new planting, which will include new native hedgerows and tree cover, and this will also include their management and maintenance.</p>
LCC-24	Landscape and Visual Impact	Conclusions of close-range views	"From close range views, the development has been identified in the LVIA as resulting in a significant change to	The LVIA identifies the Scheme as causing a significant change to high and medium sensitivity receptors and several close-range views have been assessed as beneficial for example, within the

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			high and medium sensitivity receptors. Several close range views have been assessed as being beneficial, above the baseline view, at Operation (15 Year) phase and the justification for this should be investigated and clarified at the examination as it is currently unclear as to why these visual benefits would be gained."	<p>Cottam 3 Site, the PRoW footpath (Pilh/20/1) connects at the junction with Bonsdale Lane. This is set out in C6.3.8.3 ES Appendix 8.3 Assessment of Potential Visual Effects [APP-075] on sheet [EN010133/APP/C6.3.8.2.3.25] Viewpoint VP58 – Junction of Pilh/20/1 and Bonsdale Lane. In this instance [page 3] at Operation (Year 15) the view will have become more enclosed since the proposed new hedgerows will have established to create a strong field structure and screen views of the panels.</p> <p>The visual benefits are identified, alongside the effects within the detailed receptor sheets in C6.3.8.3 ES Appendix 8.3 Assessment of Potential Visual Effects [APP-075].</p>
LCC-25	Landscape and Visual Impact	Long range, open and panoramic views	"Long range, open and panoramic views across the low lying Till Vale from elevated land to the east, including from within The Ridge Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) are also a concern, which while of a longer range, would potentially include views down onto large areas of solar development, with larger elements, such as sub-stations, being particularly conspicuous in this low lying landscape."	<p>The assessment of both the landscape and visual effects of the substations is set out within C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact [APP-043] within sheet 12 of C6.3.8.2 ES Appendix 8.2 Assessment of Potential Landscape Effects [APP-074] and C6.3.8.3 ES Appendix 8.3 Assessment of Potential Visual Effects [APP-075].</p> <p>The effects on the Ridge AGLV when viewed across the low-lying Till Vale associated with the sub-stations, panels and associated infrastructure such as fencing and cameras, and substation and battery storage have been taken into consideration in the assessment of both landscape and visual effects.</p>
LCC-26	Landscape and Visual Impact	Cumulative Landscape and Visual Effects	"The cumulative landscape and visual effects of the proposed development are also of concern, particularly when assessed alongside the proposed Gate Burton, West Burton and Tillbridge Solar	The Applicant respectfully disagrees with LCC's comments and considers the approach taken and subsequent conclusions regarding assessing the impacts of the Scheme alongside the proposed Gate Burton, West Burton and Tillbridge Solar proposals would not result in significant adverse effects on landscape

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>proposals The mass and scale of these projects combined would lead to adverse effects upon landscape character and visual amenity over an extensive area. The landscape character of the area may be completely altered, particularly when experienced sequentially."</p>	<p>character and visual amenity over an extensive area. For some receptors, in localised areas, at the construction stage and assessment year 1, adverse effects have been identified. The assessment of potential cumulative landscape effects is set out in detail within C6.3.8.2 ES Appendix 8.2 Assessment of Potential Landscape Effects_includes 8.2.1-8.2.12 [APP-074] of the assessment where effects of the Tillbridge proposals are considered to the north of the Cottam 1 North Site, and where their boundaries are located directly adjacent to each other, just south of Kexby Road and to the west of the settlement of Fillingham. This takes account of those travelling along the regularly used routes such as major roads or popular paths.</p> <p>The cumulative effects with the Gate Burton proposals are illustrated on C6.4.8.15.2.6 ES Figure 8.15.2.6 Gate Burton Cumulative Developments Cottam 1, 2 and 3a and 3b Augmented ZTV [APP-300], The settlements of Willingham by Stow, Kexby and Upton provide screening and separation between Gate Burton and the Cottam 1 Site. In respect of the Cottam 2 Site, the distance between Gate Burton and this particular site is approximately 6km, while the separation distance between Gate Burton and Cottam 3a and 3b Sites is approximately 9km. The cumulative effects of these projects would therefore not occur due to the significant distance between them.</p> <p>The cumulative effects with the West Burton proposals are illustrated on C6.4.8.15.2.9 ES Figure 8.15.2.9 West Burton Cumulative Developments Cottam 1, 2 and 3a and 3b Augmented ZTV [APP-303]. The settlements of Sturton by Stow, Bransby and Broxholme provide screening and separation</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>between West Burton and the Cottam 1 Site. In respect of the Cottam 2 Site, the distance between West Burton and this particular site is approximately 10km, while the separation distance between West Burton and Cottam 3a and 3b Sites is approximately 14km. The cumulative effects of these projects would therefore not occur due to the significant distance between them.</p> <p>The cumulative effects with the Tillbridge proposals are illustrated on C6.4.8.15.2.8 ES Figure 8.15.2.8 Tillbridge Cumulative Developments Cottam 1, 2 and 3a and 3b Augmented ZTV [APP-302], the Tillbridge proposals are located to the west and east of the settlement of Springthorpe and situated between the settlements of Heapham, Hemswell Cliff and Glentworth.</p> <p>The Cottam 1 Site and Tillbridge boundaries are located adjacent to each other. Cumulative effects of these two proposals have been identified at the construction phase and operational phase (Year 1) of the Scheme, with potential significant effects predicted during the construction phase and operational phase (Year 1).</p> <p>The Cottam 2 Site and Tillbridge boundaries are located in close proximity to each other, with Corringham Road in between. Cumulative effects of these two proposals have been identified at the construction phase and operational phase (Year 1) of the Scheme, with potential significant effects predicted during the construction phase and operational phase (Year 1).</p> <p>Section 8.10, Cumulative Effects, of C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact [APP-043] provides a summary of the findings with detail set out within the individual receptor</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>sheets within C6.3.8.2 ES Appendix 8.2 Assessment of Potential Landscape Effects [APP-074] and C6.3.8.3 ES Appendix 8.3 Assessment of Potential Visual Effects [APP-075].</p> <p>The effects of the developments cumulatively are shown on C6.4.8.15.1 Figure 8.15.1 Cottam 1,2 and 3 Cumulative Sites Cottam Augmented ZTV [APP-290] and C6.4.8.15.2 Figure 8.15.2 Cottam 1,2 and 3 Cumulative Developments Augmented ZTV [APP-294].</p> <p>All sites and development included within the cumulative assessment have been discussed and agreed with the consenting authorities, including LCC during the LVIA Workshops. This is set out within C6.3.8.4.1 of C6.3.8.4 ES Appendix 8.4 Consultation includes 8.4.1- 8.4.4 [APP-076], which documents the engagement with The Planning Inspectorate, Bassetlaw District Council, Lincolnshire County Council, Natural England [see pages 2, 4, 5, 7, 11, 12 and 13] and within C6.3.8.4.2 ES Appendix 8.4.2 Consultation [APP-076], which documents the engagement with Lincolnshire County Council, Bassetlaw District Council, Natural England [see pages 1, 2, 3, 5, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 35, 36, 37, 39, and 41 and within C6.3.8.4.3 ES Appendix 8.4.3 Consultation [APP-076], which documents engagement at public engagement events in November 2021 and with The Planning Inspectorate, Bassetlaw District Council, Lincolnshire County Council, Natural England, [see pages 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 11, 12, 13 and 14] and within C6.3.8.4.4 ES Appendix 8.4.4 Consultation [APP-076], which shows liaison with Lincolnshire County Council and Nottinghamshire County Council [see pages 1 and 2].</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>The mitigation proposals associated with the landscape and visual receptors for the Scheme are included in C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A], and within C6.4.8.16.1-C6.4.8.16.10 Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Figures 8.16.1 to 8.16.10) [APP-305 to APP-315]. This mitigation takes into account the findings of the cumulative assessment, and therefore the proposed mitigation will deal with the cumulative effects identified. This mitigation is aimed at benefitting the community as a whole as well as tourists, visiting walkers, local residents, ornithologists and cyclists. The landscape mitigation measures seek to provide new planting, which will include new native hedgerows and tree cover, and this will also include their management and maintenance.</p>
LCC-27	Ecology Landscape and Visual Impact	Protection of existing trees, hedgerows and other important vegetation	<p>"The submission has not provided sufficient information in regards to the impact upon, or protection of, existing trees, hedgerows and other important vegetation in order for comment to be made at this stage. These impacts are not limited to the solar development areas, but associated with access and highways works to facilitate the development, such as construction access, particularly from large plant, or access points and associated visibility splays."</p>	<p>Paragraphs 9.7.45 to 9.7.82 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] detail the likely impacts, proposed mitigation and residual effects considered to occur on Woodland, Hedgerows and Trees and Grassland as a result of the Scheme. These paragraphs also describe buffers which ensure the protection of individual in-field trees. The assessments each conclude that construction phase impacts will be neutral owing to the buffering of these habitats inherent in the Scheme's design, save for hedgerows within the Cable Route Corridor which will be subject to greater temporary impacts from a linear development.</p> <p>In certain locations where accesses do not exist, some very minor hedgerow removal is necessary to accommodate access roads between fields, land parcels and solar panel areas. This removal is set out in the Hedgerow Removal Plans in Appendix C of C7.3_A</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan Revision A [EN010133/EX1PEX/C7.3_A]. 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). Prompt replanting is proposed to minimise the severity of impact to the short term only (see the fourth bullet point of paragraph 9.6.9 in C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044]) as secured by Requirement 8 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>All operation-phase impacts will be beneficial owing to the enhanced management regimes to be adopted and degree of new planting proposed.</p> <p>Bullet point 5 of paragraph 9.6.9 within C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] provides details of the measurements and location of ecological protection buffers to be implemented during construction and operation of the Proposed Development according to the habitat type present at field boundaries and its evaluated importance. The measures outlined in paragraph 9.6.9 of the ES Chapter are captured within paragraph 2.3.8 of C7.19 Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [APP-356] and as secured by Requirement 8 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]. This is further depicted within C6.3.9.11 ES Appendix 9.11 Schedule of Protective Ecological</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>Buffers [APP-088]. These buffers apply to every field boundary within the Order Limits.</p> <p>As identified within Paragraphs 9.5.22 to 9.5.40 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044], it is the field boundaries which contain the habitats of most elevated importance across the Order Limits (i.e., Woodland, Hedgerows, Trees, and Arable Field Margins). Consequently, it was determined that adequate buffering of these habitats would be required as part of the embedded mitigation within the Scheme design. As such, the development will avoid impacts on these important habitats by design, except for those sections which would need to be impacted to enable construction or operational access (see response to LCC-028 below). Bullet point 3 of Paragraph 9.6.9 within C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] also sets out the number of new hedgerow gaps required.</p> <p>Method Statement 2 within C7.19 Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [APP-356] discusses how these identified important habitats will be protected (and buffers enacted) during construction. Method Statement 3 describes how pollution prevention measures will be followed to ensure protection of these habitats.</p>
LCC-28	Ecology Transport and Access Landscape and Visual Impact	Landscape and Ecology Plans	"It is unclear on the landscape and ecology plans as to the extent of vegetation removal proposed, and the LVIA implies little or no vegetation removal is proposed. Appendix 14.1: Transport Assessment also identifies	Wherever feasible, construction vehicle access to the Site is to utilise existing access points. In certain instances, minor vegetation removal may be necessary to accommodate the vehicle's swept path and ensure visibility (see table 3.3 in C7.1_A Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.1_A]). In relation to abnormal loads, no

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>some localised areas of hedge removal and several instances of trimming back. The extent of this needs clarifying during the examination.</p> <p>The wider highways elements of the scheme do not appear to be fully considered in the LVIA beyond increased traffic during construction phases, despite the potential adverse effects on the rural landscape these may have including vegetation loss, urbanisation or visual amenity through any required highway improvements."</p>	<p>additional vegetation removal has been identified as being required, except for minor pruning in just one location at the Normanby Road 'S' bend (see appendix 2 sheets 1 to 3 of drawing no: 22-1062.SPA02 in C6.3.14.1 ES Appendix 14.1 Transport Assessment [APP-134]).</p> <p>In certain locations where 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 the Hedgerow Removal Plans in Appendix C of C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan Revision A [EN010133/EX1PEX/C7.3_A]. 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>Where these minor areas of hedgerow removal are required to enable construction only and are not required as operational accesses, vegetation will be reinstated as secured by Requirement 13 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] once construction is complete (see table 3.3 of C7.1_A Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.1_A]).</p>
LCC-29	Ecology and Biodiversity Landscape and Visual Impact	Plans and vegetation removal	<p>"The proposal would evidently deliver landscape and ecological improvements through mitigation areas and planting. However, this will be dependent upon the information set out in the Landscape and</p>	<p>The Applicant and its LVIA consultants at Lanpro have worked closely with the Applicant's ecology consultant throughout the Application process to inform the LVIA and associated mitigation plans. The mitigation proposals allow for flexibility as part of the detailed design process post DCO consent, but they also set out</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
	Transport and Access		Ecological Management Plan Outline Plan (C7.3) and Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Figures 8.16.1 to 8.16.10), which should be further explored, and assume would be refined at the detailed design stages and subject to appropriate worded requirements in the DCO to capture this."	<p>elements that are fixed, where appropriate and applicable to do so.</p> <p>Further detail on these mitigation measures and how habitat enhancement and creation will link to form a coherent green infrastructure network can be found within C6.4.8.16.1-C6.4.8.16.10 Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (figures 8.16.1 to 8.16.10) [APP-305 to APP-315] which illustrate the key areas of mitigation within the Scheme. The details set out in these plans and the supporting document C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] are sufficient in detail to support the conclusions set out in C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043].</p> <p>Additionally, as per Requirement 7 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], "No part of the authorised development may commence until a written landscape and ecological mitigation plan has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority for that part or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities."</p> <p>As per Requirement 8 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], "No part of the authorised development may commence until a written ecological protection and mitigation strategy has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority for that part or, where the phase falls within the administrative areas of</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities."</p> <p>As per Requirement 9 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], "No part of the authorised development may commence until a biodiversity net gain strategy has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority, in consultation with the relevant statutory nature conservation body."</p>
LCC-30	Other Environmental Matters: Public Health/ Major Accidents and Disasters	Battery Fire Safety	<p>"Having reviewed the Outline Battery Storage Safety Management Plan the Council is satisfied that the details meet the requirements the Council set out in Fire Safety Position statement issued at the pre-application stage of the process. However, without further specific details, e.g. detailed plans etc. the response is based very much on the details within the document and the Fire Safety Officer reserves the right to add or amend these initial observations as more specific details of the proposed strategy to tackle a battery storage fire and detailed layout plans become available. This includes any requirement for Hazardous Substance Consent for the battery storage facility if this is considered necessary to be included in the Development Consent Order process."</p>	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the Council's position and has entered into a Statement of Common Ground with Lincolnshire County Council (on behalf of Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service) [EN010133/EX1/C8.3.2], the aim being to reach agreement that the level of detailed information provided during the Examination stage, is sufficient for the Fire Safety Officer to make suitable recommendations.</p> <p>The Applicant has submitted an C7.9 Outline Battery Storage Safety Management Plan [APP-348] and, through C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], has secured by Requirement 6 of Schedule 2 that "Work Nos. 2 and 3 must not commence until a battery storage safety management plan has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority."</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
LCC-31	Climate Change	Sustainability benefits and Greenhouse Gas emissions	"The Council will make comments on the conclusions reached in respect of sustainability benefits and contribution this makes to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the Councils Local Impact Report (LIR) and written submissions."	The Applicant notes this comment.
LCC-32	Soils and Agriculture	Agricultural Land use	"The potential impacts on agricultural land both in respect of this scheme and cumulatively with other NSIP solar projects that are emerging/known about in Lincolnshire will be raised in the LIR and written submissions."	The Applicant notes this comment.
LCC-33	Socio-Economics - Economic Regeneration/ Growth	Energy benefits to the local community	"Based on the Economic impacts section of the Socio Economic chapter, from a Growth perspective, what is assessed, and the mitigation measures proposed appear reasonable. Although what is included in the ES looks reasonable, the Council would expect appropriate energy related benefits to the local communities and economy provided and the Council would welcome the opportunity to explore these through the examination."	<p>The Applicant notes this comment.</p> <p>Whilst not a direct local benefit, there is benefit to all UK citizens from the UK producing more clean, renewable electricity, in terms of affordability, decarbonisation of the domestic energy supply and energy security. This is demonstrated further in C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350].</p> <p>Chapter 10 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] sets out the economic benefits of solar energy. Section 10.2 shows how increasing capacities of solar generation will reduce the price of power for UK consumers. Figure 10.3 draws on UK Government analysis which shows that large scale solar, already being highly competitive against current conventional and renewable generation costs, is predicted to retain a cost advantage for the decades ahead.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>In terms of the Scheme's benefits to the local community, section 5 of C7.10 Skills Supply Chain and Employment Plan [APP-349] demonstrates what additional measures are being pursued as part of the Scheme to provide local economic benefits. These include providing additional skills training (see paragraphs 5.2.1 to 5.2.12), maximising local recruitment and enhancing opportunities for local procurement (see paragraphs 5.3.1 to 5.4.6). A Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan is secured through Requirement 20 in Schedule 2 of the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>The Applicant is committed to providing a Community Benefit Fund – see paragraph 4.8.1 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A]. This fund will be available for community-based benefits such as (but not limited to) community-led energy related projects.</p>
LCC-34	Other Environmental Matters: Public Health	Public Health	"The Council will make any relevant public health comments through the LIR."	The Applicant notes this comment.
LCC-35	The Proposal	Draft Development Consent Order	"At this stage the Council reserves its position on the relevant parts of the draft DCO including the proposed requirements which are likely to be needed to be amended or added to at the examination progresses. The Council wishes to participate in any Issue Specific	The Applicant notes this comment.

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			Hearing in relation to the drafting of the DCO."	
LCC-36	Cumulative Development	Procedural Matters	"The Council wishes to draw to the attention of the Planning Inspectorate and the Examining Authority the unprecedented number of DCO projects that are currently on-going in Lincolnshire which may result in six other examinations taking place in the County at the same time as this one. In addition a second wave of potential DCO projects are now commencing their pre-application stage. The Council wishes to be fully involved in all these examinations but has only limited resources and personnel and therefore requests that careful and sensitive attention is given to the examination timetables to ensure that hearings and deadline dates take into account those of other project that will be under examination at the same time."	The Applicant notes this comment and will continue to work positively and proactively with the Council.
LCC-37	Cumulative Development Landscape and Visual Impact	Cumulative Examination	"Related to this is the expectation that three examinations will be taking place simultaneously for other solar projects in this same geographical area as Cottam. The Council's initial landscape observations, set out above, already	The Applicant notes this comment.

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
	Transport and Access		notes the significant cumulative impact of these projects in the landscape. The Council has repeatedly flagged up to the Planning Inspectorate that it would be beneficial for a method of hearing evidence related to cumulative impacts from these projects, which includes landscape and highway impacts at the very least, to be identified in advance of the first examination. However, to date this has not occurred. Therefore, unless such a mechanism is set out in advance of the preliminary meeting, the Council will make submissions at the meeting of its position on this. The Council's preferred approach is to ensure that the cumulative impacts are heard in a holistic way rather than individually through single examinations."	
LCC-38	The Scheme	Examination Period	"In conclusion the Council looks forward to working with the applicant and the Planning Inspectorate as the project progresses through the DCO process and welcomes the opportunity to comment on matters of detail throughout the examination".	The Applicant notes this comment and will continue to work positively and proactively with the Council.

North Kesteven District Council [RR-002]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
NKDC-01	The Scheme	Cumulative effects	"North Kesteven District Council (NKDC) seeks registration in order to make representations as necessary regarding agricultural land impacts; including reviewing cumulative effects alongside other NSIP-scaled solar projects in Lincolnshire."	A cumulative effects assessment has been prepared for the Application within the Environmental Statement [APP-036 to APP-058], Cumulative effects assessments for each topic are set out in each of the ES Chapters and include the assessment of the impacts of the Scheme cumulatively with other identified NSIPs in the local area (see paragraph 2.5.9 of C6.2.2 ES Chapter 2 EIA Process and Methodology [APP-037] . This assessment is in accordance with Schedule 4 of the 2017 EIA Regulations and PINS Advice Note 17. The mitigation measures set out across the ES therefore account for anticipated cumulative effects.
NKDC-02	Soils and Agriculture	Best and Most Versatile Land	"NKDC's representations are likely to focus on documents C6.2.19. C6.3.19.1, C6.4.2.1 and C6.4.8.15."	The Applicant notes this comment and awaits NKDC's detailed representations.
NKDC-03	Soils and Agriculture	BMV impacts	"NKDC is likely to provide comments in relation BMV/agricultural land impacts with reference to documents C6.4.19.2 and C6.4.19.3 as well as C6.3.19.1 ES Appendix 19.1 and C6.2.19."	The Applicant notes this comment and awaits NKDC's detailed comments on agricultural land impacts.
NKDC-04	Soils and Agriculture	Effects to agricultural land	"ES Chapter 19 sets out that detailed ALC surveys of the Sites found agricultural land in grades 2, 3a and 3b. Grade 3b predominates, with Grades 2 and 3a being relatively limited in extent. Paragraph 19.9.3 [of chapter 19 of the ES] states that the permanent	The IEMA provides suggested criteria for assessing a permanent loss of land. The IEMA's criteria is detailed within paragraphs 19.7.6 to 19.7.10 C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A] . Table 19.4 of [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A] outlines the criteria and sets out a threshold where a loss of 20ha of Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land as a result of a

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			loss of land (29ha) is greater than 20ha which by the IEMA suggested criteria would be a 'major' magnitude of change, however the paragraph then suggests a 'minor' impact."	<p>project, signifies a change of 'major' magnitude. This originated in the early 1990s in consideration of individual planning applications.</p> <p>Paragraph 19.7.7 of C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A] explains that the 20ha threshold is an arbitrary area but has been in use for several decades. MAFF used the threshold of 20ha of BMV land to inform interventions in planning including use of independent call in powers. It should be noted that use of a fixed area as a threshold may not be applicable to all scales of development. In this instance the proposed development is in excess of 1100ha, with use of approximately 47.9ha of the land for the substation, BESS and temporary access tracks which will not be available for continued agricultural use during the lifetime of the Scheme. Of this, 4ha is best and most versatile land, which will be used for temporary access track. Given that the development is not permanent and that all elements can be restored to agricultural land on decommissioning, there will be no permanent loss of agricultural land. It is therefore appropriate to diverge from the magnitude of change criteria given in Table 19.4.</p>
NKDC-05	Soils and Agriculture	ES Chapter Cumulative Effects	"NKDC would also wish to update the Examination in relation the Heckington Fen proposals, specifically in relation to ES Chapter 19 paragraph 19.11 onwards ('Cumulative Effects') including the estimated BMV amounts and also notes that cumulative effects have not sought to approximate the overall BMV amounts within the	<p>Where no publicly available ALC survey results were available for cumulative effects from other sites such as Heckington Fen, section 19.11 of C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A] is clear that the NE Predictive BMV Land Assessment plans are used to illustrate the likely presence of BMV land across the cumulative sites. These plans present categories of 'risk' of presence of BMV land, at a scale of 1:250,000. They do not show the extent of ALC grades and the accompanying guidance states that the plans are not suitable for site specific assessment. The plan is however the best published reference to assess likely</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>identified NSIP solar schemes alongside the county-level resource.”</p>	<p>cumulative impact on the agricultural land resource. The Applicant has not omitted any reliable published source of information on ALC grading for the cumulative impact assessment.</p> <p>All six cumulative effect sites will be decommissioned, with any loss of agricultural land limited to the small extent of switchgear housings and substations during the lifetime of the projects only. Therefore, the residual effect of each of these six sites on the agricultural land resource is predicted to be negligible, as for Cottam.</p>

Nottinghamshire County Council [RR-003]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
NCC-01	Transport and Access	Shared Cable Route Corridor	"With reference to highways NCC would prefer the solar farms to share the same cable or at least the same trench if possible, to minimise disruption."	<p>The Scheme's Cable Route Corridor has been designed in collaboration with the developers of the Gate Burton Energy Park and West Burton Solar Project so that, for the part of the route that is shared, the corridor is the same. Paragraph 4.3.8 of C6.2.4_A ES Chapter 4_Scheme Description Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.4_A] sets out the approach to the Shared Cable Route Corridor.</p> <p>Paragraph 4.5.55 of C6.2.4_A ES Chapter 4 Scheme Description Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.4_A] states that the DCO Application seeks development consent for the Scheme's circuits only, whilst the proposed West Burton DCO and Gate Burton DCO's will seek development consent for their respective cables.</p> <p>Direct cabling between the Scheme's substations and the Cottam 400kV substation is necessary given that this requirement forms part of the Grid Connection Agreement between the Applicant and NGESO. The Grid Connection Agreement is detailed further within paragraphs 2.1.1 to 2.1.5 of C7.7 Cottam Grid Connection Statement [APP-346].</p> <p>Notwithstanding the above, the minimum separation distances between both drilled cable circuits and trenched cable services is 5.0m (as detailed within table 2.6 of C7.15_A Concept Design Parameters and Principles [EN010133/EX1/C7.15_A]). Paragraph 4.3.8 of C6.2.4_A ES Chapter 4 Scheme Description Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.4_A] explains that it is the intention of the Applicant to work collaboratively with Low Carbon along the Shared Cable Route Corridor to manage environmental effects such as:</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				Cultural Heritage, Water Environments, Noise and Vibration and Air Quality, Ecology and Nature Conservation and Traffic and Transport.
NCC-02	Transport and Access	Cumulative development Construction Traffic Management Plans	"We would also like the respective CTMPs or conditions to deal with the size, location, and access arrangements for any temporary compounds required to facilitate the construction of the grid connection(s), the routeing of vehicles involved in the laying of the cable(s) and the condition and suitability of those routes. However, the New Roads and Streets Works Act will deal with the coordination of the actual roadworks and in theory that would prevent any conflicts."	<p>The location of construction compounds are indicated on C2.4_A Works Plans Revision A [AS-007] and approximate dimensions are included within paragraph 4.6.30 of C6.2.4_A ES Chapter 4_Scheme Description Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.4_A].</p> <p>The Scheme, through the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], has secured by Requirement 15 of Schedule 2 that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a construction traffic management plan for that part must be submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities" and that "The construction traffic management plan must be substantially in accordance with the outline construction traffic management plan."</p> <p>C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A] has been submitted with the DCO Application. This provides a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements to and from the Sites and cable route corridor, to ensure that the effect of the construction phase on the local highway network is minimised. It covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction methodology; • Site access; • Construction vehicle trip generation; • Construction vehicle routing;

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abnormal load movement; and Mitigation and management measures. <p>Further detail of the access to temporary construction compounds can be found at para. 3.3, and Figure 5.7 within C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A]. Detailed plans of access arrangements to the cable route (including construction compounds) can be found in Appendix E of C6.3.14.1 ES Appendix 14.1 Transport Assessment [APP-134].</p>
NCC-03	Hydrology and Flood Risk	Surface water runoff	<p>"In relation to Flood Risk, due to the nature of the proposals these do not appear to seek to significantly increase the impermeable area of the site, and as such the LLFA would only like to comment that surface water runoff from the site should not be exacerbated."</p>	<p>The proposed drainage strategy is detailed within Section 5.0 of C6.3.10.1 ES Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy Report [APP-090].</p> <p>It is considered that the panelled areas will not alter the existing surface water run-off regime and will therefore not be formally drained. Areas of increased hardstanding such as smaller areas of hardstanding formed as footings for electrical infrastructure will utilise SuDS principles and attempt to mimic the existing surface water run-off regime as existing.</p> <p>The BESS area within the Scheme is considered within an area specific drainage strategy included within Section 3.0 of C6.3.10.4 ES Appendix 10.1 Annex D 10.1.3 Cottam 1 West [APP-093].</p> <p>The drainage strategy and detailed drainage design will be developed during the detailed design process. As secured by Requirement 11 in Schedule 2 of the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] "No part of the authorised development may commence until written details of the surface water drainage scheme and (if any) foul water drainage system for that part</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				have been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority."
NCC-04	Hydrology and Flood Risk	Runoff from hardstanding	"Any runoff from any hardstanding/small buildings on the site should be captured on site, to prevent increasing runoff from the site."	<p>The Applicant confirms that further details of areas in which there is proposed to be hardstanding will be provided at the detailed design stage, post-consent.</p> <p>As stated in C6.3.10.1 ES Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy Report [APP-090] any runoff from hardstanding/small buildings on the Sites will be captured on site, to prevent increasing runoff from the Sites.</p> <p>The C7.15 Concept Design Parameters and Principles [APP-352] details the design parameters and principles for the Work numbers. Those most pertinent to the creation of "any hardstanding/ small buildings" include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works No. 2 and 3 as captured in tables 2.2 and 2.3 respectively (relating to the BESS area); • Work No. 4 as captured in table 2.4 (relating to onsite substations); • Work No. 6 as captured in table 2.6 (relating to works in connection with electrical cabling); • Work No. 7 as captured within table 2.7 (relating to means of enclosure); and • Work No. 8 (relating to temporary construction and decommissioning laydown areas). <p>The extent of the Works numbers has been captured within the C2.4_A Works Plan Revision A [AS-007].</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				Requirement 11 of Schedule 2 of the C3.1_A Draft Development Consent Order Revision A[AS-012] secures that ""No part of the authorised development may commence until written details of the surface water drainage scheme and (if any) foul water drainage system for that part have been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority."
NCC-05	Minerals	Safeguarding Area	" In terms of minerals and waste, there is nothing in the proposals that would change previous minerals and waste comments, although the area within Nottinghamshire does come with the safeguarding area for sand and gravel, we would not object to the proposals."	The Applicant notes this comment.
NCC-06	The Scheme	Cumulative Impacts	"Nottinghamshire County Council would welcome the joining up of Examinations in respect of Gate Burton, Cottam and West Burton to address issues of cumulative impacts, in particular in relation to cumulative impacts of the three cable corridors and particularly during construction when three different cable corridors could be being laid during a 4/5 month period in the same area."	The Applicant notes this comment.

West Lindsey District Council [RR-004]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
WLDC-01	The Party	Scope of Representation Made	<p>"WLDC will provide a detailed case on the impact of the applications within its Local Impact Report (LIR). The LIR will set out the views of WLDC following an opportunity to appraise the application in detail, particularly with regard to cumulative impacts with other NSIP applications nearby. A full response setting out the technical assessment of the application, include policy compliance and planning balance, will be reported within WLDC's Written Representation (WR). The WR will include assessments on the individual impacts of the Cottam Solar Project, along with the cumulative impacts with Gate Burton Energy Park and West Burton Solar Project applications.</p> <p>This RR therefore sets out the key issues that WLDC consider to be important and relevant for the examination phase of the application to consider."</p>	The Applicant notes this comment and awaits the detailed case that is to be presented within the Council's Local Impact Report (LIR).
WLDC-02	The Scheme	Cumulative Development	<p>"Whilst this RR relates to the Cottam Solar Project, applications for development consent under the</p>	The Applicant notes this comment. This response will be updated following the preliminary meeting where these matters will be discussed.

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>PA2008 have also been submitted nearby for the Gate Burton Energy Park and West Burton Solar Project solar photovoltaic generating stations.</p> <p>With all of these applications currently in the early stages of pre-examination, this will inherently result in them being examined in parallel. The consequences of this parallel examination are that cumulative impacts between each project will be considered in isolation through separate processes, unless an approach where cumulative matters can be examined at hearings where all three applications are considered at the same time can be applied. On a practical level, facilities for hearings within the West Lindsey District will be required for all three applications with overlapping examination programmes. Logistically this is very likely to prove problematic, especially if the examination programmes are not aligned to avoid hearing clashes. The holding of concurrent hearings and deadlines for three applications will also result in a significant</p>	

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			challenge to ensure that members of the public are able to understand and engage effectively. There is scope for misunderstanding if this examination phase is not managed in a clear and fair manner, potentially depriving members of the public of engaging and ensuring their specific views on each project are understood."	
WLDC-03	Relevant Representation Response	Nature of Response.	<p>"WLDC will fully explore the impacts of the Cottam Solar Project in its LIR and WR following a detailed appraisal of the application.</p> <p>Without prejudice to matters that are identified following a detailed assessment, WLDC expect the following matters to be scrutinised in detail through the examination phase:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with relevant legislation; • Policy compliance and planning balance; • Landscape and visual effects (including lighting impacts and glint and glare); • Effects on residential amenity; 	The Applicant notes this comment and awaits a full response.

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects on public amenity and recreation; • Ecology and biodiversity impacts (including Biodiversity Net Gain); • Cultural heritage; • Traffic and transport; • Noise impacts; • Air Quality impacts; • Land use and loss of agricultural land (including soils) impacts; • Hydrology and flood risk; and • Safety and human health." 	
WLDC-04	Cumulative Development	Mitigation and cumulative development (Construction, Operation and Decommissioning)	"A key concern for WLDC will be, should the Cottam Solar Park be consented, the mechanisms that will mitigate and control the impacts of the scheme. These concerns will extend beyond mitigation for the application itself, to the cumulative impacts with other projects. Such impacts will be significant and experienced during the construction, operation and decommissioning stages."	The Applicant notes this comment and seeks to assure WLDC that a cumulative effects assessment has been prepared for the Application within the Environmental Statement [APP-036 to APP-058] . Cumulative effects assessments for each topic are set out in each of the ES Chapters and include the assessment of the impacts of the Scheme cumulatively with the NSIPs identified by WLDC (Gate Burton Energy Park, West Burton Solar Project and Tillbridge Solar Project) (see paragraph 2.5.9 of C6.2.2 ES Chapter 2 EIA Process and Methodology [APP-037]). This assessment is in accordance with Schedule 4 of the 2017 EIA Regulations and PINS Advice Note 17. The mitigation measures set out across the ES therefore account for anticipated cumulative effects.

Brampton Village Parish Meeting [RR-005]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
BVPM-01	The Application	Proximity to the Scheme	"Our village is close to the West Burton project and we want to be engaged in the outcome of proposals"	The Applicant notes this comment and its reference to the West Burton Solar Project which the Applicant is progressing, alongside the Cottam Solar Project, for which this representation has been made.

Brattleby Parish Council [RR-006]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
BPC-01	The Application	Scale and Location	"The council aims to express views on behalf of the Brattleby Parish Council electors, and holds concerns about the sheer size of the Cottam project, its proximity to our village..."	<p>Section 3.3 of document C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350], specifically paragraphs 3.3.2, 3.3.5 and 3.3.11, describes the Government's view that large capacities of low-carbon generation will be required to meet increased demand and replace output from retiring (fossil fuel) plants, and that "a secure, reliable, affordable, Net Zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar". This support for large scale solar as part of the 'answer' to net zero and energy security has been repeated in its recent policy documents published in March 2023.</p> <p>Section 7.5 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes how suitable locations for large-scale solar are identified and assessed. Paragraph 7.5.2 outlines the broad criteria for determining Site suitability.</p> <p>Figure 7.4 shows the level of photovoltaic power potential at the proposed location. Section 9 describes the advantages of connecting large-scale solar to the existing and robust National Electricity Transmission System at the proposed Point of Connection at Cottam Power Station, and Paragraph 9.4.4 concludes that the Proposed Development will contribute to national system adequacy and decarbonisation targets.</p> <p>C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040] and its accompanying appendix C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] explain how the site was chosen in light of that need.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>Specifically, paragraph 2.1.10 of C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] explains the reasons why a site of the size proposed is required to meet the 600MW grid connection offer. The methodology used for the site selection process is considered reasonable and proportionate and complies with the requirements of NPS EN-1 4.4.3 as explained at Section 2.1 [APP-067].</p> <p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') takes into account the effects on residential receptors and this includes singular buildings, groups of buildings and towns or villages. Table 8.15 of the LVIA sets out the selection of initial residential receptors for the purpose of the assessment, the reason for their selection being that the receptors are all within the 1km Study Area for the Scheme and the 0.5km Study Area from the outer boundary of the Cable Route Corridor. The settlement of Brattleby does not fall within the initial selection and has therefore not been considered further within the LVIA as a residential receptor.</p> <p>With regard to representative viewpoints, there are certain locations where the settlement of Brattleby and its landscape setting can be viewed in the context of the Cottam 1 Site. These viewpoints are VP04, VP05, VP10, VP12, VP13, VP15, VP22, LCC-C-A, LCC-C-C, LCC-C-D and LCC-C-E. The LVIA concludes, in Table 8.103, that at the operation stage (Year 15) potential Significant effects are predicted from these viewpoints, some effects being Moderate and Beneficial because the enhanced hedgerows in the wider northeast extent of the Site will provide additional softening and screening at mid-range and help augment the presence of Thorpe Wood and Brattleby Gorse in the landscape.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>With regard to Transport Receptors, receptors T121 and T125, as set out within the LVIA (Paras. 8.5.211, 8.5.213, 8.5.244 and 8.7.298), are associated with the settlement of Brattleby.</p> <p>Overall, paragraph 8.7.37 of the LVIA concludes, in regard to Brattleby, that for the Site and Cable Route Corridor for operation stage (Year 15), there is an identification of likely Significant effects. These effects would be Moderate but would be Beneficial.</p> <p>These benefits to landscape character around the settlement of Brattleby are also set out within the LVIA at paras. 8.5.93, 8.5.206, 8.5.221, 8.5.225, 8.5.237, 8.5.239, 8.5.240, 8.5.241, 8.5.242, 8.7.37, 8.11.4, 8.11.16, 8.11.71.</p>
BPC-02	The Application	Long term sustainability	"The council ... holds concerns about ... the sustainability of the project in the long term."	<p>Chapter 4 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] sets out the UK's legal requirement to decarbonise and explains how that requirement has created an increased need and urgency to meet the UK's obligations under the Paris Agreement (2015) as detailed within paragraph 4.2.7. The Chapter summarises the latest expert views on the urgency for, and depth of, low-carbon infrastructure needed to deliver the UK's Net Zero legal obligations and demonstrates that there is an urgent need for the development of large-scale solar schemes. Section 3.3 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] summarises the 2021 Draft Revised National Policy Statement EN-3, which sets out Government's view that a Net-Zero consistent [energy] system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar. This point is reiterated in the newly published March 2023 Draft Revised National Policy Statement EN-3. Figure 7.1 shows National Grid Electricity System Operator's projections of the capacity of solar generation required to deliver a net-zero consistent system, which, as</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>stated in para. 7.2.10, are 25 – 42GW by 2030, and 57 – 92GW by 2050, compared to just 14GW today (Section 7.2).</p> <p>The Applicant has prepared the Environmental Statement [APP-036 to APP-058], which considers the environmental effects of the Scheme across a broad range of topics throughout the Scheme's lifetime from construction, through operation, and to and beyond decommissioning. In the assessments in each of the ES chapters, long-term effects, and thus the long-term sustainability of the Scheme are considered.</p> <p>With specific regard to the long-term sustainability and resilience of the Scheme, Section 10.8 of C6.2.10 ES Chapter 10_Hydrology Flood Risk and Drainage [APP-045] demonstrates the embedded mitigation measures in the Scheme design aimed at ensuring the long-term resilience of the Scheme against flood risk.</p> <p>In respect of Climate Change, a Climate Change Resilience Review is undertaken at paras. 7.6.5 to 7.6.10 and paras. 7.8.76 to 7.8.88, with embedded mitigation detailed at para 7.7.5 of C6.2.7 ES Chapter 7 Climate Change [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.7_A]. With regard to the Scheme's impact on climate change, paragraph 7.10.2 goes on to state 'Overall, the Scheme itself will provide major beneficial impacts and a net reduction in GHG'; and paragraph 7.11.7 states, 'In summary, there are not anticipated to be any significant cumulative effects as a result of all three developments with regards to Climate Change...'</p>

Burton by Lincoln Parish Council [RR-007]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
BLPC-01	The Application	Weighting of consequences to benefits	"Renewable energy production methods are supported by Burton by Lincoln Parish Council. However, they submit that these applications are not an appropriate way to produce energy as they have consequences that outweigh the potential benefits."	<p>The Applicant respectfully disagrees with this conclusion.</p> <p>Chapter 4 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] sets out the UK's legal requirement to decarbonise and explains how that requirement has created an increased need and urgency to meet the UK's obligations under the Paris Agreement (2015) as detailed within para. 4.2.7. The Chapter summarises the latest expert views on the urgency for and depth of low-carbon infrastructure needed to deliver the UK's Net Zero legal obligations, and demonstrates that there is an urgent need for the development of large-scale solar schemes. Section 3.3 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] summarises the 2021 Draft Revised National Policy Statement EN-3, which sets out Government's view that a Net-Zero consistent [energy] system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar. This point is reiterated in the newly published March 2023 Draft Revised National Policy Statement EN-3. Figure 7.1 shows National Grid Electricity System Operator's projections of the capacity of solar generation required to deliver a net-zero consistent system, which, as stated in para. 7.2.10, are 25 – 42GW by 2030, and 57 – 92GW by 2050, compared to just 14GW today (Section 7.2).</p> <p>Paragraphs 6.2.17 - 6.2.19 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] explain that it is against this backdrop that NPS EN-1 paragraph 4.1.2 sets a presumption in favour of granting permission for energy NSIP projects. This is carried through to Draft NPS EN-1 at paragraphs 4.1.2 and 4.1.3.</p> <p>Section 6.2 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] sets out how the Scheme will meet the compelling need for renewable</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>energy in accordance with relevant national planning policies. In summary, the Scheme would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver a large amount of renewable generation capacity (35,590,658 MWh over the estimated 40-year assessed lifetime) to deliver the Government's energy objectives and legally binding net zero commitments in line with the requirements of paragraph 1.1.1 of NPS EN-3, paragraph 3.3.21 of draft NPS EN-1, section 3.4 of NPS EN-1 and the National Infrastructure Strategy 2020 (para. 6.2.32); • Deliver a reduction of 5,974,155 tCO₂e over the lifetime of the Scheme compared to if it did not go ahead which would make a significant contribution towards reducing carbon emissions as required by paragraph 1.1.1 of NPS EN-1, paragraph 2.3.2 of Draft NPS EN-1, the National Infrastructure Strategy 2020 and the Energy White Paper: "Powering our net zero future" (para. 6.2.35); • Deliver in a timescale that is short in the context of the delivery of other forms of energy generation in line with the urgent need to decarbonise set out in paragraphs 3.3.5, 3.3.15 and 3.4.5 of NPS EN-1, Paragraph 2.3.2 of Draft NPS EN-1 and the National Infrastructure Strategy 2020 (paras. 6.2.1, 6.2.4 and 6.2.8); • Enable all consumers to benefit from the effect of low-marginal cost solar generation by reducing market prices, in line with the aim to provide affordable energy for consumers set out at Paragraph 2.3.2, Paragraph 2.3.5 and 3.3.21 of Draft NPS EN-1 (para 6.2.8, 6.2.9, and 6.2.10); and

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help ensure security and reliability of energy supply in line with Paragraph 2.3.2 and 2.3.5 of the Draft NPS EN-1 (para 6.2.8 and 6.2.9). <p>NPS EN-1 paragraph 3.2.3. and Draft NPS EN-1 paragraph 3.1.1 acknowledge that it will not be possible to develop the necessary amounts of such infrastructure to deliver these benefits without some significant residual adverse impacts, as explained at paragraph 6.2.20 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A].</p> <p>Whilst it has not been possible for the Scheme to avoid all significant residual adverse impacts, these have been identified within the Environmental Statement [APP-036 to APP-058] and have been minimised, where possible, through careful and sensitive design and detailed mitigation strategies.</p> <p>Section 6 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] demonstrates that when considered against national planning policies, the Scheme accords with the relevant policies. With regard to specific policy tests, the substantial benefits of the Scheme are considered, on balance, to outweigh its limited number of significant residual adverse impacts. Therefore, it is considered that development consent for the Scheme should be granted.</p>
BLPC-02	Soils and Agriculture	Productive nature of soil	"The application sites are in rural locations. The soil in these areas is graded between 1-3b. This is highly productive soil which is used and should continue to be used for agricultural food production."	<p>Agricultural land in the Sites is predominantly (95.9%) Grade 3b, as set out in Table 1 of C6.3.19.1 Agricultural Land Quality Soil Resources [APP-145]. In Agricultural Land Classification (ALC), Grade 3b is not defined as Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land.</p> <p>The key policy tests for the decision maker in respect of the Scheme's impact upon agricultural land are found in NPS EN-1, paragraph</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				5.10.8, and Revised Draft NPS EN-3, para. 3.10.15. In summary, this requires that applicants should seek to minimise impacts on BMV land, being ALC Grades 1, 2 and 3a), ensure impacts should be considered against the measures set out under paragraphs 2.10.66 – 2.10.83 and 2.10.98 – 2.10.110. Paragraph 5.10.15 then states that the Secretary of State should give little weight to loss of ALC grades 3b, 4 and 5 agricultural land, while Revised Draft NPS EN-3, para. 3.10.136 requires the Secretary of State to ensure mitigation measures to minimise impacts on soils and soil resources are appropriately provided by the Applicant. This is addressed in C7.5 Planning Statement, Appendix 3 page 62 and 63 [APP-341] . Given that the development is not permanent and that all elements can be restored to agricultural land on decommissioning, there will be no permanent loss of agricultural land as confirmed in paragraph 19.7.7 of C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A]
BLPC-03	Energy Need Alternatives and Design Evolution	Balancing crises	"It is appreciated that there is an energy crisis, however, this is not solved by creating a food crisis."	The Applicant does not consider that the Scheme would result in food security impacts either alone or cumulatively. The UK annual balance of domestically produced food is sensitive to non-planning factors including weather and markets. The relevant assessment for policy purposes (and therefore decision-making purposes under the Planning Act 2008) is one that is based on the grade of the agricultural land, rather than its current use and the intensity of that use. In terms of key threats to UK food security, the Defra UK Food Security Report highlights that the main threat is climate change. Section 3.3 of document C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes the Government's view that "a secure, reliable, affordable, Net Zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar". This support for large scale solar as

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>part of the 'answer' to net zero and energy security has been repeated in its recent policy documents published in March 2023.</p> <p>Figure 7.2 of document C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] shows National Grid Electricity System Operator's projections for the future installed capacity of different electricity generation technologies in Net-Zero consistent scenarios. In all scenarios, solar is required to make a significant contribution to the future generation mix.</p> <p>Section 7.5 of document C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes how suitable locations for large-scale solar are identified and assessed. Figure 7.4 shows the level of photovoltaic power potential at the proposed location and Section 7.4 describes the decarbonisation benefits of solar energy. Section 8.8 and Section 8.9 describe the energy security benefits of solar energy. Chapter 9 describes the advantages of connecting large-scale solar to the existing and robust National Electricity Transmission System (NETS) at the proposed Point of Connection at Cottam, specifically by connecting to the existing Cottam 400kV substation (paragraph 9.2.5). The Scheme will be playing an important role in the continued provision of bulk power to the NETS for the benefit of consumers nationally. Section 9.3 concludes, at Paragraph 9.3.12, that connecting the Scheme to the NETS at Cottam will not cause any additional specific local or regional operability concerns either now or into the future. Section 9.4 concludes that the Proposed Development will contribute to national system adequacy and decarbonisation targets.</p> <p>Section 10.2 and Section 10.3 of document C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describe the economic benefits of solar energy within the UK electricity system.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
BLPC-04	Socio-Economics Soils and Agriculture	The Local Economy	"Agriculture plays a highly significant role in the local economy by way of direct employment and product sale in Lincolnshire. These application sites, if permitted, would employ minimal staff once set up and would not directly support the economy of the area. The farms in these areas are most likely to be run by tenant farmers who will then lose their livelihood."	<p>The Applicant recognises the significance of the agricultural industry in the local economy and has assessed the economic impact of the Scheme in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] and the direct impacts on local agriculture in Sections 19.9 and 19.10 of C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A].</p> <p>The Scheme is anticipated to lead to a maximum loss of approximately 17 full-time equivalent agriculture jobs, as stated in paragraph 18.7.15 of document C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]. The Scheme is estimated to employ 10 full-time equivalent employees from the local area during operation; see Table 18.16. The net change in employment in the local area (defined as West Lindsey and Bassetlaw Districts) during the Scheme's operational life is a loss of approximately 2 full-time jobs, once consideration of direct, indirect and induced employment, and impacts on the tourism and recreation industry are considered (see para. 18.7.79). Overall, the economic benefit to the local area is estimated to be £2.2 million per year (see para. 18.7.97).</p> <p>The overall employment and economic benefit to the local area from the two-year construction period is anticipated to be 661 full-time equivalent jobs (see para. 18.7.23), generating £30.9 million per year (see para. 18.7.52).</p> <p>The land included in the Scheme covers 4 farm businesses, all of which are owner occupiers of the land within the Sites. This is detailed in full in para. 7.1.1-17 of C6.3.19.1 ES Appendix 19.1 Agricultural</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				Land Quality Soil Resources and Farming Circumstances [APP-145].
BLPC-05	Soils and Agriculture Climate Change	Impact upon food production	"Lincolnshire is a pivotal county in ensuring that the UK becomes more food self-sufficient. It is currently one of the largest, if not the largest, agricultural producing county in the UK. The importance of Lincolnshire being central to our food production in the UK should be supported not reduced. Recent events have shown the importance of food self-sufficiency and together with climate change it has increased our need to be self-sufficient. Transporting food across the world is not sustainable from a climate perspective."	<p>The key policy tests for the decision maker in respect of the Scheme's impact upon agricultural land are found in NPS EN-1, paragraph 5.10.8, and Revised Draft NPS EN-3, para. 3.10.15. In summary, this requires that applicants should seek to minimise impacts on BMV land, being ALC Grades 1, 2 and 3a), ensure impacts should be considered against the measures set out under paragraphs 2.10.66 – 2.10.83 and 2.10.98 – 2.10.110. Paragraph 5.10.15 then states that the Secretary of State should give little weight to loss of ALC grades 3b, 4 and 5 agricultural land, while Revised Draft NPS EN-3, para. 3.10.136 requires the Secretary of State to ensure mitigation measures to minimise impacts on soils and soil resources are appropriately provided by the Applicant. This is addressed in C7.5 Planning Statement, Appendix 3 page 62 and 63 [APP-341].</p> <p>The Applicant does not consider that the Scheme would result in food security impacts either alone or cumulatively. The UK annual balance of domestically produced food is sensitive to non-planning factors including weather and markets. The relevant assessment for policy purposes (and therefore decision-making purposes under the Planning Act 2008) is one that is based on the grade of the agricultural land, rather than its current use and the intensity of that use. In terms of key threats to UK food security, the Defra UK Food Security Report highlights that the main threat is climate change.</p>
BLPC-06	Landscape and Visual	Rural Landscapes	"A rural landscape is also part of the heritage of Lincolnshire. The loss of the landscapes is not only a loss to the	Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] assesses the likely impacts on recreation use of the land and facilities therein, and the potential impacts to the visitor

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
	Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation		local people but also to the many visitors to the area."	<p>economy from the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Scheme.</p> <p>The greatest effect during construction is anticipated to be a peak medium-term temporary moderate adverse on the landscape setting of tourism attractions (see para. 18.7.57), which is a significant effect. During operation, the greatest effects to tourism and recreation receptors are anticipated to be long-term moderate-minor adverse (see para. 18.7.101), which is therefore not significant.</p> <p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') takes into account the effects on the landscape character in detail, including the rural landscape and that it is part of the heritage of Lincolnshire, as set out within the Trent Vale Conservation Management Plan (TVCMP) (see paras. 8.5.42 to 8.5.44). The TVCMP also sets out the importance of heritage trails and the promotion of circular walks (para. 8.5.46).</p> <p>The Scheme has been designed to enhance and retain the rural character of the local area and has been designed to be sympathetic to the mixed field system heritage of the landscape (see para. 8.5.119). Effects on landscape character will be experienced at the local level and it is recognised that some features, such as land use, open character and the local highway network will undergo change, but the majority of the key characteristics will not be altered, including industrial heritage of the River Trent, which is identified as a key feature (para. 8.5.149). C6.3.8.2 ES Appendix 8.2 Assessment of Potential Landscape Effects comprising figures 8.2.1-8.2.12 [APP-074], notes that agriculture is the dominant land use, and that the landscape contains views of an open nature beneath vast skies that</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				are often extensive and uninterrupted. The findings also note this is a predominantly rural and sparsely settled area with small villages and dispersed farms and residential dwellings linked by long roads and a network of minor tracks which follow geometric field patterns.
BLPC-07	Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation Other Environmental Matters	Significance of the countryside to well-being	"We have now understood the significance of countryside for our physical and mental wellbeing."	<p>The Applicant is cognisant of the significance of the countryside for physical and mental wellbeing and, as such, likely impacts on the desirability and use of recreational facilities in the countryside, such as public rights of way, have been assessed in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]. The greatest level of effect to access, desirability and use of recreational facilities is moderate-minor adverse and is anticipated during construction (see para. 18.7.60-67) and decommissioning (see para. 18.7.143-153). These effects are not anticipated to be significant.</p> <p>This is re-iterated in Section 21.5 of C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21 Other Environmental Matters [APP-056].</p>
BLPC-08	The Application Alternatives and Design Evolution Soils and Agriculture	Nature of the Application and alternatives	"The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan covers this area. It does not identify these areas as ones which should be "industrialised" by the imposition of PV arrays. The scale of the project is to turn an agricultural location into an industrial one. There are alternative more suitable locations for PV Arrays. This would ensure the production of energy by sustainable means but not to the detriment of agriculture. PV	<p>The Scheme has been assessed against relevant local planning policies as set out at paragraphs 5.9.2 and 5.9.3 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] (noting that the emerging draft Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (DCLLP) is now adopted). There are no allocated industrial or other development sites within the Order Limits (See Figure 14: Cottam Order Limits Constraints, C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067]) and it sits within the area defined as 'Countryside' under DCLLP Policy S1 and emerging draft Bassetlaw Local Plan (DBLP) Policy ST1.</p> <p>DCLLP Policy S1 allows development in the Countryside, in defined circumstances. Page 25 of Appendix 4 in C7.5_A Planning Statement</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			arrays could be positioned on non-productive land or on the top of buildings. Placing PV arrays in those locations would provide for the national energy need without creating a food crisis."	<p>[EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] demonstrates that the Scheme complies with DCLLP Policy S1 which sets out the requirements for development in the Countryside. Page 65 of Appendix 4 in C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] sets out how the Scheme complies with the equivalent DBLP Policy ST1.</p> <p>The consideration of alternatives has been undertaken within C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040] and its accompanying appendix C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067]. Specifically, paragraphs 2.1.23 to 2.1.32 detail the consideration of brownfield land and roof tops and sets out why these were discounted as unsuitable. The methodology used for the site selection process is considered reasonable and proportionate and complies with the requirements of NPS EN-1 4.4.3.</p> <p>Paragraph 7.6.3 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] analyses the potential contribution of "brownfield" solar sites to the national need for solar generation. Brownfield sites, including rooftop and other community energy systems, are likely to grow in the UK and will make a contribution to decarbonisation of the UK energy system. However, C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] concludes in Section 7.6, that on their own, brownfield developments are unlikely to be able to meet the national need for solar. Paragraph 8.5.10 and Section 8.5 more generally of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describe and express agreement with Government's view that decentralised and community energy systems are unlikely to lead to the significant replacement of large-scale infrastructure. The Applicant therefore supports Government's view that large scale solar must be deployed</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				to meet the urgent national need for low-carbon electricity generation.
BLPC-09	Landscape and Visual Glint and Glare	Amenity	"Those that dwell in the area will be surrounded by panels stretching out into the distance. This will have an unacceptable impact on their way of life and lifestyle amenity."	<p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') looks to provide landscape mitigation that seeks to enhance the landscape character of the Study Area and to reduce the visibility of the Scheme from residential properties and other public vantage points including transport routes, public footpaths, permissive footpaths and green lane network. This mitigation is aimed to benefit the community as a whole to enhance their way of life as well as green infrastructure (see paras. 8.1.1 and 8.8.3). Public consultation has also taken account of landscape and visual matters (see paras. 8.2.8 and 8.4.20). The landscape mitigation measures seek to provide new planting to mitigate the potential impacts and effects of glint and glare (see paras. 8.2.10, 8.4.44, 8.8.8, 8.9.19 and 8.9.20).</p> <p>C6.2.16 ES Chapter 16 Glint and Glare [APP-051] considers dwellings within 1km from the Order Limits of the Scheme. Figures contained within Section 5.2 of C6.3.16.1 ES Appendix 16.1 Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study [APP-140] sets out those dwellings within 1km from the Scheme (Study Area). The impacts upon those dwellings identified are summarised in the following paragraphs within the ES Chapter: paragraph 16.5.3 and 16.8.2 of C6.2.16 ES Chapter 16 Glint and Glare [APP-051]. For those dwellings that are predicted to experience a "Moderate" impact, the Applicant is committed to implement embedded mitigation to reduce the effects to acceptable levels. The mitigation will be in the form of screening (immediate and long term), and it is outlined within the Glint and Glare Assessment Section 7.1 of C6.3.16.1 ES Appendix 16.1 Solar Photovoltaic Glint</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				and Glare Study [APP-140] , and Section 16.9 of C6.2.16 ES Chapter 16 Glint and Glare [APP-051] .
BLPC-10	Soils and agriculture Energy Need Landscape and Visual	Preservation of assets	"Burton -by- Lincoln Parish Council are of the view that we all have a responsibility not only in our current times but also for our future generations to preserve and protect our landscape, our food source and to ensure that our energy production is done by sustainable methods. We have more sustainable methods available to us that should be utilised. Thereby preserving what is needed whilst still being able to provide energy for our future energy needs."	Section 4 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] sets out the UK's legal requirement to decarbonise and explains how that requirement has created an increased need and urgency to meet the UK's obligations under the Paris Agreement (2015) as stated in para. 4.2.7. Section 4 summarises the latest expert views on the urgency for and depth of low-carbon infrastructure needed to deliver the UK's Net Zero legal obligations and demonstrates that there is an urgent need for the development of large-scale solar schemes. Paragraphs 3.3.1 to 3.3.19 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] summarise the 2021 Draft Revised National Policy Statement EN-3, which sets out Government's view that a Net-Zero consistent [energy] system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar. This point is reiterated in the newly published March 2023 Draft Revised National Policy Statement EN-3. Figure 7.1 shows National Grid Electricity System Operator's projections of the capacity of solar generation required to deliver a net-zero consistent system, which are 25 – 42GW by 2030, and 57 – 92GW by 2050, compared to just 14GW today as captured within paragraph 7.2.10 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] . C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA'), concludes that the Scheme has been designed to enhance and retain the existing landscape pattern and features that give the Site/s and the 5km Study Area their unique character and bring more variety (see tables 8.74, 8.75, 8.76, 8.77, 8.85, 8.88, 8.93, 8.94, 8.101, 8.102). Effects on landscape character will be experienced at the local level and it is recognised that some features, such as land

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				<p>use, open character and the local highway network will undergo change, but the majority of the key characteristics will not be altered (see paras 8.7.17 to 8.7.19, 8.7.29, 8.7.37, 8.7.46, 8.7.50, 8.7.105, 8.7.107, 8.7.109, 8.7.121, 8.7.128, 8.7.134, 8.7.136, 8.7.167, 8.7.183, 8.7.199).</p> <p>C6.3.8.2 ES Appendix 8.2 Assessment of Potential Landscape Effects, comprising figures 8.2.1-8.2.12 [APP-074], notes that agriculture is the dominant land use, and that the landscape contains views of an open nature beneath vast skies that are often extensive and uninterrupted. The findings also note this is a predominantly rural and sparsely settled area with small villages and dispersed farms and residential dwellings linked by long roads and a network of minor tracks which follow geometric field patterns.</p>

Cammeringham Parish Council [RR-008]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
CPC-01	Soils and Agriculture	Soil Quality	"Much of the scheme is being built of good quality grade 3A land, which would be better suited to agriculture."	The site is predominantly ALC Grade 3b, not "best and most versatile" agricultural land (see para 19.8.5 of C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A]). As the Scheme will be decommissioned there will not be a permanent loss of agricultural land. In addition, the agricultural land can remain in productive use through the operational period, being grazed by livestock (see paras 19.7.7, 19.10.2, 19.10.6, 19.10.10 of C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A]).
CPC-02	Alternatives and Design Evolution	Use of farmland	"Farmland should not be used for solar sites until all other locations have been explored - in particular roofs of commercial building and houses. All new houses should have mandatory pv panels in their roofs. Commercial buildings should have panels retro fitted on existing buildings and new buildings should have pv panels as part of building regulations."	<p>The consideration of alternatives has been undertaken within C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040]. This includes the consideration of alternative sites (Section 5.5), alternative technologies (Section 5.6), alternative layouts (Section 5.7), alternative substation locations (section 5.8) and alternative cable routes (Section 5.9). C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040] concludes in paragraphs 5.10.2, 5.10.3 and 5.10.4 that alternative potential development areas did not perform as well as the Sites.</p> <p>The selection of the Scheme's location has followed a five-stage systematic step-by-step process where as set out in C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067]:</p> <p>Stage 1 - Identification of the Area of Search (see para. 2.1.6);</p> <p>Stage 2 - Exclusion of Planning, Environmental and Spatial Constraints (see para. 2.1.12);</p> <p>Stage 3 - Identifying Potential Solar Development Areas (see 2.1.17);</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>Stage 4 - Evaluation of Potential Solar Development Areas (see 2.1.35); and</p> <p>Stage 5 - Widening the Search to consider Grade 3 agricultural land (see 2.1.40).</p> <p>As a result, and as stated within para. 3.3.30 of Appendix 5.1, the Scheme maximises the utilisation of low grade, non-best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land with 95.9% of the land being classified as non BMV land.</p> <p>Paragraphs 2.1.23 to 2.1.32 of C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] detail the consideration of brownfield land and roof tops and sets out why these were discounted as unsuitable. The methodology used for the site selection process is considered reasonable and proportionate and complies with the requirements of NPS EN-1 4.4.3.</p> <p>The land required for the Scheme has been demonstrated within C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] to perform better than 8 of the assessed Potential Development Areas (PDAs) and equal to the remaining one following the site selection process. Consequently, there are no obviously more suitable locations for the Scheme within the Search Area.</p>
CPC-03	Transport and Access	Local Road Network	"The local roads will not cope with the building works; many of them are in an awful condition at present."	<p>An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been prepared to support the application within C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A]. C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], provides (in Requirement 15 of Schedule 2) that "No part of the authorised development may</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>commence until a construction traffic management plan for that part must be submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities". It further provides that "The construction traffic management plan must be substantially in accordance with the outline construction traffic management plan."</p> <p>The outline CTMP submitted as part of the DCO application provides a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements to and from the Scheme, to ensure that the effects of the temporary construction phase on the local highway network are minimised and made acceptable.</p> <p>Measure xxi of C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A] is for a road condition survey. This will ensure that any identified highways defects resulting from construction activities associated with the Site will be corrected to the satisfaction of the local highway authority.</p>
CPC-04	Cumulative Development	Other Schemes	"The combined scale of the 4 proposed schemes in the West Lindsey area is too great a concentration."	<p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') assesses the impacts of the Scheme cumulatively with the proposed Gate Burton, West Burton and Tillbridge Solar proposals in Section 8.10 [APP-043] and concludes that the Scheme would not result in significant adverse effects on landscape character over an extensive area across the National Landscape Character Areas (para. 8.10.11) and the Regional Landscape Character Areas (para 8.10.12 to 8.10.16). In respect of the assessment of individual contributors to landscape character, as set out in para. 8.10.18 to 8.10.24, the cumulative effects would be not significant.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>The cumulative effects with the Gate Burton proposals are illustrated on C6.4.8.15.2.6 ES Figure 8.15.2.6 Gate Burton Cumulative Developments Cottam 1, 2 and 3a and 3b Augmented ZTV [APP-300], The settlements of Willingham by Stow, Kexby and Upton provide screening and separation between Gate Burton and the Cottam 1 Site. In respect of the Cottam 2 Site, the distance between Gate Burton and this particular site is approximately 6km, while the separation distance between Gate Burton and Cottam 3a and 3b Sites is approximately 9km. The cumulative effects of these projects would therefore not occur due to the significant distance between them.</p> <p>The cumulative effects with the West Burton proposals are illustrated on C6.4.8.15.2.9 ES Figure 8.15.2.9 West Burton Cumulative Developments Cottam 1, 2 and 3a and 3b Augmented ZTV [APP-303]. The settlements of Sturton by Stow, Bransby and Broxholme provide screening and separation between West Burton and the Cottam 1 Site. In respect of the Cottam 2 Site, the distance between West Burton and this particular site is approximately 10km, while the separation distance between West Burton and Cottam 3a and 3b Sites is approximately 14km. The cumulative effects of these projects would therefore not occur due to the significant distance between them.</p> <p>The cumulative effects with the Tillbridge proposals are illustrated on C6.4.8.15.2.8 ES Figure 8.15.2.8 Tillbridge Cumulative Developments Cottam 1, 2 and 3a and 3b Augmented ZTV [APP-301], the Tillbridge proposals are located to the west and east of the settlement of Springthorpe and situated between the settlements of Heapham, Hemswell Cliff and Glentworth.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>The Cottam 1 Site and Tillbridge boundaries are located adjacent to each other. Cumulative effects of these two proposals have been identified, for example in relation to land use as set out at C6.3.8.2.3.1 ES Appendix 8.2 [APP- 074]. At the construction phase and operation phase (Year 1) of the Scheme, there are potential significant effects predicted of the adverse type. At the operation phase (Year 15) of the Scheme, the type of effect would change from adverse to neutral with no significant effects predicted.</p> <p>The Cottam 2 Site and Tillbridge boundaries are located in close proximity to each other, with Corringham Road in between. Cumulative effects of these two proposals have been identified, for example in relation to land use as set out at C6.3.8.2.3.2 ES Appendix 8.2 [APP- 074]. At the construction phase and operational phase (Year 1) of the Scheme, there are potential significant effects predicted of the adverse type. At the operation phase (Year 15) of the Scheme, the type of effect would change from adverse to neutral with no significant effects predicted.</p>
CPC-05	Energy Need	Alternative Sources of Energy	<p>"Solar panels with circa 10% efficiency are poor use of technology, small nuclear is a better solution. The recent budget pointed strongly towards the use of small scale nuclear to achieve 25% of current needs. The government plans to categorise nuclear as "environmentally sustainable"."</p>	<p>Section 4 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] sets out the UK's legal requirement to decarbonise and explains how that requirement has created an increased need and urgency to meet the UK's obligations under the Paris Agreement (2015) as outlined in para. 4.2.7.</p> <p>Section 5.4 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] analyses the contribution that nuclear power can make to the urgent need to decarbonise and concludes that the development timeframes associated with that technology mean that it is highly unlikely that new nuclear will make any contribution to decarbonisation in the</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>critical pre-2030 timeframe beyond the commissioning of Hinkley Point C, currently scheduled for 2028.</p> <p>Section 3.3 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] therefore describes Government's view that large capacities of low-carbon generation will be required to meet increased demand and replace output from retiring (fossil fuel) plants, and that "a secure, reliable, affordable, Net Zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar".</p> <p>Solar panels and electrical infrastructure have become larger and more efficient. Figure 10.2 of the C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] shows that many solar cells are over 20% efficient and some are within reach of 30% efficiency, meaning that more low-carbon electricity can be generated from the same area of land compared to what was previously possible.</p> <p>Table 7.1 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] shows the electricity generated per hectare by different low-carbon technologies. At the UK's average solar load factor (11%), solar generation produces much more energy per hectare than biogas, and generates a similar amount of energy as onshore wind.</p>
CPC-06	The Application	Stance of other interested parties	"This scheme is being objected to by both the District Council and the County Council; they should not be overruled."	<p>The Applicant notes that West Lindsey District Council's (WLDC) relevant representation [RR-004] states that the Council will provide a detailed case on the impact of the applications within its Local Impact Report (LIR). It does not object at this stage.</p> <p>Similarly, Lincolnshire County Council's (LCC) relevant representation [RR-001] does not specify an objection to the Scheme. It provides commentary upon areas where it is considered insufficient</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>information has been provided within the Application to date and reserves commentary on certain matters to the Local Impact Report Stage.</p> <p>The Applicant has been in direct engagement throughout the pre-application stage with all of the host district and County Councils authorities. Furthermore, the Councils have made comments on the application at EIA Scoping (see C6.3.2.2 ES Appendix 2.2 EIA Scoping Opinion [APP-064]) and as statutory consultees to the statutory pre-application consultation held in June-July 2022 (see C5.11 Consultation Report Appendix – Section 42 Applicant Response [APP-034]). These comments have been responded to accordingly throughout the DCO Application documents.</p> <p>The Applicant looks forward to working further with the Councils to resolve any outstanding issues of concern.</p>
CPC-07	The Application Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation	Benefits	"There is no benefit at all to most local people; in fact, quite the opposite."	<p>The Applicant is committed to providing a Community Benefit Fund (see paragraph 4.8.1 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A]). This fund will be available for community-based benefits such as (but not limited to) community-led energy related projects.</p> <p>With regard to local employment and the local economic environment, it is acknowledged that the majority of employment and economic benefit will be experienced in the construction industry (see para 4.6.4 [APP-341]), during construction, and in the energy industry during the Scheme's operation. That notwithstanding, there are wider anticipated benefits through indirect employment and spending which will benefit local manufacturers, suppliers, maintenance workers, and induced employment and spending which will benefit the wider local economy</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>through increased spending by employees of the Scheme and its supply chains (see paras. 4.6.1 to 4.6.6). The full assessment of the extent of these likely effects is set out in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053].</p> <p>Section 5 of C7.10 Skills Supply Chain and Employment Plan [APP-349] furthermore demonstrates what additional measures are being pursued as part of the Scheme to provide local economic benefits. These include providing additional skills training (paras. 5.2.1 to 5.2.12), maximising local recruitment and enhancing opportunities for local procurement (paras. 5.3.1 to 5.4.6).</p> <p>The Applicant confirms that a Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan is secured by Requirement 20 of Schedule 2 to C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]. This requirement states that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a skills, supply chain and employment plan in relation to that part has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority for that part or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities."</p>

Fillingham Parish Meeting [RR-009]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
FPM-01	Climate Change Energy Need	Contribution to decarbonisation	"Fillingham Parish Meeting (FPM) is against the proposed Cottam Solar Project large-scale development, because of its limited contribution to decarbonisation and the adverse consequences arising from using land in this way."	Section 4 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] sets out the UK's legal requirement to decarbonise and explains how that requirement has created an increased need and urgency to meet the UK's obligations under the Paris Agreement (2015) as detailed within para. 4.2.7. The Section summarises the latest expert views on the urgency for and depth of low-carbon infrastructure needed to deliver the UK's Net Zero legal obligations, and demonstrates that there is an urgent need for the development of large-scale solar schemes. Figure 4.1 shows that carbon emissions from power generation have decreased significantly in the UK since 1990 levels, and Figure 7.3 shows the significant carbon cost associated with generating power from (existing) gas fired power stations instead of developing solar at the pace and scale projected by National Grid as being required to deliver a Net-Zero consistent power system.
FPM-02	Public Consultation	Adequacy of consultation	"The Public Consultation was so insufficient and inadequate as to be ineffective and the level of general understanding in the community of the scale and impact of the schemes remains very low."	<p>The Applicant is confident that the level of consultation undertaken and information presented throughout the pre-application stage is in accordance with the Planning Act 2008 and associated guidance. This has been evidenced in C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], which was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and accepted for examination.</p> <p>For example, as described in Chapter 2 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], the Applicant undertook two phases of community consultation to share information and invite feedback at different stages of Scheme development.</p> <p>Chapter 7 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes the Applicant's approach to statutory consultation, including consulting</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>with relevant authorities on a draft Statement of Community Consultation. Table 7.1 sets out the comments received from authorities on the Applicant's approach to consultation and how these were considered by the Applicant. Table 7.3 in Chapter 7 describes how the Applicant complied with commitments made in the Statement of Community Consultation when undertaking statutory consultation.</p> <p>Chapter 8 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes how the Applicant undertook a six-week statutory phase two consultation on the Scheme, during which the Applicant presented consultees with environmental information sufficient for consultees to understand the potential likely significant effects of the Scheme in a Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR). A non-technical summary was published to accompany the PEIR, with public information events and free-to-use communications channels open to help aid accessibility and understanding of the Scheme. A Consultation Summary Report for this phase of statutory consultation was published on the dedicated Scheme website, shared with elected representatives and stakeholders and issued to over 9,000 properties within the vicinity of the Scheme, to help consultees understand how their feedback was being considered. A copy of the Phase Two Consultation Summary Report is provided as C5.7 Appendix 5.7: Phase Two Community Consultation Materials [APP-028].</p> <p>Chapter 11 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes the significant volume of responses received to Section 47 consultation (local community) , including the issues raised and how these were considered by the Applicant. This is further evidenced by C5.10</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				Appendix 5.10: Consultation Report Appendix – Section 47 Applicant Response [APP-033].
FPM-03	Landscape and Visual	Visual Impact	“The scale of the IGP Cottam Solar Project would change the visual aspect and character of the region, which would undoubtedly be dominated by solar fields – at 4.5m panels could never be adequately screened by hedgerows (at all) or by trees (for many years), ruining much loved views, walks and historic landscapes.”	C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the ‘LVIA’) includes a full and detailed assessment that deals with both effects on the landscape itself and effects on the visual amenity of people, as well as interrelationships of these with other related topics in the ES. The LVIA process is iterative and as a result, the design of the Scheme changed to respond to the findings of the assessment to ensure that landscape mitigation is fully considered as part of the process. This assessment is undertaken in accordance with C6.3.8.1 ES Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology [APP-068] . For example, within the Cottam 1 Site, the PRoW bridleway (Fill/86/1) leads from Short Lane (at the settlement of Ingham) to join with PRoW footpath (Ingh/17/1), then eventually joins with Willingham Road. As a result of the Scheme, the foreground of the view would change from a large, gently sloping arable field to an area of panels. This is set out in C6.3.8.3 ES Appendix 8.3 Assessment of Potential Visual Effects includes 8.3.1-8.3.5 [APP-075] on sheet C6.3.8.3.5.2.1 Public Rights of Way Receptor – Fill/86 (Fill/86/1) and on sheet C6.3.8.3.2.3.19. In this instance (Sheet C6.3.8.3.5.2.1, page 1), the Embedded Mitigation would include panels set a minimum of 15m from the adjacent PRoW. Existing hedges would also be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of the existing hedges at close range. Furthermore (Sheet C6.3.8.3.2.3.19, page 3), in the middle distance, new and augmented hedgerows will provide a series of strong field

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>boundaries both formally strengthening the existing and historical field pattern and also in creating a multi-layered landscape.</p> <p>The LVIA includes a suite of 67 viewpoints (paras. 8.5.188, 8.5.189 and 8.5.197) that cover a range of carefully selected viewpoints of visual receptors, including public locations such as transport routes, PRoW and residential properties. The selection methodology is set out in C6.3.8.1 ES Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology [APP-068]. There are also an additional 25 viewpoints that were assessed at the request of Lincolnshire County Council (para. 8.5.200) as agreed at the LVIA Workshops held prior to submission that are included in the LVIA assessment (refer to Section 8.2 of C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8_Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] and C6.3.8.4 ES Appendix 8.4 Consultation [APP-076]).</p> <p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8_Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] also considers that for some aspects of the Scheme (the construction stages in particular) (para. 8.6.2), the effects have been assessed to be significant adverse. Where significant adverse impacts and effects are identified then strategic landscape mitigation measures (para. 8.6.3) are applied to offset or remedy any adverse effects.</p>
FPM-04	Cumulative Development	Other Schemes	"The unprecedented situation of the four massive NSIP solar projects within such a close area means that to properly understand the implications on the region, all the projects should be considered together by the Planning Inspectorate, i.e. Cottam	Cumulative effects assessments have been prepared for the Application within the Environmental Statement [APP-036 to APP-058] . Cumulative effects assessments for each topic are set out in each of the ES Chapters and include the assessment of the impacts of the Scheme cumulatively with the NSIPs identified in paragraph 2.5.9 of C6.2.2 ES Chapter 2 EIA Process and Methodology [APP-037] . This

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			Solar Project, West Burton Solar Project, Gate Burton Energy and Tillbridge Solar."	assessment is in accordance with Schedule 4 of the 2017 EIA Regulations and PINS Advice Note 17. The cumulative effects assessments in the ES are to be amended and published ahead of the examination stage to ensure updates from the publication of the PEIR for Tillbridge Solar are included in the decision making process.
FPM-05	Landscape and Visual Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation	Health and Wellbeing	"FPM is concerned that the scale of the CSP will have a massively harmful impact on the health and wellbeing of residents, in particular their mental health, by removing visual amenity, changing views..."	The Applicant is cognisant of the significance of the countryside for physical and mental wellbeing and as such, likely impacts on the desirability and use of recreational facilities in the countryside, such as public rights of way, have been assessed in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] . The greatest level of effect to access, desirability and use of recreational facilities is moderate-minor adverse and is anticipated during construction (para. 18.7.60 to 18.7.67) and decommissioning (para. 18.7.143 to 18.7.153). These effects are not anticipated to be significant. This is re-iterated in Section 21.5 of C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21 Other Environmental Matters [APP-056] . C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') includes a full and detailed assessment that deals with both effects on the landscape itself and effects on the visual amenity of people, as well as interrelationships of these with other related topics in the ES. The LVIA process is iterative and as a result, the design of the Scheme changed to respond to the findings of the assessment to ensure that landscape mitigation is fully considered as part of the process. This assessment is undertaken in accordance with C6.3.8.1 ES Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology [APP-068] . For

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				<p>example, within the Cottam 1 Site, the PRoW bridleway (Fill/86/1) leads from Short Lane (at the settlement of Ingham) to join with PRoW footpath (Ingh/17/1), then eventually joins with Willingham Road. As a result of the Scheme, the foreground of the view would change from a large, gently sloping arable field to an area of panels. This is set out in C6.3.8.3 ES Appendix 8.3 Assessment of Potential Visual Effects includes 8.3.1-8.3.5 [APP-075] on sheet C6.3.8.3.5.2.1 Public Rights of Way Receptor – Fill/86 (Fill/86/1) and on sheet C6.3.8.3.2.3.19. In this instance (Sheet C6.3.8.3.5.2.1, page 1), the Embedded Mitigation would include panels set a minimum of 15m from the adjacent PRoW. Existing hedges would also be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of the existing hedges at close range. Furthermore (Sheet C6.3.8.3.2.3.19, page 3), in the middle distance, new and augmented hedgerows will provide a series of strong field boundaries both formally strengthening the existing and historical field pattern and also in creating a multi-layered landscape.</p> <p>The LVIA includes a suite of 67 viewpoints (paras. 8.5.188, 8.5.189 and 8.5.197) that cover a range of carefully selected viewpoints of visual receptors, including public locations such as transport routes, PRoW and residential properties. The selection methodology is set out in C6.3.8.1 ES Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology [APP-068]. There are also an additional 25 viewpoints that were assessed at the request of Lincolnshire County Council (para. 8.5.200) as agreed at the LVIA Workshops held prior to submission that are included in the LVIA assessment (refer to Section 8.2 of C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8_Landscape</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] and C6.3.8.4 ES Appendix 8.4 Consultation [APP-076].</p> <p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] also considers that for some aspects of the Scheme (the construction stages in particular) (para. 8.6.2), the effects have been assessed to be significant adverse. Where significant adverse impacts and effects are identified then strategic landscape mitigation measures (para. 8.6.3) are applied to offset or remedy any adverse effects.</p>
FPM-06	Soils and Agriculture Transport and Access Socio-Economics, Tourism, and Recreation	Disruption to existing livelihoods	"FPM is concerned that the scale of the CSP ... causing stress by destroying agricultural jobs and livelihoods, as well as disruption during construction and decommissioning."	<p>The Applicant recognises the significance of the agricultural industry in the local economy and has assessed the economic impact of the Scheme in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] and the direct impacts on local agriculture in Sections 19.9 and 19.10 of C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A].</p> <p>An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been prepared to support the application within C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A]. C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], provides (in Requirement 15 of Schedule 2) that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a construction traffic management plan for that part must be submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities". It further provides that "The construction traffic</p>

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				<p>management plan must be substantially in accordance with the outline construction traffic management plan.”</p> <p>The outline CTMP submitted as part of the DCO application provides a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements to and from the Scheme, to ensure that the effects of the temporary construction phase on the local highway network are minimised and made acceptable.</p> <p>In respect of managing traffic during decommissioning, C7.2 Outline Decommissioning Statement [APP-338] explains in paragraph 1.2.1 that a Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) (or multiple DEMPs) and a Decommissioning Traffic Management Plan (DTMP) will be produced and approved for the Scheme following the appointment of a contractor, prior to the commencement of the decommissioning phase of the Scheme. Approval and implementation of the DEMP and the DTMP will be secured through a Requirement of the DCO.</p>
FPM-07	Landscape and Visual Socio-Economics, Tourism, and Recreation	Character of Fillingham	<p>“As a small, rural community, Fillingham has few opportunities for employment and very few amenities – one of its few attractions is the open countryside landscape that it sits in. The scale of the CSP would deny the village of this one key attribute and erode the attractiveness of the village and therefore the village’s capacity to sustain itself; driving some people away and serving to deter people</p>	<p>The likely impacts on the desirability and use of the area surrounding the Scheme for tourism and recreation have been assessed in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053].</p> <p>The greatest effect during construction is anticipated to be a peak medium-term temporary moderate adverse on the landscape setting of tourism attractions (see para. 18.7.57), which is a significant effect. During operation, the greatest effects to tourism and recreation receptors are anticipated to be long-term moderate-minor adverse (see para. 18.7.101), which is therefore not significant.</p>

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			from moving in – the village could die.”	<p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') takes into account the effects on residential receptors and this includes singular buildings, groups of buildings and towns or villages. Table 8.15 of the LVIA sets out the selection of initial residential receptors for the purpose of the assessment, the reason for their selection being that the receptors are all within the 1km Study Area for the Scheme and the 0.5km Study Area from the outer boundary of the Cable Route Corridor. The settlement of Brattleby does not fall within the initial selection and has therefore not been considered further within the LVIA as a residential receptor.</p> <p>With regard to representative viewpoints, there are certain locations where the settlement of Fillingham and its landscape setting can be viewed in the context of the Cottam 1 Site. These viewpoints are VP21, VP30, VP31, VP35, VP36, VP37, VP40, VP41, LCC-C-H, LCC-C-I, LCC-C-J, LCC-C-K, LCC-C-L, LCC-C-N, LCC-C-M. The LVIA concludes through Table 8.26 that potential Significant effects are predicted from these viewpoints, some effects being Moderate and Beneficial where the village of Fillingham will benefit from improvements to the farmed landscape in the Till Vale and the associated planting mitigation that will help enhance landscape character. Some effects, as contained within Table 8.56, are considered to be Significant from these viewpoints, being Moderate-Major and Adverse.</p> <p>With regard to Fillingham Castle, the LVIA concludes, in paragraph 8.7.40, that the secondary mitigation would bring forward enhancements to the overall level of tree cover and this will have a beneficial effect on the setting of local villages and the Registered Park and Garden at Fillingham Castle.</p>

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				With regard to Transport Receptors, the assessment has identified that the locations T066, T072, T074 and T075 are anticipated to experience Significant effects, being Moderate-Major Adverse (see Table 8.58) and some being Moderate-Neutral (see Table 8.105).
FPM-08	The Application Transport and Access Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation	Local network of footpaths, roads and bridleways	"For many people living in and around Fillingham, the local network of footpaths, roads and bridleways provides their routes for recreation and exercise, such as cycling, walking, running and horse-riding – and the benefit of being in the fresh air, surrounded by greenery. Such benefit will be lost through the extensive development of the CSP."	The Applicant is cognisant of the significance of the countryside for physical and mental wellbeing and as such, likely impacts on the desirability and use of recreational facilities in the countryside, such as public rights of way, have been assessed in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] . The greatest level of effect to access, desirability and use of recreational facilities is moderate-minor adverse and is anticipated during construction (see para. 18.7.60 to 18.7.67) and decommissioning (see para. 18.7.143 to 18.7.153). These effects are not anticipated to be significant. This is re-iterated in Section 21.5 of C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21 Other Environmental Matters [APP-056] .
FPM-09	Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation Soils and Agriculture	Agricultural Employment	"There are few employment opportunities within the immediate area of Fillingham, but the Cottam Solar Project will adversely impact agricultural jobs and provide few opportunities for livelihoods in their place."	The Applicant recognises the significance of the agricultural industry in the local economy and has assessed the economic impact of the Scheme in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] and the direct impacts on local agriculture in Sections 19.9 and 19.10 of C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A] . The Scheme is anticipated to lead to a maximum loss of approximately 17 full-time equivalent agriculture jobs, as stated in paragraph 18.7.15 of document C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] . The Scheme is estimated to employ 10 full-time equivalent employees from the local

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				<p>area during operation; see Table 18.16. The net change in employment in the local area (defined as West Lindsey and Bassetlaw Districts) during the Scheme's operational life is a loss of approximately 2 full-time jobs, once consideration of direct, indirect and induced employment, and impacts on the tourism and recreation industry are considered (see para. 18.7.79). Overall, the economic benefit to the local area is estimated to be £2.2 million per year (see para. 18.7.97).</p> <p>The overall employment and economic benefit to the local area from the two-year construction period is anticipated to be 661 full-time equivalent jobs (see para. 18.7.23), generating £30.9 million per year (see para. 18.7.52).</p> <p>The land included in the Scheme covers 4 farm businesses, all of which are owner occupiers of the land within the Sites. This is detailed in full in para. 7.1.1-17 of C6.3.19.1 ES Appendix 19.1 Agricultural Land Quality Soil Resources and Farming Circumstances [APP-145].</p>
FPM-10	Cultural Heritage Cumulative Development	Fillingham's History	"Fillingham is part of an area of villages and agriculture that with a long history. Fillingham St Andrew's church is referenced in the Domesday Book. The long heritage and character of the area would be shattered by development at the scale of the CSP and other NSIP solar developments."	<p>The Applicant respectfully disagrees with this conclusion.</p> <p>C6.2.13 ES Chapter 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048] provides an assessment of potential impacts caused by the Scheme to Cultural Heritage. An assessment of the impact on the Historic Landscape Characterisation is provided in Tables 13.8-5 and 13.8-10 in C6.3.13.8 ES Appendix 13.8 Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Tables [APP-132]. Land within the Scheme in the Fillingham Parish is categorised as Modern Fields, Parliamentary Planned Enclosure and Plantation Woodland. It has been assessed that there would be "No change" and therefore "Neutral" effects to the Plantation Woodland</p>

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				<p>HLC unit within the Scheme, which is the only HLC unit within the Scheme within Fillingham parish considered to be of High value. The Parliamentary Enclosure HLC type is assessed to be of Medium value, and of the three HLC units of this type within the Scheme that would be affected, there would be a Moderate adverse effect (i.e., 'significant' in EIA terms) at one of these, and Slight adverse (i.e., 'not significant' in EIA terms) at the two largest of these units. The HLC unit where 'significant' effects are identified (HL1156) covers a relatively small area (totalling <7ha), which equates to c.0.5% of the land within the parish of Fillingham. The majority of the land within the Scheme within Fillingham parish is of the Modern Fields HLC type and is assessed as being of Negligible historical value, and the effects of the Scheme upon these are assessed as being Slight Adverse (i.e., 'not significant' in EIA terms).</p> <p>None of the other HLC units of High value within the parish of Fillingham (which include the Ornamental Open Water, Landscape Park, Historic Settlement Core and Ancient Enclosure HLC types) would be affected by the Scheme. It should also be noted that all field boundaries within the scheme would be retained, and therefore the temporary changes to the historic character of the parish resulting from the proposed changes to land use within the Scheme are reversible, and the historic character of the parish would return to its current state following decommissioning (see paragraph 13.7.42 of C6.2.13 ES Chapter 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048]).</p> <p>None of the other NSIP solar developments considered as part of the cumulative assessment in the EIA are located within Fillingham parish, and therefore there would be no cumulative effects to the historic</p>

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				landscape character of the parish from these other schemes (see section 13.10 of C6.2.13 ES Chapter 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048]).
FPM-11	The Application	Temporary Nature of the Application	<p>"[The Applicant] repeatedly uses the technical definition of "temporary" to hide the nature of the project. Between construction, operation and decommissioning, a life cycle of c. 50 years does not reasonably constitute "temporary" in a human lifetime. The developer should be consistent and honest with the public about the lifetime of the scheme."</p>	<p>The Applicant has not applied for a temporary permission. As captured within C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] para. 3.3.11, the operational life of the Scheme is anticipated to be 40 years. Once the Scheme ceases to operate, it will be decommissioned. A 40-year period for the operational phase of the Scheme has been assessed in the EIA and reported in the ES.</p> <p>Decommissioning is estimated to be no earlier than 2066 (see paras. 3.3.15 to 3.3.18 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A]). Decommissioning is expected to take between 12 and 24 months. A 24-month decommissioning period has been assumed for the purposes of a worst-case assessment in the ES, (See paragraph 4.3.6 of C6.2.4_A ES Chapter 4_Scheme Description Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.4_A]).</p> <p>The Scheme, in the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], secures through Requirement 21 of Schedule 2 that "Within 12 months of the date that the undertaker decides to decommission any part of the authorised development, the undertaker must submit to the relevant planning authority for that part a decommissioning plan for approval."</p>
FPM-12	Ecology and Biodiversity	Rich Habitats	<p>"Existing habitats rich with birds of prey, owls and scarce farmland species, plus deer, brown hares and badgers which will be disturbed through the massive scale of construction activities and material</p>	<p>Section 9.6 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] sets out the extensive findings of all ecological investigations undertaken within the Order Limits together with an appraisal of the relative importance of each species or species group, habitat or designated site. A comprehensive package of mitigation measures has been identified, in tandem with embedded mitigation (see Section 9.6)</p>

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			<p>movements the Cottam Solar Project will require and be impacted through the project's operational lifetime and decommissioning."</p>	<p>established through the ecologically sensitive design of the Scheme (such as the wide buffering of all field boundaries and the use of existing hedgerow gaps for accesses). These measures have been further detailed within C7.19 Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [APP-356] and C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] which will ensure that all identified impacts are minimised as far as possible. In many cases, the reversion from intensive agriculture to pasture or meadow grassland with additional hedgerow, scrub, tree and wetland habitat creation will bring about positive effects for wildlife. In particular, terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates, botanical diversity, small mammals and many species of bird all stand to benefit.</p> <p>More specifically, in our experience of monitoring over 100 active solar arrays, we find that brown hare and badgers are highly active on solar arrays owing to the improved foraging habitat within them. Birds of prey, including owls, are one species group likely to benefit from the provision of large areas of optimal habitat for small mammals such as field voles which require tussocky and dense grassland which will be created within buffered field boundaries.</p> <p>Construction activities will be temporary, and since they are limited primarily to the piling of metal supports into the ground and laying of electrical cabling, they are not considered to create a level of disturbance which significantly exceeds that generated by typical agricultural sowing, spraying and harvesting operations. See Paragraphs 9.7.86 and 9.7.149 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044].</p>

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FPM-13	Hydrology and Flood Risk	Risk of Flooding	"There is a real risk for a significant increase in water run-off from the huge surface area of solar panels, leading to increased risk of flooding, damage and isolation of properties and communities."	<p>Paragraphs 10.8.1 to 10.8.5 of C6.2.10 ES Chapter 10_Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage [APP-039] and Section 5.0 of C6.3.10.1 ES Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy Report [APP-090] describe how the panels themselves do not cause a significant increase in hardstanding area as agreed with the LLFA's and EA in their relevant responses. The panels are raised on frames which have a minimal footprint and the land beneath the panels is proposed to be improved with grassland planting. Whilst the ground will be initially shadowed from rain by the panel, once on the ground, the water will follow local topography and infiltrate as existing.</p> <p>The Applicant confirms that following further development of the Scheme, details of areas in which there is proposed to be hardstanding will be provided at the detailed design stage, post-consent, if required.</p> <p>Paragraph 4.2.4 of C6.2.4_A ES Chapter 4_Scheme Description Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.4_A] summarises the Application's work packages. Works No 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9 are to result in the creation of hardstanding elements. C7.15_A Concept Design Parameters and Principles [EN010133/EX1/C7.15_A] when read alongside C2.4_A Works Plan Revision A [AS-007] further details the potential extent of areas which are to be made impermeable. The Applicant confirms that they are willing to provide further details of hardstanding elements at detailed design stage, post-consent, if required.</p> <p>As stated in C6.3.10.1 ES Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy Report [APP-090], any runoff from</p>

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				<p>hardstanding/small buildings on the Sites will be captured on site, to prevent increasing runoff from the Sites.</p> <p>Provision of a full surface water drainage scheme is secured by Requirement 11 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>
FPM-14	Transport and Access	Suitability of Roads	<p>"The largest road near Fillingham is a "B" road, and most others are single-track roads, which are wholly unsuitable to the large volumes of traffic movements necessary to construct and decommission the CSP."</p>	<p>An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been prepared to support the application within C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A]. C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], provides (in Requirement 15 of Schedule 2) that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a construction traffic management plan for that part must be submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities". It further provides that "The construction traffic management plan must be substantially in accordance with the outline construction traffic management plan."</p> <p>The outline CTMP submitted as part of the DCO application provides a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements to and from the Scheme, to ensure that the effects of the temporary construction phase on the local highway network are minimised and made acceptable.</p> <p>In respect of managing traffic during decommissioning, C7.2 Outline Decommissioning Statement [APP-338] explains in paragraph 1.2.1 that a Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) (or multiple DEMPs) and a Decommissioning Traffic Management Plan</p>

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				(DTMP) will be produced and approved for the Scheme following the appointment of a contractor, prior to the commencement of the decommissioning phase of the Scheme. Approval and implementation of the DEMP and the DTMP will be secured through a Requirement of the DCO.
FPM-15	Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage Air Quality Other Environmental Matters	Fire Safety	"The fire safety and environmental risk arising from the failure of batteries is a concern, including how community safety and environmental integrity of wildlife and water systems would be ensured in an emergency."	<p>Paragraph 4.1.18 of C7.9 Outline Battery Storage Safety Management Plan [APP-348] explains that the design of the BESS has integrated fire detection and suppression systems that will automatically operate to contain battery fires. Paragraph 5.3 of C7.9 Outline Battery Storage Safety Management Plan [APP-348] states that if fire spreads to multiple units, external firefighting water facilities are available to the Fire Services by means of 228,000 litre water storage tanks within the battery compounds. A Battery Storage Safety Management Plan will be submitted and approved prior to commencement of development as secured through Requirement 6 of Schedule 2 to C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>Human health and other environmental impacts resulting from plumes from potential battery fires have been assessed in C6.2.17 ES Chapter 17 Air Quality [APP-052].</p> <p>A Battery Storage Safety Management Plan will be submitted and approved prior to commencement of development as secured through Requirement 6 of Schedule 2 C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>As addressed in paragraphs 10.8.11 – 10.8.14 of C6.2.10 ES Chapter 10 Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage [APP-039], given the nature of the energy storage within the Scheme, there is a potential risk of</p>

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				<p>fire which could result in the mobilisation of pollution within surface water run-off. It is proposed that runoff from the energy storage area will be contained by local bunding and attenuated within gravel subgrade of lined permeable SuDS features prior to being passed forward to the local land drainage network. In the event of a fire, a system of automatically self-actuating valves at the outfalls from the battery storage areas will be closed, isolating the battery storage area's drainage from the wider environment. The water contained by the valves will be tested and either treated and released or tankered off-site as necessary and in consultation with the relevant consultees (including but not limited to Lincolnshire County Council, as Lead Local Flood Authority, and the Environment Agency) at the time.</p>
FPM-16	The Application	End of Life	<p>"Fillingham Parish Meeting is concerned that the standards the developer would be held to at the end of the life of the project are not clear."</p>	<p>C7.2 Outline Decommissioning Statement [APP-338] forms part of the Application. Paragraphs 2.1.1 to 2.1.8 set out decommissioning activities for the removal of all the solar panels (PV), structures, enclosures, equipment, and all other apparatus associated with the Scheme.</p> <p>The Applicant confirms that the following is secured through Requirement 21 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]: "Within 12 months of the date that the undertaker decides to decommission any part of the authorised development, the undertaker must submit to the relevant planning authority for that part a decommissioning plan for approval" where "The decommissioning plan must be substantially in accordance with the outline decommissioning statement."</p> <p>C7.2 Outline Decommissioning Statement [APP-338] explains in paragraph 1.2.1 that a Decommissioning Environmental Management</p>

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				<p>Plan (DEMP) (or multiple DEMPs) and a Decommissioning Traffic Management Plan (DTMP) will be produced and approved for the Scheme following the appointment of a contractor, prior to the commencement of the decommissioning phase of the Scheme. Approval and implementation of the DEMP and the DTMP will be secured through a Requirement of the DCO.</p> <p>C7.2 Outline Decommissioning Statement [APP-338] sets out the principles of decommissioning and environmental considerations (see paras. 2.1.1 to 2.1.8) and provides a summary of potential mitigation and management measures during decommissioning through Table 3.1. It also sets out how roles, responsibilities and actions required in respect of implementation of the mitigation measures will be managed, along with principles for monitoring and reporting. Further details will be provided in the final DEMPs and DTMP submitted for approval prior to decommissioning. The commitment for the final DEMP and DTMP to be substantially in accordance with the Outline Decommissioning Statement.</p> <p>In addition, to restore the land to its pre-construction condition at the end of operation, the soil resource within the Order Limits will be managed through construction, operation, and decommissioning.</p> <p>C7.18 Outline Soil Management Plan [APP-355] is included in the Application and identifies measures to be implemented, through the general principles outlined in paragraph 3.1.1, to ensure the protection and conservation of soil resources maintain the physical properties of the soils through best practice and provide on-Site reference on the management of soil resources for Site operators undertaking the works.</p>

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				<p>A Soils Resource Management Plan, substantially in accordance with C7.18 Outline Soil Management Plan [APP-355] will be submitted and approved prior to the commencement of development as secured by Requirement 19 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>In combination, the above measures are considered to provide sufficient clarity to ensure that decommissioning of the Scheme will be undertaken to a high standard.</p>
FPM-17	The Applicant	The Application	<p>"Fillingham Parish Meeting is concerned that IGP has no track record of development at this scale, in particular to be able to fulfil the obligation for decommissioning and restoration of land at the end of the project lifecycle, which could leave the community with a significant liability to restore the land to a useful purpose."</p>	<p>The Applicant is part of Island Green Power Limited (IGP), who is a leading international developer of renewable energy projects, established in 2013. Further information on the Applicant can be found in the C4.2 Cottam Funding Statement [APP-019] that has been submitted as part of the DCO Application.</p> <p>IGP has delivered 26 solar projects worldwide totalling more than 1GW of capacity. This includes 14 solar projects in the UK and Republic of Ireland.</p>
FPM-18	Energy Need Climate Change	Energy Benefits	<p>"The energy and decarbonisation benefits made by IGP for the Cottam Solar Project are oversimplified, overstated and misleading."</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment but respectfully disagrees.</p> <p>C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] shows, at Figure 7.2, National Grid Electricity System Operator's projections for the future installed capacity of different electricity generation technologies in Net-Zero consistent scenarios. In all scenarios, solar is required to make a significant contribution to the future generation mix. This is aligned with Government's position (see para. 3.3.7). Section 7.4 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes the decarbonisation benefits of solar energy. Sections 8.8 and Section 8.9 describe the energy</p>

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				security benefits of solar energy, whilst Section 10.2 and Section 10.3 describes the economic benefits of solar energy within the UK electricity system.
FPM-19	Energy Need Soils and Agriculture	Food vs. Energy need	"FPM is concerned that in the wake of major disruption to food supplies in recent years, displacing productive arable land in the UK with solar panels that can make such a limited contribution to the country's energy needs, undermines the country's ability to source food locally and maintain food security."	<p>The key policy tests for the decision maker in respect of the Scheme's impact upon agricultural land are found in NPS EN-1, paragraph 5.10.8, and Revised Draft NPS EN-3, para. 3.10.15. In summary, this requires that applicants should seek to minimise impacts on BMV land, being ALC Grades 1, 2 and 3a), ensure impacts should be considered against the measures set out under paragraphs 2.10.66 – 2.10.83 and 2.10.98 – 2.10.110. Paragraph 5.10.15 then states that the Secretary of State should give little weight to loss of ALC grades 3b, 4 and 5 agricultural land, while Revised Draft NPS EN-3, para. 3.10.136 requires the Secretary of State to ensure mitigation measures to minimise impacts on soils and soil resources are appropriately provided by the Applicant. This is addressed in Appendix 3 page 62 and 63 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A].</p> <p>The Applicant does not consider that the Scheme would result in food security impacts either alone or cumulatively. The UK annual balance of domestically produced food is sensitive to non-planning factors including weather and markets. The relevant assessment for policy purposes (and therefore decision-making purposes under the Planning Act 2008) is one that is based on the grade of the agricultural land, rather than its current use and the intensity of that use. In terms of key threats to UK food security, the Defra UK Food Security Report highlights that the main threat is climate change.</p>
FPM-20	Energy Need	Land Use	"There are many and increasing demands on the use of land, and in a	Table 7.1 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] shows the electricity generated per hectare by different low-carbon technologies. At the

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	Soils and Agriculture		situation of increasing pressure on land use, the Cottam Solar Project represents a highly inefficient use of land for the region – as well as for the country."	<p>UK's average solar load factor (11%), solar generation produces much more energy per hectare than biogas, and generates a similar amount of energy as onshore wind.</p> <p>Furthermore, paragraph 7.6.8 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] states that: "Draft NPS EN-3 includes an anticipated range of 2 to 4 acres for each MW of output generally required for a solar farm along with its associated infrastructure." The Scheme as proposed delivers a large-scale solar generation asset which is consistent with this range, as is described through paragraphs 4.2.1 to 4.2.3 of C6.2.4_A ES Chapter 4 Scheme Description Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.4_A]. This demonstrates that the proposed location is a suitable site which will provide for an asset which is consistent with government's view of best practice ratios of land take and installed capacity.</p>
FPM-21	The Application Alternatives and Design Evolution	Alternative Sites	"Fillingham Parish Meeting has joined with other local parishes to oppose the Cottam Solar Project, as the benefits of the development do not outweigh the harms – and there are credible alternatives that have not been adequately pursued."	<p>The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the conclusion that the Application benefits do not outweigh its harms.</p> <p>Chapter 4 of the C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] sets out the UK's legal requirement to decarbonise and explains how that requirement has created an increased need and urgency to meet the UK's obligations under the Paris Agreement (2015) as detailed within para. 4.2.7. The chapter summarises the latest expert views on the urgency for and depth of low-carbon infrastructure needed to deliver the UK's Net Zero legal obligations, and demonstrates that there is an urgent need for the development of large-scale solar schemes.</p> <p>Paragraphs 6.2.17 to 6.2.19 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] explain that it is against this backdrop that NPS EN-1 paragraph 4.1.2 sets a presumption in favour of granting</p>

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				<p>permission for energy NSIP projects. This is carried through to Draft NPS EN-1 at paragraphs 4.1.2 and 4.1.3.</p> <p>Section 6.2 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] sets out how the Scheme will meet the compelling need for renewable energy in accordance with relevant national planning policies. In summary, the Scheme would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver a large amount of renewable generation capacity (35,590,658 MWh over the estimated 40-year assessed lifetime) (see para. 6.2.32) to deliver the Government's energy objectives and legally binding net zero commitments in line with the requirements of paragraph 1.1.1 of NPS EN-3 (see para. 6.2.3), paragraph 3.3.21 of draft NPS EN-1 (see para. 6.2.10), section 3.4 of NPS EN-1 and the National Infrastructure Strategy 2020; • Deliver a reduction of 5,974,155 tCO₂e over the lifetime of the Scheme compared to if it did not go ahead (see para. 6.2.35) which would make a significant contribution towards reducing carbon emissions as required by paragraph 1.1.1 of NPS EN-1, paragraph 2.3.2 of Draft NPS EN-1, the National Infrastructure Strategy 2020 and the Energy White Paper: "Powering our net zero future"; • Deliver in a timescale that is short in the context of the delivery of other forms of energy generation in line with the urgent need to decarbonise set out in paragraphs 3.3.5, 3.3.15 (see para. 6.2.4) and 3.4.5 of NPS EN-1 (see para. 6.2.1), Paragraph 2.3.2 (see para. 6.2.8) of Draft NPS EN-1 and the National Infrastructure Strategy 2020;

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable all consumers to benefit from the effect of low-marginal cost solar generation on reducing market prices, in line with the aim to provide affordable energy for consumers set out at Paragraph 2.3.2, Paragraph 2.3.5 and 3.3.21 of Draft NPS EN-1 (see paras. 6.2.8, 6.2.9 and 6.2.10) ; and • Help ensure security and reliability of energy supply in line with Paragraph 2.3.2 and 2.3.5 of the Draft NPS EN-1. <p>NPS EN-1 paragraph 3.2.3. and Draft NPS EN-1 paragraph 3.1.1, acknowledge that it will not be possible to develop the necessary amounts of such infrastructure to deliver these benefits without some significant residual adverse impacts as explained at paragraph 6.2.20 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A].</p> <p>Whilst it has not been possible for the Scheme to avoid all significant residual impacts, these have been identified within the Environmental Statement [APP-036 to APP-058] and have been minimised, where possible, through careful and sensitive design and detailed mitigation strategies.</p> <p>Section 6 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] demonstrates that when considered against national planning policies, the Scheme accords with the relevant policies, and with regard to specific policy tests, the substantial benefits of the Scheme are considered on balance to outweigh its limited number of significant residual adverse impacts. Therefore, it is considered that development consent for the Scheme should be granted.</p> <p>The Applicant respectfully disagrees that credible alternatives have not been adequately pursued. The consideration of alternatives has</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>been undertaken within C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040]. This includes the consideration of alternative sites (Section 5.5), alternative technologies (Section 5.6), alternative layouts (Section 5.7), alternative substation locations (section 5.8) and alternative cable routes (Section 5.9). C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040] concludes in paragraphs 5.10.2, 5.10.3 and 5.10.4 that alternative potential development areas did not perform as well as the Sites.</p> <p>The selection of the Scheme's location has followed a systematic step-by-step process as set out in detail within C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067]. This took a sequential approach to the consideration of potential sites in terms of agricultural land classification. As a result, paragraph 3.3.22 states that the Scheme maximises the utilisation of low grade, non best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land with 95.9% of the land being classified as non BMV land.</p> <p>Paragraphs 2.1.23 to 2.1.32 of C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] detail the consideration of brownfield land and roof tops and sets out why these were discounted as unsuitable. The methodology used for the site selection process is considered reasonable and proportionate and complies with the requirements of NPS EN-1 4.4.3.</p> <p>The land required for the Scheme has been demonstrated within C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] to perform better than 8 of the assessed Potential Development Areas (PDAs) and equal to the remaining one following the site selection process. Consequently, paragraphs 4.1.1 to 4.1.8 conclude that there</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				are no obviously more suitable locations for the Scheme within the Search Area.
FPM-22	Energy Need Alternatives and Design Evolution	Solar use	"FPM believes that, given the pressure in the UK on land use, solar on commercial and domestic rooftops must be pursued as a matter of urgency before large areas of land are used for intermittent, low-load factor solar power."	<p>Paragraph 7.6.3 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] analyses the potential contribution of "brownfield" solar sites to the national need for solar generation. Brownfield sites, including rooftop and other community energy systems, are likely to grow in the UK and will make a contribution to decarbonisation of the UK energy system. However, C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] concludes in Section 7.6, that on their own, brownfield developments are unlikely to be able to meet the national need for solar. Paragraph 8.5.10 and Section 8.5 more generally of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describe and express agreement with Government's view that decentralised and community energy systems are unlikely to lead to the significant replacement of large-scale infrastructure. The Applicant therefore supports Government's view that large scale solar must be deployed to meet the urgent national need for low-carbon electricity generation.</p> <p>The consideration of alternatives has been undertaken within C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040] and its accompanying appendix C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067]. Specifically, paragraphs 2.1.23 to 2.1.32 detail the consideration of brownfield land and roof tops and sets out why these were discounted as unsuitable. The methodology used for the site selection process is considered reasonable and proportionate and complies with the requirements of NPS EN-1 4.4.3.</p>

Glentworth Parish Council [RR-010]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
GPC-01	The Application Cumulative Development	Impacts	"The Parish will be impacted by this proposal jointly with the other solar proposals that surround our Parish"	<p>The Applicant notes this comment.</p> <p>The Applicant, through the Environmental Statement [APP-036 to APP-058], has sought to embed mitigation wherever possible, in order to mitigate adverse impacts across the environmental topics scoped into the Environmental Impact Assessment. Where adverse impacts of the Application have been identified taking into account the effect of embedded mitigation, the Applicant has proposed additional mitigation measures to mitigate for adverse impacts.</p> <p>As can be observed in Table 23.1 of C6.2.23 ES Chapter 23_Summary of Significant Effects [APP-058], the ES chapter topics have been summarised according to whether effects are adverse or beneficial whilst also capturing the significance.</p> <p>Residual adverse effects from the Scheme are summarised and appraised in Section 6 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A], and consideration of the planning balance against the benefits of the Scheme in Section 7. Assessment of the accordance with national policy is set out in Appendix 3, with local policy in Appendix 4 [APP-341].</p>

Hemswell Cliff Parish Council [RR-011]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
HCPC-01	Ecology and Biodiversity Cumulative Development	Wildlife and Biodiversity	"The Parish Council currently objects to the applications on the grounds of wildlife, ... [and] bio-diversity ..."	The Applicant notes this comment. As set out in C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] , the scheme will result in benefits for hedgerow and tree diversity and abundance (see paragraphs 9.7.57-71) through several kilometres of new planting. Grassland enhancements (see paragraphs 9.7.72-9.7.82) will come about through the reversion from large tracts of arable to a mosaic of tussocky and flowering grasslands of benefit in turn to invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians, small mammals and multiple bird species. Furthermore, pond planting and wetland creation measures will be implemented (see paragraphs 9.7.96-106) which will in turn benefit amphibians and aquatic invertebrates, as well as water voles and birds such as lapwing. All these measures will be secured through the enactment of C7.19 Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [APP-356] and C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] .
HCPC-02	The Application Cumulative Development	Scale and Nature of Development	"The Parish Council currently objects to the applications on the grounds of ... the scale of the applications."	Paragraph 12.1.3 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] concludes that "Large-scale solar generation is essential to support the urgent decarbonisation of the GB electricity sector" and paragraph 4.4.11 describes that the location of the scheme presents a "highly suitable solution for the efficient delivery of solar at scale over timeframe which will provide significant decarbonisation benefits". It concludes that this Scheme and others located near it will all be essential for the decarbonisation of the UK electricity sector.

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
HCPC-03	Soils and Agriculture	Agricultural Land	"The Parish Council currently objects to the applications on the grounds ... importance of losing agricultural land..."	The key policy tests for the decision maker in respect of the Scheme's impact upon agricultural land are found in NPS EN-1, paragraph 5.10.8, and Revised Draft NPS EN-3, para. 3.10.15. In summary, this requires that applicants should seek to minimise impacts on BMV land, being ALC Grades 1, 2 and 3a), ensure impacts should be considered against the measures set out under paragraphs 2.10.66 – 2.10.83 and 2.10.98 – 2.10.110. Paragraph 5.10.15 then states that the Secretary of State should give little weight to loss of ALC grades 3b, 4 and 5 agricultural land, while Revised Draft NPS EN-3, para. 3.10.136 requires the Secretary of State to ensure mitigation measures to minimise impacts on soils and soil resources are appropriately provided by the Applicant. This is addressed in C7.5_A Planning Statement, Appendix 3 page 62 and 63 [[EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A].

Ingham Parish Council [RR-012]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
IPC-01	The Application Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation Glint and Glare	Village Life	"At a recent community meeting where this proposal was discussed the majority of attendees objected to the plans due to the impact of village life..."	<p>The Applicant is committed to providing a Community Benefit Fund – see paragraph 4.8.1 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A]. This fund will be available for community-based benefits such as (but not limited to) community-led energy related projects.</p> <p>With regard to local employment and the local economic environment, it is acknowledged that the majority of employment and economic benefit will be experienced in the construction industry (see para 4.6.4 [APP-341]), during construction, and in the energy industry during the Scheme's operation. That notwithstanding, there are wider anticipated benefits through indirect employment and spending which will benefit local manufacturers, suppliers, maintenance workers, and induced employment and spending which will benefit the wider local economy through increased spending by employees of the Scheme and its supply chains (see paras. 4.6.1 to 4.6.6). The full assessment of the extent of these likely effects is set out in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053].</p> <p>Section 5 of C7.10 Skills Supply Chain and Employment Plan [APP-349] furthermore demonstrates what additional measures are being pursued as part of the Scheme to provide local economic benefits. These include providing additional skills training (paras. 5.2.1 to 5.2.12), maximising local recruitment and enhancing opportunities for local procurement (paras. 5.3.1 to 5.4.6).</p> <p>The Applicant confirms that a Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan is secured by Requirement 20 of Schedule 2 to C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>This requirement states that “No part of the authorised development may commence until a skills, supply chain and employment plan in relation to that part has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority for that part or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities.”</p> <p>C6.2.16 ES Chapter 16 Glint and Glare [APP-051] considers dwellings within 1km from the Order Limits of the Scheme. Figures contained within Section 5.2 of C6.3.16.1 ES Appendix 16.1 Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study [APP-140] sets out those dwellings within 1km from the Scheme (Study Area). The impacts upon those dwellings identified are summarised in the following paragraphs within the ES Chapter: paragraph 16.5.3 and 16.8.2 of C6.2.16 ES Chapter 16 Glint and Glare [APP-051]. For those dwellings that are predicted to experience a “Moderate” impact, the Applicant is committed to implement embedded mitigation to reduce the effects to acceptable levels. The mitigation will be in the form of screening (immediate and long term), and it is outlined within the Glint and Glare Assessment Section 7.1 of C6.3.16.1 ES Appendix 16.1 Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study [APP-140], and Section 16.9 of C6.2.16 ES Chapter 16 Glint and Glare [APP-051].</p>
IPC-02	Transport and Access Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation	Footpaths	“...[The] community meeting ... objected to the plans due to the impact of ... footpaths...”	<p>The Applicant is cognisant of the significance of the countryside for physical and mental wellbeing and as such, likely impacts on the desirability and use of recreational facilities in the countryside, such as public rights of way, have been assessed in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]. The greatest level of effect to access, desirability and use of recreational facilities is moderate-minor adverse and is anticipated</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>during construction (para. 18.7.60 to 18.7.67) and decommissioning (para. 18.7.143 to 18.7.153). These effects are not anticipated to be significant.</p> <p>This is re-iterated in Section 21.5 of C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21 Other Environmental Matters [APP-056].</p> <p>A Public Rights of Way Management Plan will be implemented during the construction phase of the Scheme. An Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan is included at C6.3.14.3 ES Appendix 14.3 Public Rights of Way Management Plan [APP-136]. A Public Rights of Way Management Plan will be submitted and approved prior to the commencement of development, as secured through Requirement 18 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>
IPC-03	Ecology and Biodiversity Landscape and Visual	Wildlife and the Countryside	"...[The] community meeting ... objected to the plans due to the impact of ... wildlife and the surrounding countryside."	<p>The Applicant notes this comment.</p> <p>Section 9.6 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] sets out the extensive findings of all ecological investigations undertaken within the Order Limits together with an appraisal of the relative importance of each species or species group, habitat or designated site. A comprehensive package of mitigation measures has been identified, in tandem with embedded mitigation (see Section 9.6) established through the ecologically sensitive design of the Scheme (such as the wide buffering of all field boundaries and the use of existing hedgerow gaps for accesses). These measures have been further detailed within C7.19 Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [APP-356] and C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] which will ensure that all identified impacts are minimised as far as possible. In</p>

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				<p>many cases, the reversion from intensive agriculture to pasture or meadow grassland with additional hedgerow, scrub, tree and wetland habitat creation will bring about positive effects for wildlife. In particular, terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates, botanical diversity, small mammals and many species of bird all stand to benefit.</p> <p>More specifically, in our experience of monitoring over 100 active solar arrays, we find that brown hare and badgers are highly active on solar arrays owing to the improved foraging habitat within them. Birds of prey, including owls, are one species group likely to benefit from the provision of large areas of optimal habitat for small mammals such as field voles which require tussocky and dense grassland which will be created within buffered field boundaries.</p> <p>Construction activities will be temporary, and since they are limited primarily to the piling of metal supports into the ground and laying of electrical cabling, they are not considered to create a level of disturbance which significantly exceeds that generated by typical agricultural sowing, spraying and harvesting operations. See Paragraphs 9.7.86 and 9.7.149 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044].</p>

Kexby Parish Council, Lincolnshire [RR-013]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
KPCL-01	Cumulative Development	Impacts arising from cumulative solar development	"Following community consultation within the Parish the community is objecting to the very large 4 solar farm projects proposed for the immediate area."	<p>The Applicant notes this comment.</p> <p>Paragraph 12.1.3 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] concludes that "Large-scale solar generation is essential to support the urgent decarbonisation of the GB electricity sector" and paragraph 4.4.11 describes that the location of the scheme presents a "highly suitable solution for the efficient delivery of solar at scale over timeframe which will provide significant decarbonisation benefits". It concludes that this Scheme and others located near it will all be essential for the decarbonisation of the UK electricity sector.</p>
KPCL-02	Energy Need Soils and Agriculture	Agricultural Land	"Removing 10,000 acres of good agricultural land and replacing a reliable source of food for an unreliable source of energy seems to ignore the essential need for food security."	<p>The key policy tests for the decision maker in respect of the Scheme's impact upon agricultural land are found in NPS EN-1, paragraph 5.10.8, and Revised Draft NPS EN-3, para. 3.10.15. In summary, this requires that applicants should seek to minimise impacts on BMV land, being ALC Grades 1, 2 and 3a), ensure impacts should be considered against the measures set out under paragraphs 2.10.66 – 2.10.83 and 2.10.98 – 2.10.110. Paragraph 5.10.15 then states that the Secretary of State should give little weight to loss of ALC grades 3b, 4 and 5 agricultural land, while Revised Draft NPS EN-3, para. 3.10.136 requires the Secretary of State to ensure mitigation measures to minimise impacts on soils and soil resources are appropriately provided by the Applicant. This is addressed in Appendix 3 (page 62 and 63) C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A].</p> <p>The Applicant does not consider that the Scheme would result in food security impacts either alone or cumulatively. The UK annual balance of domestically produced food is sensitive to non-planning factors including weather and markets. The relevant assessment for policy</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>purposes (and therefore decision-making purposes under the Planning Act 2008) is one that is based on the grade of the agricultural land, rather than its current use and the intensity of that use. In terms of key threats to UK food security, the Defra UK Food Security Report highlights that the main threat is climate change.</p> <p>Paragraph 3.3.7 of document C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes Government's view that "a secure, reliable, affordable, Net Zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar". This support for large scale solar as part of the 'answer' to net zero and energy security has been repeated in its recent policy documents published in March 2023.</p> <p>Figure 7.2 of document C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] shows National Grid Electricity System Operator's projections for the future installed capacity of different electricity generation technologies in Net-Zero consistent scenarios. In all scenarios, solar is required to make a significant contribution to the future generation mix.</p> <p>Section 7.5 of document C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes how suitable locations for large-scale solar are identified and assessed. Figure 7.4 shows the level of photovoltaic power potential at the proposed location and Section 7.4 describes the decarbonisation benefits of solar energy. Section 8.8 and Section 8.9 describe the energy security benefits of solar energy. Chapter 9 describes the advantages of connecting large-scale solar to the existing and robust National Electricity Transmission System at the proposed Point of Connection at Cottam. Section 9.4 concludes that the Proposed Development will contribute to national system adequacy and decarbonisation targets.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				Section 10.2 and Section 10.3 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describe the economic benefits of solar energy within the UK electricity system.
KPCL-03	The Application	Consultation and engagement	<p>"Since the parishes were advised of these projects coupled with the consultation by the relevant proposers there was a perception by parishioners that as these come under the umbrella of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) then as communities we have no say in the matter because this will be decided by central government. This perception has been reinforced by the amount of preparatory/investigative work carried out by the project proposers over the last year and as a parish councillor we have found it a challenge to rectify this perception and get the engagement of parts of the communities. That said, even the findings of the developers has shown that the communities are overwhelmingly against these due in part to the magnitude in such a small populated area."</p>	<p>The Applicant acknowledges this comment.</p> <p>The Applicant has undertaken two main consultation events, held in tandem with the West Burton Solar Project. The first, a six-week non-statutory consultation held November to December 2021, received 525no. feedback form responses, indicating 48% of those responding were in support of the proposals. The second was a six-week statutory consultation period in which approximately 700 responses were fed back to the Applicant team.</p> <p>The significant volume of feedback received through consultations, and how the Applicant has had regard to these responses, is presented in C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021]. The Applicant shared the results of consultation with consultees and communities following each phase of consultation by publishing interim Consultation Summary Reports. The Applicant has taken an issue-led approach to considering comments, in order to incorporate feedback and address concerns where practicable.</p> <p>The Applicant is confident that the methods used, level of consultation undertaken and information presented throughout the pre-application stage is compliant with the Planning Act 2008 and associated guidance, which makes clear the importance of consulting local communities and parish councils. This is in C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], which was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and accepted for examination.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>For example, Chapter 5 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes how the Applicant undertook a six-week non-statutory phase one consultation on the Scheme, during which the Applicant distributed a community consultation leaflet and accompanying feedback form to over 9,000 properties within the vicinity of the Scheme. An email was sent to local Parish Councils on 20 October 2021 to offer to provide them with hard copies of consultation materials to host during the phase one (non-statutory) consultation. Table 5.3 in Chapter 5 describes the responses received to this first phase of consultation, including the issues raised and how these were considered by the Applicant. A Consultation Summary Report for this first phase of non-statutory consultation was published on the dedicated Scheme website and issued to over 9,000 properties within the vicinity of the Scheme, to help consultees understand how their feedback was being considered. A copy of the Phase One Consultation Summary Report is provided as C5.5 Appendix 5.5: Phase One Consultation Summary Report [APP-026].</p> <p>Chapter 7 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes the Applicant's approach to statutory consultation, including consulting with relevant authorities on a draft Statement of Community Consultation. Table 7.1 sets out the comments received from authorities on the Applicant's approach to consultation and how these were considered by the Applicant. Table 7.3 in Chapter 7 describes how the Applicant complied with commitments made in the Statement of Community Consultation when undertaking statutory consultation.</p> <p>Chapter 8 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes how the Applicant undertook a six-week statutory phase two consultation on</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>the Scheme, during which the Applicant presented consultees with environmental information sufficient for consultees to understand the potential likely significant effects of the Scheme in a Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR). A non-technical summary was published to accompany the PEIR, with public information events and free-to-use communications channels open to help aid accessibility and understanding of the Scheme. A Consultation Summary Report for this phase of statutory consultation was published on the dedicated Scheme website, shared with elected representatives and stakeholders and issued to over 9,000 properties within the vicinity of the Scheme, to help consultees understand how their feedback was being considered. A copy of the Phase Two Consultation Summary Report is provided as C5.7 Appendix 5.7: Phase Two Community Consultation Materials [APP-028].</p> <p>Chapter 11 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes the significant volume of responses received to Section 47 consultation (local community), including the issues raised and how these were considered by the Applicant. This is further evidenced by C5.10 Appendix 5.10: Consultation Report Appendix – Section 47 Applicant Response [APP-033].</p>
KPCL-04	Cumulative Development	Impacts arising from cumulative solar development	"There are many concerns that the parishioners have which will no doubt be reflected in other parishes affected one of which is that each of these projects should not be considered in isolation but all 4 projects together so that the inspectorate can see the	The Applicant notes this comment and is happy for the cumulative impacts of the projects to be considered together if the Planning Inspectorate and Examining Authorities deem it appropriate.

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			collective impact these will have on the area."	
KPCL-05	Energy Need Climate Change	Effectiveness of Solar Technology	<p>"The selective presentation by the proposers regarding the effectiveness of solar power does not stand scrutiny in that they suggest the solar array would produce on average 30% of their rated output where in reality they produce around 11% simply because of other factors outside their control i.e. weather and annual yearly cycle. We are led to believe they are referring to the panel performance based on a sunny day in mid-year when we have better weather and longer days, unlike mid-December. The added factor to this is that the energy demand is greatest when the panels produce the least if any, and as the battery storage of any energy is only good for approximately 2 hours, by the time of peak demand, 6pm, the batteries are likely to be flat." The Parish also states that the Battery Energy Storage System is only good for approximately 2 hours.</p>	<p>Solar panels and electrical infrastructure have become larger and more efficient. Figure 10.2 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] shows that many solar cells are over 20% efficient and some are within reach of 30% efficiency, meaning that more low-carbon electricity can be generated from the same area of land compared to what was previously possible.</p> <p>The quoted 20-30% efficiency figures refer directly to the panels' ability to convert the sunlight that is striking them at any given moment to electrical energy. The UK's average solar load factor of 11% refers to the actual level of electricity output over the course of a year in comparison to the maximum possible output by the panels. As quoted by the parish council, this is dependent on such factors as weather and hours of daylight over the course of the year.</p> <p>Table 7.1 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] shows the electricity generated per Hectare by different low-carbon technologies. At the UK's average solar load factor (11%), solar generation produces much more energy per hectare than biogas, and generates a similar amount of energy as onshore wind.</p> <p>The Battery Energy Storage System's storage capacity, and therefore its discharge duration, will be established at the point of detailed design.</p> <p>Paragraph 7.2.8 of C6.2.7 ES Chapter 7 Climate Change [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.7_A] states that assumptions have been made for the storage capacity of the two battery site size options, as 1357MWh and 2773MWh, exporting at 600MW into the National Grid</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>transmission network, therefore representing an approximate 2-hour or 4-hour energy supply. The time of day that this is provided can be controlled so that the energy stored can be supplied during hours of peak demand.</p> <p>Paragraph 3.3.7 of the C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] sets out the Government's view that large capacities of low-carbon generation will be required to meet increased demand and replace output from retiring (fossil fuel) plants, and that "a secure, reliable, affordable, Net Zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar".</p> <p>Solar is now a leading low-cost generation technology and Figure 10.3 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] shows that on a levelised cost of energy basis (the estimated cost per unit of energy across the productive lifetime of an electricity generating station), large scale solar is already cheaper than offshore wind, and the Government's projections are that it will remain cheaper in the future. In 2021, Great Britain sourced 42% of its electricity from renewables, of which approximately 9.4% was from solar.</p> <p>Finally, Section 8.8 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes the energy security benefits of solar generation when it is deployed alongside a portfolio of other technologies. Section 11.5 and Table 11.1 in particular of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describe the role of the energy storage facility as associated development to the main solar development in relation to contributing to the smooth operation of an electricity system with a high share of renewable energy supply.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
KPCL-06	Energy Need	National Energy Demand	"Looking at the National Grid ESO website, even there they only attribute 4.4% to Solar supply and as mentioned already this site shows the demand on the grid at different times and in mid-June at 4am the demand was 15GW whereas in Mid-December at 5pm the demand was 46GW and this is when the solar farms produce the least."	<p>Paragraph 3.3.7 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes the Government's view that large capacities of low-carbon generation will be required to meet increased demand and replace output from retiring (fossil fuel) plants, and that "a secure, reliable, affordable, Net Zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar".</p> <p>The Applicant confirms that a diverse mix of technologies will be required to "keep the lights on" and deliver the urgent need for decarbonisation.</p> <p>Figure 7.1 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] shows National Grid Electricity System Operator's projections of the capacity of solar generation required to deliver a net-zero consistent system, which are 25 - 42GW by 2030, and 57 - 92GW by 2050, compared to just 14GW today as captured within paragraph 7.2.10.</p> <p>Figure 7.2 [APP-350] shows National Grid Electricity System Operator's projections for the future installed capacity of different electricity generation technologies in Net-Zero consistent scenarios. In all scenarios, solar is required to make a significant contribution to the future generation mix.</p>
KPCL-07	Energy Need Alternatives and Design Evolution	Grid Connection	"Are these developers just looking for an easy option with sighting these solar farms in close proximity to each other with the overarching comment that they are here because of access to the grid. As we well know, as is evidenced by the number of wind farms out at sea, that access to the	<p>Paragraphs 3.3.17 and 3.3.18 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] explain the Government's view that irradiance, site topography and proximity to suitable connection points to the transmission network are likely to be key inputs to site selection. Section 7.5 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes the site selection process for large-scale solar more fully, and Section 7.7 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] sets out how the design of the Scheme seeks to</p>

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			<p>grid can effectively be made from any number of locations, including Europe, what it would require is the developers actively looking for sites spread further afield and laying the necessary infrastructure to connect. Would the fact that this adds cost to the project making it less attractive. It would be prudent to mention here that the developers of the first farms are just that, they are not the builders and if they secure planning they will be offering this to the market so any added costs that could be negated, i.e. extra cabling to connect to the grid would be a disincentive, something the developers want to avoid."</p>	<p>maximise utilisation of the grid connection capacity available at Cottam Substation.</p> <p>Section 9 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes the suitability of the proposed location as a point of connection for the project. The Applicant has secured an agreement to connect to the grid at Cottam substation as demonstrated in C7.7 Cottam Grid Connection Statement [APP-346].</p> <p>Ultimately, connecting sites which are further away from a (new or existing) point of connection may cause more environmental harm, take longer to deliver and / or cost more than connecting to sites closer to existing points of connection. Section 7.5 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] explains how these factors and other feed into the site selection process. Given the context of an urgent national need and government policy to decarbonise the electricity system while also urgently protecting security of supply and managing the affordability of energy bills (Paragraph 3.3.5 of the Statement of Need), it would therefore be contrary to government policy for a development to pass over an existing, available and highly suitable grid connection point, in favour of one which may either take longer to build or cause more environmental harm or both.</p>
KPCL-08	The Application Energy Need	Energy Mix	<p>"It is abundantly clear that keeping the lights on is not going to happen using solar power alone even if the technology to put an array in space where there is 24hr sun was a serious option. It is evident that we are going to need other forms of energy</p>	<p>Paragraph 3.3.7 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes the Government's view that large capacities of low-carbon generation will be required to meet increased demand and replace output from retiring (fossil fuel) plants, and that "a secure, reliable, affordable, Net Zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar".</p>

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			<p>production and Solar power is at the bottom of the list for cost efficiency and reliability, with wind farms also offering an unreliable source again due to the weather. The energy mix is going to have to include other forms of 'on tap' energy supply such as Hydro, Nuclear even fossil fuels (Gas, Oil and Diesel).</p> <p>The proposed solar projects make no attempt to match the power produced to when it is needed basically because even with the large-scale batteries these can only store energy for a few hours which means that solar farms and their storage parks take up an immense amount of land whilst providing a limited contribution to the electricity system, and therefore represent and inefficient use of land."</p>	<p>The Applicant confirms that a diverse mix of technologies will be required to "keep the lights on" and deliver the urgent need for decarbonisation.</p> <p>Table 5.2 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes the current status and prognosis for many forms of generation technology to contribute to decarbonisation in the timeframes required to combat climate change. The table shows the Applicant's analysis that "on tap" forms of low-carbon energy (such as new nuclear, wave and tidal, or carbon capture use and storage) are unlikely to make significant contributions to decarbonisation targets before the mid-2030s, although the need for significant action is more urgent.</p> <p>Figure 7.1 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] shows National Grid Electricity System Operator's projections of the capacity of solar generation required to deliver a net-zero consistent system, which are 25 – 42GW by 2030, and 57 – 92GW by 2050, compared to just 14GW today (see para. 7.2.10)</p> <p>Finally, Section 8.8 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes the energy security benefits of solar generation when it is deployed alongside a portfolio of wind. Section 11.5 and Table 11.1 in particular describe the role of the energy storage facility as associated development to the main solar development, contributing to the smooth operation of an electricity system with a high share of renewable energy supply.</p>

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KPCL-09	Cumulative Development Agricultural Land Classification	Agricultural Land Classification Survey Results	"The scale of the 4 solar farms is in the region of 10,000 acres of agricultural land and a lot of conversations have gone on about the grade of the land and that it is sub-standard for crops. Another solar farm project in the area has been shelved due to the land being incorrectly categorized. Perhaps scrutiny of these Agricultural Land Classification results might well find that the proposed land falls into both DEFRA 3a & 3b classifications, we are also aware that DEFRA may be reclassifying 3b agricultural land to bring it under the 'reserved for food production' umbrella although getting accurate information is a challenge. As you will appreciate the cost of getting an 'independent' ALC for the land could well be quite expensive considering the area within these proposals and we have been given an estimate of £70K a figure likely to be out of the reach of these communities."	<p>Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey results for the Sites are presented at C6.3.19.1 ES Appendix 19.1 Agricultural Land Quality Soil Resources and Farming Circumstances [APP-145]. This ALC assessment work has been undertaken in compliance with Natural England's guidance and has been peer-reviewed ahead of their submission in support of the DCO Application.</p> <p>In Agricultural Land Classification, Grade 3b is not defined as "Best and Most Versatile" (BMV) agricultural land. The key policy tests for the decision maker in respect of the Scheme's impact upon agricultural land are found in NPS EN-1, paragraph 5.10.8, and Revised Draft NPS EN-3, para. 3.10.15. In summary, this requires that applicants should seek to minimise impacts on BMV land, being ALC Grades 1, 2 and 3a), ensure impacts should be considered against the measures set out under paragraphs 2.10.66 – 2.10.83 and 2.10.98 – 2.10.110. Paragraph 5.10.15 then states that the Secretary of State should give little weight to loss of ALC grades 3b, 4 and 5 agricultural land, while Revised Draft NPS EN-3, para. 3.10.136 requires the Secretary of State to ensure mitigation measures to minimise impacts on soils and soil resources are appropriately provided by the Applicant. This is addressed in C7.5 Planning Statement, Appendix 3 page 62 and 63 [APP-341].</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
KPCL-10	Cumulative Development	Post De-commissioning Impacts	"As a Parish council we are concern that the combined impact of these 4 Solar Farms will have a detrimental effect in several areas which would likely be irreversible for decades after these projects have served their purpose."	<p>The Applicant notes this comment. Cumulative effects assessments have been prepared for the Application within the Environmental Statement [APP-036 to APP-058]. Cumulative effects assessments for each topic are set out in each of the ES Chapters and include the assessment of the impacts of the Scheme cumulatively with the NSIPs identified in paragraph 2.5.9 of C6.2.2 ES Chapter 2 EIA Process and Methodology [APP-037]. This assessment is in accordance with Schedule 4 of the 2017 EIA Regulations and PINS Advice Note 17. The mitigation measures set out across the ES therefore account for anticipated cumulative effects.</p> <p>As the Scheme will be decommissioned there will not be a permanent loss of agricultural land. Furthermore, the decommissioning mitigation and site restoration measures set out in C7.2 Outline Decommissioning Statement [APP-338] are secured by Requirement 21 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>
KPCL-11	Soils and Agriculture	Food and Farming	"Using arable land for solar energy will displace the production of existing crops, food, animal feed and energy crops. It makes no sense, from an environmental perspective, to cease farming here and import more crops."	<p>The key policy tests for the decision maker in respect of the Scheme's impact upon agricultural land are found in NPS EN-1, paragraph 5.10.8, and Revised Draft NPS EN-3, para. 3.10.15. In summary, this requires that applicants should seek to minimise impacts on BMV land, being ALC Grades 1, 2 and 3a), ensure impacts should be considered against the measures set out under paragraphs 2.10.66 – 2.10.83 and 2.10.98 – 2.10.110. Paragraph 5.10.15 then states that the Secretary of State should give little weight to loss of ALC grades 3b, 4 and 5 agricultural land, while Revised Draft NPS EN-3, para. 3.10.136 requires the Secretary of State to ensure mitigation measures to minimise impacts on soils and soil resources are appropriately</p>

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				<p>provided by the Applicant. This is addressed in C7.5_A Planning Statement, Appendix 3 page 62 and 63 [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A].</p> <p>The Applicant does not consider that the Scheme would result in food security impacts either alone or cumulatively. The UK annual balance of domestically produced food is sensitive to non-planning factors including weather and markets. The relevant assessment for policy purposes (and therefore decision-making purposes under the Planning Act 2008) is one that is based on the grade of the agricultural land, rather than its current use and the intensity of that use. In terms of key threats to UK food security, the Defra UK Food Security Report highlights that the main threat is climate change.</p>
KPCL-12	Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation	Employment	<p>"Solar Farms will destroy agricultural jobs, skills and livelihoods and create few new skilled jobs to replace them. It is more than likely there will be a net reduction in employment and employment opportunities particularly in relation to seasonal work demands and this in an area with relatively few opportunities. In addition to there being no economic benefit to the communities affected consideration should also be given to those Tenant farmers who may have no say in whether parts of their farm are made over to Solar. This may</p>	<p>The Applicant recognises the significance of the agricultural industry in the local economy and has assessed the economic impact of the Scheme in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] and the direct impacts on local agriculture in Sections 19.9 and 19.10 of C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A].</p> <p>The Scheme is anticipated to lead to a maximum loss of approximately 17 full-time equivalent agriculture jobs, as stated in paragraph 18.7.15 of document C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]. The Scheme is estimated to employ 10 full-time equivalent employees from the local area during operation; see Table 18.16. The net change in employment in the local area (defined as West Lindsey and Bassetlaw Districts) during the Scheme's operational life is a loss of approximately 2 full-time jobs, once consideration of direct, indirect</p>

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			make the remaining farm less viable, so even if they are being subsidized for this loss it will still result in under active farmers deciding to leave the industry or go elsewhere."	<p>and induced employment, and impacts on the tourism and recreation industry are considered (see para. 18.7.79). Overall, the economic benefit to the local area is estimated to be £2.2 million per year (see para. 18.7.97).</p> <p>The overall employment and economic benefit to the local area from the two-year construction period is anticipated to be 661 full-time equivalent jobs (see para. 18.7.23), generating £30.9 million per year (see para. 18.7.52).</p> <p>The land included in the Scheme covers 4 farm businesses, all of which are owner occupiers of the land within the Sites. This is detailed in full in para. 7.1.1-17 of C6.3.19.1 ES Appendix 19.1 Agricultural Land Quality Soil Resources and Farming Circumstances [APP-145].</p>
KPCL-13	Ecology and Biodiversity	Wildlife and Habitat	"No matter what the precautions and assurances, it will not be possible to deliver and install millions of solar panels, pour thousands of tonnes of concrete, as well as installing containers with batteries and switchgear, all surrounded by miles of fencing, without damaging habitat. Solar Farms of the magnitude being proposed (2000MW) only exist in countries that have vast open spaces coupled with high sunlight levels in areas of low population density. They	<p>The Applicant notes this comment.</p> <p>Section 9.6 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] sets out the extensive findings of all ecological investigations undertaken within the Order Limits together with an appraisal of the relative importance of each species or species group, habitat or designated site. A comprehensive package of mitigation measures has been identified, in tandem with embedded mitigation (see Section 9.6) established through the ecologically sensitive design of the Scheme (such as the wide buffering of all field boundaries and the use of existing hedgerow gaps for accesses). These measures have been further detailed within C7.19 Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [APP-356] and C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] which will ensure that all identified impacts are minimised as far as possible. In</p>

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			<p>are not situated around several small communities."</p>	<p>many cases, the reversion from intensive agriculture to pasture or meadow grassland with additional hedgerow, scrub, tree and wetland habitat creation will bring about positive effects for wildlife. In particular, terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates, botanical diversity, small mammals and many species of bird all stand to benefit.</p> <p>More specifically, in our experience of monitoring over 100 active solar arrays, we find that brown hare and badgers are highly active on solar arrays owing to the improved foraging habitat within them. Birds of prey, including owls, are one species group likely to benefit from the provision of large areas of optimal habitat for small mammals such as field voles which require tussocky and dense grassland which will be created within buffered field boundaries.</p> <p>Construction activities will be temporary, and since they are limited primarily to the piling of metal supports into the ground and laying of electrical cabling, they are not considered to create a level of disturbance which significantly exceeds that generated by typical agricultural sowing, spraying and harvesting operations. See Paragraphs 9.7.86 and 9.7.149 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044].</p> <p>Section 3.3 of document C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350], specifically paragraphs 3.3.2, 3.3.5 and 3.3.11, describes the Government's view that large capacities of low-carbon generation will be required to meet increased demand and replace output from retiring (fossil fuel) plants, and that "a secure, reliable, affordable, Net Zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar". This support for large scale solar as</p>

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				<p>part of the 'answer' to net zero and energy security has been repeated in its recent policy documents published in March 2023.</p> <p>Section 7.5 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes how suitable locations for large-scale solar are identified and assessed. Paragraph 7.5.2 outlines the broad criteria for determining Site suitability.</p> <p>Figure 7.4 shows the level of photovoltaic power potential at the proposed location. Section 9 describes the advantages of connecting large-scale solar to the existing and robust National Electricity Transmission System at the proposed Point of Connection at Cottam Power Station, and Paragraph 9.4.4 concludes that the Proposed Development will contribute to national system adequacy and decarbonisation targets.</p> <p>C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040] and its accompanying appendix C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] explain how the site was chosen in light of that need. The methodology used for the site selection process is considered reasonable and proportionate and complies with the requirements of NPS EN-1 4.4.3 as explained at Section 2.1 [APP-067].</p> <p>Cumulative effects assessments have been prepared for the Application within the Environmental Statement [APP-036 to APP-058]. Cumulative effects assessments for each topic are set out in each of the ES Chapters and include the assessment of the impacts of the Scheme cumulatively with the NSIPs identified in paragraph 2.5.9 of C6.2.2 ES Chapter 2 EIA Process and Methodology [APP-037]. This assessment is in accordance with Schedule 4 of the 2017 EIA</p>

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				Regulations and PINS Advice Note 17. The mitigation measures set out across the ES therefore account for anticipated cumulative effects.
KPCL-14	Ecology and Biodiversity Landscape and Visual Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation	Wildlife and Habitat	"The installation of high fencing covering 10,000 acres is going to impact virtually every aspect of the countryside for both the wildlife movement and inhabitants who live, work, and visit the area."	<p>The Applicant is cognisant of the significance of the countryside for physical and mental wellbeing and its importance to tourism and, as such, likely impacts on the desirability and use of attractions and recreational facilities in the countryside, such as public rights of way, have been assessed in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053].</p> <p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] takes account of the effects associated with the panels and associated infrastructure such as fencing and cameras, and substation and battery storage. The assessment of on-site infrastructure is based on their anticipated locations, and maximum height and size parameters (para. 8.6.16) to ensure a robust (worst-case scenario) assessment has been undertaken. This assessment is undertaken in accordance with C6.3.8.1 ES Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology [APP-068].</p> <p>The landscape mitigation seeks to enhance the landscape character and visual amenity and assist with the integration of the fencing into the landscape (paras. 8.3.25, 8.6.2, 8.6.21, 8.7.14 and 8.7.351). The landscape mitigation measures will provide new planting, which will include new native hedgerows and tree cover, and this will also include their management and maintenance. Measures set out in C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] are secured through Requirement 7 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>

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				In respect of the movement of local wildlife, several valuable benefits for a wide spectrum of species have been assessed as likely to arise as a result of the Scheme. This is anticipated through the creation of wide, uncultivated and sensitively managed buffer strips (to comprise wildflower meadow or tussocky grassland, predominantly) at all field boundaries, the extensive planting of several kilometres of new hedgerows and trees, as well as the creation of new wetland features such as ponds and scrapes. These features have also been targeted to contribute towards Lincolnshire's Biodiversity Opportunities Areas which have identified locations of strategic opportunity in the improvement of green infrastructure and corridors for wildlife movement. Consequently, as can be seen from the summary of residual effects table (Table 9.3) in C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] , the scheme is considered to provide significant benefits for wildlife movement over the current agricultural situation.
KPCL-15	Transport and Access Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation	Footpaths and Bridleways	"Details of footpaths and bridleways to be affected have yet to be identified."	Public Rights of Way affected by the Scheme are identified graphically in C2.5 Public Rights of Way Plan [APP-008] and details of management measures of Public Rights of Way during construction, operation, and decommissioning are set out in C6.3.14.3 ES Appendix 14.3 Public Rights of Way Management Plan [APP-136] . A Public Rights of Way Management Plan will be implemented during the construction phase of the Scheme. An Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan is included at C6.3.14.3 ES Appendix 14.3 Public Rights of Way Management Plan [PP-136] . A Public Rights of Way Management Plan will be submitted and approved prior to the commencement of development, as secured through Requirement 18

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				<p>of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>The likely impacts on the desirability and recreational use of public rights of way and other recreational routes during construction and operation are set out in Tables 18.15 and 18.20 respectively, in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053].</p>
KPCL-16	Cumulative Development Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation	Character and Nature of the area	<p>"The cumulative scale of the development is unprecedented, and the impact of such a development is unknown around communities, if these solar farms were to proceed then the implication is that the communities and habitat are irrelevant. The development would change the character and nature of the areas for over 50 years and in a time when the mental health and wellbeing of people is under the microscope, the introduction of such a seismic change needs extensive consultation and investigation."</p>	<p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') looks to provide landscape mitigation that seeks to enhance the landscape character of the Study Area and to reduce the visibility of the Scheme from residential properties and other public vantage points including transport routes, public footpaths, permissive footpaths and green lane network. This mitigation is aimed to benefit the community as a whole to enhance their way of life as well as green infrastructure (see paras. 8.1.1 and 8.8.3). Public consultation has also taken account of landscape and visual matters (see paras. 8.2.8 and 8.4.20). The landscape mitigation measures seek to provide new planting to mitigation the potential impacts and effects of glint and glare (see paras. 8.2.10, 8.4.44, 8.8.8, 8.9.19 and 8.9.20).</p> <p>The Applicant notes this comment. The Applicant is cognisant of the significance of the countryside for physical and mental wellbeing and, as such, likely impacts on the desirability and use of recreational facilities in the countryside, such as public rights of way, have been assessed in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]. The greatest level of effect to access, desirability and use of recreational facilities is moderate-minor adverse and is anticipated during construction (para. 18.7.60-67) and</p>

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				<p>decommissioning (para. 18.7.143-153). These effects are not anticipated to be significant.</p> <p>This is re-iterated in Section 21.5 of C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21 Other Environmental Matters [APP-056].</p> <p>The Applicant is confident that the level of consultation undertaken and information presented throughout the pre-application stage is in accordance with the Planning Act 2008 and associated guidance. This has been evidenced in C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], which was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and accepted for examination.</p> <p>For example, as described in Chapter 2 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], the Applicant undertook two phases of community consultation to share information and invite feedback at different stages of Scheme development.</p> <p>Chapter 7 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes the Applicant's approach to statutory consultation, including consulting with relevant authorities on a draft Statement of Community Consultation. Table 7.1 sets out the comments received from authorities on the Applicant's approach to consultation and how these were considered by the Applicant. Table 7.3 in Chapter 7 describes how the Applicant complied with commitments made in the Statement of Community Consultation when undertaking statutory consultation.</p> <p>Chapter 8 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes how the Applicant undertook a six-week statutory phase two consultation on the Scheme, during which the Applicant presented consultees with</p>

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				<p>environmental information sufficient for consultees to understand the potential likely significant effects of the Scheme in a Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR). A non-technical summary was published to accompany the PEIR, with public information events and free-to-use communications channels open to help aid accessibility and understanding of the Scheme. A Consultation Summary Report for this phase of statutory consultation was published on the dedicated Scheme website, shared with elected representatives and stakeholders and issued to over 9,000 properties within the vicinity of the Scheme, to help consultees understand how their feedback was being considered. A copy of the Phase Two Consultation Summary Report is provided as C5.7 Appendix 5.7: Phase Two Community Consultation Materials [APP-028].</p> <p>Chapter 11 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes the significant volume of responses received to Section 47 consultation (local community), including the issues raised and how these were considered by the Applicant. This is further evidenced by C5.10 Appendix 5.10: Consultation Report Appendix – Section 47 Applicant Response [APP-033].</p>
KPCL-17	Transport and Access	Suitability / State of Repair of Rural Road Network	"Rural communities are underrepresented in the wider scheme due to the relatively low population, and one of the main visual impacts is the state of our rural road network. These have been neglected for over a decade and potholes are not repaired properly but holes just have a dollop of tarmac drop in and	<p>An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been prepared to support the application within C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A]. C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], provides (in Requirement 15 of Schedule 2) that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a construction traffic management plan for that part must be submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of</p>

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			the vehicle runs over it. This results in very uneven road with hole developing again regularly."	<p>multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities". It further provides that "The construction traffic management plan must be substantially in accordance with the outline construction traffic management plan."</p> <p>The outline CTMP submitted as part of the DCO application provides a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements to and from the Scheme, to ensure that the effects of the temporary construction phase on the local highway network are minimised and made acceptable.</p>
KPCL-18	Transport and Access	Road Network	<p>"The impact of the volume of traffic during both the construction and decommissioning phases, in terms of road safety, noise, disruption, damage to an already damaged road system is of concern to all who live in the area. The roads already show they are inadequate for the farming and other regular traffic which would need to be completely rebuilt placing a huge burden on the local communities."</p>	<p>An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been prepared to support the application within C6.3.14.2 A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A]. This sets out the local road network that will be used for the construction phase, and how construction vehicle movements will be managed. Baseline conditions of the local road network are set out in Section 14.5 of C6.2.14 ES Chapter 14 Transport and Access [APP-049].</p> <p>C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], provides (in Requirement 15 of Schedule 2) that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a construction traffic management plan for that part must be submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities". It further provides that "The construction traffic management plan must be substantially in accordance with the outline construction traffic management plan."</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A] provides a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements to and from the Scheme, to ensure that the effects of the temporary construction phase on the local highway network are minimised.</p> <p>C6.2.14 ES Chapter 14 Transport and Access [APP-049] concludes that the effects during decommissioning will be less than or similar to the effects during construction.</p>
KPCL-19	The Application Cumulative Development Ecology and Biodiversity	Cable Route	"These four proposed solar farms spread over 10,000 acres and consisting of 10 separate sections will each need to be connected to the grid resulting in extensive civil works causing further ecological disruption and damage the surrounding area."	<p>The Applicant notes this comment.</p> <p>Potential and likely impacts on ecology resulting from the cable installation works have been identified and discussed within Section 9.5 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044], with extensive mitigation measures the identified (in Section 9.6 and 9.7) to minimise these effects. These mitigation measures are further outlined in C7.19 Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [APP-356] – particularly Section 2.4, Section 6 and Section 11. It is acknowledged that, due to the length of the cable route corridor, some adverse short to medium term impacts on the hedgerows and associated drainage ditches will occur in order to facilitate the trenching works. However, use of Horizontal Directional Drilling techniques will ensure that all impacts upon hedgerows, trees and watercourses assessed to be of elevated ecological importance (streams, rivers, species-rich and ecologically important hedgerows and mature trees) will be avoided entirely. This will be secured through the enactment of the final Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [APP-356] together with C7.17_A Crossing Schedule Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C7.17_A] which details the location of all</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>features to be crossed using HDD. A detailed Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy has been secured via Requirement 8 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>It is therefore only the remaining species-poor and intensively managed hedgerows which stand to be directly impacted by open cut trenching. These removed sections will be relatively short (approximately up to 6.5m each). In addition, cabling works are temporary and progressive meaning that restoration and replanting will follow once works in each section is complete. Residual impacts on these hedgerows have been assessed as being adverse in the short and medium term (significant at Site level only), and neutral in the long term.</p> <p>Habitats within fields which will be impacted by the cabling works have been assessed as being of lower ecological importance since the route itself has been carefully designed to avoid all nearby Local Wildlife Sites and as much priority habitat as possible. See C6.3.9.4 ES Appendix 9.4 Cable Route Preliminary Ecological Assessment [APP-081]. Full details of replanting and reseeding will be provided within the finalised Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy.</p>
KPCL-20	The Application Other Environmental Matters	Fire Safety	"The proposed enormous 500MW battery storage area at Willingham by Stow will be potential fire risk as evidenced by the fire at a small 20MW battery unit in Liverpool that took 59hrs to extinguish."	<p>Paragraph 4.1.18 of C7.9 Outline Battery Storage Safety Management Plan [APP-348] explains that the design of the BESS has integrated fire detection and suppression systems that will automatically operate to contain battery fires. Paragraph 5.3 of C7.9 Outline Battery Storage Safety Management Plan [APP-348] states that if fire spreads to multiple units, external firefighting water</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>facilities are available by means of 228,000 litre water storage tanks within the battery compounds.</p> <p>An C7.9 Outline Battery Storage Safety Management Plan [APP-348] has been prepared and is provided with the Application. A Battery Storage Safety Management Plan will be submitted and approved prior to commencement of development as secured through Requirement 6 of Schedule 2 to C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>Human health and other environmental impacts resulting from plumes from potential battery fires have been initially assessed in C6.2.17 ES Chapter 17_Air Quality [APP-052] and are proposed to be supplemented by additional information during the examination process.</p>

Knaith Parish Council [RR-014]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
KPC-01	Cumulative Development	Impacts arising from cumulative solar development	"This application is just 1 of 4 (currently) within a few miles of each other. The total area would amount to around 10,000 acres. These 4 projects, at present, are all going to be submitted and accessed individually. Surely it would be better that they are assessed as whole. The impact of one project is far different than that of the impact of 4."	The Applicant notes this comment and is happy for the cumulative impacts of the projects to be considered together if the Planning Inspectorate and Examining Authorities deem it appropriate.
KPC-02	Soils and Agriculture	Agricultural Land	"Why are there sites where land is unused and does not affect anyone being considered, for example moorland? This raises a number of concerns/issues: The land in question is viable agricultural land. Food producing land will be lost."	<p>The Applicant does not consider that the Scheme would result in food security impacts either alone or cumulatively. The UK annual balance of domestically produced food is sensitive to non-planning factors including weather and markets. The relevant assessment for policy purposes (and therefore decision-making purposes under the Planning Act 2008) is one that is based on the grade of the agricultural land, rather than its current use and the intensity of that use. In terms of key threats to UK food security, the Defra UK Food Security Report highlights that the main threat is climate change.</p> <p>As the development will be decommissioned there will not be a permanent loss of agricultural land resource. In addition, the majority of the agricultural land can remain in productive use through the operational period, being grazed by livestock (see paras 19.7.7, 19.10.2, 19.10.6, 19.10.10 of C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A]).</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
KPC-03	The Proposal Landscape and Visual	Residential Properties	"This raises a number of concerns/issues:...The proposed project will encompass the hamlets within the proposed area. With the boundary of some areas of the project being close to residential property."	<p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') considers both the landscape and visual effects of the Scheme, including the proximity to people's houses to ensure the impacts and effects on the views and visibility are taken into account [paras. 8.4.28 to 8.4.32]. The assessment includes selected residential properties (the 'Residential Receptors') within the 1km Study Area [para. 8.4.12]. Public vantage points to the east of Knaith are considered within the LVIA and comprise viewpoints VP09, VP20, VP39, VP40, LCC-C-A, LCC-C-B, LCC-C-C, LCC-C- K and LCC-C-O. This is set out in more detail at C6.3.8.3 ES Appendix 8.3 Assessment of Potential Visual Effects [APP-075].</p> <p>For example, with viewpoints VP09, VP40, LCC-C-B and LCC-C-O, these are scoped out of the assessment. With viewpoints LCC-C-A and LCC-C-C, there are no potential significant effects at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning of the Scheme. With viewpoint VP20, at the construction phase and operation (Year 1) phase of the Scheme, there are potential significant effects of the adverse type. Whereas, at the operation phase (Year 15) of the Scheme, the type of effect would change from adverse to neutral with no significant effects predicted. With viewpoint VP39 at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) of the Scheme, there are potential significant adverse effects predicted, but due to the distance from the Scheme and the screening effects of the intervening settlement of Willingham by Stow and topography and vegetation there are no concerns with potential impacts upon residential properties within the settlement of Knaith. With viewpoint LCC-C-K, there are potential significant effects at the operation (Year 1) phase</p>

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				<p>of the Scheme, but there are no significant adverse effects at the operation (Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme.</p> <p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] includes a suite of 67 viewpoints (paras. 8.5.188, 8.5.189 and 8.5.197) that cover a range of carefully selected viewpoints of visual receptors, including public locations such as transport routes, PRow and residential properties. The selection methodology is set out in C6.3.8.1 ES Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology [APP-068]. There are also an additional 25 viewpoints that were assessed at the request of Lincolnshire County Council (para. 8.5.200) as agreed at the LVIA Workshops held prior to submission that are included in the LVIA assessment (refer to Section 8.2 of C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] and C6.3.8.4 ES Appendix 8.4 Consultation [APP-076]).</p> <p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] also considers that for some aspects of the Scheme (the construction stages in particular) (para. 8.6.2), the effects have been assessed to be significant adverse. Where significant adverse impacts and effects are identified then strategic landscape mitigation measures (para. 8.6.3) are applied to offset or remedy any adverse effects.</p> <p>The LVIA has identified the need for extensive landscape mitigation that is set out in the C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] which is secured by Requirement 7 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]. The mitigation measures are also shown on the C6.4.8.16.1-10 Figures 8.16.1-10 Landscape and</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans [APP-305 to APP-315] . This mitigation will enhance the landscape character of the area and reduce the visibility of the Scheme from residential receptors. The landscape mitigation measures provide new planting, which will include new native hedgerows and tree cover, and this will also include their management and maintenance.
KPC-04	Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation	Jobs and economy	"This raises a number of concerns/issues:... The affect this will have on jobs and skills within the farming industry."	<p>The Applicant recognises the significance of the agricultural industry in the local economy and has assessed the economic impact of the Scheme in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] and the direct impacts on local agriculture in Sections 19.9 and 19.10 of C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A].</p> <p>The Scheme is anticipated to lead to a maximum loss of approximately 17 full-time equivalent agriculture jobs, as stated in paragraph 18.7.15 of document C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]. The Scheme is estimated to employ 10 full-time equivalent employees from the local area during operation; see Table 18.16. The net change in employment in the local area (defined as West Lindsey and Bassetlaw Districts) during the Scheme's operational life is a loss of approximately 2 full-time jobs, once consideration of direct, indirect and induced employment, and impacts on the tourism and recreation industry are considered (see para. 18.7.79). Overall, the economic benefit to the local area is estimated to be £2.2 million per year (see para. 18.7.97).</p> <p>The overall employment and economic benefit to the local area from the two-year construction period is anticipated to be 661 full-time</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>equivalent jobs (see para. 18.7.23), generating £30.9 million per year (see para. 18.7.52).</p> <p>The land included in the Scheme covers 4 farm businesses, all of which are owner occupiers of the land within the Sites. This is detailed in full in para. 7.1.1-17 of C6.3.19.1 ES Appendix 19.1 Agricultural Land Quality Soil Resources and Farming Circumstances [APP-145].</p>
KPC-05	The Proposal Landscape and Visual Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation	Nature of Design	<p>"The proposed solar panels are an unprecedented 4.5m high. These structures will not be able to blend into the landscape but dominate several thousand acres of land. This would make the panels highly visible to the properties near them, along the B1398 "Lincoln Cliff Road", also to the vast amount of ramblers, dog walkers, and horse riders. They will blight our landscape. This area is designated as an Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV)"</p>	<p>The likely impacts on the desirability and use of tourism attractions and recreational facilities in the countryside, such as public rights of way and key landscape features, have been assessed in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]. The greatest level of effect to access, desirability and use of recreational facilities is moderate-minor adverse and is anticipated during construction (para. 18.7.60-67) and decommissioning (para. 18.7.143-153). These effects are not anticipated to be significant.</p> <p>The assessment of both the landscape and visual effects of the 4.5m high solar panels is set out within Section 8.6 of C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') and within the detailed receptor sheets at C6.3.8.2 ES Appendix 8.2 Assessment of Potential Landscape Effects [APP-074] and C6.3.8.3 ES Appendix 8.3 Assessment of Potential Visual Effects [APP-075].</p> <p>The effects on the Ridge AGLV when viewed across the low-lying Till Vale associated with the sub-stations, panels and associated infrastructure such as fencing and cameras, and substation and battery storage have been taken into consideration in the assessment of both landscape and visual effects.</p>

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KPC-06	The Proposal Cumulative Development Ecology and Biodiversity Transport and Access Other Environmental Matters	Construction Periods	"The combined construction time would be 4 years when combined with the other 3 projects. This will undoubtedly cause disruption in and around the proposed site, increased works traffic; mental health issues/well being issues for residents and visitors to the area and will [sic] natural habitats and wildlife are affected."	<p>The Applicant notes this comment. The Applicant is cognisant of the significance of the countryside for physical and mental wellbeing and as such, likely impacts on the desirability and use of recreational facilities in the countryside, such as public rights of way, have been assessed in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]. The greatest level of effect to access, desirability and use of recreational facilities is anticipated to be moderate-minor adverse during construction (para. 18.7.60-67) and decommissioning (para. 18.7.143-153). These effects are therefore not anticipated to be significant.</p> <p>This is re-iterated in Section 21.5 of C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21 Other Environmental Matters [APP-056].</p> <p>Construction impacts, including those on human health, are to be mitigated through the measures set out in the C7.1_A Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.1_A].</p> <p>An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been prepared to support the application within C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A], and is secured by Requirement 15 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_A Draft Development Consent Oder Revision A [AS-012].</p> <p>The outline CTMP provides a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements to and from the Scheme, to ensure that the effects of the temporary construction phase on the local highway network are minimised.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
KPC-07	Energy Need Alternatives and Design Evolution Soils and Agriculture	The Application	<p>"Solar panels are inefficient and a poor use of the land. We were given figures of around 27% efficient, which is a low level of energy gained. Surely these would be more effective covering the vast amount of commercial and domestic roof space where it can directly help with energy costs as opposed to inefficiently covering farmland. It is a nonsense that a 'new build' property has to have an electric charge point by law, but does not have to have any solar panels or heat pump."</p>	<p>Paragraphs 7.6.1-8 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] analyses the potential contribution of "brownfield" solar sites to the national need for solar generation. Brownfield sites, including rooftop and other community energy systems, are likely to grow in the UK and will make a contribution to decarbonisation of the UK energy system. However, paras 7.6.5-8 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] conclude that on their own, brownfield developments are unlikely to be able to meet the national need for solar. Paragraphs 8.5.1 8.5.10 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] express agreement with Government's view that decentralised and community energy systems are unlikely to lead to the significant replacement of large-scale infrastructure. The Applicant therefore supports Government's view that large scale solar must be deployed to meet the urgent national need for low-carbon electricity generation.</p> <p>The selection of the Scheme's location has followed a systematic step-by-step process as set out in detail within C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067]. This took a sequential approach to the consideration of potential sites in terms of agricultural land classification. As a result, the Scheme maximises the utilisation of low grade, non best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land with 95.9% of the land being classified as non BMV land.</p> <p>Paragraphs 2.1.23 to 2.1.32 of C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] detail the consideration of brownfield land and roof tops and sets out why these were discounted as unsuitable.</p> <p>The land required for the Scheme has been demonstrated within C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] to</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>perform better than 8 of the assessed Potential Development Areas (PDA's) and equal to the remaining one following the site selection process. Consequently, there are no obviously more suitable locations for the Scheme within the Search Area.</p> <p>The methodology used for the site selection process is considered reasonable and proportionate and complies with the requirements of NPS EN-1 4.4.3 as explained at Section 2.1 of C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067].</p> <p>Regarding efficiency, solar panels and electrical infrastructure have become larger and more efficient. Figure 10.2 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] shows that many solar cells are over 20% efficient and some are within reach of 30% efficiency. This means that more low-carbon electricity can be generated from the same area of land compared to what was previously possible.</p> <p>Table 7.1 [APP-350] shows the electricity generated per hectare by different low-carbon technologies. At the UK's average solar load factor (11%), solar generation produces much more energy per hectare than biogas, and generates a similar amount of energy as onshore wind.</p> <p>Solar is now a leading low-cost generation technology and Figure 10.3 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] shows that on a levelised cost of energy basis (the estimated cost per unit of energy across the productive lifetime of an electricity generating station), large scale solar is already cheaper than offshore wind, and the Government's projections are that it will remain cheaper in the future. In 2021, Great</p>

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				Britain sourced 42% of its electricity from renewables, of which approximately 9.4% was from solar.
KPC-08	<p>Alternatives and Design Evolution</p> <p>The Proposal</p> <p>Energy Need</p> <p>Hydrology and Flood Risk</p> <p>Glint and Glare</p> <p>Soils and Agriculture</p>	The Proposal	"Were important factors such as panel height, glare, battery storage, generation capabilities, flood risk and brownfield site use accurately communicated[?]."	<p>The Applicant undertook a six-week statutory phase two consultation on the Scheme, during which the Applicant presented consultees and members of the public with environmental information sufficient for consultees to understand the potential likely significant effects of the Scheme in a Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR). A non-technical summary was published to accompany the PEIR, with public information events and free-to-use communications channels open to help aid accessibility and understanding of the Scheme.</p> <p>Within the DCO Application, the height of the panels, the size and type of battery storage, and the generation capability of the Scheme are presented in Section 4.5 of C6.2.4_A ES Chapter 4 Scheme Description Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.4_A], with the maximum parameters of the Scheme set out in C7.15_A Concept Design Parameters and Principles [EN010133/EX1/C7.15_A].</p> <p>Paragraphs 7.6.1-8 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] analyses the potential contribution of "brownfield" solar sites to the national need for solar generation. Brownfield sites, including rooftop and other community energy systems, are likely to grow in the UK and will make a contribution to decarbonisation of the UK energy system. However, paras 7.6.5-8 [APP-350] conclude that on their own, brownfield developments are unlikely to be able to meet the national need for solar. Paragraphs 8.5.1-10 [APP-350] express agreement with Government's view that decentralised and community energy systems are unlikely to lead to the significant replacement of large-scale infrastructure. The Applicant therefore</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>supports Government's view that large scale solar must be deployed to meet the urgent national need for low-carbon electricity generation.</p> <p>Paragraphs 2.1.23 to 2.1.32 of C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] detail the consideration of brownfield land and roof tops and sets out why these were discounted as unsuitable.</p> <p>The flood risk at the Sites and within the Cable Route Corridor are assessed and detailed within C6.3.10.1 ES Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy Report [APP-090] and its associated annexes [APP-091 to APP-097].</p> <p>Glint and glare impacts upon nearby receptors is assessed in detail within the C6.2.16 ES Appendix 16.1 Glint and Glare Assessment [APP-140] and summarised in the ES Chapter: C6.2.16 ES Chapter 16 Glint and Glare [APP-051]. The details of the Scheme and its impacts have been shared with the key consultees. Their responses are set out in Table 16.1 [APP-051]. For those receptors that are predicted to experience a "Moderate" impact the Applicant is committed to implement mitigation to reduce the effects to acceptable levels, these are set out in Section 16.6 and 16.8 [APP-051], and in Table 3.5 of C7.16 Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [APP-353].</p>
KPC-09	The Proposal	Supply Chains	"The solar panels and precious minerals are to be sourced and manufactured abroad in China and the construction (allegedly forced) labour sourced outside of the	<p>Paragraph 7.3.1 and 7.3.2 of C7.10 Skills Supply Chain and Employment Plan [APP-349] sets out the safeguarding measures taken to prevent human rights abuses, and is secured by Requirement</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			area. This begs the question as to whether this is an ethically sound proposal. Will the human rights of these overseas works be respected and checked upon?"	20 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] . Paragraph 5.4.7 of C7.10 Skills Supply Chain and Employment Plan [APP-349] states that: 'Any procurement of supplies internationally will comply with both national and international law, and all policy and safety measures will be adhered to in the transportation of supplies.'
KPC-10	Alternatives and Design Evolution (Site Selection) Ecology and Biodiversity	Site Selection Ecology	"Up to a distance of 12 miles (20km) from the Grid connection, on 10 separate parcels of land is excessive and further ecological disruption would be caused by the unnecessary civil works involved in the cable connections. This would suggest/show that the land has been chosen by availability as opposed to suitability and therefore has the project been planned well and has the wildlife and environment really been considered."	The Applicant considers that wildlife and the environment have been properly considered within the Site Selection process and within the subsequent design evolution of the Scheme. The selection of the Scheme's location has followed a systematic step-by-step process as set out in detail within C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] . This took a sequential approach to the consideration of potential sites in terms of agricultural land classification and then undertook a desk-based assessment of each of the identified Potential Development Areas (PDAs) against a range of planning, environmental and operational criteria, which included ecology and biodiversity (see Annex B: Assessment Indicators and Evaluation Criteria of C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067]). Potential constraints for each of the sites were mapped and are contained in Annex D of C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067]). For ecology and biodiversity, this included the mapping of internationally, nationally and locally designated sites of ecological, biological or geological importance and identification of ancient woodlands. The results of the assessment are contained within Annex E of C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] . The

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>land for the Scheme has been demonstrated to perform equal to, or better than all of the other PDAs in terms of ecology and biodiversity. In terms of all the assessment criteria combined, it performs better than 8 of the assessed PDAs and equal to the remaining one following the site selection process.</p> <p>The methodology used for the site selection process is considered reasonable and proportionate and complies with the requirements of NPS EN-1 4.4.3 as explained at Section 2.1 of C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067]. It would not have been reasonable and proportionate to undertake ecological assessment fieldwork for all PDAs at the site selection stage given the vast extent of land under consideration.</p> <p>Following the identification of the draft site areas through the site selection process, detailed ecological assessment work was undertaken across a broad spectrum of species groups. The outcomes of the extensive ecological assessment are reported in C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044].</p> <p>The ecological assessment work has resulted in amendments to produce the final Order Limits for the Scheme, including the cable route, and has influenced the layout of solar panels and other infrastructure within the Site. The design evolution of the Scheme is set out within C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040]. For further details please see alternative layouts (Section 5.7), alternative substation locations (section 5.8) and alternative cable routes (Section 5.9) for the changes made to the Scheme as a result of these assessments. For example: "Amendments</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>to ecology offsets to hedgerows and trees were embedded in the design parameters following onsite detailed ecology surveys.</p> <p>Access tracks and strategy reformulated following detailed environmental surveys including removal where possible from ecology offset areas." (Table 5.8: Stage 3 – PEIR and Statutory Consultation (June-July 2022) C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040]).</p>
KPC-11	Air Quality Other Environmental Matters	Battery Energy Storage System	<p>"Near Willingham by Stow will be one of the world's largest Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS). What is the potential fire risk, chemical risk and health risks to life and property? Should a more suitable location be found for this? Closer to the Grid connection on a brownfield site."</p>	<p>Paragraph 4.1.18 of C7.9 Outline Battery Storage Safety Management Plan [APP-348] explains that the design of the BESS has integrated fire detection and suppression systems that will automatically operate to contain battery fires. Paragraph 5.3 of C7.9 Outline Battery Storage Safety Management Plan [APP-348] states that if fire spreads to multiple units, external firefighting water facilities are available by means of 228,000 litre water storage tanks within the battery compounds.</p> <p>An C7.9 Outline Battery Storage Safety Management Plan [APP-348] has been prepared and is provided with the Application. A Battery Storage Safety Management Plan will be submitted and approved prior to commencement of development as secured through Requirement 6 of Schedule 2 to C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>Human health and other environmental impacts resulting from plumes from battery fires have been initially assessed in C6.2.17 ES Chapter 17 Air Quality [APP-052] and are proposed to be supplemented by additional information during the examination process.</p>



Marton and Gate Burton Parish Council [RR-015]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
MGBPC-01	Cumulative Development	Other Schemes	"Whilst it is recognised that the established Power Station sites at West Burton and Cottam provide the necessary infrastructure to connect the solar farms to the grid, the number of proposed solar farms in this area is excessive"	<p>The Applicant notes this comment.</p> <p>Section 3.3 of document C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350], specifically paragraphs 3.3.2, 3.3.5 and 3.3.11, describes the Government's view that large capacities of low-carbon generation will be required to meet increased demand and replace output from retiring (fossil fuel) plants, and that "a secure, reliable, affordable, Net Zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar". This support for large scale solar as part of the 'answer' to net zero and energy security has been repeated in its recent policy documents published in March 2023.</p> <p>Section 7.5 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes how suitable locations for large-scale solar are identified and assessed. Paragraph 7.5.2 outlines the broad criteria for determining Site suitability.</p> <p>Figure 7.4 shows the level of photovoltaic power potential at the proposed location. Section 9 describes the advantages of connecting large-scale solar to the existing and robust National Electricity Transmission System at the proposed Point of Connection at Cottam Power Station, and Paragraph 9.4.4 concludes that the Proposed Development will contribute to national system adequacy and decarbonisation targets.</p> <p>C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040] and its accompanying appendix C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] explain how the site was chosen in light of that need. The methodology used for the site selection process</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>is considered reasonable and proportionate and complies with the requirements of NPS EN-1 4.4.3 as explained at Section 2.1 [APP-067].</p> <p>Cumulative effects assessments have been prepared for the Application within the Environmental Statement [APP-036 to APP-058]. Cumulative effects assessments for each topic are set out in each of the ES Chapters and include the assessment of the impacts of the Scheme cumulatively with the NSIPs identified in paragraph 2.5.9 of C6.2.2 ES Chapter 2 EIA Process and Methodology [APP-037]. This assessment is in accordance with Schedule 4 of the 2017 EIA Regulations and PINS Advice Note 17. The mitigation measures set out across the ES therefore account for anticipated cumulative effects.</p>
MGBPC-02	Cumulative Development Climate Change Soils and Agriculture	Agricultural Land	<p>"[The] number of proposed solar farms in this area is excessive, as is the combined acreage of good quality agricultural land that would be taken out of food production. Global prices and availability of even basic crops such as wheat show how vitally important it is that the UK produces as much of its own food as possible. War, flooding and drought have shown that we cannot rely on other countries to grow our food. Home food production also cuts down on "food miles" thus reducing damage to the environment from the emissions associated with transportation."</p>	<p>The Applicant does not consider that the Scheme would result in food security impacts either alone or cumulatively. The UK annual balance of domestically produced food is sensitive to non-planning factors including weather and markets. The relevant assessment for policy purposes (and therefore decision-making purposes under the Planning Act 2008) is one that is based on the grade of the agricultural land, rather than its current use and the intensity of that use. In terms of key threats to UK food security, the Defra UK Food Security Report highlights that the main threat is climate change.</p> <p>The site is predominantly ALC Grade 3b, not "best and most versatile" agricultural land (see para 19.8.5 of C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A]). As the Scheme will be decommissioned there will not be a permanent loss of agricultural land. In addition, the majority of the agricultural land can remain in productive use through the operational period, being grazed by livestock (see paras 19.7.7, 19.10.2, 19.10.6, 19.10.10 of C6.2.19_A ES</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A] .
MGBPC-03	Soils and Agriculture Energy Need	Agricultural Grade	"The solar farm developers say that the land under consideration is low quality land, but this land has still produced valuable crops for generations. There is already a heavy loss on productive agricultural land due to the demand for more housing without more loss from solar panels."	<p>Unlike housing development on a greenfield site, agricultural land resource is not permanently lost to or degraded as the Scheme will be decommissioned and the land restored. The agricultural land can also remain productive for grazing livestock while the Scheme is operating.</p> <p>Agricultural land in the Sites is predominantly (95.9%) Grade 3b, as set out in Table 1 of C6.3.19.1 Agricultural Land Quality Soil Resources [APP-145]. In Agricultural Land Classification (ALC), Grade 3b is not defined as Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land.</p> <p>The key policy tests for the decision maker in respect of the Scheme's impact upon agricultural land are found in NPS EN-1, paragraph 5.10.8, and Revised Draft NPS EN-3, para. 3.10.15. In summary, this requires that applicants should seek to minimise impacts on BMV land, being ALC Grades 1, 2 and 3a), ensure impacts should be considered against the measures set out under paragraphs 2.10.66 – 2.10.83 and 2.10.98 – 2.10.110. Paragraph 5.10.15 then states that the Secretary of State should give little weight to loss of ALC grades 3b, 4 and 5 agricultural land, while Revised Draft NPS EN-3, para. 3.10.136 requires the Secretary of State to ensure mitigation measures to minimise impacts on soils and soil resources are appropriately provided by the Applicant. This is addressed in C7.5 Planning Statement, Appendix 3 page 62 and 63 [APP-341].</p> <p>Paragraphs 7.6.1-8 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] analyses the potential contribution of "brownfield" solar sites to the national need for solar generation. Brownfield sites, including rooftop and</p>

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				<p>other community energy systems, are likely to grow in the UK and will make a contribution to decarbonisation of the UK energy system. However, paras 7.6.5-8 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] conclude that on their own, brownfield developments are unlikely to be able to meet the national need for solar. Paragraphs. 8.5.1-10 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] express agreement with Government's view that decentralised and community energy systems are unlikely to lead to the significant replacement of large-scale infrastructure. The Applicant therefore supports Government's view that large scale solar must be deployed to meet the urgent national need for low-carbon electricity generation.</p>
MGBPC-04	Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation	Agricultural Economy	<p>"Agriculture is very important to the economy and way of life to a rural County like Lincolnshire. Many farmers are tenants on the land they farm and so have no say over the land being turned over to solar panels and they would lose their livelihood, causing unemployment and increasing social deprivation."</p>	<p>The Applicant recognises the significance of the agricultural industry in the local economy and has assessed the economic impact of the Scheme in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] and the direct impacts on local agriculture in Sections 19.9 and 19.10 of C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A].</p> <p>The Scheme is anticipated to lead to a maximum loss of approximately 17 full-time equivalent agriculture jobs, as stated in paragraph 18.7.15 of document C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]. The Scheme is estimated to employ 10 full-time equivalent employees from the local area during operation; see Table 18.16. The net change in employment in the local area (defined as West Lindsey and Bassetlaw Districts) during the Scheme's operational life is a loss of approximately 2 full-time jobs, once consideration of direct, indirect and induced employment, and impacts on the tourism and recreation industry are considered (see para. 18.7.79). Overall, the economic</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>benefit to the local area is estimated to be £2.2 million per year (see para. 18.7.97).</p> <p>The overall employment and economic benefit to the local area from the two-year construction period is anticipated to be 661 full-time equivalent jobs (see para. 18.7.23), generating £30.9 million per year (see para. 18.7.52).</p> <p>The land included in the Scheme covers 4 farm businesses, all of which are owner occupiers of the land within the Sites. This is detailed in full in para. 7.1.1-17 of C6.3.19.1 ES Appendix 19.1 Agricultural Land Quality Soil Resources and Farming Circumstances [APP-145].</p>
MGBPC-05	Ecology and Biodiversity Soils and Agriculture	Soil and Ecological Conditions	"The solar farm developers maintain that soil conditions and insect life improve as a result of less human involvement in the land, but so will pernicious and invasive weeds."	<p>The Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A]) contains grassland habitat management prescriptions (particularly Section 4.7) which will ensure that undesirable plant species such as docks, nettles, ragwort, rushes and thistles will be adequately managed through cutting to ensure they do not become dominant. Monitoring from a contracted ecologist (Section 4.10) is also programmed to ensure the management prescriptions can adequately adapt to the particular conditions across the operational Scheme.</p> <p>Measures set out in C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] are secured through Requirement 7 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
MGBPC-06	Ecology and Biodiversity	Migratory Corridors	"Animal life would suffer as natural food supplies would be reduced and their traditional migratory corridors would be impeded."	<p>The Applicant notes this comment.</p> <p>Section 9.6 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] sets out the extensive findings of all ecological investigations undertaken within the Order Limits together with an appraisal of the relative importance of each species or species group, habitat or designated site. A comprehensive package of mitigation measures has been identified, in tandem with embedded mitigation (see Section 9.6) established through the ecologically sensitive design of the Scheme (such as the wide buffering of all field boundaries and the use of existing hedgerow gaps for accesses). These measures have been further detailed within C7.19 Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [APP-356] and C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] which will ensure that all identified impacts are minimised as far as possible. In many cases, the reversion from intensive agriculture to pasture or meadow grassland with additional hedgerow, scrub, tree and wetland habitat creation will bring about positive effects for wildlife. In particular, terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates, botanical diversity, small mammals and many species of bird all stand to benefit.</p> <p>More specifically, in our experience of monitoring over 100 active solar arrays, we find that brown hare and badgers are highly active on solar arrays owing to the improved foraging habitat within them. Birds of prey, including owls, are one species group likely to benefit from the provision of large areas of optimal habitat for small mammals such as field voles which require tussocky and dense grassland which will be created within buffered field boundaries.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				Construction activities will be temporary, and since they are limited primarily to the piling of metal supports into the ground and laying of electrical cabling, they are not considered to create a level of disturbance which significantly exceeds that generated by typical agricultural sowing, spraying and harvesting operations. See Paragraphs 9.7.86 and 9.7.149 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] .
MGBPC-07	Landscape and Visual	Vistas	"For centuries there has been a beautiful view from Lincoln Ridge, across the Trent Valley and over to Nottinghamshire. If the solar farm companies get their way, this beautiful vista will be replaced by a sea of ugly panels."	<p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') includes a full and detailed assessment that deals with both effects on the landscape itself and effects on the visual amenity of people, as well as interrelationships of these with other related topics in the ES. The LVIA process is iterative and as a result, the design of the Scheme changed to respond to the findings of the assessment to ensure that landscape mitigation is fully considered as part of the process.</p> <p>Public vantage points including vistas from the Lincoln Ridge over to Nottinghamshire and across the Trent Valley are considered within the LVIA. The vistas concerned comprise viewpoints VP01, VP24, VP25, VP27, VP29, VP30, VP43, VP51 and LCC-C-L. This is set out in more detail at ES Appendix 8.3 Assessment of Potential Visual Effects [APP-075]. For example, with viewpoints VP24, VP25, VP27, VP43, VP51 and LCC-C-L, these are scoped out of the assessment due to distance from the Scheme and the screening effects of intervening topography, settlement and vegetation. With viewpoints VP01, VP29 and VP30, there are no potential significant effects at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning phase, since these</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>locations capture views across an expansive landscape where the Scheme occupies only a small portion of the view.</p> <p>The LVIA has identified extensive landscape mitigation is set out in C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] and is also shown on C6.4.8.16.1 - C6.4.8.16.10 Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Figures 8.16.1 to 8.16.10) [APP-301 to APP-315]. This mitigation seeks to visually enhance the landscape in the context of the Lincoln Ridge through the addition of new planting, where appropriate, and the positive management of the existing tree and hedgerow stock. This mitigation also seeks to reduce the visibility of the Scheme and help with its assimilation into the landscape from public vantage points including transport routes, public footpaths, permissive footpaths and green lane networks. This mitigation is aimed to benefit the community as a whole as well as tourists, visiting walkers, local residents, ornithologists and cyclists. The landscape mitigation measures will provide new planting, which will include new native hedgerows and tree cover, and this will also include their management and maintenance.</p> <p>Measures set out in C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] are secured through Requirement 7 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>The Applicant and its LVIA consultants at Lanpro have worked closely with the heritage and ecology consultants throughout the application process to inform the LVIA and associated mitigation plans. The</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				mitigation proposals allow for flexibility, but they can also be fixed, where appropriate and applicable.
MGBPC-08	Landscape and Visual Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation	Tourism	"In turn, this could impact on tourism for the area, which could again result in loss of income and increased social deprivation."	<p>The likely impacts on the desirability and use of the area surrounding the Scheme for tourism and recreation have been assessed in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]. The greatest level of effect to access, desirability and use of tourism and recreational receptors is moderate-minor adverse and is anticipated during construction (para. 18.7.60-67) and decommissioning (para. 18.7.143-153). These effects are not anticipated to be significant.</p> <p>The overall impacts on the level of income as measured by Gross Value Added per person, and access to employment as a measured index of deprivation has been assessed in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053].</p> <p>The level of income generated by the Scheme is assessed to have an overall positive effect on the local workforce during construction (para. 18.7.53), operation (18.7.98) and during decommissioning (18.7.137). This beneficial effect is anticipated to be significant during construction (18.8.14, Table 18.29).</p> <p>Access to employment during construction (see para. 18.7.38 and 18.8.12) is anticipated to result in a significant beneficial effect. During operation, access to employment is anticipated to be enhanced through the measures set out in Section 5 of C7.10 Skills Supply Chain and Employment Plan [APP-349] (maximising local recruitment and enhancing opportunities for local procurement (para. 5.3.1-5.4.6)), to provide an overall beneficial effect. The Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan is secured by Requirement 20 of</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>Schedule 2 to C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact [APP-043] includes a full and detailed assessment that deals with both effects on the landscape itself and effects on the visual amenity of people, as well as interrelationships of these with other related topics in the ES. The LVIA process is iterative and as a result, the design of the Scheme changed to respond to the findings of the assessment to ensure that landscape mitigation is fully considered as part of the process.</p> <p>Where the LVIA has identified significant adverse effects, extensive landscape mitigation is set out in C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] and is also shown on C6.4.8.16.1 - C6.4.8.16.10 Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Figures 8.16.1 to 8.16.10) [APP-301 to APP-315]. This mitigation seeks to visually enhance the landscape through the addition of new planting and the positive management of the existing tree and hedgerow stock. This mitigation also seeks to reduce the visibility of the Scheme and help with its assimilation into the landscape from public vantage points including transport routes, public footpaths, permissive footpaths and green lane networks. This mitigation is aimed to benefit the community as a whole as well as tourists, visiting walkers, local residents, ornithologists and cyclists. The landscape mitigation measures will provide new planting, which will include new native hedgerows and tree cover, and this will also include their management and maintenance.</p> <p>The Applicant and its LVIA consultants at Lanpro have worked closely with the heritage and ecology consultants throughout the application</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				process to inform the LVIA and associated mitigation plans. The mitigation proposals allow for flexibility, but they can also be fixed, where appropriate and applicable.
MGBPC-09	Cumulative Development Cultural Heritage	Cable Route	<p>"Although not all the proposed solar farms are in the immediate vicinity of our villages of Marton and Gate Burton, the cable routes for ALL of the proposed developments would pass through our Parish in order to link to the Power Station sites on the other side of the River Trent. This area has Roman heritage related to it, the A1500 being the Roman road known as Tillbridge Lane. The local Planning Authority requires archaeological surveys to be undertaken before any development is allowed in the vicinity of the river and we hope that our Roman heritage and the potential for any archaeological remains will not be overlooked if the cable routes are underground."</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment and would like to highlight that a full suite of archaeological assessment, survey and field evaluation has been undertaken for the scheme. The results of various assessments are detailed in appendices: C6.3.13.1 ES Appendix 13.1 Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments [APP-109]; C6.3.13.2 ES Appendix 13.2 Archaeological Geophysical Survey Reports [APP-110 to APP-122]; C6.3.13.3 ES Appendix 13.3 Geoarchaeological Desk Based Assessment [APP-123]; C6.3.13.4 ES Appendix 13.4 Air Photo and LiDAR Report [APP-124]; C6.3.13.5 ES Appendix 13.5 Heritage Statement [APP-125 to APP-128]; and C6.3.13.6 ES Appendix 13.6 Archaeological Evaluation Trenching Reports [APP-129 to APP-130].</p> <p>To minimise harm to potential archaeological remains, the Cottam Solar Project, Gate Burton Energy Park and West Burton Solar Project have proposed a shared cable corridor route. The assessments have identified concentrations of previously unrecorded archaeological remains associated with the former Roman Road (A1500) and have been crucial in widening our understanding of Roman settlement and activity adjacent to the River Trent. The results of the assessments have been used to formulate a Mitigation Strategy aimed at safeguarding buried archaeological remains (C6.3.13.7 ES Appendix 13.7 Archaeological Mitigation Written Scheme of Investigation [APP-131]). This is secured through Requirement 12 of Schedule 2 in</p>

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				<p>C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>Where archaeological remains have been identified within the proposed shared cable corridor route, mitigation in the form of Strip Map and Record has been agreed with the Lincolnshire Historic Place Team (refer to Section 42 Response Table in C6.3.13.9 ES Appendix 13.9 Consultation Response Tables [APP-133]), who provide archaeological advice to the West Lindsey district of Lincolnshire and Bassetlaw district of Nottinghamshire.</p>

Scampton Parish Council [RR-016]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
SPC-01	Soils and Agriculture	Loss of Agricultural Land	"Concerned about loss of agricultural land"	The site is predominantly ALC Grade 3b, not "best and most versatile" agricultural land (see para 19.8.5 of C6.2.4_A ES Chapter 4 Scheme Description Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.4_A]). As the Scheme will be decommissioned there will not be a permanent loss of agricultural land. In addition, the majority of the agricultural land can remain in productive use through the operational period, being grazed by livestock (see paras 19.7.7, 19.10.2, 19.10.6, 19.10.10 of C6.2.4_A ES Chapter 4 Scheme Description Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.4_A]).
SPC-02	Ecology and Biodiversity	Loss of Habitat and Wildlife	"Concerned about ... Loss of habitat and wildlife size of the development"	Habitat loss resulting from the Proposed Scheme will be restricted predominantly to arable and grazing pasture fields. The Scheme has been carefully designed to retain all field boundaries which will be generously buffered and receive ecologically-led management prescriptions, as can be seen in Section 9.6 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] . Furthermore, the grassland beneath panelled land will receive low-intensity management and be seeded to create a habitat of significantly increased species diversity than existing. In this way, the Scheme is anticipated to generate a substantial net gain for biodiversity (see C6.3.9.12 ES Appendix 9.12 Biodiversity Net Gain Report [APP-089]) predominantly through the creation of extensive low-input grassland resulting in a net gain of 96.09% in habitat units, but also several new ponds and wetland habitat parcels resulting in a net gain of 10.69% in river units, and the planting of several kilometres of species-rich hedgerow resulting in a net gain of 70.22% in hedgerow units. This will be secured through the management and ecological monitoring prescriptions contained within C7.3_A Outline Landscape

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] which are secured through Requirement 7 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>
SPC-03	Landscape and Visual	Views	"Concerned about ... size of the development Will just see a sea of glass"	<p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact [APP-043] includes a full and detailed assessment that deals with both effects on the landscape itself and effects on the visual amenity of people, as well as interrelationships of these with other related topics in the ES. The LVIA process is iterative and as a result, the design of the Scheme changed to respond to the findings of the assessment to ensure that landscape mitigation is fully considered as part of the process.</p> <p>Public vantage points from in and around Scampton are considered within the LVIA and comprise viewpoints VP01, VP02 and VP24. This is set out in more detail at ES Appendix 8.3 Assessment of Potential Visual Effects [APP-075]. For example, with viewpoints VP02 and VP24, these are scoped out of the assessment due to distance from the Scheme and the screening effects of intervening topography, settlement and vegetation. With viewpoint VP01, there are no potential significant effects at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning phases, since this location captures views across an expansive landscape where the Scheme occupies only a small portion of the view.</p> <p>The LVIA has identified extensive landscape mitigation that is set out in C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] and is also shown on C6.4.8.16.1 - C6.4.8.16.10 Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Figures 8.16.1 to 8.16.10) [APP-301 to APP-315]. This mitigation seeks to visually enhance the landscape through the addition of new</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>planting, where appropriate, and the positive management of the existing tree and hedgerow stock. This mitigation also seeks to reduce the visibility of the Scheme and help with its assimilation into the landscape from public vantage points including transport routes, public footpaths, permissive footpaths and green lane networks. This mitigation is aimed to benefit the community as a whole as well as tourists, visiting walkers, local residents, ornithologists and cyclists. The landscape mitigation measures will provide new planting, which will include new native hedgerows and tree cover, and this will also include their management and maintenance.</p> <p>The Applicant and its LVIA consultants at Lanpro have worked closely with the heritage and ecology consultants throughout the application process to inform the LVIA and associated mitigation plans. The mitigation proposals allow for flexibility, but they can also be fixed, where appropriate and applicable.</p>

Springthorpe Parish Meeting [RR-017]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
SPM-01	Transport and Access	Local Network	"We are concerned that the local infrastructure (our country lanes and narrow windy village highstreets) will buckle under the strain of construction of the solar behemoths."	<p>An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been prepared to support the application within C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A]. This will be secured through Requirement 15 in C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>The outline CTMP provides a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements to and from the Scheme, to ensure that the effects of the temporary construction phase on the local highway network are minimised and made acceptable.</p> <p>Measure xxi of C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A] is for a road condition survey. This will ensure that any identified highways defects resulting from construction activities associated with the Site will be corrected to the satisfaction of the local highway authority.</p>
SPM-02	Transport and Access	Local Network	"Pedestrians on roads with no footpaths will become more unsafe, potholes and RTAs will multiply: we already live on some of the most dangerous roads in Britain"	<p>An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been prepared to support the application within C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A]. This will be secured through Requirement 15 in C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>The outline CTMP provides a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements to and from the Scheme, to ensure that the effects of the temporary construction phase on the local highway network are minimised and made acceptable.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				A Public Rights of Way Management Plan will be implemented during the construction phase of the Scheme. An Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan is included at C6.3.14.3 ES Appendix 14.3 Public Rights of Way Management Plan [APP-136] . This will be secured through Requirement 18 in the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] .
SPM-03	Energy Need Climate Change Soils and Agriculture	Suitability of solar panels	"In the interests of national food security we protest against the waste of thousands of acres of productive farmland in the construction of solar factories with a huge carbon footprint of their own when existing local technology (wind) could be used to generate as much electricity without the loss of farmland."	<p>Solar panels and electrical infrastructure have become larger and more efficient. Figure 10.2 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] shows that many solar cells are over 20% efficient and some are within reach of 30% efficiency, meaning that more low-carbon electricity can be generated from the same area of land compared to what was previously possible.</p> <p>Table 7.1 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] shows the electricity generated per hectare by different low-carbon technologies. At the UK's average solar load factor (11%), solar generation produces much more energy per hectare than biogas, and generates a similar amount of energy as onshore wind.</p> <p>The Applicant does not consider that the Scheme would result in food security impacts either alone or cumulatively. The UK annual balance of domestically produced food is sensitive to non-planning factors including weather and markets. The relevant assessment for policy purposes (and therefore decision-making purposes under the Planning Act 2008) is one that is based on the grade of the agricultural land, rather than its current use and the intensity of that use. In terms of key threats to UK food security, the Defra UK Food Security Report highlights that the main threat is climate change.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>The site is predominantly ALC Grade 3b, not "best and most versatile" agricultural land (see para 19.8.5 of C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A]). As the Scheme will be decommissioned there will not be a permanent loss of agricultural land. In addition, the majority of the agricultural land can remain in productive use through the operational period, being grazed by livestock (see paras 19.7.7, 19.10.2, 19.10.6, 19.10.10 of C6.2.19_A ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A]).</p> <p>In respect of Climate Change, paragraph 7.10.2 of C6.2.7_A ES Chapter 7 Climate Change [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.7_A] states 'Overall, the Scheme itself will provide major beneficial impacts and a net reduction in GHG'.</p>
SPM-04	Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation	Tenant Farmers	"We would be sad to see our neighbouring tenant farmers disenfranchised as they are turned off their land by landlords keen to use rental to solar farms to maximise profit for trustees and investors"	<p>The land included in the Scheme covers 4 farm businesses, all of which are owner occupiers of the land within the Sites. This is detailed in full in para. 7.1.1-17 of C6.3.19.1 ES Appendix 19.1 Agricultural Land Quality Soil Resources and Farming Circumstances [APP-145].</p> <p>The Scheme is anticipated to lead to a maximum loss of approximately 17 full-time equivalent agriculture jobs, as stated in paragraph 18.7.15 of document C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]. The Scheme is estimated to employ 10 full-time equivalent employees from the local area during operation; see Table 18.16. The net change in employment in the local area (defined as West Lindsey and Bassetlaw Districts) during the Scheme's operational life is a loss of approximately 2 full-time jobs, once consideration of direct, indirect</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>and induced employment, and impacts on the tourism and recreation industry are considered (see para. 18.7.79). Overall, the economic benefit to the local area is estimated to be £2.2 million per year (see para. 18.7.97).</p> <p>The overall employment and economic benefit to the local area from the two-year construction period is anticipated to be 661 full-time equivalent jobs (see para. 18.7.23), generating £30.9 million per year (see para. 18.7.52).</p>

Stow Parish Council [RR-018]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
STPC-01	Soils and Agriculture	Loss of Agricultural Land	"Stow Parish Council is in favour of non-fossil fuel forms of energy production, including solar, but objects to Cottam 1 proposals for the following reasons: - the proposals make use of good agricultural land"	The site is predominantly ALC Grade 3b, not "best and most versatile" agricultural land (see para 19.8.5 of C6.2.19_A ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A]). As the Scheme will be decommissioned there will not be a permanent loss of agricultural land. In addition, the majority of the agricultural land can remain in productive use through the operational period, being grazed by livestock (see paras 19.7.7, 19.10.2, 19.10.6, 19.10.10 of C6.2.19_A ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A]).
STPC-02	Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation	Jobs and economy	"Stow Parish Council ...objects to ... a consequent loss of local agricultural jobs"	<p>The Applicant recognises the significance of the agricultural industry in the local economy and has assessed the economic impact of the Scheme in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] and the direct impacts on local agriculture in Sections 19.9 and 19.10 of C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A].</p> <p>The Scheme is anticipated to lead to a maximum loss of approximately 17 full-time equivalent agriculture jobs, as stated in paragraph 18.7.15 of document C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]. The Scheme is estimated to employ 10 full-time equivalent employees from the local area during operation; see Table 18.16. The net change in employment in the local area (defined as West Lindsey and Bassetlaw Districts) during the Scheme's operational life is a loss of approximately 2 full-time jobs, once consideration of direct, indirect and induced employment, and impacts on the tourism and recreation industry are considered (see para. 18.7.79). Overall, the economic</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>benefit to the local area is estimated to be £2.2 million per year (see para. 18.7.97).</p> <p>The overall employment and economic benefit to the local area from the two-year construction period is anticipated to be 661 full-time equivalent jobs (see para. 18.7.23), generating £30.9 million per year (see para. 18.7.52).</p> <p>The land included in the Scheme covers 4 farm businesses, all of which are owner occupiers of the land within the Sites. This is detailed in full in para. 7.1.1-17 of C6.3.19.1 ES Appendix 19.1 Agricultural Land Quality Soil Resources and Farming Circumstances [APP-145].</p>
STPC-03	Landscape and Visual Noise and Vibration Glint and Glare	Proximity to residential dwellings	"some of the sites proposed are adjacent to the homes of a number of residents. We believe any panels should be installed at some distance from people's homes"	<p>The applicant notes this comment.</p> <p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Amenity [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') considers both the landscape and visual effects of the Scheme, including the proximity to people's houses at the residential edge of Stow, which comprises viewpoints VP09, VP20, LCC-C-A, LCC-C-B and LCC-C-C. This is set out in more detail at C6.3.8.3 ES Appendix 8.3 Assessment of Potential Visual Effects [APP-075].</p> <p>For example, with viewpoints VP09 and LCC-C-B, these are scoped out of the assessment. With viewpoints LCC-C-A and LCC-C-C, there are no potential significant effects at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning of the Scheme. With viewpoint VP20, at the construction phase and operation (Year 1) phase of the Scheme, there are potential significant effects of the adverse type. Whereas, at the operation phase (Year 15) of the Scheme, the type of effect would change from adverse to neutral with no significant effects predicted.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>The LVIA identifies landscape mitigation that enhances the landscape character of the Study Area and to reduce the visibility of the Scheme from residential properties and other public vantage points including transport routes, public footpaths, permissive footpaths and green lane network. This mitigation is aimed to benefit the community as a whole to enhance their way of life and lifestyle amenity, as well as tourists, visiting walkers, local residents, ornithologists and cyclists. The landscape mitigation measures set out in para. 8.6.1-22 and para. 8.8.1-9 of the LVIA provides new planting to mitigate the potential impacts and effects of glint and glare, which will include new native hedgerows and tree cover, and this will also include the management and maintenance of this new planting.</p> <p>The Glint and Glare assessment considers dwellings within 1km from the Scheme (study area) Section 5.2 of C6.3.16.1 ES Appendix 16.1 Glint and Glare Assessment [APP-140], summarised in the following sections within the ES Chapter: para. 16.5.3 and 16.8.2 of C6.2.16 ES Chapter 16 Glint and Glare [APP-051]. For those dwellings that are predicted to experience a "Moderate" impact the Applicant is committed to implement embedded mitigation to reduce the effects to acceptable levels. The mitigation will be in the form of screening (immediate and long term), and it is outlined within the Glint and Glare Assessment Section 7.1 C6.3.16.1 ES Appendix 16.1 Glint and Glare Assessment [APP-140], and para. 16.9.1-3 of C6.2.16 ES Chapter 16.9 Glint and Glare [APP-051].</p> <p>The likely impacts of noise and vibration have been assessed in Section 15.7 of C6.2.15 ES Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration [APP-</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				050]. The noise and vibration effects are not anticipated to be significant.
STPC-04	The Proposal Transport and Access	Permissive Path	"the proposed permissive path may be welcomed but, as a measure of amelioration, falls well short of the request we made for access to the river banks for example"	In Table 12.1 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] on p147, it is stated that: 'The Applicant has explored alternative permissive path routes but these proved to be incompatible with existing farming activities, or required land beyond the Applicant's control. As set out in Table 5.9 in C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040] , the permissive path from Stow village will contribute to the wider network of footpaths in the area and facilitate greater public access to the countryside.'
STPC-05	Transport and Access	Local Network	"we are very concerned about the construction phase given the proposed heavy traffic round tight bends in the village and the small , single track lanes that will also be used and are not made for the weight of vehicles."	An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been prepared to support the application within C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A] . This will be secured through Requirement 15 in C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] . The outline CTMP provides a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements to and from the Scheme, to ensure that the effects of the temporary construction phase on the local highway network are minimised and made acceptable. Measure xxi of C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A] is for a road condition survey. This will ensure that any identified highways defects resulting from construction activities associated with the Site will be corrected to the satisfaction of the local highway authority.

Sturton by Stow Parish Council [RR-019]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
SSPC-01	Cumulative Development	Other Schemes	"Whilst we are not against the principal of solar power the land which will be used for Cottam, West Burton, Gate Burton and Tillbridge Solar is vast."	<p>Section 3.3 of document C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350], specifically paragraphs 3.3.2, 3.3.5 and 3.3.11, describes the Government's view that large capacities of low-carbon generation will be required to meet increased demand and replace output from retiring (fossil fuel) plants, and that "a secure, reliable, affordable, Net Zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar". This support for large scale solar as part of the 'answer' to net zero and energy security has been repeated in its recent policy documents published in March 2023.</p> <p>Section 7.5 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes how suitable locations for large-scale solar are identified and assessed. Paragraph 7.5.2 outlines the broad criteria for determining Site suitability.</p> <p>Figure 7.4 shows the level of photovoltaic power potential at the proposed location. Section 9 describes the advantages of connecting large-scale solar to the existing and robust National Electricity Transmission System at the proposed Point of Connection at Cottam Power Station, and Paragraph 9.4.4 concludes that the Proposed Development will contribute to national system adequacy and decarbonisation targets.</p> <p>C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040] and its accompanying appendix C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] explain how the site was chosen in light of that need. The methodology used for the site selection process</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>is considered reasonable and proportionate and complies with the requirements of NPS EN-1 4.4.3 as explained at Section 2.1 [APP-067].</p> <p>Cumulative effects assessments have been prepared for the Application within the Environmental Statement [APP-036 to APP-058]. Cumulative effects assessments for each topic are set out in each of the ES Chapters and include the assessment of the impacts of the Scheme cumulatively with the NSIPs identified in paragraph 2.5.9 of C6.2.2 ES Chapter 2 EIA Process and Methodology [APP-037]. This assessment is in accordance with Schedule 4 of the 2017 EIA Regulations and PINS Advice Note 17. The mitigation measures set out across the ES therefore account for anticipated cumulative effects.</p>
SSPC-02	The Proposal	Compulsory Purchase Orders	"There are material concerns regarding the proposals for compulsory purchase orders, which Sturton by Stow Parish Council feel is a retrograde and heavy handed"	<p>The Applicant's preference is to enter into voluntary agreements with all landowners within the Order limits. Negotiations and consultation with landowners on the Sites and Cable Route Corridor have been undertaken throughout the pre-application process, as detailed in paras. 9.1.24-9.1.34 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021]. That notwithstanding, compulsory acquisition powers are being sought to ensure the deliverability of this nationally significant infrastructure project where voluntary land agreements are not able to be secured. The justification for the use of compulsory acquisition powers is set out within sections 7 and 8 of the C4.1_A Statement of Reasons Revision A [AS-013]. The Applicant considers the use of compulsory acquisition powers to be necessary and proportionate.</p>
SSPC-03	The Proposal Soils and Agriculture	Land Classification	"Parish Council has concerns that this land will be reclassified as brownfield once this project has finished and will	<p>Paragraph 19.3.3 of C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A] states that land within the Sites can continue in agricultural production through the consent period, grazing livestock.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			be used for residential or commercial development."	<p>Additionally, paragraph 3.3.11 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] states that the operational life of the Scheme is anticipated to be 40 years with decommissioning to occur thereafter (see para 3.3.15). Upon decommissioning, the Site will be reinstated (see paras. 3.3.20 to 3.3.26) which will result in the returning of the agricultural resource to use as agricultural land.</p> <p>The Applicant confirms that the following is secured through Requirement 21 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]: "Within 12 months of the date that the undertaker decides to decommission any part of the authorised development, the undertaker must submit to the relevant planning authority for that part a decommissioning plan for approval" where "The decommissioning plan must be substantially in accordance with the outline decommissioning statement." Details of the protection and restoration of soil during and post-decommissioning are set out in Table 3.1 of C7.2 Outline Decommissioning Statement [APP-338].</p>
SSPC-04	Ecology and Biodiversity	Biodiversity gain	<p>"The biodiversity gain could be positive but there is little actual evidence on how this will be achieved. The continued use of "reported sightings" is not adequate as there will be plenty of biodiversity which is not in any register. This could be materially improved by better study. In addition, mitigation has the potential to achieve significant biodiversity net gain. However, in the</p>	<p>Habitat enhancement measures are set out in C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] which will secure a Biodiversity Net Gain. These habitat enhancements include the management of the wide, undeveloped field boundary buffers into a variety of valuable habitat types, the sowing and low-intensity management of grassland under the panels to create a habitat of far greater ecological value than the existing arable, resulting in an anticipated biodiversity net gain of 96.09% in habitat units, the creation of several kilometres of new hedgerows resulting in a net gain of 70.22%, as well as several new wetland features resulting in an anticipated net gain of 10.69% in river</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			absence of any detail about the BNG proposal it is impossible to comment on how this will be achieved. At one of the first rounds of public events we were told the aim was to achieve 60-80% BNG. But how? Certainly not by planting a few trees and scattering a few wild flower seeds in between the rows of panels!"	units. The precise calculation of this gain is set out in detail in C6.3.9.12 ES Appendix 9.12 Biodiversity Net Gain Report [APP-089] . C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] also provides for regular ecological monitoring to ensure that prescriptions can adapt to any changing conditions on the Scheme over time in order to achieve the best outcomes for ecology in the long term. These measures are secured through Requirement 7 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] .
SSPC-05	Ecology and Biodiversity Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation	Benefits of BNG improvements	"The potential to deliver something significant for nature in the area that can be enjoyed by residents and visitors is not being realised as far as we are able to tell."	Potential benefits to the desirability and use of tourism and recreational facilities as a result of BNG improvements on the Scheme have not been assessed as these were not scoped in to the assessment of socio-economic, tourism and recreation effects, nor requested by statutory consultees during the Scoping stage or statutory consultation stage. These reasons notwithstanding, the Applicant considers the merits of the parish council's comment in that there may be some potential tourism and recreation benefits to be attributed to BNG improvements, such as resulting from improved landscape planting and ecological improvements along or near to public rights of way, thus improving route desirability. Furthermore, the Applicant is committed to providing a Community Benefit Fund (see paragraph 4.8.1 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A]). This fund will be available for community-based benefits such as (but not limited to) promoting the use of public rights of way and installing information boards to explain biodiversity

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				enhancement measures within the Scheme. The provision of the Community Benefit Fund itself does not form a part of the DCO Application, and therefore will be agreed separately between the Applicant and the fund's beneficiaries.
SSPC-06	Transport and Access	Uplift in HGVs	"The use of single-track roads is concerning as is the potential 70 plus extra lorries per day. When there are few large vehicles this will have an enormous impact."	<p>An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been prepared to support the application within C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A]. This will be secured through Requirement 15 in C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>The outline CTMP provides a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements to and from the Scheme, to ensure that the effects of the temporary construction phase on the local highway network are minimised and made acceptable.</p> <p>Measure xxi of C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A] is for a road condition survey. This will ensure that any identified highways defects resulting from construction activities associated with the Site will be corrected to the satisfaction of the local highway authority.</p>

Upton Parish Council [RR-020]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
UPC-01	Cumulative Development	Examination	<p>"The Cottam proposal is just 1 of 4 Solar farms planned within a few miles of each other. Combined this would be the largest solar complex in Europe. 10,000 acres in total. Considering the impact all these farms will make to our surrounding area, it is in our opinion that they should be assessed altogether. "</p>	<p>Section 3.3 of document C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350], specifically paragraphs 3.3.2, 3.3.5 and 3.3.11, describes the Government's view that large capacities of low-carbon generation will be required to meet increased demand and replace output from retiring (fossil fuel) plants, and that "a secure, reliable, affordable, Net Zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar". This support for large scale solar as part of the 'answer' to net zero and energy security has been repeated in its recent policy documents published in March 2023.</p> <p>Section 7.5 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes how suitable locations for large-scale solar are identified and assessed. Paragraph 7.5.2 outlines the broad criteria for determining Site suitability.</p> <p>Figure 7.4 shows the level of photovoltaic power potential at the proposed location. Section 9 describes the advantages of connecting large-scale solar to the existing and robust National Electricity Transmission System at the proposed Point of Connection at Cottam Power Station, and Paragraph 9.4.4 concludes that the Proposed Development will contribute to national system adequacy and decarbonisation targets.</p> <p>C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040] and its accompanying appendix C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] explain how the site was chosen in light of that need. The methodology used for the site selection process</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>is considered reasonable and proportionate and complies with the requirements of NPS EN-1 4.4.3 as explained at Section 2.1 [APP-067].</p> <p>Cumulative effects assessments have been prepared for the Application within the Environmental Statement [APP-036 to APP-058]. Cumulative effects assessments for each topic are set out in each of the ES Chapters and include the assessment of the impacts of the Scheme cumulatively with the NSIPs identified in paragraph 2.5.9 of C6.2.2 ES Chapter 2 EIA Process and Methodology [APP-037]. This assessment is in accordance with Schedule 4 of the 2017 EIA Regulations and PINS Advice Note 17. The mitigation measures set out across the ES therefore account for anticipated cumulative effects.</p> <p>The Applicant is happy for the cumulative impacts of the projects to be considered together if the Planning Inspectorate and Examining Authorities deem it appropriate.</p>
UPC-02	Cumulative Development Soils and Agriculture	Loss of Agricultural Land	"10,000 acres of farmland will be lost and the whole area will become industrialised. Not to mention a subsequent loss of crops grown, farm jobs gone and loss of livelihood and homes in some cases."	<p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') assesses the impacts of the Scheme cumulatively with the proposed Gate Burton, West Burton and Tillbridge Solar proposals in Section 8.10 [APP-043] and concludes that the Scheme would not result in significant adverse effects on landscape character over an extensive area across the National Landscape Character Areas (para. 8.10.11) and the Regional Landscape Character Areas (para 8.10.12 to 8.10.16). In respect of the assessment of individual contributors to landscape character, as set out in para. 8.10.18 to 8.10.24, the cumulative effects would be not significant.</p> <p>The Applicant does not consider that the Scheme would result in food security impacts either alone or cumulatively. The UK annual balance of domestically produced food is sensitive to non-planning factors</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>including weather and markets. The relevant assessment for policy purposes (and therefore decision-making purposes under the Planning Act 2008) is one that is based on the grade of the agricultural land, rather than its current use and the intensity of that use. In terms of key threats to UK food security, the Defra UK Food Security Report highlights that the main threat is climate change.</p> <p>As the Scheme will be decommissioned there will not be a permanent loss of agricultural land resource. In addition, the majority of the agricultural land can remain in productive use through the operational period, being grazed by livestock (see paras 19.7.7, 19.10.2, 19.10.6, 19.10.10 of C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A]).</p> <p>The Applicant recognises the significance of the agricultural industry in the local economy and has assessed the economic impact of the Scheme in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] and the direct impacts on local agriculture in Sections 19.9 and 19.10 of C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A].</p> <p>The land included in the Scheme covers 4 farm businesses, all of which are owner occupiers of the land within the Sites, and none of which are anticipated to be closed in their entirety. This is detailed in full in para. 7.1.1-17 of C6.3.19.1 ES Appendix 19.1 Agricultural Land Quality Soil Resources and Farming Circumstances [APP-145]. Therefore, no direct loss of livelihood or homes (occupied by landowning farmers or tenants) is anticipated.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
UPC-03	Cumulative Development Ecology and Biodiversity Transport and Access Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation	Construction Phase	"There would be a 4 year construction period combined with the other 3 projects on a building site of 10,000 acres. This will have a massive impact on local life and to natural habitats and wildlife."	<p>The Applicant notes this comment.</p> <p>Section 9.6 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] sets out the extensive findings of all ecological investigations undertaken within the Order Limits together with an appraisal of the relative importance of each species or species group, habitat or designated site. A comprehensive package of mitigation measures has been identified, in tandem with embedded mitigation (see Section 9.6) established through the ecologically sensitive design of the Scheme (such as the wide buffering of all field boundaries and the use of existing hedgerow gaps for accesses). These measures have been further detailed within C7.19 Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [APP-356] and C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] which will ensure that all identified impacts are minimised as far as possible. In many cases, the reversion from intensive agriculture to pasture or meadow grassland with additional hedgerow, scrub, tree and wetland habitat creation will bring about positive effects for wildlife. In particular, terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates, botanical diversity, small mammals and many species of bird all stand to benefit.</p> <p>More specifically, in our experience of monitoring over 100 active solar arrays, we find that brown hare and badgers are highly active on solar arrays owing to the improved foraging habitat within them. Birds of prey, including owls, are one species group likely to benefit from the provision of large areas of optimal habitat for small mammals such as field voles which require tussocky and dense grassland which will be created within buffered field boundaries.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				Construction activities will be temporary, and since they are limited primarily to the piling of metal supports into the ground and laying of electrical cabling, they are not considered to create a level of disturbance which significantly exceeds that generated by typical agricultural sowing, spraying and harvesting operations. See Paragraphs 9.7.86 and 9.7.149 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] .
UPC-04	The Proposal Alternatives and Design Evolution Glint and Glare	Details of the Proposal	"We were not told the full facts initially. i.e. brownfield site use, the actual height of the panels and glare, and battery storage."	<p>The identification of the receptors, the results of the modelling, the impact of the Scheme and the information regarding Glint and Glare are shown in C6.3.16.1 ES Appendix 16.1 Glint and Glare Assessment [APP-140] and summarised the ES Chapter: C6.2.16 ES Chapter 16 Glint and Glare [APP-051].</p> <p>Within the DCO Application, the height of the panels, the size and type of battery storage, and the generation capability of the Scheme are presented in Section 4.5 of C6.2.4_A ES Chapter 4_Scheme Description Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.4_A], with the maximum parameters of the Scheme set out in C7.15_A Concept Design Parameters and Principles [EN010133/EX1/C7.15_A].</p> <p>Battery storage is considered and explained in DCO application and specifically C7.9 Outline Battery Storage Safety Management Plan [APP-348] explains that the design of the BESS has integrated fire detection and suppression systems that will automatically operate to contain battery fires. A Battery Storage Safety Management Plan will be submitted and approved prior to commencement of development as secured through Requirement 6 of Schedule 2 to C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				Finally, Section 8.8 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes the energy security benefits of solar generation when it is deployed alongside a portfolio of wind. Section 11.5 and Table 11.1 in particular describe the role of the energy storage facility as associated development to the main solar development, contributing to the smooth operation of an electricity system with a high share of renewable energy supply.
UPC-05	The Proposal Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage Air Quality Other Environmental Matters	Battery Energy Storage System	"We would like to stress that one of the largest [battery] storage sites planned for Willingham by Stow is unacceptably close to residential areas and other property's, this is a potential fire and chemical risk."	<p>Paragraph 4.1.18 of the C7.9 Outline Battery Storage Safety Management Plan [APP-348] explains that the design of the BESS has integrated fire detection and suppression systems that will automatically operate to contain battery fires. Paragraph 5.3 [APP-348] states that if fire spreads to multiple units, external firefighting water facilities are available by means of 228,000 litre water storage tanks within the battery compounds.</p> <p>C7.9 Outline Battery Storage Safety Management Plan [APP-348] has been prepared and is provided with the Application. A Battery Storage Safety Management Plan will be submitted and approved prior to commencement of development as secured through Requirement 6 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>Human health and other environmental impacts resulting from plumes from battery fires have been assessed in C6.2.17 ES Chapter 17 Air Quality [APP-052].</p> <p>As stated in C6.3.10.1 ES Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy Report [APP-090] Annex D Section 3.11, fire water provision in line with Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue requirements has been accommodated within the Scheme. Surface water will be</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				captured and stored within ponds to ensure that adequate water is available should the fire services require it.
UPC-06	Energy Need Soils and Agriculture	Balancing of energy and agricultural needs	"We are not against solar energy and appreciate that our energy needs are crucial, but there has to be a balance. Lincolnshire is mainly a farming area because of its good quality soil, we feel to take 10,000 acres of growing land to place solar panels would be devastating."	<p>Agricultural land in the Sites is predominantly (95.9%) Grade 3b, as set out in Table 1 of C6.3.19.1 Agricultural Land Quality Soil Resources [APP-145]. In Agricultural Land Classification (ALC), Grade 3b is not defined as Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land.</p> <p>Paragraphs 8.5.1-10 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes and expresses agreement with Government's view that large scale solar must be deployed to meet the urgent national need for low-carbon electricity generation.</p> <p>Paragraphs 3.3.17-18 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] explain the Government's view that irradiance, site topography and proximity to suitable connection points to the transmission network are likely to be key inputs to site selection. Paragraph 7.5.1-20 describes the site selection process for large-scale solar more fully, and para. 7.7.1-12 [APP-350] sets out how the design of the Scheme seeks to maximise utilisation of the grid connection capacity available at Cottam Substation.</p> <p>Chapter 9 of the C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes the suitability of the proposed location as a point of connection for the project, thus enabling it to contribute to the urgent need for increased energy security and a low-carbon electricity supply. The Applicant has secured an agreement to connect to the grid at Cottam substation as demonstrated in C7.7 Cottam Grid Connection Statement [APP-346].</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
UPC-07	Alternatives and Design Evolution Energy Need	Effective use of Land	"We need to provide more of our own food as a country even more so since the war in Ukraine. Taking away all this good land just does not make sense. More industrial waste land could be utilised for these panels as well as on factory roofs and domestic roofs."	<p>The Applicant does not consider that the Scheme would result in food security impacts either alone or cumulatively. The UK annual balance of domestically produced food is sensitive to non-planning factors including weather and markets. The relevant assessment for policy purposes (and therefore decision-making purposes under the Planning Act 2008) is one that is based on the grade of the agricultural land, rather than its current use and the intensity of that use. In terms of key threats to UK food security, the Defra UK Food Security Report highlights that the main threat is climate change.</p> <p>Paragraphs 7.6.1-8 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] analyses the potential contribution of "brownfield" solar sites to the national need for solar generation. Brownfield sites, including rooftop and other community energy systems, are likely to grow in the UK and will make a contribution to decarbonisation of the UK energy system. However, C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] concludes in that same section, that on their own, brownfield developments are unlikely to be able to meet the national need for solar.</p> <p>Paragraphs 8.5.1-10 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] express agreement with Government's view that decentralised and community energy systems are unlikely to lead to the significant replacement of large-scale infrastructure. The Applicant therefore supports Government's view that large scale solar must be deployed to meet the urgent national need for low-carbon electricity generation.</p>
UPC-08	Soils and Agriculture Socio-Economics,	Agricultural Employment	"We have many tenant farmers in this area where they have no say whatsoever. They will not only lose their job but their home. Farming in	<p>The Applicant recognises the significance of the agricultural industry in the local economy and has assessed the economic impact of the Scheme in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] and the direct impacts on local</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
	Tourism and Recreation		<p>this area is the main form of employment and farms have been passed down for generations securing a living and income for their families. Losing this vast area of agricultural land will lead to many families moving out of the area to find alternative employment."</p>	<p>agriculture in Sections 19.9 and 19.10 of C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A].</p> <p>The Scheme is anticipated to lead to a maximum loss of approximately 17 full-time equivalent agriculture jobs, as stated in paragraph 18.7.15 of document C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]. The Scheme is estimated to employ 10 full-time equivalent employees from the local area during operation; see Table 18.16. The net change in employment in the local area (defined as West Lindsey and Bassetlaw Districts) during the Scheme's operational life is a loss of approximately 2 full-time jobs, once consideration of direct, indirect and induced employment, and impacts on the tourism and recreation industry are considered (see para. 18.7.79). Overall, the economic benefit to the local area is estimated to be £2.2 million per year (see para. 18.7.97).</p> <p>The overall employment and economic benefit to the local area from the two-year construction period is anticipated to be 661 full-time equivalent jobs (see para. 18.7.23), generating £30.9 million per year (see para. 18.7.52).</p> <p>The land included in the Scheme covers 4 farm businesses, all of which are owner occupiers of the land within the Sites, and none of which are anticipated to be closed in their entirety. This is detailed in full in para. 7.1.1-17 of C6.3.19.1 ES Appendix 19.1 Agricultural Land Quality Soil Resources and Farming Circumstances [APP-145].</p>

Willingham by Stow Parish Council [RR-021]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
WSPC-01	The Proposal Energy Need	Scale	"Willingham by Stow Parish Council strongly oppose the massive scale of the Cottam Solar Project that have been earmarked for the area"	<p>Paragraphs 8.5.1-10 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describe and express agreement with Government's view that large scale solar must be deployed to meet the urgent national need for low-carbon electricity generation.</p> <p>Paragraphs 3.3.17-18 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] explain the Government's view that irradiance, site topography and proximity to suitable connection points to the transmission network are likely to be key inputs to site selection. Para. 7.5.1-20 [APP-350] describes the site selection process for large-scale solar more fully, and para. 7.7.1-12 [APP-350] sets out how the design of the Scheme seeks to maximise utilisation of the grid connection capacity available at Cottam Substation.</p> <p>Chapter 9 of the C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes the suitability of the proposed location as a point of connection for the project, thus enabling it to contribute to the urgent need for increased energy security and a low-carbon electricity supply. The Applicant has secured an agreement to connect to the grid at Cottam substation as demonstrated in C7.7 Cottam Grid Connection Statement [APP-346].</p>
WSPC-02	Cumulative Development	Other Schemes	"Willingham by Stow village will be affected and is concerned over the cumulative impact solar farms will have on the area."	<p>The cumulative impacts of the Scheme with the West Burton Solar Project, Gate Burton Energy and Tillbridge Solar have been prepared for the Application within the Environmental Statement [APP-036 to APP-058]. Cumulative effects assessments for each topic are set out in each of the ES Chapters and include the assessment of the impacts of the Scheme cumulatively with the NSIPs identified in paragraph 2.5.9 of C6.2.2 ES Chapter 2 EIA Process and Methodology [APP-037]. This</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				assessment is in accordance with Schedule 4 of the 2017 EIA Regulations and PINS Advice Note 17. The mitigation measures set out across the ES therefore account for anticipated cumulative effects.
WSPC-03	Transport and Access Noise and Vibration	Pedestrian Safety	"[The parish council] have concerns of the safety of children/residents crossing the roads & Howson House residents due to the increased, large heavy traffic and the noise volume."	<p>An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been prepared to support the application within C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A]. This will be secured through Requirement 15 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>The outline CTMP provides a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements to and from the Scheme, to ensure that the effects of the temporary construction phase on the local highway network are minimised and made acceptable.</p> <p>The likely impacts of noise and vibration have been assessed in Section 15.7 of C6.2.15 ES Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration [APP-050]. The noise and vibration effects are not anticipated to be significant.</p>
WSPC-04	The Proposal Energy Need Soils and Agriculture	Loss of agricultural land	"The large area of land required for these would mean a huge loss and waste of agricultural land to development, consequently impacting food production in the local area. 10 thousand acres of agricultural land would be compromised, equivalent to 3x the size of the town Gainsborough. With solar panels surrounding all local villages."	Chapter 4 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] sets out the UK's legal requirement to decarbonise and explains how that requirement has developed an increased need and urgency to meet the UK's obligations under the Paris Agreement (2015) as detailed within para. 4.2.7. The Section summarises the latest expert views on the urgency for and depth of low-carbon infrastructure needed to deliver the UK's Net Zero legal obligations, and demonstrates that there is an urgent need for the development of large-scale solar schemes. Paragraphs 3.3.1-19 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] summarises the 2021 Draft Revised National Policy Statement EN-3, which sets out

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>Government's view that a Net-Zero consistent [energy] system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar (this point is reiterated in the newly published March 2023 Draft Revised National Policy Statement EN-3). Figure 7.1 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] shows National Grid Electricity System Operator's projections of the capacity of solar generation required to deliver a net-zero consistent system, which are 25 – 42GW by 2030, and 57 – 92GW by 2050, compared to just 14GW today (para. 7.2.1-21 [APP-350]).</p> <p>The key policy tests for the decision maker in respect of the Scheme's impact upon agricultural land are found in NPS EN-1, paragraph 5.10.8, and Revised Draft NPS EN-3, para. 3.10.15. In summary, this requires that applicants should seek to minimise impacts on BMV land, being ALC Grades 1, 2 and 3a), ensure impacts should be considered against the measures set out under paragraphs 2.10.66 – 2.10.83 and 2.10.98 – 2.10.110. Paragraph 5.10.15 then states that the Secretary of State should give little weight to loss of ALC grades 3b, 4 and 5 agricultural land, while Revised Draft NPS EN-3, para. 3.10.136 requires the Secretary of State to ensure mitigation measures to minimise impacts on soils and soil resources are appropriately provided by the Applicant. This is addressed in C7.5_A Planning Statement, Appendix 3 page 62 and 63 [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A].</p> <p>The Applicant does not consider that the Scheme would result in food security impacts either alone or cumulatively. The UK annual balance of domestically produced food is sensitive to non-planning factors including weather and markets. The relevant assessment for policy purposes (and therefore decision-making purposes under the Planning Act 2008) is one that is based on the grade of the agricultural land, rather than its current use and the intensity of that use. In terms</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				of key threats to UK food security, the Defra UK Food Security Report highlights that the main threat is climate change.
WSPC-05	Cumulative Development Soils and Agriculture	Suitability of land post-decommissioning	"Would this land really be suitable for farming again once all solar panels and concrete have been removed?"	<p>While the Scheme is operational, the soil resource at the Site will remain under a perennial green cover. There are benefits to the soil resource during the operational period. These are addressed in paragraphs 19.9.13 to 19.9.16 of C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A].</p> <p>A Soils Resource Management Plan, substantially in accordance with C7.18 Outline Soil Management Plan [APP-355] will be submitted and approved prior to the commencement of development as secured by Requirement 19 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>
WSPC-06	Landscape and Visual	Visual Impact	"Many people are concerned about the implications such major schemes will have on the area; considering the visual impact"	<p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Amenity [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') identifies landscape mitigation that enhances the landscape character of the Study Area and to reduce the visibility of the Scheme from residential properties and other public vantage points including transport routes, public footpaths, permissive footpaths and green lane network. This mitigation is aimed to benefit the community as a whole to enhance their way of life and lifestyle amenity, as well as tourists, visiting walkers, local residents, ornithologists and cyclists. The landscape mitigation measures set out in para. 8.6.1-22 and para. 8.8.1-9 of the LVIA provides new planting to mitigate the potential impacts and effects of glint and glare, which will include new native hedgerows and tree cover, and this will also include the management and maintenance of this new planting.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
WSPC-07	Ecology and Biodiversity	Wildlife Impact	"Many people are concerned about the implications such major schemes will have on the area; considering the ... negative affect on wildlife"	<p>Section 9.6 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] sets out the extensive findings of all ecological investigations undertaken within the Order Limits together with an appraisal of the relative importance of each species or species group, habitat or designated site. A comprehensive package of mitigation measures has been identified, in tandem with embedded mitigation (see Section 9.6) established through the ecologically sensitive design of the Scheme (such as the wide buffering of all field boundaries and the use of existing hedgerow gaps for accesses). These measures have been further detailed within C7.19 Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [APP-356] and C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] which will ensure that all identified impacts are minimised as far as possible. In many cases, the reversion from intensive agriculture to pasture or meadow grassland with additional hedgerow, scrub, tree and wetland habitat creation will bring about positive effects for wildlife. In particular, terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates, botanical diversity, small mammals and many species of bird all stand to benefit.</p> <p>More specifically, in our experience of monitoring over 100 active solar arrays, we find that brown hare and badgers are highly active on solar arrays owing to the improved foraging habitat within them. Birds of prey, including owls, are one species group likely to benefit from the provision of large areas of optimal habitat for small mammals such as field voles which require tussocky and dense grassland which will be created within buffered field boundaries.</p> <p>Construction activities will be temporary, and since they are limited primarily to the piling of metal supports into the ground and laying of electrical cabling, they are not considered to create a level of</p>

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				disturbance which significantly exceeds that generated by typical agricultural sowing, spraying and harvesting operations. See Paragraphs 9.7.86 and 9.7.149 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] .
WSPC-08	Cultural Heritage	Archaeology Impact	"Many people are concerned about the implications such major schemes will have on the area; considering the ... negative affect on ... archaeology"	<p>The Applicant notes the Willingham by Stow Parish's concern and would like to refer to the full suite of archaeological assessment, survey and field evaluation that was undertaken for the Scheme. The various assessments are detailed in appendices: C6.3.13.1 ES Appendix 13.1 Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments [APP-109]; C6.3.13.2 ES Appendix 13.2 Archaeological Geophysical Survey Reports [APP-110 to APP-122]; C6.3.13.3 ES Appendix 13.3 Geoarchaeological Desk Based Assessment [APP-123]; C6.3.13.4 ES Appendix 13.4 Air Photo and LiDAR Report [APP-124]; C6.3.13.5 ES Appendix 13.5 Heritage Statement [APP-125 to APP-128]; and C6.3.13.6 ES Appendix 13.6 Archaeological Evaluation Trenching Reports [APP-129 to APP-130].</p> <p>The results of these assessments have been used to formulate a Mitigation Strategy aimed at safeguarding buried archaeological remains (C6.3.13.7 ES Appendix 13.7 Archaeological Mitigation Written Scheme of Investigation [APP-131]). This Written Scheme of Investigation is secured by Requirement 12 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>Where appropriate the Scheme has recommended identified archaeological remains are preserved in situ using concrete anchors or form no development areas; where the scheme is to cause a high level of impact (i.e., compound areas and substations) or concrete</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>anchor have the potential to not form sufficient mitigation (i.e. burials) mitigation is proposed in the form of archaeological watching brief, 'strip, map and record', or open excavation.</p> <p>During the field evaluation it was noted that a high level of destruction was being caused to buried archaeological remains from plough activity. Consequently, the Applicant considers that the Scheme provides an opportunity to protect archaeological remains that are at risk from agricultural activity. For example, several burials were identified within the Willingham by Stow Parish that had all been heavily damaged by plough activity (see p. 98 –107 Cottam 1 Solar Project Evaluation Trial Trenching Interim Report [APP-129 to APP-130]).</p>
WSPC-09	The Proposal Socio- Economics, Tourism and Recreation	Loss of countryside and agricultural jobs	"Many people are concerned about the implications such major schemes will have on the area; considering the ... loss of countryside and associated agricultural jobs."	<p>The Applicant recognises the significance of the agricultural industry in the local economy and has assessed the economic impact of the Scheme in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] and the direct impacts on local agriculture in Sections 19.9 and 19.10 of C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A].</p> <p>The Scheme is anticipated to lead to a maximum loss of approximately 17 full-time equivalent agriculture jobs, as stated in paragraph 18.7.15 of document C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]. The Scheme is estimated to employ 10 full-time equivalent employees from the local area during operation; see Table 18.16. The net change in employment in the local area (defined as West Lindsey and Bassetlaw Districts) during the Scheme's operational life is a loss of approximately 2 full-time jobs, once consideration of direct, indirect</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>and induced employment, and impacts on the tourism and recreation industry are considered (see para. 18.7.79). Overall, the economic benefit to the local area is estimated to be £2.2 million per year (see para. 18.7.97).</p> <p>The overall employment and economic benefit to the local area from the two-year construction period is anticipated to be 661 full-time equivalent jobs (see para. 18.7.23), generating £30.9 million per year (see para. 18.7.52).</p> <p>The land included in the Scheme covers 4 farm businesses, all of which are owner occupiers of the land within the Sites, and none of which are anticipated to be closed in their entirety. This is detailed in full in para. 7.1.1-17 of C6.3.19.1 ES Appendix 19.1 Agricultural Land Quality Soil Resources and Farming Circumstances [APP-145].</p>
WSPC-10	Transport and Access	Local Network	<p>"In addition, the loss of footpaths and byways during construction, as well as bearing in mind that local roads are unsuitable for construction traffic on this scale."</p>	<p>Public Rights of Way may be subject to short-term temporary diversions or closures to facilitate cable laying as set out in para 3.13 of C6.3.14.3 ES Appendix 14.3 Public Rights of Way Management Plan [APP-136]. All Public Rights of Way on and surrounding the Sites are to remain open during construction where feasible, and all existing Public Rights of Way are to be retained during the Scheme's operational lifetime.</p> <p>An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been prepared to support the application within C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A]. This sets out the local road network that will be used for the construction phase, and how construction vehicle movements will be managed.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
WSPC-11	Landscape and Visual	Local Rural Scene	"It would dramatically change our local rural scene for the worse. The attractive link between the village and the countryside would be destroyed."	<p>The applicant notes this comment.</p> <p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Amenity [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') takes into account the effects on the landscape character in detail, including the rural landscape and that it is part of the heritage of Lincolnshire. These effects are considered from the national scale, through regional, county district and local scales to the landscape character areas within the 5km Study Area.</p> <p>For example, Section 3.1 in C6.3.8.2 ES Appendix 8.2 Assessment of Potential Landscape Effects [APP-074] notes that agriculture is the dominant land use, but that the landscape reveals views of an open nature beneath vast skies that are often extensive and uninterrupted. The findings also note this is a predominantly rural and sparsely settled area with small villages and dispersed farms and residential dwellings linked by long roads and a network of minor tracks which follow geometric field patterns.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that there will be change to the character of the landscape at Site level, within the wider landscape which is relating to Willingham by Stow and within parts of the Regional Scale Landscape Character Area – Profile 4a: Unwooded Vales (defined within the East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment) during the construction and operation phase of the Scheme. For further information, please refer to Appendix 8.2 [APP-074]. These associated appendices provide a detailed assessment of landscape effects on each landscape receptor including the character areas from the East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment.</p> <p>Effects on some landscape receptors would be significant at construction and year 1 of operation. This is relating to land use,</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>topography, communications and infrastructure, but with mitigation this is reduced across the majority of the landscape receptors to not significant at year 15 of operation. Residual significant effects are predicted for some landscape receptors at year 15 of operation of the beneficial type due to the mitigation proposed. This mitigation includes the new and augmented hedgerows and new shelterbelt, scattered tree planting that will provide a series of good quality field boundaries. This will help in both strengthening the historic field pattern and in creating a multi-layered landscape. This is set out in more detail at C6.3.8.3 ES Appendix 8.3 Assessment of Potential Visual Effects [APP-075].</p> <p>The mitigation associated with the landscape receptors for the Scheme is included in the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) Outline Plan [APP-339] and Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Figures 8.16.1 to 8.16.10) [APP/C6.4.8.16.7.1 to C6.4.8.16.7.10] [APP-305 to APP-315].</p> <p>The LVIA picks up the delivery of landscape mitigation to landscape character by addressing biodiversity net gain through the enhancement of existing habitats and green infrastructure. The LEMP also prescribes how the landscape and ecology mitigation measures identified and proposed would be implemented and managed to ensure the effectiveness and certainty in achieving the objectives. The Applicant and its LVIA consultants at Lanpro have worked closely with the ecology consultant throughout the application process to inform the LVIA and associated mitigation plans. The mitigation proposals allow for flexibility, but they can also be fixed, where appropriate and applicable.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
WSPC-12	Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	Surface water run-off	"The ground underneath the solar panels will not be able to absorb water, hence there will be additional run off. Where will this water go? The area has history of flooding."	<p>The panels themselves do not cause a significant increase in hardstanding area as agreed with the LLFAs and EA in their relevant representations (Lincolnshire County Council [RR-001], Nottinghamshire County Council [RR-003], Environment Agency [RR-026]). The panels are raised on frames which have a minimal footprint and the land beneath the panels is proposed to be improved with grassland planting. Whilst the ground will be initially shadowed from rain by the panel, once on the ground the water will follow local topography and utilise the ground beneath the panels for infiltration, similarly to the current "no panels" scenario.</p> <p>The Applicant confirms that following further development of the Scheme, details of areas in which there is proposed to be hardstanding will be provided.</p> <p>Paragraph 4.2.4 of C6.2.4_A ES Chapter 4 Scheme Description Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.4_A] summarises the Application's work packages. Works No 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9 are to result in the creation of hardstanding elements. C7.15_A Concept Design Parameters and Principles [EN010133/EX1/C7.15_A] when read alongside C2.4_A Works Plan Revision A [AS-007] further details the potential extent of areas which are to be made impermeable. The Applicant confirms that they are willing to provide further details of hardstanding elements at detailed design stage, post-consent, if required.</p> <p>As stated in C6.3.10.1 ES Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy Report [APP-090], any runoff from hardstanding/small buildings on the Sites will be captured on site, to prevent increasing runoff from the Sites.</p>



Neighbourhood Planning Committee [RR-038]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
NPC-01	Soils and Agriculture	Agricultural Land Use	<p>"The Neighbourhood Planning committee have made a summary of main issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of agricultural land." 	<p>The Applicant recognises the significance of the agricultural industry in the local economy and has assessed the economic impact of the Scheme in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] and the direct impacts on local agriculture in Sections 19.9 and 19.10 of C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A].</p>
NPC-02	The Scheme Landscape and Visual Impact Noise and Vibration Glint and Glare	Proximity of the Scheme to Residential Dwellings	<p>"The Neighbourhood Planning committee have made a summary of main issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proximity to people's houses." 	<p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact [APP-043] includes a full and detailed assessment that deals with both effects on the landscape itself and effects on the visual amenity of people, as well as interrelationships of these with other related topics in the ES. The LVIA process is iterative and as a result, the design of the Scheme has changed to respond to the findings of the assessment to ensure that landscape mitigation is fully considered as part of the process.</p> <p>Paragraph 8.3.10 of C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8_Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] notes the [Secretary of State's] need to "judge whether the visual effects on sensitive receptors, such as local residents, and other receptors, such as visitors to the local area, outweigh the benefits of the project". C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8_Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] sets out details of the offsets that are proposed around sensitive receptors such as settlement edges, individual residential properties, PRoW and transport routes (see section 8.11 of C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8_Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043]) which aim to assist in the assimilation and dispersion of the Scheme across the landscape.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>The separate parcels of land in the Scheme are placed far apart such that the solar panels are distributed 'in and amongst' the landscape, enabling Sites to assimilate into the landscape to assimilate into the landscape such that the majority of effects on landscape and visual receptors are considered to be not significant and adverse.</p> <p>C6.2.16 ES Chapter 16 Glint and Glare [APP-051] considers dwellings within 1km from the Order Limits of the Scheme. Figures contained within Section 5.2 of C6.3.16.1 ES Appendix 16.1 Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study [APP-140] set out those dwellings within 1km from the Scheme (Study Area). The impacts upon those dwellings identified are summarised in the following paragraphs within the ES Chapter: paragraph 16.5.3 and 16.8.2 of C6.2.16 ES Chapter 16 Glint and Glare [APP-051]. For those dwellings that are predicted to experience a "Moderate" impact, the Applicant is committed to implementing embedded mitigation to reduce the effects to acceptable levels. The mitigation will be in the form of screening (immediate and long term), and it is outlined within the Glint and Glare Assessment Section 7.1 of C6.3.16.1 ES Appendix 16.1 Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study [APP-140], and Section 16.9 of C6.2.16 ES Chapter 16 Glint and Glare [APP-051].</p> <p>The likely impacts of noise and vibration, including any anticipated impacts to residential properties, have been assessed in Section 15.7 of C6.2.15 ES Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration [APP-050]. The noise and vibration effects are not anticipated to be significant.</p>
NPC-03	Landscape and Visual Impact	Impact on the Local Environment	"The Neighbourhood Planning committee have made a summary of main issues:	The Applicant and its LVIA consultants at Lanpro have worked closely with the Applicant's ecology consultant throughout the Application process to inform the LVIA and associated mitigation plans. The

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
	Ecology and Biodiversity Transport and Access Noise and Vibration Glint and Glare		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact on the local environment including wildlife." 	<p>mitigation proposals allow for flexibility as part of the detailed design process post DCO consent, but they also set out elements that are fixed, where appropriate and applicable to do so.</p> <p>Further detail on these mitigation measures and how habitat enhancement and creation will link to form a coherent green infrastructure network can be found within C6.4.8.16.1-C6.4.8.16.10 Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (figures 8.16.1 to 8.16.10) [APP-305 to APP-315] which illustrate the key areas of mitigation within the Scheme. The details set out in these plans and the supporting document C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] are sufficient in detail to support the conclusions set out in C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043]. Measures set out in C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] are secured through Requirement 7 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>The Applicant is not aware of any glint and glare issues affecting local wildlife and captive animals. Solar reflections generating from solar panels will be similar to those generated by a body of water (see section 4.1 of C6.3.16.1 ES Appendix 16.1 Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study [APP-140]). Therefore, effects upon animals are likely to be similar.</p> <p>Paragraph 15.4.1 of C6.2.15 ES Chapter 15_Noise and Vibration [APP-050] confirms that an assessment of the potential effects of noise during construction has been carried out for the closest, and therefore most noise sensitive, ecological designations.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>Given that there are no designated ecological receptors (i.e., SSSI, SPA, SCA and RAMSAR) within the immediate vicinity of the Scheme, Noise and Vibrational impacts are not detailed within Section 15.7 of C6.2.15 ES Chapter 15_Noise and Vibration [APP-050], as no significant adverse effects are anticipated.</p> <p>Section 9.6 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] sets out the extensive findings of all ecological investigations undertaken within the Order Limits together with an appraisal of the relative importance of each species or species group, habitat or designated site. A comprehensive package of mitigation measures has been identified, in tandem with embedded mitigation (see Section 9.6) established through the ecologically sensitive design of the Scheme (such as the wide buffering of all field boundaries and the use of existing hedgerow gaps for accesses). These measures are further detailed within C7.19 Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [APP-356] and C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] as secured by Requirements 8 and 7 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] respectively, which will ensure that all identified impacts are minimised as far as possible.</p> <p>C6.3.9.12 ES Appendix 9.12 Biodiversity Net Gain Report [APP-089] sets out how a significant net gain for biodiversity has been calculated and will be secured via Requirement 9 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] for the life of the Scheme alongside the implementation of the LEMP C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A], as secured by Requirement 7 of C3.1_B</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]. The BNG Report [APP-089] shows that a net gain of 96.09% for habitat units, 70.22% for hedgerow units and 10.69% for river units is anticipated to be achieved through the Scheme. The LEMP allows for regular ecological monitoring and adaptation of the management prescriptions in response to changing conditions within the Order Limits so as to ensure the long-term achievement of its aims and persistence of net gain.</p>
NPC-04	The Scheme	Construction Phase and Draft Development Consent Order	<p>"The Neighbourhood Planning committee have made a summary of main issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of construction phase on local (inadequate) infrastructure Compulsory purchase is a heavy handed approach and could remove the future potential to revert back to agricultural land." 	<p>The Applicant's preference is to enter into voluntary agreements with all landowners within the Order limits. The Applicant has entered into voluntary agreements with the landowners for each of the Sites and negotiations are ongoing with landowners for the Cable Route Corridor. Negotiations and consultation with landowners on the Sites and Cable Route Corridor have been undertaken throughout the pre-application process, as detailed in paras. 9.1.24 -9.1.34 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] and Appendix B of C4.1_A Statement of Reasons Revision A [AS-013]. That notwithstanding, compulsory acquisition powers are being sought to ensure the deliverability of this nationally significant infrastructure project where voluntary land agreements are not able to be secured. The justification for the use of compulsory acquisition powers is set out within sections 7 and 8 of the C4.1_A Statement of Reasons Revision A [AS-013]. The Applicant considers the use of compulsory acquisition powers to be necessary and proportionate.</p> <p>An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been prepared to support the application within C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A]. This sets out the local road network that</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>will be used for the construction phase, and how construction vehicle movements will be managed. Baseline conditions of the local road network are set out in Section 14.5 of C6.2.14 ES Chapter 14 Transport and Access [APP-049].</p> <p>C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], provides (in Requirement 15 of Schedule 2) that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a construction traffic management plan for that part must be submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities". It further provides that "The construction traffic management plan must be substantially in accordance with the outline construction traffic management plan."</p> <p>C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A] provides a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements to and from the Scheme, to ensure that the effects of the temporary construction phase on the local highway network are minimised.</p> <p>As the Scheme will be decommissioned there will not be a permanent loss of agricultural land. Furthermore, decommissioning mitigation and site restoration measures are set out in C7.2 Outline Decommissioning Statement [APP-338] are secured by Requirement 21 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>

Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Planning Group [RR-042]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
SSSNPG-01	Soils and Agriculture	Agricultural Land Use	<p>"Summary of main issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use of agricultural land." 	<p>The agricultural land can remain in productive use through the operational period, being grazed by livestock (see paras 19.10.2, 19.10.6, 19.10.10 of C6.2.19_A ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A]).</p>
SSSNPG-02	<p>The Scheme</p> <p>Landscape and Visual Impact</p> <p>Noise and Vibration</p> <p>Glint and Glare</p>	Proximity of the Scheme to Residential Dwellings	<p>"Summary of main issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • proximity to people's houses" 	<p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') takes into account the effects on residential receptors and this includes singular buildings, groups of buildings and towns or villages. Table 8.15 of the LVIA sets out the selection of initial residential receptors for the purpose of the assessment, the reason for their selection being that the receptors are all within the 1km Study Area for the Scheme and the 0.5km Study Area from the outer boundary of the Cable Route Corridor.</p> <p>Section 9.6 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] sets out the extensive findings of all ecological investigations undertaken within the Order Limits together with an appraisal of the relative importance of each species or species group, habitat or designated site. A comprehensive package of mitigation measures has been identified, in tandem with embedded mitigation (see Section 9.6) established through the ecologically sensitive design of the Scheme (such as the wide buffering of all field boundaries and the use of existing hedgerow gaps for accesses). These measures have been further detailed within C7.19 Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [APP-356] and C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] as secured by Requirements 8 and 7 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] respectively</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>which will ensure that all identified impacts are minimised as far as possible.</p> <p>C6.3.9.12 ES Appendix 9.12 Biodiversity Net Gain Report [APP-089] sets out how a significant net gain for biodiversity has been calculated and will be secured via Requirement 9 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] for the life of the Scheme alongside the implementation of the LEMP C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A], as secured by Requirement 7 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]. The BNG Report [APP-089] shows an anticipated net gain of 96.09% for habitat units, an anticipated 70.22% for hedgerow units and an anticipated 10.69% for river units is anticipated to be achieved through the Scheme. The LEMP allows for regular ecological monitoring and adaptation of the management prescriptions in response to changing conditions within the Order Limits so as to ensure the long-term achievement of its aims and persistence of net gain.</p> <p>C6.2.16 ES Chapter 16 Glint and Glare [APP-051] considers dwellings within 1km from the Order Limits of the Scheme. Figures contained within Section 5.2 of C6.3.16.1 ES Appendix 16.1 Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study [APP-140] set out those dwellings within 1km from the Scheme (Study Area). The impacts upon those dwellings identified are summarised in the following paragraphs within the ES Chapter: paragraph 16.5.3 and 16.8.2 of C6.2.16 ES Chapter 16 Glint and Glare [APP-051]. For those dwellings that are predicted to experience a "Moderate" impact, the Applicant is committed to implementing embedded mitigation to reduce the effects to</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>acceptable levels. The mitigation will be in the form of screening (immediate and long term), and it is outlined within the Glint and Glare Assessment Section 7.1 of C6.3.16.1 ES Appendix 16.1 Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study [APP-140], and Section 16.9 of C6.2.16 ES Chapter 16 Glint and Glare [APP-051].</p> <p>The likely impacts of noise and vibration, including any anticipated impacts to residential properties, have been assessed in Section 15.7 of C6.2.15 ES Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration [APP-050]. The noise and vibration effects are not anticipated to be significant.</p>
SSSNPG-03	Landscape and Visual Impact Ecology and Biodiversity Noise and Vibration Glint and Glare Soils and Agriculture	Impact on the Local Environment	<p>"Summary of main issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • impact on the local environment including wildlife." 	<p>The Applicant and its LVIA consultants at Lanpro have worked closely with the Applicant's ecology consultant throughout the Application process to inform the LVIA and associated mitigation plans. The mitigation proposals allow for flexibility as part of the detailed design process post DCO consent, but they also set out elements that are fixed, where appropriate and applicable to do so.</p> <p>Further detail on these mitigation measures and how habitat enhancement and creation will link to form a coherent green infrastructure network can be found within C6.4.8.16.1-C6.4.8.16.10 Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (figures 8.16.1 to 8.16.10) [APP-305 to APP-315] which illustrate the key areas of mitigation within the Scheme. The details set out in these plans and the supporting document C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] are sufficient in detail to support the conclusions set out in C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043].</p> <p>Mitigation, including offsets and planting, has been proposed to address and minimise adverse effects on the character of the</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>landscape. This is in line with the agreed methodology and the hierarchy of approach advocated by the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition and was agreed with Lincolnshire County Council at a series of workshops, as set out in C6.3.8.4 ES Appendix 8.4 Consultation [APP-076].</p> <p>The Applicant is not aware of any glint and glare issues affecting local wildlife and captive animals. Solar reflections generating from solar panels will be similar to those generated by a body of water (see section 4.1 of C6.3.16.1 ES Appendix 16.1 Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study [APP-140]). Therefore, effects upon animals are likely to be similar.</p> <p>Paragraph 15.4.1 of C6.2.15 ES Chapter 15_Noise and Vibration [APP-050] confirms that an assessment of the potential effects of noise during construction has been carried out for the closest, and therefore most noise sensitive, ecological designations.</p> <p>Given that there are no designated ecological receptors (i.e., SSSi, SPA, SCA and RAMSAR) within the immediate vicinity of the Scheme, Noise and Vibrational impacts are not detailed within Section 15.7 of C6.2.15 ES Chapter 15_Noise and Vibration [APP-050], as no significant adverse effects are anticipated.</p>
SSSNPG-04	The Scheme Transport and Access Soils and Agriculture	Construction Phase and Draft Development Consent Order	<p>"Summary of main issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • impact of construction phase on local (inadequate) infrastructure <p>Compulsory purchase is a heavy handed approach and could remove the future potential to revert back to agricultural land."</p>	<p>An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been prepared to support the application within C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A]. C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], provides (in Requirement 15 of Schedule 2) that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a construction traffic management plan for that part</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>must be submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities". It further provides that "The construction traffic management plan must be substantially in accordance with the outline construction traffic management plan."</p> <p>The outline CTMP submitted as part of the DCO application provides a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements to and from the Scheme, to ensure that the effects of the temporary construction phase on the local highway network are minimised and made acceptable.</p> <p>By example, measure xxi of C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A] is for a road condition survey. This will ensure that any identified highways defects resulting from construction activities associated with the Site will be corrected to the satisfaction of the local highway authority.</p> <p>The Transport Assessment within C6.3.14.1 ES Appendix 14.1 [APP-134] provides an assessment of the transport effects of the Scheme and concludes, through paragraphs 11.1 to 11.11, that the Scheme is acceptable from a transport perspective.</p> <p>In respect of managing traffic during decommissioning, C7.2 Outline Decommissioning Statement [APP-338] explains in paragraph 1.2.1 that a Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) (or multiple DEMPs) and a Decommissioning Traffic Management Plan (DTMP) will be produced and approved for the Scheme following the appointment of a contractor, prior to the commencement of the</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>decommissioning phase of the Scheme. Approval and implementation of the detail decommissioning plan is secured by Requirement 21 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>The site is predominantly ALC Grade 3b, not "best and most versatile" agricultural land (see para 19.8.5 of C6.2.19_A ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A]). As the Scheme will be decommissioned there will not be a permanent loss of agricultural land. In addition, the agricultural land can remain in productive use through the operational period, being grazed by livestock (see paras 19.10.2, 19.10.6, 19.10.10 of C6.2.19_A ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A]).</p> <p>C4.1 Statement of Reasons Compulsory Acquisition Information Revision A [AS-013] sets out the case for why the powers sought over land are necessary and proportionate to deliver the Scheme. Wherever possible, the Applicant is seeking to enter voluntary agreements with landowners and only where this is not possible will powers of compulsory acquisition be exercised.</p>
SSSNPG-05	Cumulative Development Soils And Agriculture	Cumulative Development Agricultural Land Use	<p>"Summary of main issues: Other applications of: • West Burton Gate Burton Tillbridge Solar These need to be a consideration factor since the scale of land to be taken out of agricultural production is vast."</p>	<p>Cumulative effects assessments have been prepared for the Application within the Environmental Statement [APP-036 to APP-058]. Cumulative effects assessments for each topic are set out in each of the ES Chapters and include the assessment of the impacts of the Scheme cumulatively with the NSIPs identified in paragraph 2.5.9 of C6.2.2 ES Chapter 2 EIA Process and Methodology [APP-037]. This assessment is in accordance with Schedule 4 of the 2017 EIA Regulations and PINS Advice Note 17.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>Paragraph 3.3.15 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] states that the operational life of the Scheme is, for the purpose of the assessment, assumed to be 40 years where decommissioning is estimated to be no earlier than 2066. The decommissioning and restoration of the land is secured through Requirement 21 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_A Draft Development Consent Order [AS-012]. Paragraph 6.7.19 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] states that the Scheme effectively minimises impacts on agricultural land and would retain the ability to reinstate arable agriculture after decommissioning.</p> <p>In addition, it is noted within paragraph 19.9.17 of C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A] that the management of grass below and between the solar panels can include the grazing of livestock where appropriate and as such, the majority of land within the Sites can continue in agricultural production during the operational period.</p>

2.2 The Applicant's responses to Other Statutory Consultees, International Agencies, Undertakers, Elected Representatives and those whose interests would be affected by the Order.

Network Rail Infrastructure Limited [RR-022]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
NRIL-01	The Scheme	Draft DCO: Compulsory Acquisition Powers	<p>"Network Rail is a statutory undertaker and owns, operates and maintains the majority of the rail infrastructure of Great Britain.</p> <p>The Book of Reference (BoR) identifies plots 02-042; 16-320 and 18-372 (Plots) as land owned by Network Rail in respect of which compulsory acquisition powers to acquire new rights are sought. The compulsory acquisition powers sought are described in the BoR as being the "acquisition of rights and imposition of restrictions" (Compulsory Powers). Network Rail notes that the Compulsory Powers are sought in relation to operational railway land forming part of the operational railway being the Spalding to Doncaster Line and Sheffield to Lincoln Line. Network Rail objects to the inclusion of the Plots in the Order and to the acquisition of Compulsory Powers in respect of them."</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment and objection, and confirms that Network Rail's understanding of the compulsory powers sought in the application is correct.</p> <p>The Applicant has been negotiating protective provisions with Network Rail ensure that its statutory undertaking is not subject to serious detriment as a result of the Scheme. Draft protective provisions are included in Part 10 to Schedule 16 of the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], and these contain protections relating to "railway property". The Applicant is in the process of negotiation the necessary property rights required for the Scheme on Network Rail's land. The Applicant is confident that agreement can be reached with Network Rail prior to the close of the Examination.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
NRIL-02	The Scheme	Draft DCO: Compulsory Acquisition Powers	"The Plots constitute land acquired by Network Rail for the purpose of its statutory undertaking and, accordingly, this representation is made under section 56 and sections 127 and 138 of the Planning Act 2008. Network Rail considers that there is no compelling case in the public interest for the acquisition of Compulsory Powers and Network Rail considers that the Secretary of State, in applying section 127 of the Planning Act 2008, cannot conclude that new rights and restrictions over the railway land can be created without serious detriment to Network Rail's undertaking; no other land is available to Network Rail which means that the detriment can be made good by them."	The Applicant notes this comment, and respectfully disagrees with Network Rail's statement that there is no compelling case in the public interest for seeking compulsory acquisition powers. Section 10.3 of C4.1 Statement of Reasons Compulsory Acquisition Information Revision A [AS-013] sets out the case for why the powers sought over land are necessary and proportionate to deliver the Scheme. Draft protective provisions are included in Part 10 to Schedule 16 of the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] , and these require the Applicant to obtain Network Rail's consent prior to carrying out any works thereby ensuring there is no serious detriment to Network Rail's undertaking.
NRIL-03	The Scheme	Draft DCO: Other Compulsory Powers	"Network Rail also objects to all other compulsory powers in the Order to the extent that they affect, and may be exercised in relation to, Network Rail's property and interests. In order for Network Rail to be in a position to withdraw its objection Network Rail requires:	As mentioned above, discussions relating to voluntary property agreements are ongoing and the Applicant is confident that agreement can be reached prior to the close of the Examination.

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>(a) agreements with the Applicant that regulate:</p> <p>(i) the manner in which rights over the Plots and any other railway property are acquired and the relevant works are carried out including terms which protect Network Rail's statutory undertaking and agreement that compulsory acquisition powers will not be exercised in relation to such land; and</p> <p>(ii) the carrying out of works in the vicinity of the operational railway network to safeguard Network Rail's statutory undertaking;</p> <p>(b) Network Rail welcomes the fact that there are protective provisions for its benefit in the Order and, if necessary, will provide detailed comments on, and amendments to, the protective provisions when it submits its detailed Written Representation."</p>	
NRIL-04	The Scheme	Draft DCO: Protective Provisions	"To safeguard Network Rail's interests and the safety and integrity of the operational railway, Network Rail objects to the inclusion of the Compulsory Powers and any other	The Applicant notes this comment and refers Network Rail to the responses to NRIL-01, 02 and 03 above which respond to these concerns.

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>powers affecting Network Rail in the Order. Network Rail requests that the Examining Authority treat Network Rail as an Interested Party for the purposes of the Examination."</p>	

The British Horse Society [RR-023]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
TBHS-01	Transport and Access Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation	Shrinking Equestrian Network	<p>"The British Horse Society is the UK's largest equestrian Charity, representing the UK's 3 million horse riders. Nationally equestrians have just 22% of the rights of way network and are increasingly forced to use busy roads to access them.</p> <p>Between 01.01.2022 – 31.12.2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2,943 road incidents involving horses have been reported to The British Horse Society. • Of these, 66 horses have died and 129 have been injured. • 126 people have been injured because of road incidents. • 13% of riders were victims to road rage or abuse. • 85% of incidents occurred because a vehicle passed by too closely to the horse. • 75% of incidents occurred because a vehicle passed by too quickly. This illustrates the importance of protecting, improving and extending safe off-road provision to help to 	<p>The Applicant is cognisant of the significance of the Public Rights of Way network for recreational activity and its importance to physical and mental wellbeing. The likely nature and significance of effect of the Scheme on the recreational use of public rights of way for all users has been assessed in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]. The greatest level of effect to the use of bridleways and byways is moderate-minor adverse and is anticipated during construction (see Table 18.15 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]) and decommissioning (see paras. 18.7.143 to 18.7.149 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]).</p> <p>Public Rights of Way may be subject to short-term temporary diversions or closures to facilitate cable laying as set out in para 3.13 of C6.3.14.3_A ES Appendix 14.3 Public Rights of Way Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.3_A]. All Public Rights of Way on and surrounding the Sites are to remain open during construction where feasible, and all existing Public Rights of Way are to be retained during the Scheme's operational lifetime.</p> <p>A Public Rights of Way Management Plan will be implemented during the construction phase of the Scheme. An Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan is included at C6.3.14.3_A ES Appendix 14.3 Public Rights of Way Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.3_A]. A Public Rights of Way Management Plan will be submitted and approved prior to the commencement of development, as secured through Requirement 18 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			prevent these numbers from increasing in the future."	
TBHS-02	Planning Policy Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation	NPPF	<p>"New development plans present threats and opportunities for all vulnerable road users: equestrians, cyclists, pedestrians, wheelchair users and mobility scooter users.</p> <p>The NPPF para 100 states: Planning policies and decisions should protect and enhance public rights of way and access, including taking opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks."</p>	<p>The Scheme features measures to protect existing Public Rights of Way through C6.3.14.3_A ES Appendix 14.3 Public Rights of Way Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.3_A], as secured through Requirement 18 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]. The Scheme also seeks to enhance the existing network through the provision of a new permissive path defined as Work No. 11 in Schedule 1 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>A policy assessment of the measures regarding existing Public Rights of Way and the proposed permissive path can be found in paragraphs 6.13.27 to 6.13.29, 6.15.18, 6.16.11 and in Appendix 4 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A].</p> <p>The assessed moderate-minor benefit to recreational use of Public Rights of Way as a result of the proposed permissive path is set out in paragraph 18.7.108 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053].</p>
TBHS-03	The Scheme Transport and Access Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation	Proposed Permissive Path	<p>"The equestrian industry generates £4.7 billion of consumer spending, £5,548 per horse (BETA, 2019) is contributed to the economy benefitting local economies where equestrian activities thrive. DEFRA has recorded 5,599 horses in the immediate DN10, DN22, LN1 and</p>	<p>Impacts on livery yards and equestrian services have not been assessed as the C6.3.2.2 ES Appendix 2.2 EIA Scoping Opinion [APP-064] does not refer to the need to assess equestrian facilities, rather it only refers to assessing the impacts on horse-riding activities in the traffic and transport assessment (see scoping response from UK HAS, pg. 147 [APP-064]).</p> <p>Furthermore, due to the small number of identified facilities in proximity to the Scheme, and the non-significant anticipated effect on</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			DN21 postcode areas (2021), making a total of £31,063,252 contribution to the economy. There are livery yards in the area creating employment and using equine services (vet, farrier, feed, instructors, etc) as well as growing interest in equestrian tourism ('take your horse on holiday').	the Public Right of Way network available to equestrian users (see Tables 18.15 and 18.2 in C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]), direct impacts on equestrian facilities and businesses has not been considered further.
TBHS-04	The Scheme Transport and Access	Bridleway & Byway Network	<p>"Why is the permissive path described as 'footpath' rather than a multi-user route?</p> <p>The bridleway and byway network in this area is fragmented (with more provision in the Nottinghamshire side than the Lincolnshire side), therefore leaving limited access for equestrians unless they ride/lead/carriage drive on the main roads to reach the safety of off-road provision."</p>	<p>The permissive path, as described in paragraph 3.9.5 of C7.6 Design and Access Statement [APP-342], is intended primarily as a footpath due to the anticipated users predominantly being on foot, and as a result of continuing agricultural requirements in the fields bounded by the proposed path. It was therefore not considered necessary or suitable to provide a facility for horse-riders or cyclists.</p> <p>The Applicant notes this comment and has sought to identify the Public Rights of Way network on and surrounding the Sites, including Bridleways, in Table 14.5 in C6.2.14 ES Chapter 14 Transport and Access [APP-049]. In addition, usage of the Public Rights of Way that cross the Sites is set out in Table 14.6 of C6.2.14 ES Chapter 14 Transport and Access [APP-049].</p>
TBHS-05	The Scheme Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation	Community Benefits of the Scheme	"The DAS 3.9.5 mentions consideration of permissive routes (as requested by the BHS in July 2022) although limits this to walking and cycling, a very limited offer considering the size and scale of the development; ways to include	In Table 12.1 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] on p147, it is stated that: 'The Applicant has explored alternative permissive path routes but these proved to be incompatible with existing farming activities, or required land beyond the Applicant's control. The permissive path, as described in paragraph 3.9.5 of C7.6 Design and Access Statement [APP-342] , is intended primarily as a footpath due to the anticipated users predominantly being on foot, and as a result

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>equestrians rather than excluding them should be the starting point otherwise the 'community benefit' does not benefit the whole community."</p>	<p>of continuing agricultural requirements in the fields bounded by the proposed path. It was therefore not considered necessary or suitable to provide a facility for horse-riders or cyclists. As set out in Table 5.9 in C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040], the permissive path from Stow village will contribute to the wider network of footpaths in the area and facilitate greater public access to the countryside.'</p> <p>The permissive path, as described in paragraph 3.9.5 of C7.6 Design and Access Statement [APP-342], is intended primarily as a footpath due to the anticipated users predominantly being on foot, and as a result of continuing agricultural requirements in the fields bounded by the proposed path. It was therefore not considered necessary or suitable to provide a facility for horse-riders or cyclists.</p> <p>Furthermore, the permissive path does not connect to the wider bridleway network. The wider bridleway network is identified within Appendix B of C6.3.14.3_A ES Appendix 14.3 Public Rights of Way Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.3_A]. Therefore, there is unlikely to be a significant demand from equestrians.</p>
TBHS-06	Transport and Access	Construction Period	<p>"How would risks on the highway during the construction period be managed?</p> <p>The construction period for a development of this scale is considerable – 2 years. HGV return journeys at the height of the construction period will impact on the volume of traffic on the road network</p>	<p>An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been prepared to support the application within C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A]. C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], provides (in Requirement 15 of Schedule 2) that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a construction traffic management plan for that part must be submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			locally. Already mainly 60mph roads with some sections of 30mph and 50mph, the additional traffic and the added complication of vehicles regularly turning into the access road will make the road higher risk for vulnerable road users in the absence of speed restrictions or other traffic calming measures."	multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities". It further provides that "The construction traffic management plan must be substantially in accordance with the outline construction traffic management plan." The outline CTMP submitted as part of the DCO application provides a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements to and from the Scheme, to ensure that the effects of the temporary construction phase on the local highway network are minimised and made acceptable.
TBHS-07	Transport and Access	Construction Period	"It is positive that the operation hours for construction are limited to avoid evenings although Saturday mornings would coincide with times that equestrians would be active on the lanes and PRow. It is also positive that banksmen will be used for the access points for HGV's."	Management measures for PRow are set out in Section 3 of C6.3.14.3_A ES Appendix 14.3 Public Rights of Way Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.3_A] . This includes a commitment to ensure that vehicle speeds are low, for vehicles to give way to PRow users, and for signage to be installed (see paragraph 3.12). A Public Rights of Way Management Plan will be submitted and approved prior to the commencement of development, as secured through Requirement 18 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] .
TBHS-08	Transport and Access	Abnormal Loads	"Any abnormal loads which may be transported should be notified in advance to allow equestrians to choose to avoid the area on that day."	Table 6.1 of Section 6 C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A] outlines the access points which will enable the movement of abnormal loads to the Sites. C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] , provides (in Requirement 15 of Schedule 2) that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a construction traffic management plan for that part must be submitted

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>to and approved by the relevant planning authority or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities". It further provides that "The construction traffic management plan must be substantially in accordance with the outline construction traffic management plan."</p> <p>The Applicant confirms that the final CTMP secured by Requirement 15 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] will include provision for providing forewarning to any interested parties.</p>
TBHS-09	Transport and Access	HGV's use of the local network	<p>"HGV's are generally 2.5m wide and 4.5m high (some vehicles for component transportation significantly larger) which, on the road network local to the site, would sandwich a horse and rider between the vehicle and the hedgerow or ditch along the route with little room for refuge which may cause panic. Appropriate information/training should be provided to drivers/development workers to give priority to users of the PRow and country lanes."</p>	<p>All HGV drivers will have the appropriate licences and accreditations for the transportation of equipment to the Site.</p> <p>An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been prepared to support the application within C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A]. This will be shared with all suppliers so that drivers are aware of the construction vehicle routes and management measures that will be in place.</p> <p>C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], provides (in Requirement 15 of Schedule 2) that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a construction traffic management plan for that part must be submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities". It further provides that "The construction traffic management plan must be</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				substantially in accordance with the outline construction traffic management plan."
TBHS-10	Transport and Access	Construction Signage	"The additional signage during construction to warn traffic of equestrians and other vulnerable road users in the area, and ensure they are considerate in terms of vehicles stopping if necessary and allowing vulnerable road users to pass safely, as suggested by the BHS in July 2022, is welcomed."	The Applicant notes this comment.
TBHS-11	Transport and Access	ES Chapter: User Groups	"The 'Pedestrian Amenity' (C6.2.14 ES Chapter 14_Transport and Access) has been amended to include cyclists but not equestrians – why have this group been excluded when horses/riders/carriage drivers can also be subject to fear and intimidation from MPV traffic?"	<p>It is acknowledged that horse riders may use the local highway network and bridleways operate close to, or through the Scheme. C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A] and C6.3.14.3_A ES Appendix 14.3 Public Rights of Way Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.3_A] have been updated and submitted for Deadline 1 to include equestrians.</p> <p>The number of construction vehicle movements predicted on the local road network is set out in Section 6 of the C6.3.14.1 ES Appendix 14.1 Transport Assessment [APP-134]. Traffic mitigation and management measures are set out in Section 7 of C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A], as secured through Requirement 15 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
TBHS-12	The Scheme Alternatives and Design Evolution Noise and Vibration	Positioning of Inverters	"Layout - The position of the inverters should ensure they are installed away from the highway. Sudden noise and continuous levels of noise can be a hazard for equestrians as horses are flight animals, therefore the further these elements can be located from the highway, the better it will be for safety."	<p>The Applicant confirms that Inverters (conversion units) will be located within Works No. 1, 2 & 3 as detailed within C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] and as shown on C2.4_A Works Plan Revision A [AS-007].</p> <p>The likely impacts of noise and vibration have been assessed in Section 15.7 of C6.2.15 ES Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration [APP-050]. Equestrians have not been assessed, as this is not required by the EIA guidance. However, referring to the noise contour plots within C6.3.15.3 ES Appendix 15.3 Assessment of Key Effects [APP-139] (figures 15.3.1 to 15.3.6), noise effects rarely occur outside the boundaries of each Site. Resultingly, the noise and vibration effects are not anticipated to be significant and therefore the risks of noise impacts affecting equestrians is considered to be low.</p>
TBHS-13	Glint and Glare	Tracker Panel	"The potential use of tracker panels must consider the direction of glare from the panels in relation to the PRow network and lanes/UCR's in the vicinity used to ride, walk and wheel."	<p>C6.2.16 ES Chapter 16 Glint and Glare [APP-051] and C6.3.16.1 ES Appendix 16.1 Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study [APP-140] consider glint and glare effects upon receptors such as Public Rights of Way (PRow), dwellings, roads, railway infrastructure and aviation. Please see the executive summary contained within [APP-140].</p> <p>Solar reflections towards PRow are not expected to have an impact higher than "Minor/Negligible" (see paragraph 16.8.3 of C6.2.16 ES Chapter 16_Glint and Glare [APP-051]). This is because PRow are a "Low" sensitivity receptor which means the receptor is tolerant of change without detrimental effect, is of low or local importance (see paragraph 16.1.2 of C6.2.16 ES Chapter 16_Glint and Glare [APP-051]) and, even if solar reflections are possible and occur, their magnitude impact is predicted be at a maximum "Minor", which is not considered significant.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				The assessment of PRoWs is outlined in Section 9.3 of C6.3.16.1 ES Appendix 16.1 Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study [APP-140] and summarised in paragraph 16.1.2 of C6.2.16 ES Chapter 16_Glint and Glare [APP-051] .
TBHS-14	The Scheme Socio- economics, Tourism and Recreation Other Environmental Matters: Human Health	The Scheme's Community Benefit	"The community benefit mentions walking and cycling networks at the exclusion of equestrians. According to BETA two-thirds of equestrians are women and Church et al (2010) found 37% of women who are horse riders are over 45 years of age and over a third would pursue no other physical activity. Developers should be looking at how to include this group, not how to exclude them."	The permissive path, as described though paragraph 3.9.5 of C7.6 Design and Access Statement [APP-342] , is intended primarily as a footpath due to the anticipated users predominantly being on foot, and as a result of continuing agricultural requirements in the fields bounded by the proposed path. Additionally, in Table 12.1 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] on p147, it is stated that: 'The Applicant has explored alternative permissive path routes but these proved to be incompatible with existing farming activities, or required land beyond the Applicant's control.'
TBHS-15	The Scheme Socio- Economics, Tourism and Recreation	Bridleways, byways and Unclassified Country Roads	"How will the design protect and enhance the existing public bridleways, byways and UCR's and ensure they remain accessible during the project lifetime?"	Table 3.8 of C7.1 Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.1_A] notes that closures to PRoWs will be kept to a minimum, will be temporary in nature and will be supported by appropriate amounts of notice and accompanied by suitable diversions. During operation of the Scheme, Table 3.9 of C7.16 Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [APP-353] notes that measures are in place for, but not limited to: Maintaining access to all existing PRoW within the Order limits, with no diversions or closures; Providing a suitable point of access for operational vehicles; and controlling areas where the internal maintenance route crosses any

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>existing PRow or local access roads (such as by providing gates), permitting only operational traffic to utilise these internal routes within the Order limits. Operational traffic should give-way to other users (pedestrians and road users) when utilising the crossing points. Reduced speed limits and signage will ensure safe movement around the site.</p> <p>The Applicant confirms that the production of an Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) and a detailed Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) as secured by Requirement 14 and Requirement 13 of Schedule 2 respectively in the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>
TBHS-16	Transport and Access Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation	ES Chapter	<p>"Table 14.6 (C6.2.14 ES Chapter 14_Transport and Access) has counted walkers and cyclists on the bridleway but have equestrians been considered? The low usage from all users may be the result of poor access to the off-road routes, low density of PRow and that often the routes are disconnected therefore not offering circular or longer distance trails. Surely riding, walking and wheeling should be encouraged in the area, not dismissed."</p>	<p>It is acknowledged that horse riders may use the local highway network and bridleways operate close to, or through the Scheme.</p> <p>C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A] and C6.3.14.3_A ES Appendix 14.3 Public Rights of Way Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.3_A] have been updated and submitted for Deadline 1 to include equestrians.</p>
TBHS-17	The Scheme Transport and Access	Construction Traffic	<p>"Damage to surfaces of the PRow (CTMP document) should be repaired within a timeframe, not open-ended. Also damage to the highway e.g.,</p>	<p>The Applicant notes that the British Horse Society is making reference to paragraph 6.2 (i) of C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
		Management Plan	verges should be repaired in a timely manner to ensure that the whole width of the highway can be used by vulnerable road users."	<p>[EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A], which states that "Any damage to the surface of the footpath will be repaired as soon as practicable".</p> <p>An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been prepared to support the application within C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A]. C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], provides (in Requirement 15 of Schedule 2) that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a construction traffic management plan for that part must be submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities". It further provides that "The construction traffic management plan must be substantially in accordance with the outline construction traffic management plan." As such, the Applicant can confirm that the provision for the repair of damage to the surface of the footpath as soon as practicable will be secured through this mechanism.</p>
TBHS-18	The Scheme Transport and Access	PRoW Management Plan	"The PRoW Management Plan drawings are poor, using colours to annotate the PRoW that do not stand out clearly."	<p>The Applicant considers that the British Horse Society is making reference to Figure 2.1 of the C6.3.14.3_A ES Appendix 14.3 Public Rights of Way Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.3_A] which provides a high-level overview of the PRoW network across a wide area. A high resolution set of plans is included in Appendices A and B of the same document.</p>

Cadent Gas Limited [RR-024]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
CGL-01	The Scheme	Existing Infrastructure and Easements	<p>"Cadent Infrastructure is within or in close proximity to the development. Cadent has identified apparatus within the redline boundary or within the vicinity of the proposed works: Please note that Cadent has existing easements for these pipelines which prevents the erection of permanent / temporary buildings/structures, change to existing ground levels or storage of materials etc within the easement strip."</p>	<p>The Applicant is negotiating protective provisions with Cadent to ensure that its statutory undertaking is not subject to serious detriment as a result of the Scheme. Draft protective provisions are included in Part 6 to Schedule 16 of the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]. The Applicant is confident that agreement can be reached with Cadent prior to the close of the Examination.</p> <p>The location of underground infrastructure has been identified and preliminary offsets as required by easements and operator safety distances have been embedded in the Scheme design, as set out in Table 21.6.2 of C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21_Other Environmental Matters [APP-056], and in Section 5.4 and 5.5 of C7.6 Design and Access Statement [APP-342]. Furthermore, the requirement for on-site surveys to ground-truth the location of utilities is set out in paragraphs 21.3.4 and 21.3.5 [APP-056] and secured through C7.1 Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.1_A]. The Applicant is committed to consultation and agreement with operators and/or owners of utility infrastructure that is likely to be directly impacted by the location or design of the Scheme.</p>
CGL-02	The Scheme	Requesting Diversions	<p>"Diversions: Where diversions of apparatus are required to facilitate the scheme, Cadent will require adequate notice and discussions should be started at the earliest opportunity. Please be aware that diversions for high</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that any diversions of Cadent's apparatus would be required to facilitate or as a result of the Scheme. The Applicant is negotiating protective provisions with Cadent to ensure that its statutory undertaking is not subject to serious detriment as a result of the Scheme. Draft protective provisions are included in Part 6 to</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			pressure apparatus can take in excess of two years to plan and procure materials."	<p>Schedule 16 of the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]).</p> <p>The location of underground infrastructure has been identified and preliminary offsets as required by easements and operator safety distances have been embedded in the Scheme design, as set out in Table 21.6.2 of C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21_Other Environmental Matters [APP-056], and in Section 5.4 and 5.5 of C7.6 Design and Access Statement [APP-342]. Furthermore, the requirement for on-site surveys to ground-truth the location of utilities is set out in paragraphs 21.3.4 and 21.3.5 [APP-056] and secured through C7.1_A Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.1_A]. The Applicant is committed to consultation and agreement with operators and/or owners of utility infrastructure that is likely to be directly impacted by the location or design of the Scheme.</p>
CGL-03	The Scheme	Submitting Applications for Diversions	"Where diversions of apparatus are required to facilitate the scheme, Cadent will require the party requesting the diversion works to obtain any necessary planning permissions and other consents to enable the diversion works to be carried out. Details of these consents should be agreed in writing with Cadent before any applications are made. Cadent would ordinarily require a minimum of C4/Conceptual Design study to have been carried out	The Applicant notes this comment and, as stated above, it is not anticipated that any diversions are required as a result of the Scheme.

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			to establish an appropriate diversion route ahead of any application being made."	
CGL-04	The Scheme	Draft DCO: Compulsory Powers	"Adequate land rights must be granted to Cadent (e.g. following the exercise of compulsory powers to acquire such rights included within the DCO) to enable works to proceed, to Cadent's satisfaction."	Draft protective provisions are included in Part 6 to Schedule 16 of the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] , and these include provisions relating to land acquisition and rights.
CGL-05	The Scheme	Draft DCO: Land Rights	"Cadent's approval to the land rights powers included in the DCO prior to submission is strongly recommended to avoid later substantive objection to the DCO. Land rights will be required to be obtained prior to construction and commissioning of any diverted apparatus, in order to avoid any delays to the project's timescales. A diversion agreement may be required addressing responsibility for works, timescales, expenses and indemnity."	Draft protective provisions are included in Part 6 to Schedule 16 of the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] , and these include a provision that the Applicant may only acquire land rights belonging to Cadent through agreement.
CGL-06	The Scheme	Draft DCO: Protective Provisions	"Protection/Protective Provisions: Where the Promoter intends to acquire land, extinguish rights, or interfere with any of Cadent's apparatus, Cadent will require appropriate protection for retained apparatus and further discussion on	Draft protective provisions are included in Part 6 to Schedule 16 of the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] , and these include provisions relating to retained apparatus.

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			the impact to its apparatus and rights including adequate Protective Provisions."	
CGL-07	The Scheme	Deed of Consent and Plant Protection	"Operations within Cadent's existing easement strips are not permitted without approval and will necessitate a Deed of Consent being put in place. Any proposals for work in the vicinity for Cadent's existing apparatus will require approval by Plant Protection under the Protective Provisions and early discussions are advised."	The Applicant notes Cadent's comments on operations within existing easement strips and will update the draft protective provisions included in Part 6 to Schedule 16 of the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] to refer to a Deed of Consent.
CGL-08	The Scheme	Cadent's Deed of Grant of Easement and Requirement for Written Permission of Works.	<p>"Key Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cadent has a Deed of Grant of Easement for each pipeline, which prevents the erection of permanent / temporary buildings/structures, change to existing ground levels or storage of materials etc within the easement strip. • Please be aware that written permission is required before any works commence within the Cadent easement strip and a Crossing Agreement may be required if any apparatus needs to cross the Cadent easement strip." 	Draft protective provisions are included in Part 6 to Schedule 16 of the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] , and these include a provision that the Applicant must obtain Cadent's consent prior to carrying out any specified works.

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
CGL-09	The Scheme	Works Guidance in the Vicinity of Cadent's Assets	<p>"The below guidance is not exhaustive and all works in the vicinity of Cadent's asset shall be subject to review and approval from Cadent's plant protection team in advance of commencement of works on site.</p> <p>General Notes on Pipeline Safety:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You should be aware of the Health and Safety Executives guidance document HS(G) 47 "Avoiding Danger from Underground Services", and Cadent's specification for Safe Working in the Vicinity of Cadent High Pressure gas pipelines and associated installations - requirements for third parties GD/SP/SSW22. Digsafe leaflet Excavating Safely Avoiding injury when working near gas pipes. <p>There will be additional requirements dictated by Cadent's plant protection team.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cadent will also need to ensure that our pipelines remain accessible throughout and after completion of the works. 	<p>The Applicant notes the guidance provided by Cadent.</p> <p>The requirement for on-site surveys to ground-truth the location of utilities is set out in paragraphs 21.3.4 and 21.3.5 of C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21_Other Environmental Matters [APP-056] and secured through C7.1_A Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.1_A]. The Applicant is committed to consultation and agreement with operators and/or owners of utility infrastructure that is likely to be directly impacted by the location or design of the Scheme. This document sets out, at paragraph 2.2.1, the requirement for a Health and Safety Manager to be responsible for all on-site health and safety compliance. As set out in Table 3.13, all on-site works will be undertaken in accordance with relevant Health and Safety legislation and guidance.</p> <p>The C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], provides (in Requirement 13 of Schedule 2) that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a construction environmental management plan for that part has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities". It further provides that "The construction environmental management plan must be substantially in accordance with the outline construction environmental management plan."</p> <p>Draft protective provisions are included in Part 6 to Schedule 16 of the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], and these include a provision that the</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The actual depth and position must be confirmed on site by trial hole investigation under the supervision of a Cadent representative. Ground cover above our pipelines should not be reduced or increased. If any excavations are planned within 3 metres of Cadent High Pressure Pipeline or, within 10 metres of an AGI (Above Ground Installation), or if any embankment or dredging works are proposed then the actual position and depth of the pipeline must be established on site in the presence of a Cadent representative. A safe working method agreed prior to any work taking place in order to minimise the risk of damage and ensure the final depth of cover does not affect the integrity of the pipeline. <p>Below are some examples of work types that have specific restrictions when being undertaken in the vicinity of gas assets therefore consultation with Cadent's Plant Protection team is essential:</p>	<p>Applicant must obtain Cadent's consent prior to carrying out any specified works.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>Demolition? Blasting? Piling and boring? Deep mining? Surface mineral extraction? Landfilling? Trenchless Techniques (e.g., HDD, pipe splitting, tunnelling etc.)? Wind turbine installation? Solar farm installation? Tree planting schemes? Pipeline Crossings?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where existing roads cannot be used, construction traffic should ONLY cross the pipeline at agreed locations. • The pipeline shall be protected, at the crossing points, by temporary rafts constructed at ground level. The third party shall review ground conditions, vehicle types and crossing frequencies to determine the type and construction of the raft required. • The type of raft shall be agreed with Cadent prior to installation. • No protective measures including the installation of concrete slab protection shall be installed over or near to the Cadent pipeline without the prior permission of Cadent. • Cadent will need to agree the material, the dimensions and 	

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>method of installation of the proposed protective measure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The method of installation shall be confirmed through the submission of a formal written method statement from the contractor to Cadent. A Cadent representative shall monitor any works within close proximity to the pipeline. <p>New Service Crossing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New services may cross the pipeline at perpendicular angle to the pipeline i.e. 90 degrees. Where a new service is to cross over the pipeline a clearance distance of 0.6 metres between the crown of the pipeline and underside of the service should be maintained. If this cannot be achieved the service shall cross below the pipeline with a clearance distance of 0.6 metres. A new service should not be laid parallel within an easement strip. 	

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Cadent representative shall approve and supervise any new service crossing of a pipeline. • An exposed pipeline should be suitable supported and removed prior to backfilling. • An exposed pipeline should be protected by matting and suitable timber cladding. • For pipe construction involving deep excavation (<1.5m) in the vicinity of grey iron mains, the model consultative procedure will apply therefore an integrity assessment must be conducted to confirm if diversion is required." 	

Canal and River Trust [RR-025]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
CRT-01	The Scheme	Registering Interest in the Application	"The Canal & River Trust ("the Trust") has previously provided comments to the applicant on the route options for the cable connection and now wished to register and comment as an interested party for the examination relating to the above Application."	The Applicant acknowledges that CRT has previously provided comments to the Applicant and notes this comment.
CRT-02	The Party	The CRT's Role and Responsibilities	"The Trust is a statutory party for the purposes of s.88(3) of the Planning Act 2008 ("the 2008 Act") as the Application is likely to have an impact on the River Trent, or land adjacent to the river, which is an inland waterway in England. The Trust is a statutory undertaker for the purposes of s.127 of the 2008 Act. The Trust is navigation authority for the River Trent and has a duty to maintain the river between Meadow Lane Lock, Nottingham and Gainsborough Bridge as a commercial waterway under s.105 of the Transport Act 1968 and is lessee of the foreshore and riverbed under a lease from The Crown Estate dated 16 February 2011 and registered at the Land Registry under title number NT473004.	The Applicant notes this comment and the CRT's duties as a statutory undertaker.

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>The Trust also has environmental and recreational duties under s.22 British Waterways Act 1995 when considering proposals relating to its functions. These include consideration of effects on flora and fauna and preserving access to towing paths for the public. The Trust's charitable objects include, for the public benefit, the preservation, protection, operation and management of inland waterways for navigation and conservation, protection and improvement of the natural environment and landscape of inland waterways."</p>	
CRT-03	The Scheme Socio- economics, Tourism and Recreation	Draft DCO	<p>"The proposed route of the cable connection for the Project would have one interface/crossing (underground) with the River Trent, just south of Trent Port, Marton. The River Trent in this location is a tidal commercial waterway used by both large commercial vessels and for leisure purposes. As navigation authority, the Trust is responsible for navigational safety for this part of the river. The Trust is also the owner and operator of the dredging tips for the deposition</p>	<p>The Applicant notes the CRT's role as the navigation authority for the River Trent.</p> <p>Paragraph 4.5.44 of C6.2.4_A ES Chapter 4 Scheme Description Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.4_A] details the design parameters for Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD) across the River Trent in relation to the laying of the Cable Route Corridor.</p> <p>The Applicant is cognisant of the significance of the countryside for physical and mental wellbeing and as such, likely impacts on the desirability and use of recreational facilities in the countryside, such as public rights of way, have been assessed in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053].</p> <p>The likely anticipated impacts on the recreational use of the River Trent during construction are short-term moderate-minor adverse</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			of river dredging, located immediately north of the proposed cable crossing of the River Trent on both sides of the river. This is a rural stretch of river with a mixture of open fields and mature hedgerows within the managed river flood plain. The river corridor is well used for leisure and recreation and the west riverbank carries the long-distance Trent Valley Way path."	(para. 18.7.64) and during operation are long-term minor adverse (para. 18.7.109). The impacts on the Trent Valley Way path are medium-term moderate-minor adverse during construction (Table 18.15), and long-term moderate-minor adverse during operation (Table 18.20). None of these effects are significant [APP-053] . That notwithstanding, the worst-case cumulative effect on the Trent Valley Way path during construction is a peak cumulative short to medium-term temporary moderate adverse effect (para. 18.10.31). This therefore would be a significant effect [APP-053] .
CRT-04	The Scheme	Shared Cable Route Corridor Cumulative Development	"We note that in the Application document C6.2.4 (ES Chapter 4, Scheme Description), page 25, the applicant state that they are working on a 'Shared' Cable Route Corridor (Works 6B) with Gate Burton Energy Park (EN010131, accepted for examination on 22 February) and West Burton Solar Project (EN010132, application submitted 21 March). The Trust is also aware of the Tillbridge Solar Farm (EN010142) which is at an early stage (application due 04 2023), but is proposing a cable crossing at a similar location on the river. We welcome a joint working approach with all these schemes to ensure	To minimise impacts, the Cottam Solar Project, Gate Burton Energy Park and West Burton Solar Project have proposed a shared cable corridor route, and are progressing collaborative work on this matter. Paragraph 4.3.8 of C6.2.4_A ES Chapter 4_Scheme Description Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.4_A] sets out the Applicant's commitments and the proposed commitments of the promoters of the other local schemes to joint mitigation.

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			efficiency in the consenting process and to limit the potential for short and long term economic, environmental and social impacts on the navigation and its users."	
CRT-05	The Representation	Contents of the CRT's Representation	<p>"The representations made here are without prejudice to any further or amended representations which the Trust may make following a comprehensive review of the Application as part of the examination process. In this letter, the Trust makes representations on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The draft Development Consent Order (DCO) and Protective Provisions for the Trust; • The Trust's Third-Party Works Code of Practice; • Discharge of water into, and prevention of siltation etc. of, the river Noise & Vibration; • Ecology & Biodiversity in the river; • Lighting during construction; • Landscape and Visual Impact; and • Use of River Trent for Works Traffic." 	The Applicant notes this comment and will address the representation points in turn below.

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
CRT-06	The Scheme	Draft DCO and Protective Provisions for CRT.	<p>"There are a number of provisions within the draft DCO which would impact the Trust as navigation authority for the River Trent. The draft DCO was not shared with the Trust as part of a pre-application consultation. On first review, we have concerns with article 16 (discharge of water); article 19 (authority to survey and investigate land); article 20 (compulsory acquisition of land); article 22 (compulsory acquisition of rights), article 25 (acquisition of subsoil); article 30 (temporary use of land); article 31 (statutory undertakers). We have not ascertained whether the disapplication of legislation proposed by article 6 and schedule 3 impacts the Trust and have asked the applicant for a summary of the provisions which would be disappplied.</p> <p>The draft DCO does not contain any specific protective provisions for the Trust. The Trust notes that other statutory undertakers have been afforded protective provisions within schedule 16. Following the acceptance of the Application for examination,</p>	<p>The Applicant notes that, in compliance with Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008, the Canal and Rivers Trust were contacted on 15 June 2022 and provided a link to a copy of the PEIR for consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant's undertaking of statutory consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act is described in Chapter 9 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021].</p> <p>A response from the Trust was received on 25 July 2022 and considered by the Applicant (see C5.11 Consultation Report Appendix - Section 42 Applicant Response [APP-034]).</p> <p>The Applicant did not share a draft DCO with consultees during the Pre-Application stage.</p> <p>The Applicant is currently negotiating protective provisions for inclusion within the next version of the draft DCO with CRT to address its concerns. As part of these negotiations, the impact of the disapplication of legislation provisions in the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] will be discussed.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>the applicant has indicated in writing separately to the Trust that they would be willing to include protective provisions for the Trust and have invited the Trust to provide draft provisions.</p> <p>To aid the examination we have provided the applicant with a set of protective provisions (See Appendix B of this Document) which would resolve and satisfy our principal concerns. The protective provisions have been adapted from the Keadby 3 (Carbon Capture Equipped Gas Fired Generating Station) Order 2022 (made 7 December 2022). A copy of these are appended to this letter. The Trust reserves the ability to add to and amend the draft protective provisions as part of the examination process."</p>	
CRT-07	The Scheme	The Trust's Code of Practice and Protective Provisions.	<p>"As with other nationally significant infrastructure projects (NSIPs) that include works that interface with the Trust's network, any parts of the Project with the potential to affect the River Trent should be carried out in accordance with the Canal & River Trust Third-Party Works Code of</p>	<p>The Applicant notes CRT's comments relating to inclusion of protective provisions for the benefit of CRT in the DCO. The Applicant is currently negotiating protective provisions for inclusion within the next version of the draft DCO with CRT to address its concerns.</p> <p>From an ecological perspective, the works to be undertaken to install subterranean cables beneath the River Trent will comply with the CRT's Code of Practice through prescriptions that are to be updated</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>Practice (CoP). DCOs for these NSIPs have included an express obligation obliging the applicant to have regard to the CoP in the detailed survey. Design, construction, and approval of the relevant works. The protective provisions enclosed with this representation contain appropriate wording.</p> <p>The Trust's CoP is designed to safeguard all users of the navigation and to deal with the nuances of developing adjacent to a commercial waterway with an ever-changing tidal riverbed. The extent of potential impacts from development adjacent to, or under, navigational waters could reach far beyond the crossing point proposed. Ensuring that development is appropriately located and controlled on land adjacent to the Trust's network is crucial to limit the potential for risk to users of the river and the associated economic, environmental and social consequences.</p> <p>Through the CoP, developers engage with the Trust's engineers who are specialists in navigational safety the</p>	<p>within the C7.19 Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [APP-356].</p> <p>Specifically, in line with Section 7 of the CRT's Code of Practice for Works Affecting the Canal and River Trust Part 1, measures are provided to minimise the potential for impacts on protected species such as otters and water voles, breeding birds and fish and amphibians, principally through the pre-works inspection and during-works supervision by an ecologist following specific protocols.</p> <p>As recommended in Section 2 of the CRT's Code of Practice for Works Affecting the Canal and River Trust Part 2, trenchless techniques are to be used via Horizontal Directional Drilling, which will drastically minimise the potential for physical damage to the waterway (see paragraph 7.2.3 of C7.19 Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [APP-356]).</p> <p>The Outline Strategy is secured through Requirement 8 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], which provides that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a written ecological protection and mitigation strategy has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority for that part or, where the phase falls within the administrative areas of multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities."</p> <p>The Applicant therefore confirms that the detailed EPMS will ensure that the Scheme is constructed in compliance with the Canal & River Trust's Third-Party Works Code of Practice (CoP).</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>protection and safeguarding of the riverbed and the ecology of the waterway. It is essential that the proposals incorporate appropriate measures to protect the users of the river before, during and after construction for all temporary and permanent works affecting the waterway including surveying and sampling within the waterway. Engaging with the Trust's engineers ensures the appropriate measures are taken.</p> <p>The protective provisions and use of the CoP will deal with all of the Trust's concerns relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horizontal Directional Drilling and surveys; • Discharge of water into, and prevention of siltation etc. of, the river; • Noise & Vibration; • Ecology & Biodiversity in the river; • Lighting during construction; • Landscape & Visual Impact; and • Use of River Trent for Works Traffic." 	

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
CRT-08	The Scheme Ecology and Biodiversity Ground Conditions and Contamination Transport and Access Noise and Vibration	Works Package 6B	"In terms of Work package 6B, relating to the cable crossing of the River Trent, we welcome that this would be undertaken via trenchless techniques with the Crossing Schedule confirming that the crossing beneath the River Trent is proposed by Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD). Application document C6.2.4 (ES Chapter 4, Scheme Description) paragraph 4.5.44 sets out the current assumed working parameters around the crossing of the River Trent, but paragraph 4.5.51 notes that further detail "will depend on the results of ground investigations and the final detailed design" and paragraph 4.5.55 states "it has not yet been determined exactly where each cable circuit will be micro-sited or the exact crossing point(s)." With full survey yet to be completed of the river and its ground composition it is perhaps too early to limit the depth of the directional drill beneath the River Trent to 25m below ground level. The Trust consider such surveys necessary to inform the appropriate depth of the directional drill beneath the River Trent (which	<p>The Applicant notes the described parameters of the Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) across the River Trent, where the maximum depth of HDD has been set out at 25m (see para. 4.5.44 of C6.2.4_A ES Chapter 4 Scheme Description Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.4_A]).</p> <p>As explained within paragraph 4.5.44 of C6.2.4_A ES Chapter 4 Scheme Description Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.4_A], the maximum HDD depth of 25m below ground level has taken account of the water surface level being up to 6 metres below the river bank level; the surface water level being up to 5 metres deep to the silt level and the silt level likely being 1 metre deep before the river bed level. With the average depths for a HDD being 3m below the river bed level this leads to an assumed HDD at 15 meters below river bank level. The maximum HDD depth of 25 metres below ground level is considered to offer some flexibility to account for variation in depths.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the above and in noting the Applicant's precautionary approach in relation to the potential for sediment release, as detailed within paragraphs 7.2.1 to 7.2.4 of C7.19 Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [APP-356], the Applicant confirms that the working parameters around crossing the River Trent will depend on the results of ground investigations which will inform the detailed design process.</p> <p>The results of the proposed survey and ground investigations will be reviewed by an ecologist to ensure that they are appropriate for the minimisation of potential disturbance to riparian wildlife. Furthermore, the exact siting of the proposed cable installation</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>may be greater than the 25m below ground level quoted) is a necessary precaution. This would inform the design process and prevent the mobilisation of silt from the riverbed which would have potentially detrimental impacts on the navigational safety of the River Trent and its ecology.</p> <p>We look forward to ensuring that all survey work of the River Trent, including ground investigations, is carried out with full consideration for navigational safety within this commercial waterway and reviewing the technical drawings of the proposal in relation to the riverbed. We propose that this would be in accordance with the mechanisms contained in the protective provisions. Similarly, we look forward to working with the applicant in relation to the launch and reception areas for the river crossing, ensuring appropriate measures are put in place to protect and safeguard our assets."</p>	<p>(specifically, the entry and exit pits and riverbank beneath the crossing line) will be inspected for the potential presence of protected species, such as otter, water vole and nesting birds, as set out in Section 7 of C7.19 Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [APP-356].</p> <p>The Outline Strategy is secured through Requirement 8 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], which provides that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a written ecological protection and mitigation strategy has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority for that part or, where the phase falls within the administrative areas of multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities."</p> <p>The Applicant Is currently negotiating protective provisions for inclusion within the next version of the draft DCO with CRT to address its concerns.</p>
CRT-09	The Scheme	Discharge of water into, and	"The Trust welcomes measures in the Application documents C7.1 (Outline	The Applicant notes this comment regarding the measures that are captured within C7.1_A Outline Construction Environmental

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
	Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	prevention of siltation, the river.	Construction Environmental Management Plan) and C7.19 (Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy) which seek to prevent silt and contaminants entering watercourses through the use of sediment/silt traps/temporary dams and engineers overseeing HDD works to ensure an adequate depth is used. We consider the proposed power in the draft DCO for the undertaker to discharge water should, in respect of the River Trent, be subject to the Trust's consent and this, is provided for in the draft protective provisions."	Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.1_A] and C7.19 Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [APP-356] . Preparation and approval of the final version of these plans is secured in Requirement 13 and Requirement 8 respectively of Schedule 2 to the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] . The Applicant notes CRT's comments relating to inclusion of protective provisions dealing with the discharge of water. The Applicant is currently negotiating protective provisions for inclusion within the next version of the draft DCO with CRT to address its concerns.
CRT-10	The Scheme Noise and Vibration	Noise and Vibration monitoring for the River Trent	"In response to the Trust's pre-application comments regarding noise and vibration as they affect the River Trent, the Trust welcomes that noise monitoring is proposed as set out in the Application document C7.1 (Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan). We note that this document does not refer to navigational safety either with regards to noise, or vibration during the proposed directional drilling. These matters should be considered as	The Applicant notes the CRT's welcoming of the noise monitoring requirements as set out in C7.1_A Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.1_A] , as secured through Requirement 13 of Schedule 2 to the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] . This provides that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a construction environmental management plan for that part has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities". It further provides that "The construction environmental management plan must be substantially in accordance with the outline construction environmental management plan."

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			noise could affect navigational safety and the riverbanks and bed may be adversely affected by vibration causing silt mobilisation. We consider the best means of achieving this is through the attached protective provisions."	The Applicant confirms that details regarding the navigational safety along the River Trent in relation to noise and vibration during horizontal directional drilling will be managed through the requirements of the detailed CEMP which will ensure compliance with the Canal & River Trust Third-Party Works Code of Practice (CoP).
CRT-11	The Scheme Ecology and Biodiversity	Drilling under the River Trent	<p>"The Application document C6.2.9 (ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity), in particular paragraph 9.7.214, notes that the potential for release of sediment during drilling operations will be minimised by careful siting of drilling entry and exit pits, suitable depth control and visual monitoring. We consider the best means of ensuring that the survey, design and construction methodology protects the ecology of the waterway from sediment release during directional drilling beneath the River Trent is through the attached protective provisions.</p> <p>The Trust recognises the methodology for the protection of biodiversity and ecology found on our dredging tips adjacent to Works Package 6B and welcomes further survey work on this</p>	<p>Provision is made in C7.19 Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [APP-356] (specifically through Section 7) for the survey of candidate or proposed HDD entry and exit pits and associated bankside habitats in advance of the commencement of cable installation works at the River Trent. The advice provided by the CRT here, as well as the draft protective provisions, is acknowledged and will be incorporated as appropriate into working protocols.</p> <p>Requirement 8 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] provides that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a written ecological protection and mitigation strategy has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority for that part or, where the phase falls within the administrative areas of multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities."</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			land to further inform the Applicant of necessary mitigation measures in respect of this works package. The Trust would be able to consider the detailed design of those works through the CoP and protective provisions."	
CRT-12	The Scheme Ecology and Biodiversity	Lighting during Construction	"The Application document C7.19 (Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy (EPMS)) notes that lighting impacts on retained habitats, bats and freshwater fish are reduced through measures to minimise the need for lighting and the timing of its usage, during all project phases. The EMPS, at paragraph 4.2.2, confirms that no artificial lighting will be employed during works to cross the River Trent and the Trust supports this approach, which will also assist with navigational safety of the River Trent as a commercial waterway. We consider the best means of ensuring navigational safety is not affected by site lighting is through the attached protective provisions."	<p>The Applicant confirms that paragraph 4.2.2 of C7.19 Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [APP-256] states that "No artificial lighting will be employed during works to cross any watercourses, such as the Rivers Till and Trent and their tributaries."</p> <p>This outline strategy is secured by Requirement 8 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], which provides that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a written ecological protection and mitigation strategy has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority for that part or, where the phase falls within the administrative areas of multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities." The Applicant considers that Requirement 8 of Schedule 2 within C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] sufficiently protects navigational safety.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
CRT-13	Landscape and Visual Glint and Glare	Navigational Safety along the River Trent	"The Trust is satisfied that the applicant has considered the impact of the solar panels on the navigational safety of the River Trent in Application document C6.2.16 (ES Chapter 16: Glint & Glare). This concludes that distance, topography and vegetation would sufficiently screen the proposed panels from view from the River Trent as a commercial waterway and leisure boating route. Application document C6.2.8 (ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual impact) states that no permanent above ground structures are proposed on either side of the River Trent as part of the directionally drilled cable crossing and that during the construction period there are likely to be temporary construction compounds that will be removed on completion of the works. We consider the best means of considering the impact of temporary constructions on navigational safety and ecology of the waterway is through the attached protective provisions."	The Applicant notes this comment. The Applicant notes the Trust's comments relating to inclusion of protective provisions dealing with any works that may affect the navigational safety and ecology of the waterway. The Applicant is currently negotiating protective provisions for inclusion within the next version of the draft DCO with CRT to address its concerns.

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
CRT-14	The Scheme Transport and Access	Works Traffic along the River Trent	<p>"We note that the use of the River Trent for the transportation of freight to site is considered within Application document C6.2.14 (ES Chapter 14: Transport and Access) and C6.3.14 (ES Appendix 14.2: Construction Traffic Management Plan) where Figure 6.1: Abnormal Loads, on page 27, notes that the existing Cottam wharf is not suitable for delivery of abnormal loads to sites east of the River Trent. The Trust is satisfied that this explains the current approach, but would wish to ensure, through the protective provisions, that if the waterway is proposed for commercial use in connection with the Project the Trust would have oversight of this. For instance, a river crossing by boat might be desired for monitoring/ease of communications between the two sides of the River Trent during construction (the distance by road is approximately 14 miles), which would need temporary jetties and an agreed method for crossing the main navigational route."</p>	<p>The Applicant notes the satisfaction of CRT in relation to the suitability of the River Trent and the suitability of the existing Cottam Wharf in facilitating abnormal loads as has been detailed in at Part 4.1 of Appendix F of C6.3.14.1 ES Appendix 14.1 Transport Assessment [APP-134].</p> <p>As detailed on Sheet 17 of 19 of C2.6 Access Plan [APP-009], access points AC 107 and AC 106 provide access to the east and western banks of the River Trent respectively. The Applicant does not propose the need for a river crossing by boat across the River Trent.</p>

The Environment Agency [RR-026]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
EA-01	The Representation	Introduction	"Below is a summary of our relevant representations. We have sent an email with our detailed comments to CottamSolarProject@planninginspectorate.gov.uk which can be published alongside this brief. We would not agree to disapply the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 in their entirety. We will only agree to disapply the requirement for a flood risk activity permit."	The Applicant notes this comment.
EA-02	The Scheme	Draft DCO: Protective Provisions	"We have reviewed the proposed protective provisions (Schedule 16, Part 9) for the protection of the Environment Agency. We do not accept the current wording and will work with the applicant to agree these."	The Applicant notes this comment and intends to work with the EA in order to agree the wording of protective provisions for the benefit of the EA.
EA-03	Ecology and Biodiversity Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	Request for Further Assessment	"Further assessment and/or information will be required on the following to enable the examining authority to make an informed decision: On ecology and biodiversity: The Water Framework Directive (WFD) assessment omits physical impacts to	The Applicant confirms that C7.21_A Water Framework Directive Assessment Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C7.21_A] will be updated by Deadline 1 to consider potential physical impacts to the river that could detrimentally affect riverbank structure and substrate of the riverbed.

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			rivers, hydromorphological quality should be explored."	
EA-04	Ecology and Biodiversity	Invasive Species	"More detail on the control of invasive species across the sites is required."	<p>As set out in Paragraphs 9.7.236 to 9.7.241 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9_Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044], no invasive species were recorded during any of the baseline survey work.</p> <p>It is considered that the proposed ditch and watercourse management and associated habitat enhancements (as set out within C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] where a detailed Landscape Ecological Management Plan as secured by Requirement 7 of Schedule 2 to C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]) will improve the viability and resilience of water vole populations locally and therefore help lessen impacts posed by American mink. It is not considered appropriate or proportionate to provide any targeted mink control measures within the Scheme.</p> <p>The absence of invasive plants such as Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed means that no specific measures for their control have been proposed and the Applicant considers this is reasonable. However, Section 11 of C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] sets out proposals for regular ecological monitoring, during which the presence of any new invasive species can be recorded and management or control prescriptions can be added or updated accordingly.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
EA-05	Ecology and Biodiversity Landscape and Visual Impact	Landscape and Ecological Mitigation Plan	"The Landscape and Ecological Management Plan should include more detail on ditch improvements."	<p>The possibilities for enhancement of ditches and watercourses within the Order Limits are being investigated and will be incorporated into an updated OLEMP [APP-339] to be submitted by Deadline 1. This information will be shared with the EA as soon as available.</p> <p>Enhancements already proposed arise from the sensitive management of newly created grassland habitats within field boundaries and buffer zones, as well as the cessation of pesticide and fertiliser application which can be expected to improve water quality and improve the connectivity, quantity and robustness of natural green infrastructure. Furthermore, the OLEMP [APP-339] currently states under paragraph 4.9.6:</p> <p>"Ditch management will be carefully considered, with works being undertaken on a rotational basis so that undisturbed areas remain annually. Ditch management can be carried out every 2-5 years with cutting being undertaken in autumn/winter and only one side of the bank cut each time."</p> <p>It is proposed to amend the above passage to commit to incorporating rotational ditch management, as described, into the regular habitat management practices of the operational scheme. The 2-5yr rotation will ensure a mosaic of habitat maturity across the ditches and watercourses within the Order Limits at all times, including a proportion of bare ground and tussocky grassland. Management practices would not take place between March and August inclusive. Ditch cleaning will be undertaken using excavators equipped with weed-clearing buckets to remove choking vegetation. An ecologist will work with the management contractor to prepare a plan and timetable of ditch management which will take into account</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>the presence of newly-created valuable habitat and other seasonal and protected species constraints. The efficacy of the ditch management regime will be monitored periodically and this will be incorporated into the LEMP's monitoring timetable.</p> <p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') takes into consideration improvements to the smaller drainage network, ditches and watercourses [see paras. 8.3.60, 8.3.70, 8.3.82, 8.5.23, 8.5.24, 8.5.64, 8.5.71, 8.5.78, 8.5.80 and 8.7.12].</p>
EA-06	Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	River Crossing Techniques	<p>"On hydrology, flood risk and drainage: Where river crossings are proposed these must be carried out using trenchless techniques, open-cut techniques would be unsuitable."</p>	<p>The Applicant, as detailed within paragraph 4.5.51 of C6.2.4_A ES Chapter 4 Scheme Description Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.4_A], proposes to lay the cables across the River Till and Trent using trenchless techniques.</p>
EA-07	The Party	The EA's Role	<p>"The Environment Agency is an executive non-departmental public body, established under the Environment Act 1995. We are an adviser to Government with principal aims to protect and improve the environment, and to promote sustainable development. We play a central role in delivering the environmental priorities of central government through our functions and roles.</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>We are also an adviser to local decision makers in our role as a statutory consultee in respect of particular types of development, as listed in Schedule 4 of the Development Management Procedure Order 2015.</p> <p>For the purposes of this Development Consent Order (DCO), we are a statutory interested party.</p> <p>We take action to conserve and secure proper use of water resources, preserve and improve the quality of rivers, estuaries and coastal waters and groundwaters through pollution control powers and regulating discharge consents. We have a duty to implement the Water Framework Directive (WFD).</p> <p>We have regulatory powers in respect of waste management and remediation of contaminated land designated as special sites. We also encourage remediation of land contamination through the planning process.</p> <p>We are the principal flood risk management operating authority. We</p>	

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>have the power (but not the legal obligation) to manage flood risk from designated main rivers and the sea. We are also responsible for increasing public awareness of flood risk, flood forecasting and warning and have a general supervisory duty for flood risk management. We also have a strategic overview role for all flood and coastal erosion risk management.</p> <p>We have three main roles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are an environmental regulator – we take a risk-based approach and target our effort to maintain and improve environmental standards and to minimise unnecessary burdens on businesses. We issue a range of permits and consents. • We are an environmental operator – we are a national organisation that operates locally. We work with people and communities across England to protect and improve the environment in an integrated way. We provide a vital incident response capability. 	

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are an environmental adviser – we compile and assess the best available evidence and use this to report on the state of the environment. We use our own monitoring information and that of others to inform this activity. We provide technical information and advice to national and local governments to support their roles in policy and decision-making.” 	
EA-08	The Party	The Scope of the Representation	<p>“These relevant representations contain an overview of the project issues, which fall within our remit. They are given without prejudice to any future detailed representations that we may make throughout the examination process. We may also have further representations to make if supplementary information becomes available in relation to the project.</p> <p>2.2 We have reviewed the DCO, Environmental Statement (ES) and supporting documents submitted as part of the above-mentioned application, which we received on the</p>	The Applicant notes this comment and seeks to address each of the EA's comments below.

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			16 February 2023. Our comments are presented below"	
EA-09	Ecology and Biodiversity	Otter and Water Vole Survey	<p>"We would like to make the following comments in relation to the protection of ecology and biodiversity having reviewed the documents listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Statement: Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity (ref: APP/C6.2.9); • Water Framework Directive Assessment (ref: APP/C7.21); • Biodiversity Net Gain Report (ref:APP/C6.3.9.12); • Otter and Water Vole Survey (ref:APP/C6.3.9.6); • Great Crested Newt Survey Report (ref:APP/C6.3.9.7). <p>We welcome the recommendations in the Otter and Water Vole Survey and it is understood that the detail of protective measures will be set out in a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), or similar. Whilst we are content that enhancements to existing watercourses where otters and/or water voles have been recorded will be</p>	<p>Please see response to RR EA-05.</p> <p>In addition, the Applicant confirms that the detail of protective measures will be set out in a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) as secured by Requirement 13 of Schedule 2 of the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]. The Requirement states that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a construction environmental management plan for that part has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities."</p> <p>The Applicant confirms that, through a revision to C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] (which will be submitted by Deadline 1), there will be a binding commitment to the improvement works as identified by the EA.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			explored it would be preferential if there was a commitment from the developer to ensure these works are carried out.	
EA-10	Ecology and Biodiversity	Assessment of ditch habitat suitability for water voles	"We would recommend an assessment of ditch habitat suitability for water voles followed by suggested improvements to in channel and marginal habitats. This would provide more continuity in water vole habitat, with populations more resilient to non-native species i.e. mink."	As set out in C6.3.9.6 ES Appendix 9.6 Otter and Water Vole survey [APP-083] , all ditches and watercourses have received a full assessment of their habitat suitability for otter and water vole. This information will inform the proposed ditch enhancements as set out in C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] and described in the response to RR EA-05.
EA-11	Ecology and Biodiversity	Invasive Species, Non-native Species and Ongoing monitoring	"We would expect to see more detail on the control of invasive species on site and how this has the potential to have an impact upstream in terms of recolonisation. The non-native species monitoring and management should include American Mink as a named species. This would link into the catchment wide effort to address the invasion of mink in North Lincolnshire and adjacent areas. Ongoing monitoring work should also focus on Himalayan Balsam control, which is located within the adjacent areas."	Please see the response to RR EA-04 above.

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
EA-12	Ecology and Biodiversity	Tree Planting	"We support the recommendations for sensitive tree planting in respect of shading."	The Applicant notes this comment.
EA-13	Landscape and Visual Ecology and Biodiversity	ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity	"Enhancements to habitat quality within ditches and watercourses not only benefits otters and water voles but can achieve an improvement to water quality in the rivers from a WFD perspective. In the ES (Chapter 9, page 13) it states that "several ditch enhancements have been proposed", however, we have been unable to find the details of these and would request the applicant provides signposting to where this information can be found."	C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') takes into consideration improvements to the smaller drainage network, ditches and watercourses (see paras. 8.3.60 to 8.3.82, 8.5.23 to 8.5.80 and 8.7.12). Furthermore, please refer to the information on ditch enhancements provided in RR EA-05.
EA-14	Ecology and Biodiversity	Natural Flood Management	"We welcome the creation and enhancement of hedgerows, woodland, wetland and native wildflower meadows which would add multiple benefits in terms of improved water quality and natural flood management (NFM)."	The Applicant notes this comment.
EA-15	Landscape and Visual Ecology and Biodiversity	Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP)	"It is implied that a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) or similar would be able to secure enhancements to the habitat quality of ditches and watercourses. We would	Additional detail on ditch improvements will be provided via an update to the ES Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [APP-339] . In terms of operational habitat management activities, this will be guided by the relevant planning authority's

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			like to see more detail above what is contained within the outline LEMP in so far that it relates to ditch improvements."	<p>information on green infrastructure and biodiversity opportunity areas and be beneficial in both landscape and ecology terms.</p> <p>The LVIA has identified the need for extensive landscape mitigation that is set out in the C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A], as secured by Requirement 7 in Schedule 2 to C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>Furthermore, please refer to the information on ditch enhancements provided in RR EA-05.</p>
EA-16	Ecology and Biodiversity	Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)	"We welcome the recommendations in the Great Crested Newt Survey Report and it is understood that the detail of protective measures will be set out in a CEMP, or similar. Equally the mitigation and enhancement to great crested newt habitats should be detailed to ensure that they are achieved as part of the development."	<p>The Applicant confirms that the detailed Ecological Protection Mitigation Strategy (EPMS) will contain provisions for Great Crested Newts' protection and mitigation, as secured by Requirement 8 in in Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>Monitoring requirements for Great Crested Newts during construction are set out in C7.1_A Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.1_A]. These will also be contained in the subsequent detailed Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), as secured by Requirement 13 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>
EA-17	Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	Water Framework Directive (WFD)	"The WFD assessment omits physical impacts to the river that could detrimentally effect riverbank structure and substrate of the riverbed. We	<p>The Applicant confirms that the WFD assessment C7.21_A Water Framework Directive Assessment Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C7.21_A] will be updated to consider potential</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			would expect hydromorphological quality to be explored in more detail within the WFD assessment based upon our understanding of the proposed river crossings and methods likely to be used i.e. culverts."	physical impacts to the river that could detrimentally affect riverbank structure and substrate of the riverbed.
EA-18	Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	Water Quality	"It is important that the applicant considers the cumulative risk from the construction and operational phases to water quality."	Water quality is considered for all stages of the development within C6.3.10.1 ES Appendix 10.1: Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy Report [APP-090] and will be managed / impacts mitigated through the proposed surface water drainage scheme and detailed Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). The detailed Construction Environmental Management Plan is secured by Requirement 13 in Schedule 2 and a detailed Decommissioning Plan is secured through Requirement 21 in Schedule 2 to C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] . These plans will manage and mitigate cumulative risk from construction and operational phases to water quality.
EA-19	The Scheme Landscape and Visual Ecology and Biodiversity	Improvements to the River Till	"We appreciate that a specialist Modular River Physical (MoRPh) survey of the River Till was not carried out, however, we believe it would be worthwhile exploring improvements on the Till and its tributaries as the Cottam 1 sites intersect the river.	No physical enhancements (such as widening/deepening) are proposed beyond periodic ditch management to include the removal of choking vegetation. Targeted and period ditch management is detailed within paragraph 4.9.6 of C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] , as secured by Requirement 7 of Schedule 2 to C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] .

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
	Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage		As the River Till is heavily modified and embanked, the applicant may like to consider reprofiling and widening the river which would provide multiple benefits for ecology, biodiversity and NFM. Within the smaller drainage network there are habitat improvements that could be explored and considered by the applicant which would improve the wet marginal areas of the existing drains to the benefit of water voles and other species."	<p>The Applicant considers that any commitment to physical modifications to the River Till is beyond the remit of the Application.</p> <p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') contains details of improvements to the smaller drainage network, where scattered belts of trees are proposed to follow the routes of existing watercourses, strengthening their visibility in the wider landscape (see paragraphs 8.7.263, 8.11.3 to 8.11.20 and 8.11.69). Panels will also be set back at a minimum of 20m from major watercourses and a minimum of 8m from minor watercourses (see paragraph 8.6.3).</p> <p>Existing watercourses have been protected through the incorporation of easements from all watercourses contained within the Sites into the design of the Scheme, as described in paragraphs 10.7.1 and 10.8.24 of C6.3.10.1 ES Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy Report [APP-090] and within Section 3.2 (embedded mitigation) of C6.3.10.1 ES Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy Report [APP-090] Appendix A.</p>
EA-20	Ecology and Biodiversity Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage Soils and Agriculture	Biodiversity Net Gain Report	"In the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report, enhancement to nearby watercourses are assumed solely as a result of the change of use from agriculture use to placement of solar panels and the resultant removal of fertilisers/herbicides from the fields. However, as it cannot categorically be said that other fields in the vicinity	<p>Year-round green cover will enhance infiltration of rainfall and slow any overland flow of runoff (see paragraph 19.9.13 of C6.2.19_A ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A] and section 10.8 of C6.2.10 ES Chapter 10_Hydrology Flood Risk and Drainage [APP-045]), reducing export of sediment and associated diffuse pollutants to surface waters. It is rare that any agricultural diffuse pollutant can ever be categorically linked to a particular field, but it is clear from the EA's own catchment</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			wouldn't supply run-off we do not think it can be assumed that water quality would be better as a result of the change of use alone.	management decision support systems (such as PSYCHIC) that the reversion to low input grassland will be beneficial for water quality. Considering the nature of the Scheme and the area over which chemical inputs will be reduced, it is considered that at least local (i.e., within-Site and immediately downstream) improvements to water quality will result (see Table 4 and para 4.4.28 of C6.3.9.12 ES Appendix 9.12 Biodiversity Net Gain Report [APP-089]). The likelihood of this is increased when factoring in the proposed ditch management regime as detailed in RR response EA-05. The Applicant accepts that ongoing agricultural activities within land beyond the Order Limits have the potential to impact on enhancements to nearby watercourses, but this is beyond the remit of the Scheme. The net level of inputs within the catchments affected is still anticipated to be reduced.
EA-21	The Scheme Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	Draft DCO	<p>"We have reviewed the documents listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Statement: Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage (ref: APP/C6.2.10) • Environmental Statement: Appendix 10.1: Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy (ref: APP/C6.3.10.1) <p>We note that the applicant wishes to disapply the requirement for an environmental permit under Regulation 12 of the Environmental</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment and intends to work with the EA in order to agree the approach to, and scope of, the disapplication of Regulation 12 of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 (EPR).</p> <p>The Applicant hopes this matter can be agreed as the application progresses through undertaking a Statement of Common Ground with the Environment Agency.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 (EPR) and includes this in the DCO (Part 2 Principal Powers) in Article 6(1)(h). As currently drafted this Article seeks to disapply Regulation 12 in its entirety, meaning that the requirement for all types of environmental permit is disapplied. We will not agree to this. We will only agree to disapply the requirement for a flood risk activity permit and only if we can reach an agreement regarding the Protective Provisions for the Environment Agency in Schedule 16 Part 9. We are unlikely to agree to the disapplication of other environmental permits under the 2016 Regulations, including a water discharge activity. Accordingly, we request that Article 6(1)(h) is amended to read: "regulation 12 (requirement for environmental permit) of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016, in respect of a flood risk activity permit only"."</p>	

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
EA-22	The Scheme	Draft DCO	"We have reviewed the proposed protective provisions (Schedule 16, Part 9) for the protection of the Environment Agency. We do not accept the current wording and will work with the applicant to agree the wording."	The Applicant notes this comment and intends to work with the EA in order to agree the wording of the protective provisions for the protection of the EA.
EA-23	The Scheme	River Buffers	"We welcome the inclusion of an 8-metre buffer zone around main rivers."	The Applicant notes this comment.
EA-24	The Scheme	River Crossings	"Where river crossings are proposed on the River Till and the River Trent these must be carried out using trenchless techniques. The use of open-cut techniques would be unsuitable at these locations, and we would object to any proposal of that nature."	<p>The Applicant, as detailed within paragraph 4.5.51 of C6.2.4_A ES Chapter 4 Scheme Description Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.4_A], proposes to lay the cables across the River Till and Trent using trenchless techniques.</p> <p>Works with the potential to adversely affect the rivers have been approached in a precautionary manner, as detailed in paragraphs 7.1.1 to 7.2.4 of C7.19 Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [APP-356].</p> <p>The Outline Strategy is secured through Requirement 8 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]. It provides that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a written ecological protection and mitigation strategy has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority for that part or, where the phase falls within the administrative areas of multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities."</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
EA-25	The Scheme	River Crossings	"The applicant is advised to follow the 'service crossing below the bed of a main river not involving an open-cut technique (FRA3)' methodology for the proposed river crossing. Carrying the works out in accordance with the methodology within FRA3 will ensure works are done to the required standard in terms of flood risk."	<p>The Applicant notes this comment and confirms that works will be carried out in accordance with the methodology within 'FRA3' as referred to by the EA.</p> <p>C7.6 Design and Access Statement - Part 1 of 4 [APP-342] notes, through paragraph 3.1.26, that the cable will need to cross a number of key obstacles, including the River Till and the River Trent, via the use of horizontal directional drilling (HDD).</p> <p>Paragraph 7.2.3 of C7.19 Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [APP-356] (as secured by Requirement 8 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]) makes note that where "HDD is used under the Rivers Till and Trent and their tributaries, the ECoW will discuss the risk of causing excessive vibration and the release of sediments with the operatives and engineers overseeing HDD works to ensure an adequate depth is used. In these locations, the ECoW will monitor the water column for sediment release during all stages of HDD work"</p> <p>The Applicant confirms that all works involving the crossing of a main river will be done in accordance with 'Service crossing below the bed of a main river not involving an open cut technique (FRA3)' methodology.</p>
EA-26	The Scheme	Submission of Details to the Environment Agency	"Schedule 16, Part 9, Paragraph 99 of the DCO confirms that the applicant should submit all plans to the Environment Agency for approval before commencing any work,	The Applicant notes this comment and intends to work with the EA in order to agree the wording of the protective provisions for the protection of the EA.

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			particularly within 8 metres of a main river or Environment Agency maintained asset."	
EA-27	The Scheme Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	Flood Risk	"We welcome the fact that water sensitive infrastructure will be sequentially located in flood zone 1 where possible. The ES states that where this has not been possible, equipment will be raised 0.6 metres above the 0.1% annual exceedance probability (AEP) level or as high as practicable. We wish to be made aware of any water sensitive infrastructure located within flood zone 3 (other than the tracker panels), and the height to which this infrastructure will be installed to ensure it is resilient during the design flood event."	<p>The embedded mitigation for sensitive infrastructure is detailed in paragraphs 2.7.1 to 2.7.7 of C6.3.10.4 ES Appendix 10.1 Annex D 10.1.3 Cottam 1 West [APP-093]. The Applicant has initiated engagement with EA through a Statement of Common Ground, and confirms specific minimum heights for sensitive infrastructure will be developed and provided to the EA during the detailed design process.</p> <p>The drainage strategy and detailed drainage design will be developed during the detailed design process. This is secured by Requirement 11 in Schedule 2 of the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] which provides that "No part of the authorised development may commence until written details of the surface water drainage scheme and (if any) foul water drainage system for that part have been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority."</p>
EA-28	The Scheme Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	Boundary Fencing	"Any site boundary fencing should be designed to prevent minor obstructions occurring, allowing the continuation of flow routes (if present) unimpeded through the site."	The Applicant notes this comment and confirms that the EA's concern will be addressed during the detailed design process. Full provision of details of fencing and other means of enclosure is secured by Requirement 10 in Schedule 2 of the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] .
EA-29	Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	Silt Management Plan	"We agree that a silt management plan (ES, Chapter 10, Section 10.8.31) will be	The Applicant confirms that provision for a Silt Management Plan will be contained within the detailed Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) as secured by Requirement 13 and the

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			necessary to avoid deterioration of drainage quality and water bodies."	Decommissioning Plan as secured through Requirement 21 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] .
EA-30	The Scheme Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	Abstraction Licence	"An abstraction licence may be required depending on the volume needed for dust suppression. Water in the area can be scarce during the warmer, drier months of the year and may not be readily available. The applicant may need to consider having water storage in place ahead of time ready for when dust suppression is required."	The Applicant notes this comment and points the EA to table 3.10 of C7.16 Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [APP-353] which makes provision for "an adequate water supply on the Sites for effective dust/particulate matter suppression/ mitigation, using non-potable water where possible and appropriate". A detailed Operational Environmental Management Plan is secured through Requirement 14 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] . Further details will be provided at the detailed design stage following further liaison.
EA-31	Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	Discharge of runoff	"Discharging runoff to watercourses has the potential to transport pollutants such as herbicides, pesticides, nitrates, phosphates and silt and should be a last resort with mitigation in place to reduce the impact. It is understood that the detail on protecting water quality will be explored in a Water Management Plan, which will form part of the detailed CEMP, which is secured through Requirement 13 of the DCO."	The Applicant notes this comment and confirms that protecting water quality will be explored through a Water Management Plan through the production of a detailed Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). As noted by the EA, the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] , provides (in Requirement 13 of Schedule 2) that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a construction environmental management plan for that part has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities". It further provides that "The construction

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				environmental management plan must be substantially in accordance with the outline construction environmental management plan."
EA-32	The Scheme Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)	<p>"We would advise that the CEMP explores maximising buffer distances, installation of silt traps, use of buffer strips and how best to communicate the key receptors to those working on site. This will minimise the possibility of sedimentation and erosion reaching watercourses.</p> <p>It should be ensured that any 'earth stockpiles' are located at least 30 metres away from any drain or watercourse for flood risk and water quality reasons."</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment and confirms that the EA's requests will be considered through the development of a detailed Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).</p> <p>The Scheme, through the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], provides (in Requirement 13 of Schedule 2) that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a construction environmental management plan for that part has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities". It further provides that "The construction environmental management plan must be substantially in accordance with the outline construction environmental management plan."</p>
EA-33	Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	Water Quality Monitoring	"The developer should consider water quality monitoring during construction to help prevent deteriorating water bodies."	<p>The Applicant confirms that, as set out in Table 3.4 of C7.1_A Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.1_A], a Water Management Plan will form part of the detailed Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). The Water Management Plan will include details of pre, during and post-construction water quality monitoring.</p> <p>The outline plan is secured in the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], which provides (in Requirement 13 of Schedule 2) that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a construction environmental management plan for that part has been submitted to and approved</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				by the relevant planning authority or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities". It further provides that "The construction environmental management plan must be substantially in accordance with the outline construction environmental management plan."
EA-34	Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	River Eau	"Cottam 2, 3 and 3b overlap with the Environment Agency's River Eau NFM Opportunity Mapping. Opportunities to include NFM on-site should be considered as part of mitigation in relation to flood risk and WFD."	As agreed between the parties through C8.3.8 The Environment Agency SoCG [EN010133/EX1/C8.3.8] , "It is considered that the proposed development poses an insignificant risk to the existing watercourses and off-site receptors and therefore no additional natural flood measures (NFM) are considered to be necessary".
EA-35	Ground Conditions and Contamination	ES Chapter 11: Ground Conditions and Contamination	"We have reviewed the Environmental Statement: Chapter 11: Ground Conditions and Contamination (ref: APP/C6.2.11) and agree with the preliminary risk assessment findings."	The Applicant notes this comment.
EA-36	Ground Conditions and Contamination	Private Water Supplies	"Whilst Chapter 11 provides a summary of the ground conditions and receptors in the vicinity of the proposed scheme it does not appear to mention whether a search for private water supplies has been made. Although there are no licenced water supplies in the locality it is possible that small, unlicenced abstractions exist. The local planning authority will	The Applicant confirms that they will contact the local planning authority for records of abstractions to evidence this and will share the information with the EA when available.

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			have record of these and should be contacted for further information."	
EA-37	Ground Conditions and Contamination	ES Chapter 11: Ground Conditions and Contamination	"Should the 'Discovery Strategy' protocol identify any unsuspected contamination during construction we would like to review and comment on these findings alongside the local planning authority (ES Chapter 11, Section 11.8.2, bullet point 4). This appears to be secured through Requirement 13 (the CEMP) in the DCO."	The Applicant notes this comment and confirms that C7.1_A Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.1_A] has been updated and is to be submitted by Deadline 1 (as ' C7.1_A Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan Revision A [EN010133/APP/C7.1_A] ') to capture that the Environment Agency, alongside the local planning authority, will be consulted should the 'Discovery Strategy' protocol identify any unsuspected contamination during construction.
EA-38	The Scheme Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	Draft DCO	"Under The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 a permit is required for installations, medium combustion plant, specified generator, waste or mining waste operations, water discharge or groundwater activities, or work on or near a main river or sea defence."	The Applicant notes this comment and confirms that any required permits will be applied for at the appropriate time.
EA-39	The Scheme	Draft DCO	"As referred to in paragraph 4.2 above" (EA-24) ", the disapplication of The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 for work on or near a main river or sea defence (flood risk activity) is the only activity we will agree to disapply (subject to	The Applicant notes this comment and intends to work with the EA in order to agree a position regarding the disapplication of the Environmental Permitting Regulations and the wording of the protective provisions for the protection of the EA, to be included in the draft DCO.

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			agreement regarding Protective Provisions). The applicant should make it clear that any reference made to The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 within the DCO text is related to flood risk activities only and that any additional permits for water abstraction or discharge would still need to be applied for."	
EA-40	The Scheme	Draft DCO	<p>"We do not agree to the disapplication of sections 24 (restrictions on abstraction) and 25 (restrictions on impounding) of the Water Resources Act 1991.</p> <p>As referred to in paragraphs 4.2 and 6.2, we will not agree to the disapplication of the requirement for any environmental permit, other than a flood risk activity permit in exchange for agreed protective provisions.</p> <p>We are considering the disapplication of local legislation listed in Schedule 3 of the DCO. If we have any concerns about this, we will endeavour to include comments in our written representations."</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment and intends to work with the EA in order to agree a position regarding the disapplication of the sections 24 and 25 of the Water Resources Act 1991; the Environmental Permitting Regulations and the wording of the protective provisions for the protection of the EA, to be included in the draft DCO.</p> <p>We note the EA's comments about reviewing Schedule 3 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
EA-41	The Scheme	Draft DCO Revision	<p>"The Environment Agency wishes to be a specific named consultee in respect of Schedule 2, Requirement 7 (1) (landscape and ecological management plan); Requirement 8 (1) (ecological protection and mitigation strategy); Requirement 13 (1) (construction environment management plan); Requirement 14 (1) (operational environmental management plan) and Requirement 21 (1-4) (decommissioning and restoration). We would request that for the avoidance of doubt the words "following consultation with the Environment Agency" are inserted after "relevant planning authority". This will give us an have an opportunity to comment on the detailed mitigation and management schemes, secured post consent, to ensure adequate protection and enhancement of the environment."</p>	<p>The Applicant confirms that the EA will be a specific named consultee in respect of the Requirements as requested by EA.</p>
EA-42	The Scheme	Principle of Development	<p>"In summary, we can confirm that we have no objection to the principle of the proposed development, as submitted. The issues outlined above</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment and looks forward to working with the Environment Agency throughout the Examination Period on the matters referred to above, through the parties' Statement of Common Ground and other engagement.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>are all capable of resolution and we look forward to receiving additional information to resolve our outstanding concerns. We will also continue to work with the applicant to agree the wording in the protective provisions. We reserve the right to add or amend these representations, including requests for DCO Requirements and protective provisions should further information be forthcoming during the course of the examination on issues within our remit."</p>	

Forestry Commission [RR-027]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
FC-01	Ecology and Biodiversity Landscape and Visual	Wooded Areas	"Whilst we note there are no ancient woodlands within the development area, although there are several small wooded areas bordering it."	The Applicant notes this comment.
FC-02	The Scheme Ecology and Biodiversity Landscape and Visual	Removal of Trees	"We also note that there are currently no plans to remove any existing trees and that adequate buffer zones will be provided to protect those woodlands bordering the development during the construction phase."	<p>Wherever feasible, construction vehicle access to the Sites will utilise existing access points. In certain instances, minor vegetation removal may be necessary to accommodate the vehicle's swept path and ensure visibility (see table 3.3 in C7.1_A Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.1_A]). In relation to abnormal loads, no additional vegetation removal has been identified as being required, except for minor pruning in just one location at the Normanby Road 'S' bend (see appendix 2 sheets 1 to 3 of drawing no: 22-1062.SPA02 in C6.3.14.1 ES Appendix 14.1 Transport Assessment [APP-134]).</p> <p>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 the Hedgerow Removal Plans in Appendix C of C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan Revision A [EN010133/EX1PEX/C7.3_A]. 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>Where these minor areas of hedgerow removal are required, it is to enable access for the construction phase only. These areas are not</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				required as operational accesses, so vegetation will be reinstated as secured by Requirement 13 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] once construction is complete (see table 3.3 of C7.1_A Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.1_A]).
FC-03	Ecology and Biodiversity Landscape and Visual	Planting Proposals	<p>"However, one of the biggest threats to woodland is fragmentation. Given there are plans for new woodland creation, it may be advantageous if some of the new trees and woodlands could be used to expand or join up some of the existing woodland to help improve their biodiversity. This may be especially important when considering the cumulative impacts of this and other solar farms planned within the area. If you require any further advice regarding woodland creation, please do not hesitate to contact me."</p>	<p>The Applicant recognises woodland fragmentation as a threat to biodiversity and suggests connecting and expanding existing woodlands, where feasible, through new tree planting and hedgerows, and hedgerow improvements to enhance their biodiversity. Section 4.4 of C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] provides detail of proposed connective woodland copses and shelterbelts to be planted as part of the Scheme. These measures are secured through requirement of provision of a full Landscape and Ecological Management Plan under Requirement 7 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]. The biodiversity net gain for hedgerows as a result of hedgerow creation and enhancement of existing hedgerows is calculated at, and anticipated to deliver, 70.22% in C6.3.9.12 ES Appendix 9.12 Biodiversity Net Gain Report [APP-089]. A biodiversity net gain strategy is secured through Requirement 9 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>An assessment of the likely impacts of the Scheme on existing woodlands and the likely effects from proposed planting is assessed in Section 9.7 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>044. Cumulative effects from the Scheme and neighbouring NSIPs are assessed in Section 9.9 [APP-044].</p> <p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') considers both the landscape and visual effects of the Scheme on woodland and habitat fragmentation in line with policy recommendations (see paragraphs 8.3.52 to 8.3.80) and potential enhancements to biodiversity, including taking account of connecting and expanding existing woodlands, where feasible, through new tree planting and hedgerows (see paragraphs 8.7.44, 8.7.271, 8.11.67 to 8.11.74). The LVIA also takes account of the Central Lincolnshire Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping (BOM) Areas that are shown in more detail on C6.4.8.16 Figure 8.16 Central Lincolnshire Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping [AP-304].</p> <p>The Applicant has undertaken a thorough process to inform C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') and associated mitigation plans to enhance biodiversity. The mitigation proposals allow for flexibility, but they can also be fixed, where appropriate and applicable.</p> <p>With regard to ecology and nature conservation, C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] gives specific consideration to the protection, restoration, and creation of habitats, including how they form a wider part of the green infrastructure network across the host counties. For example, C6.3.8.2.3.1 ES Appendix 8.2 Assessment of Potential Landscape Effects [APP-074] notes [Effects: Operation (Year 1)] "the strong rectilinear field pattern is a key feature to be enhanced with new hedge planting where appropriate" and that "Linear belts of scattered trees to the south and</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>east of the Cottam 1 South Site will also help to increase the level of tree cover locally and visually and physically link to existing woodlands such as Thorpe Wood, Cammeringham Low Covert and Brattleby Gorse through enhanced hedgerows". Further detail on these mitigation measures and how habitat enhancement and creation will link to form a coherent green infrastructure network can be found within C6.4.8.16.1 ES Figure 8.16.1 [APP-305] to C6.4.8.16.10 ES Figure 8.16.10 [APP-315] that illustrate the key areas of mitigation within the Scheme.</p>

Gate Burton Energy Park Limited [RR-028]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
GBEPL-01	Cumulative Development	Other Schemes	"Gate Burton Energy Park Limited is the undertaker for the Gate Burton Energy Park DCO PINS reference EN010131. The DCO application for Gate Burton Energy Park was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 27th January 2023 and accepted for Examination on 22nd February 2023. Gate Burton Energy Park Limited wishes to register as an Interested Party for the Cottam Solar Project DCO Examination, as it may wish to participate in the Examination given the proximity of the two schemes, the commonality of certain stakeholders and the potential for similar or cumulative environmental effects and coordination of mitigation measures."	The Applicant notes this comment.
GBEPL-02	The Scheme	Protective Provisions	"Protective provisions for the benefit of Gate Burton Energy Park Limited have also been included within the draft DCO for the Cottam Solar Project."	The Applicant notes this comment

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
GBEPL-03	Examination	Examination Process	"The Examining Authority for the Cottam Solar Project DCO Examination may also wish to direct related questions to Gate Burton Energy Park Limited."	The Applicant notes this comment.

Historic England [RR-029]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
HE-01	The Party	Introduction	<p>"Historic England The Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (HBMCE) is better known as Historic England, and we are the Government's adviser on all aspects of the historic environment in England, including historic buildings and areas, archaeology and historic landscapes. We have a duty to promote conservation, public understanding and enjoyment of the historic environment. We are an executive Non-Departmental public body and we answer to Parliament through the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). Proposal Cottam Solar Project. Solar photovoltaic array and electrical storage and connection infrastructure, with a generation capacity of greater than 50 MW."</p>	The Applicant notes this comment.
HE-02	Cultural Heritage	Designated heritage Assets and Earthworks	<p>"We note the scheme has it appears largely addressed the setting of designated heritage assets and</p>	The Applicant notes this comment.

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			earthwork monuments of equivalent importance through design (layout and deployment of green space) with the exception of Scheduled Monument NHLE ref 1016978 Thorpe medieval settlement where setting impacts are identified in the submitted environmental statement as 'moderate adverse' – 'significant' in EIA terms, which we would see as a considerable level of less than substantial harm in NPS/NPPF terms."	
HE-03	Cultural Heritage	Buried Archaeological Remains	"With regards to buried archaeological remains it is important that risk of avoidable / unmitigated damage to sensitive remains is well managed in proportion to their importance. This can be achieved through layout, deployment of green space and construction options for cabling and panel mounting etc."	The proposed mitigation strategy (see C6.3.13.7 ES Appendix 13.7 Archaeological Mitigation WSI [APP-131]) aims to remove risk to buried archaeological remains where possible through mitigation by design in the form of 'no development' areas and the use of non-intrusive concrete ground anchors (see paragraphs 4.1.1 and 7.1.28 of [APP-131]). Where unavoidable damage is to occur, mitigation by record is proposed in the form of 'strip, map and sample' and open excavation (see paragraphs 7.1.38 to 7.1.44 [APP-131]). The type of proposed mitigation has been informed by the extensive previous survey/excavation which has provided crucial information regarding the character of buried archaeological remains and their archaeological importance with consideration to the impact caused by various elements of the Scheme (see paragraph 1.1.5 of [APP-131]).

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>The WSI is secured by Requirement 12 of Schedule 2 to C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>Furthermore, C7.6 Design and Access Statement [APP-342 to APP-345] demonstrates how cultural heritage has influenced the design of the Scheme, with heritage-based design measures set out in Section 3.7 therein. Design Objective 5 [APP-342 to APP-345] is specific to ensuring the Scheme is developed sensitively with regard to heritage assets and their settings.</p>
HE-04	Cultural Heritage	Sufficiency of field evaluation	<p>"Archaeological risks can thus be well addressed, but only if there is a sound understanding of where archaeological sensitivity and importance lies across the site. Sufficiency of field evaluation is vital because some features (such as for instance early medieval burial grounds or Roman high-status buildings) would be both of high importance and high sensitivity to the insertion of panel mounting piles."</p>	<p>The Applicant considers that sufficient evaluation, which is proportionate and in scope for the stage at which the Scheme has reached, has been undertaken to inform the DCO Application. The evaluation works are also sufficient to inform any required post-consent works as detailed and secured through C6.3.13.7 ES Appendix 13.7 Archaeological Mitigation Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) [APP-131]. Implementation of the Scheme in accordance with the WSI is secured by Requirement 12 of Schedule 2 in C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>The Applicant considers that a reasonable, proportionate and consistent approach has been taken guided by national and local guidance that has enabled the collection of high-quality reliable data. This has provided an adequate understanding of the archaeological potential and developmental impacts as set out in C6.2.13 ES Chapter 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048] and has been used to formulate an</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>appropriate mitigation strategy as set out in C6.3.13.7 ES Appendix 13.7 Archaeological Mitigation WSI [APP-131].</p> <p>Consequently, the Applicant considers that the Examining Authority can issue a recommendation and the Secretary of State can determine the DCO application allowing for suitable archaeological mitigation to be carried out pursuant to the implementation of C6.3.13.7 ES Appendix 13.7 Archaeological Mitigation WSI [APP-131].</p>
HE-04	Cultural Heritage	Intrusive and Non-intrusive surveys	<p>"Discussion is continuing as regards the extent of archaeological evaluation and deployment of intrusive and non-intrusive techniques, the reliance upon / complimentary nature of such techniques, and the timing there-of; all in the context of concerns around the management of archaeological and project risk."</p>	<p>The Applicant confirms that discussions have taken place and are ongoing regarding the extent of archaeological evaluation and related matters. Details of the discussions to date between HE, the Applicant and the Lincolnshire Historic Places Team are set out in Appendix A, Table 1.1 of this Document.</p> <p>The Applicant is of the opinion that the extensive archaeological investigation works undertaken as part of the DCO application have been sufficient to inform the EIA process and to formulate an appropriate mitigation strategy, as set out in C6.3.13.7 ES Appendix 13.7 Archaeological Mitigation WSI [APP-131]. The Applicant is keen to agree a proportionate strategy with all parties. If further trenching across the Scheme is deemed necessary, the Applicant considers that this should be undertaken post-determination of the DCO.</p>
HE-05	Cultural Heritage	Acceptability of evaluation	<p>"In the context of sufficiency of evaluation work we refer you in the first instance to the expertise of local authority archaeological advisors. It is</p>	<p>The Applicant welcomes pragmatic and reasonable collaboration with the Local Authority (LHPT) and considers they have worked closely with LHPT to deliver fieldwork campaigns for the Scheme (through the</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			they who will (should DCO be granted with appropriate requirements) advise upon the acceptability of written schemes of investigation (WSI) and their accordance with a robust overall archaeological strategy secured through DCO submission."	agreement of WSIs and the various site visits and online meetings throughout 2022 and 2023). The Applicant looks forward to continuing to work with LHPT to agree a position on the Applicant's proposition of post-determination trenching with a 1% sample as set out in Appendix A, Table 1.1 of this Document.
HE-06	Cultural Heritage	Cumulative Impacts	"Combined cable connection corridors with other Solar NSIP have the potential to minimise cumulative impacts in archaeologically sensitive areas, which we would welcome."	The Applicant notes this comment.

Anglian Water Services Limited [RR-030]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
AWSL-01	The Interested Party	Background	"Jacobs UK Limited is supporting Anglian Water as an Interested Party in this examination."	The Applicant notes this comment.
AWSL-02	The Scheme	Draft DCO	"Anglian Water are in contact with the Applicant regarding the protective provisions in Schedule 16 (For the Protection of Anglian Water Services Limited) Part 7 of the Draft Development Consent Order (DCO) as some provisions differ from Anglian Water's protective provisions template that was previously shared with the Applicant."	Draft protective provisions are included in Part 7 to Schedule 16 of the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] . The Applicant is confident that the form of protective provisions can be agreed with Anglian Water prior to the end of the Examination, which will ensure that Anglian Water's statutory undertaking is not subject to serious detriment as a result of the Scheme.
AWSL-03	The Scheme Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	Draft DCO	"In addition, with respect to Schedule 2 (requirements) of the Draft DCO, Anglian Water should be a consultee for any Local Planning Authority discharge of requirements in relation to drainage plans and surface water discharge."	The Applicant notes this request and has duly updated Requirement 11 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] to provision that the relevant planning authority must consult with Anglian Water Services Limited before approving the written details under sub-paragraph (1) of Requirement 11 in Schedule 2.
AWSL-04	Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	Anglian Water Assets	"Any impacted Anglian Water assets need to be identified and either diverted or protected."	The requirement for on-site surveys to ground-truth the location of utilities is set out in paragraphs 21.3.4 and 21.3.5 of C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21_Other Environmental Matters [APP-056] and secured

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
	Telecomms & Utilities			<p>through C7.1_A Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.1_A]. The Applicant is committed to consultation and agreement with operators and/or owners of utility infrastructure that is likely to be directly impacted by the location or design of the Scheme.</p> <p>The Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan is secured in the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] which provides (in Requirement 13 of Schedule 2) that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a construction environmental management plan for that part has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities". It further provides that "The construction environmental management plan must be substantially in accordance with the outline construction environmental management plan."</p> <p>The protective provisions included in Part 7 to Schedule 16 of the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] will also protect Anglian Water's apparatus where it interfaces with the Scheme.</p>
AWSL-05	The Scheme	Statement of Common Ground (SoCG)	"If necessary, we will also agree a Statement of Common Ground with the Applicant."	The Applicant notes this comment and is content to enter into a Statement of Common Ground if necessary.

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
AWSL-06	Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	Foul Water Drainage	"It is noted that the Environmental Statement submitted with the application advises that no mains connected foul water drainage systems are likely to be necessary."	The Applicant notes this comment.

West Burton Solar Project Ltd. [RR-031]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
WBSP-01	Cumulative Development	Other Schemes	"West Burton Solar Project Limited wishes to register as an Interested Party for the Cottam Solar Project DCO Examination, as it may wish to participate in the Examination given the proximity of the two schemes, the commonality of certain stakeholders and the potential for similar or cumulative environmental effects and coordination of mitigation measures."	The Applicant notes this comment.
WBSP-02	The Scheme	Protective Provisions	"Protective provisions for the benefit of West Burton Solar Project Limited have also been included within the draft DCO for the Cottam Solar Project."	The Applicant notes this comment.
WBSP-03	Examination	Examination Process	"The Examining Authority for the Cottam Solar Project DCO Examination may also wish to direct related questions to West Burton Solar Project Limited."	The Applicant notes this comment.

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust [RR-032]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
LWT-01	The Interested Party	Background	"We are ambitious in our desire to reverse the declines in nature. We speak authentically with a bold and confident voice, we commit to tell the truth about the state of nature and be clear about what needs to be done to put it in recovery. We look to establish common cause and work in partnership with others to develop new, innovative ways to put nature in recovery."	The Applicant notes this comment.
LWT-02	Landscape and Visual Ecology and Biodiversity	Development Impacts	"Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust consider the main issues and impacts of this development to be those affecting the habitats and species both on site and the areas surrounding the site, and how negative effects felt here will degrade the integrity of the ecological networks of the wider landscape."	Habitat loss resulting from the Proposed Scheme will be restricted predominantly to arable and grazing pasture fields. The Scheme has been carefully designed to retain all field boundaries which will be generously buffered and receive ecologically led management prescriptions, as can be seen in Section 9.6 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] . Furthermore, the grassland beneath panelled land will receive low-intensity management and be seeded to create a habitat of significantly increased species diversity than existing. In this way, an anticipated substantial net gain for biodiversity will be achieved (see C6.3.9.12 ES Appendix 9.12 Biodiversity Net Gain Report [APP-089]), predominantly through the creation of extensive low-input grassland resulting in a net gain of 96.09% in habitat units, but also several new ponds and wetland

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>habitat parcels resulting in a net gain of 10.69% in river units, and the planting of several kilometres of species-rich hedgerow resulting in a net gain of 70.22% in hedgerow units.</p> <p>This will be secured through the management and ecological monitoring prescriptions contained within C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] which are secured through Requirement 7 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>The Applicant furthermore recognises the importance of the ecological networks within the wider landscape in which the Scheme is situated and considers in detail how the identified adverse effects can be mitigated through the C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA').</p> <p>The Scheme includes landscape mitigation and enhancement measures forming part of the LVIA as shown on C6.4.8.16.1 ES Figure 8.16.1 [APP-305] to C6.4.8.16.10 ES Figure 8.16.10 [APP-315], in LVIA Section 8.8. The LVIA sets out how landscape mitigation will be used to achieve biodiversity net gain through the enhancement of existing habitats and green infrastructure proposals. These landscape measures are included in C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A], which prescribes how the landscape and ecology mitigation measures identified and proposed would be implemented and managed to ensure effectiveness and certainty in achieving the objectives.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>The Applicant and its LVIA consultants at Lanpro have worked closely with the Applicant's ecology consultant throughout the Application process to inform the LVIA and associated mitigation plans. The mitigation proposals allow for flexibility as part of the detailed design process post DCO consent, but they also set out elements that are fixed, where appropriate and applicable to do so. A key consideration in the placing of ecological enhancements such as ponds, tussocky grassland, trees and hedgerows has been the location of land within the Order Limits which have been earmarked for enhancement within the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership's Biodiversity Opportunities Mapping project.</p>
LWT-03	Ecology and Biodiversity	Ecological Site Designations	"[Our] main points of concern: - Ecological site designations considered within, adjacent to or near the site boundary"	<p>Willingham to Fillingham Road Verges Local Wildlife Site is located adjacent to Cottam 1 (North) and the cable route corridor (see paragraph 9.5.13 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044]), while a further five Local Wildlife Sites are located within or very close to the cable route corridor. These are the only designated sites for wildlife conservation that occur within or close to the Order Limits and they are classed as non-statutorily protected. These were identified at an early, desk study, stage in the design process and are depicted in Appendix C of C6.3.9.2 ES Appendix 9.2 Preliminary Ecological Appraisal [APP-079] and C6.3.9.4 ES Appendix 9.4 Cable Route Preliminary Ecological Assessment [APP-081].</p> <p>All sites are to be protected from direct and indirect impacts throughout the construction phase through buffering, fencing and</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				ecological watching briefs as described in paragraphs 9.7.13 to 9.7.33 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] . Further detail of their protection in the form of pollution prevention measures during construction is provided in C7.19 Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [APP-356] . Furthermore, Section 4.9 of C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] details management of adjacent on-site buffer zones to extend the value of the road verge habitat into the Order Limits. These two outline documents are secured in Requirements 8 and 7 respectively in Schedule 2 to the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] .
LWT-04	Ecology and Biodiversity Transport and Access	Designated Road Verges	"[Our] main points of concern:... Construction traffic negatively impacting locally and nationally designated road verges"	An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been prepared to support the application within C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A] . C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] , provides (in Requirement 15 of Schedule 2) that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a construction traffic management plan for that part must be submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities". It further provides that "The construction traffic management plan must be substantially in accordance with the outline construction traffic management plan."

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				The outline CTMP submitted as part of the DCO application provides a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements to and from the Scheme, to ensure that the effects of the temporary construction phase on the local highway network are minimised and made acceptable.
LWT-05	Landscape and Visual Ecology and Biodiversity	Habitat Enhancement	"[Our] main points of concern:... Ensuring habitat enhancement proposals for less ecologically valuable elements along land parcel boundaries are provided, as well as plans to improve habitat connectivity"	<p>The LVIA has identified the need for extensive landscape mitigation which is set out in the C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] as secured by Requirement 7 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>The Applicant recognises that habitat enhancement measures for less ecologically valuable elements along land parcel boundaries are of key importance to the Scheme. The Scheme has been carefully designed to retain all field boundaries which will be generously buffered and receive ecologically led management prescriptions, as can be seen in Section 9.6 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044]. Furthermore, the grassland beneath panelled land will receive low-intensity management and be seeded to create a habitat of significantly increased species diversity than existing. In this way, a substantial anticipated net gain for biodiversity will be achieved (see C6.3.9.12 ES Appendix 9.12 Biodiversity Net Gain Report [APP-089]), predominantly through the creation of extensive low-input grassland resulting in a net gain of 96.09% in habitat units, but also several new ponds and wetland habitat parcels resulting in a net gain of 10.69% in river units, and the planting of several kilometres of</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>species-rich hedgerow resulting in a net gain of 70.22% in hedgerow units. This will be secured through the management and ecological monitoring prescriptions contained within C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A].</p> <p>The Applicant furthermore recognises the importance of the ecological networks within the wider landscape in which the Scheme is situated and considers in detail how the identified adverse effects can be mitigated through the C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA').</p> <p>The Scheme includes landscape mitigation and enhancement measures forming part of the LVIA as shown on C6.4.8.16.1 ES Figure 8.16.1 [APP-305] to C6.4.8.16.10 ES Figure 8.16.10 [APP-315], in LVIA Section 8.8. The LVIA sets out how landscape mitigation will be used to achieve biodiversity net gain through the enhancement of existing habitats and green infrastructure proposals. These landscape measures are included in C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A], which prescribes how the landscape and ecology mitigation measures identified and proposed would be implemented and managed to ensure effectiveness and certainty in achieving the objectives.</p> <p>Specifically, as all field boundaries (including hedgerows, uncultivated field margins and ditches) will be generously buffered and managed specifically for their wildlife value (see Section 4 of C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A]), these marginal habitats are considered</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				highly likely to give rise to a significant net gain for biodiversity through the life of the Scheme.
LWT-06	Landscape and Visual Ecology and Biodiversity Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	Wetland Habitat	"[Our] main points of concern:... Using the surface water flooding maps to best create permanent and temporary wetland habitat"	<p>The Applicant has used surface water flooding maps to create suitable permanent and temporary wetland habitats. Instances where this has been carried out include the design of several ponds to be created within the Order Limits (see Section 4.9 of C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A]) and wetland habitat mitigation for lapwing in the form of scrapes within non-panelled fields adjacent to the River Till which will be rain and surface water fed (see Section 4.8 of C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A]). A detailed Landscape Ecological Management Plan is secured by Requirement 7 of Schedule 2 to C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] recognises the importance of wetland habitat as set out in the landscape character assessment and policy (see paragraphs 8.5.22 to 8.5.41). The LVIA also recognises the presence of the existing watercourses and their value in the landscape (see paragraphs 8.5.91 to 8.5.289) and takes into consideration improvements to the smaller drainage network and their association with wetland habitats (see paragraphs 8.6.3, 8.7.23 to 8.7.263, 8.9.6, 8.10.19, 8.11.56 and 8.11.71), where scattered belts of trees are proposed to follow the routes of existing watercourses, strengthening their visibility in the wider landscape. Panels will also be set back as a minimum of 20m (see</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				paragraph 8.6.3 and 8.7.21) from major watercourses and a minimum of 8m (see paragraph 8.6.3) from minor watercourses as buffer zones.
LWT-07	Landscape and Visual Ecology and Biodiversity	Ecological Corridors	"[Our] main points of concern:... Risks to ecological corridor functionality as a result of the development"	<p>The Applicant recognises the concerns about the potential risks to the functionality of ecological corridors posed by the Scheme.</p> <p>The Applicant has undertaken a thorough process to inform C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') and proposes mitigation plans to enhance biodiversity. The intervening landscape between (or the non-panelled areas) provides scope for extensive areas of mitigation and the ability to build upon the connectivity of green infrastructure and ecology corridor functionality. The mitigation proposals look to enhance nature conservation and retain the existing landscape pattern.</p> <p>The mitigation associated with the landscape receptors for the Scheme is set out in C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A], C6.4.8.16.1 to C6.4.8.16.10 Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Figures 8.16.1 to 8.16.10) [APP-305 to APP-315] as secured by Requirement 7 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>The LVIA [APP-043] sets out landscape mitigation to improve ecological corridor functionality, as required by BNG policy (see paragraphs 8.3.40 to 8.3.81), the enhancement of existing habitats and green infrastructure (see paragraphs 8.8.3, 8.4.42, 8.7.244 and</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>8.11.63). The C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] also prescribes how the landscape and ecology mitigation measures identified and proposed would be implemented and managed to ensure the effectiveness and certainty in achieving the objectives. The LVIA also takes account of ecological corridor functionality within the mitigation section (see paragraph 8.6.2).</p> <p>In purely ecological terms, as the development footprint will almost exclusively occupy the cultivated area of large tracts of arable land, and all habitats at the field boundaries will be generously buffered, it is considered that ecological corridors in the form of linear tussocky grassland, scrub, trees, hedgerow, ditches and streams will be preserved. The reversion from arable to low-input grassland over the majority of the Scheme can be expected to further enhance the connectivity and function of these buffered zones, especially for species groups such as invertebrates and small mammals (see paragraph 9.7.172 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044]).</p>
LWT-08	The Scheme	Tracker Panels	<p>"[Our] main points of concern:...</p> <p>Injury or death to various species if moving parts of tractor arrays are included in the design"</p>	<p>Tracker panels, by their very nature, slowly rotate throughout the day to track the sun and thus subtly vary in orientation. The tracker solar PV modules proposed (as a potential alternative to a fixed panel system) can achieve a maximum inclination of 60 degrees from the horizontal (see paragraph 4.5.7 of C6.2.4_A ES Chapter 4 Scheme Description Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.4_A]). In the evenings, in</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>the time leading up to sunset, tracker panels reorient themselves to the horizontal.</p> <p>Given the slow and cyclical behaviour of tracker panels, the Applicant does not consider that tracker Panels pose any risks of injury to species beyond that of a fixed panel system.</p>
LWT-09	<p>The Scheme</p> <p>Ecology and Biodiversity</p> <p>Glint and Glare</p>	Panel Glare	<p>"[Our] main points of concern:...</p> <p>Potential collision risks for birds associated with reflective solar panels"</p>	<p>The current guidance on this subject indicates that the risk posed to birds from solar panels is low, including the conclusions of a 2016 Natural England literature review (NEER012 – Evidence Review of the Impact of Solar Farms on Birds, Bats and General Ecology 2016). Furthermore, Natural England have responded in Section 42 consultation to confirm that impacts upon birds associated with the Humber Estuary SPA are unlikely (see pg.162-163 of C5.11 Consultation Report Appendix – Section 42 Applicant Response [APP-034]).</p> <p>The Applicant is not aware of any glint and glare issues affecting local wildlife and captive animals. Solar reflections generating from solar panels will be similar to the one generating from a body of water. Therefore, effects upon animals are likely to be similar to those assessed in Appendix B of C6.3.16.1 ES Appendix 16.1 Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study [APP-0140].</p>
LWT-10	Landscape and Visual	Bat Roosts	<p>"[Our] main points of concern:...</p> <p>Retention of all trees showing bat roost potential, and the planting of</p>	<p>The Applicant recognises the concern regarding the preservation of all trees with bat roosting potential and the need for the planting of</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
	Ecology and Biodiversity		successor trees to secure perpetuity of connectivity and habitat provision"	<p>successor trees to ensure long-term connectivity and habitat provision.</p> <p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') sets out that no trees will be removed, and buffer zones will be established to protect nearby woodlands and other tree cover bordering the Scheme during the construction phase (see paragraph 8.6.2). Furthermore, no trees are proposed to be removed during the operational lifetime of the Scheme.</p> <p>As stated in bullet point 5 of Paragraph 9.6.9 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044], all trees with low, moderate or high bats roost potential will be subject to a minimum buffer of 8, 10 or 12m respectively. All proposed new site accesses or cable route hedgerow crossing have been sited to avoid the loss of trees.</p> <p>The LVIA [APP-043] considers both the landscape and visual effects of the Scheme on woodland and habitat fragmentation in accordance with the relevant policy (see paragraphs 8.3.52 to 8.3.80) and potential enhancements to biodiversity, including taking account of connecting and expanding existing woodlands, where feasible, through new tree planting and hedgerows (see paragraphs 8.7.44, 8.7.271, 8.11.67, 8.11.73 and 8.11.74). The LVIA also takes account of the Central Lincolnshire Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping (BOM) Areas that are shown in more detail on C6.4.8.16 Figure 8.16 Central Lincolnshire Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping [APP-304].</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>Wherever feasible, construction vehicle access to the Sites will utilise existing access points. In certain instances, minor vegetation removal may be necessary to accommodate the vehicle's swept path and ensure visibility (see table 3.3 in C7.1_A Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.1_A]). In relation to abnormal loads, no additional vegetation removal has been identified as being required, except for minor pruning in just one location at the Normanby Road 'S' bend (see appendix 2 sheets 1 to 3 of drawing no: 22-1062.SPA02 in C6.3.14.1 ES Appendix 14.1 Transport Assessment [APP-134]).</p> <p>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 the Hedgerow Removal Plans in Appendix C of C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan Revision A [EN010133/EX1PEX/C7.3_A]. 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>Where these minor areas of hedgerow removal are required, it is to enable construction only. These are not required as operational accesses, so vegetation will be reinstated as secured by Requirement 13 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] once construction is complete</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				(see table 3.3 of C7.1_A Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.1_A]).
LWT-11	Landscape and Visual Ecology and Biodiversity Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	Watercourse Buffers	"[Our] main points of concern:... Wide buffers around watercourses with evidence of water vole or otter presence"	<p>The Applicant recognises, in C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA'), the concerns over the wide buffers and new planting as mitigation (see paragraphs 8.11.3 to 8.11.69) around watercourses particularly where there is evidence of water vole or otter presence.</p> <p>The Applicant has undertaken a thorough process to inform the LVIA and associated mitigation plans. The intervening landscape between (and the non-panelled areas) provide scope for extensive areas of mitigation and this has taken account the specific requirements of these species and their habitats.</p> <p>Bullet point 5 of paragraph 9.6.9 within C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] provides details of the measurements and location of ecological protection buffers to be implemented during construction and operation of the Scheme according to the habitat type present at field boundaries (e.g., all ditches or water courses containing potential for water voles or otters to will be subject to a minimum buffer of 10m) and its evaluated importance. The measures outlined in paragraph 9.6.9 of the ES Chapter are captured within paragraph 2.3.8 of C7.19 Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [APP-356] and are secured by Requirement 8 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
LWT-12	Landscape and Visual Ecology and Biodiversity	Native hedgerows and tree retention	"[Our] main points of concern:... Native hedgerow and tree retention and associated buffer zones – Retention, buffering, enhancement and connection of existing native woodland"	<p>Where the LVIA has identified significant adverse effects, extensive landscape mitigation is set out in C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] as secured by Requirement 7 of Schedule 2 to C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]. The LVIA (see paragraph 8.6.3 and Table 8.21) takes into consideration the strategic approach to mitigation and the concern regarding the retention, buffering, enhancement and connection of existing native woodland.</p> <p>The landscape mitigation measures will provide new planting, which will include new native hedgerows and tree cover, and this will also include their management and maintenance. The Applicant also recognises the interest in native hedgerows, tree retention, and the establishment of associated buffer zones.</p> <p>The Applicant has undertaken a thorough process to inform the LVIA and associated mitigation plans.</p> <p>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 the Hedgerow Removal Plans in Appendix C of C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan Revision A [EN010133/EX1PEX/C7.3_A]. 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>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				Where these minor areas of hedgerow removal are required, it is to enable construction only. These are not required as operational accesses, so vegetation will be reinstated as secured by Requirement 13 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] once construction is complete (see table 3.3 of C7.1_A Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.1_A]).
LWT-13	Landscape and Visual Ecology and Biodiversity	Grassland and Scrub	"[Our] main points of concern:... Use of structural grassland and scrub mosaic margins to create 'soft' woodland edges - Species-rich grassland habitat creation and enhancement - Establishing a habitat mosaic within each land parcel and subsequent management"	<p>The Applicant recognises the concerns associated with mosaic margins and species rich grassland habitat creation.</p> <p>The Applicant has undertaken a thorough process to inform C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') and associated mitigation plans. The Applicant has provided an appropriate level of justification to enable this matter to be investigated at examination.</p> <p>These proposed mitigation areas are shown on plans C6.4.8.16.1 Figure 8.16.1 Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plan [APP-305] to C6.4.8.16.10 Figure 8.16.10 [APP-315] and secured by Requirement 7 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>The use of structural grassland and scrub mosaic margins enhances the visual appeal of the landscape by creating a smooth transition between woodland and open grassland and also adds diversity and complexity to the edge habitats. The promotion of species rich grassland within the mitigation plans and LEMP (see section 4.6 of</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] enhances the value of the landscape, contributing to the overall biodiversity of the Study Area. The choice of which habitat type to be created within buffers was influenced by aspect, shading, location within Biodiversity Opportunities Mapping and connectivity to other similar habitats. This has resulted in an intentional mosaic of tussocky grassland, flower-rich pollinator grassland, successional scrub. The provision of a habitat mosaic within each land parcel promotes opportunities across the Scheme and create varying habitats.</p>
LWT-14	Ecology and Biodiversity	Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)	<p>"[Our] main points of concern:...</p> <p>Achieving a minimum of 10% Biodiversity Net Gain as a result of this development which would be supported by an appropriate post-intervention habitat monitoring and management plan for a minimum period of 40 years to match the scheme lifetime"</p>	<p>C6.3.9.12 ES Appendix 9.12 Biodiversity Net Gain Report [APP-089] sets out how a significant net gain for biodiversity has been calculated as a result of the Scheme, which will be secured throughout the operation life of the Scheme (see paragraph 8.1.2 of [APP-089]). The BNG Report shows that a net gain of 96.09% for habitat units, 70.22% for hedgerow units and 10.69% for river units is anticipated to be achieved through the Scheme.</p> <p>To secure the appropriate post-intervention habitat monitoring and management both C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] and C7.16 Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [APP-353] cover the minimum 40-year operational period. The detailed Management Plans, as secured by Requirements 7 and 14 of Schedule 2 respectively within C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				[EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], will be updated to ensure BNG is achieved by appropriate post-intervention habitat monitoring.

LNT Aviation Limited [RR-033]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
LNT-01	The Scheme	Context of Representation	"[It] is understood that LNT Aviation Limited has been identified as a prescribed body and/or a person with an interest in Land (PIL) for the purposes of Section 56 of the Act and/or Regulation 16 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. LNT Aviation Limited – is part of the LNT Group of Companies – including Ginetta Cars Ltd, which are owners and operators of Blyton Park Driving Centre, off Kirton Road, to the north east of Blyton Village, immediately to the north of the area referred to within the application as Cottam 3a".	The Applicant notes this comment.
LNT-02	The Party Socio-economics, tourism and recreation	Business Operations	"Blyton Park Driving Centre is a long-established Driving Centre utilising the former runways of RAF Blyton, since as long ago as the 1950's The Driving Centre usage was formally established in the early 1990's and has	Blyton Park is identified as a regionally important tourism attraction in paragraph 18.5.58 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] , and the anticipated impact of the Scheme on these attractions during construction, operation, and decommissioning is set out in paragraphs 18.7.55, 18.7.100, and 18.7.139 respectively. These impacts on the desirability and use of the driving park are assessed to be not significant.

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>developed in this location over a long period of years.</p> <p>It currently accommodates a thriving business enterprise with an almost full calendar of driving events and motor sports activity, all year round.</p> <p>It is used for driver training; research and development as well as multiple recreational driving uses and represents a rare opportunity for such automotive uses.</p> <p>Planning permission was recently granted by WLDC in March 2022, for development of the Driving Centre as a Automotive Research and Development Centre for new electric vehicle and other automotive technologies.</p> <p>The development of the Driving Centre was granted on the basis of positive contribution to the local economy and employment generation and as a facility that would attract</p>	<p>The Automotive R&D Centre at Blyton Park has been identified in Table 18.24 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053], as a development for cumulative assessment, and as such, its estimated contribution towards the local economy and tourism industry has been included in the assessment set out in Section 18.10.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			visitors and additional tourism to the area."	
LNT-03	The Scheme	Consultation	"Prior to receipt of the letter dated 15 February 2023, it is understood that there was no prior consultation with LNT Aviation Limited or the Blyton Park Driving Centre in relation to the proposed Solar project."	<p>The Applicant notes that LNT Aviation were contacted regarding the Cottam Solar Project prior to communication of Section 56, in compliance with Section 42 and Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008. LNT Aviation were contacted on 14 June 2022 and provided a link to a copy of the PEIR for consultation and a copy of the notice publicising the application under Section 48 of the 2008 Act (including details of the public consultation events and the locations where the consultation documents could be inspected free of charge).</p> <p>The Applicant's undertaking of statutory consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 is described in Chapter 9 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021]. The Applicant's undertaking of statutory consultation under Section 48 of the Planning Act is described in Chapter 10 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021].</p> <p>Copies of materials used by the Applicant for Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 can be located in Appendix 5.8 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021]. The list of land interests consulted is included in this appendix and confirms that LNT Aviation were contacted regarding the Scheme ahead of statutory consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant notes that LNT Aviation were also included within the Book of Reference. This is set out in C4.3 Book of Reference [APP-020].</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				Copies of materials used by the Applicant for Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008 can be located in Appendix 5.9 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] .
LNT-04	The Scheme	Order Limits	"It is understood that the area to the south and east of Blyton Park Driving Centre is proposed to accommodate both an extensive and intensive array of ground mounted solar panels. Cottam 3a is proposed to the north of Kirton Road and immediately up to the southern and eastern boundaries of the Driving Centre."	<p>The Applicant confirms that LNT's understanding of the location of the Order Limits, and the panelled area therein is correct.</p> <p>The area shown as Work No.1C on C2.4_A Works Plan Revision A [AS-007] is proposed for the locating of ground mounted solar panels. The area covered by Work No.1C is 139.34 hectares (see paragraph 4.2.4 of C6.2.4_A ES Chapter 4_Scheme Description Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.4_A]). The Applicant also confirms that the Order Limits at Cottam 3a immediately border the Driving Centre to the south, and are close to, albeit somewhat set back from, the eastern boundaries of the Driving Centre.</p>
LNT-05	Soils and Agriculture	Agricultural Land	"The proposed Solar scheme is intended to cover a significant number of hectares of currently productive agricultural land, attractive countryside and rural landscape."	<p>Agricultural land in the Sites is predominantly Grade 3b as set out in Table 1 of C6.3.19.1 Agricultural Land Quality Soil Resources [APP-145]. Grade 3b is not defined as Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land. Furthermore, the agricultural land is not lost to or degraded by the presence of the temporary solar farm. Farmland within the Sites can remain in agricultural production for the duration of the solar farm's operation, for grazing livestock (see paragraph 19.9.17).</p> <p>Please see below response to item LNT-10 for relating to impact on countryside and landscape.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
LNT-06	The Scheme	Alternatives and Design Evolution	"The solar panels it is proposed to be installed in the form of -Tracking Panels and/or Fixed Panels, the height of which will be up to 4.5m and typically only some 0.4m above the ground."	As set out in paragraph 4.5.7 of C6.2.4_A ES Chapter 4 Scheme Description Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.4_A] , the maximum height of 4.5m is a maximum parameter for the tracker panels when at their greatest inclination (i.e., soon after sunrise and before sunset) whilst the maximum height parameter for fixed panels is 3.5m.
LNT-07	The Scheme	Cottam 3a	"LNT Aviation Ltd/The LNT Group/ Blyton Park Driving Centre wish to STRONGLY OBJECT to the Cottam 3a part of the proposed solar project for the following reasons:" [see LNT-09 to LNT-13]	The Applicant notes this comment and responds below accordingly.
LNT-08	The Scheme Glint and Glare Other Environmental Matters	Glint and Glare	"The impact of glint & glare from the reflective surfaces of such a large array of solar panels in such extremely close proximity to the long established Driving Centre business and motor vehicle activity that will have a significantly detrimental effect in relation to enjoyment of drivers attending the adjacent Driving Centre and most importantly from a health and safety perspective of drivers using the adjacent driving centre and associated circuit, only metres to the	The Applicant is liaising directly with LNT to reassure it that impacts from the Scheme have been accurately assessed and duly mitigated for to ensure that LNT's operations are not adversely impacted by the Scheme. The Applicant has assessed the potential impact upon drivers within the Driving Centre and concluded that no impact is possible due to the proposed screening (which is embedded mitigation). This is set out in Section 7.3 of the C6.2.16 ES Appendix 16.1 Glint and Glare Assessment [APP-051] . As such, there are no anticipated impact on safety.

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			north and west of the proposed solar panel arrays."	
LNT-09	Noise and Vibration Socio-economics, tourism and recreation	Acoustic Impact	"Its likely harmful impact as a consequence of the introduction of such a large array of acoustically reflective surfaces and development, in such close proximity to the long established Driving Centre and Motor Vehicle activity that has been successfully restricted and managed in terms of its acoustic impact, over a long period of years and likely significant adverse impact on the amenity of the occupants of nearby residential properties and the acceptance and viability of the adjacent Driving Centre business and its approved future development."	As the proposed solar panels are tracking and therefore their orientation changes throughout the day the effects of sound reflection from external noise sources (not related to the proposed scheme) are anticipated to be minimal. Assessment of noise effects associated with the proposed Scheme is set out in Section 15.7 of C6.2.15 ES Chapter 15_Noise and Vibration [APP-050] and are assessed to be not significant. Blyton Park is identified as a regionally important tourism attraction in paragraph 18.5.58 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] and the anticipated impact of the Scheme on these attractions during construction, operation, and decommissioning is set out in paragraphs 18.7.55, 18.7.100, and 18.7.139 respectively. These impacts on the desirability and use of the driving park (and thus by inference the proposed R&D Centre) are not assessed to be significant.
LNT-10	Landscape and Visual Socio-economics, tourism and recreation	Rural Character and Landscape	"The detrimental impact on the character and appearance of the countryside and landscape character to the north-east of Blyton Village and as a consequence to the attractive rural character and setting of the well-established Blyton Park Driving Centre	C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Amenity [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') notes that the landscape to the northeast of Blyton has scope for change as a result of the Scheme given the robust hedgerow network and watercourses (see paragraph 8.7.176) that provides a cohesive framework for new planting (see paragraphs 8.7.190, 8.7.251, 8.11.50).

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			business and premises. Notably the Driving Centre has recently been granted planning permission for appropriate development and enhancement, as a Research & Development facility for new Automotive Technologies."	<p>The LVIA also notes that effects on some landscape receptors would be significant at construction and year 1 of operation, but with mitigation this is reduced across the majority of the landscape receptors to not significant at year 15 of operation. Residual significant effects are predicted for some landscape receptors at year 15 of operation (see paragraphs 8.7.327 to 8.7.339, 8.10.16 and 8.11.83 to 8.11.87), some of which are beneficial effects (see paragraphs 8.7.163 and 8.11.54).</p> <p>Blyton Park is identified as a regionally important tourism attraction in paragraph 18.5.58 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053], and the anticipated impact of the Scheme on these attractions during construction, operation, and decommissioning is set out in paragraphs 18.7.55, 18.7.100, and 18.7.139 respectively. These impacts on the desirability and use of the driving park as a result of changes to the landscape context of the driving park's surroundings are not assessed to be significant.</p>
LNT-11	Other Environmental Matters	Electromagnetic Fields	"The likely harmful effects of strong electromagnetic fields generated, as a consequence of the proposed solar panels arrays and associated development, on the users of the adjacent Driving Centre and those taking part in any adjacent motor vehicle activity and in relation to the development of the Driving Centre as	<p>All objects carrying an electrical current will induce electric and magnetic fields. The electromagnetic fields generated by the Scheme are not anticipated to pose any significant risk to human health, nor detrimental impact to nearby infrastructure, as demonstrated by EMF impacts being scoped out of the Environmental Impact Assessment (see section 3.13 of C6.3.2.2 ES Appendix 2.2 EIA Scoping Opinion [APP-064]).</p> <p>No part of the Scheme at the Cottam 3a Site is anticipated to generate electromagnetic fields above the ICNIRP reference level of 100µT for</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			a new Research & Development facility for New Automotive technologies, including electric vehicles and autonomous vehicle technology development."	magnetic fields or 5kVm ⁻¹ for electric fields (See section 21.2 of C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21 Other Environmental Matters [APP-056]). The greatest source of EMF from the Scheme at the Cottam 3a Site is from the substation, which is more than 800m from the proposed location of the R&D Centre. Low level EMF generated by the panels, cabling, and inverters is not likely to have any detrimental effect on the operations of the R&D centre.
LNT-12	The Scheme Transport and Access	Existing Accesses	"It needs also to be pointed out that the development should not impede the currently unrestricted access to the established Driving Centre business and circuit off Kirton Road to the Driving Centre, at all times. It needs to be explained what development is proposed in relation to the existing access road and assurances given that this access road is to be retained and rights of access across it for the Driving Centre retained, at all times. Note that the first (southern) section of this access road off Kirton Road is enclosed within the application site boundary, whilst the northern section of it	Construction Vehicle Access 15, as set out in C6.3.14.1 ES Appendix 14.1 Transport Assessment [APP-134] will be shared with the access to the Driving Centre Business. As set out in Section 6 of the Transport Assessment [APP-134] , there could be 4 to 5 HGV deliveries on an average day to Access 15 (see Table 6.5 of [APP-134]). Access to the Driving Centre Business will be retained at all times. In C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] , the Applicant is seeking to acquire new rights (including restrictions) and temporary use of the land contained in plots 01-004; 01-019; 01-023; 01-025; 01-027, which comprise the access. Despite the inclusion of compulsory powers in the DCO, the Applicant's preference is to enter into voluntary agreements with all landowners within the Order limits rather than exercising compulsory acquisition powers. The Applicant will work with the landowner to ensure that there is no detriment to the Driving Centre Business and that access is maintained. That notwithstanding, compulsory acquisition powers are being sought to ensure the deliverability of this nationally significant infrastructure project where voluntary land

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			closest to the Driving Centre is excluded in the material provided."	agreements are not able to be secured. The justification for the use of compulsory acquisition powers is set out within sections 7 and 8 of the C4.1_A Statement of Reasons Revision A [AS-013] . The Applicant considers the use of compulsory acquisition powers to be necessary and proportionate.

Knightwood Trust Farms Limited [RR-034]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
KTFL-01	The Scheme	The Order Limits Draft DCO	"[Knightwood Trust Farms Limited] own farmland immediately to the south of Torksey Ferry Road directly south of Cottam Power Station. Their northern field boundary directly abuts the red line boundary of the order limits at point 19/391 on sheet 19 (of 19) of the Cottam Solar Project Onshore Land Plans [C2.2_A Land Plan Revision A [AS-006]], where Torksey Ferry Road is included within a blue shaded area where the Key advises - 'new rights (including restrictions) to be compulsorily acquired and temporary use of land and in relation to which it is proposed to suspend or extinguish easements, servitudes and other private rights."	The Applicant confirms that this description of the Order limits and the land powers the Applicant is seeking is correct.
KTFL-02	The Scheme Transport and Access	Acquisition of Rights	"Knightwood Trust Farms currently take access out onto Torksey Ferry Road and along part of the roadway included within the blue shaded area. Is it the intention to prevent or limit access to the road at this point as	C2.2_A Land Plan Revision A [AS-006] shows that new rights (including restrictions) are sought over plots 19-390, 19-391 and 19-392. Row 2 of Schedule 10 within C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] details purposes for which rights over the plot references may be required and restrictive covenants imposed. The Applicant is only seeking to

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			such limitation would affect my clients farming activities ?"	<p>prevent activities that would interfere with the exercise of its rights and such restrictions are considered to be necessary and proportionate.</p> <p>Torksey Ferry Road is designated a Byway Open to All Traffic (NT/Rampton/BOAT13 – see C2.5_A Public Rights of Way Plan Revision A [AS-008]), and as such, will be managed to ensure it is able to remain open to the public and Knightwood Trust Farms' client, so far as is practicable to do so whilst still allowing Works to be undertaken. Where the BOAT is required to be temporarily stopped up, prior notices to the PRow officers at the local highway authority will be provided so far as possible. These provisions are set out in the outline C6.3.14.3 ES Appendix 14.3 Public Rights of Way Management Plan [PP-136]. A full Public Rights of Way Management Plan will be submitted and approved prior to the commencement of development, as secured through Requirement 18 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>
KTFL-03	The Scheme Landscape and Visual	Installation of a secure boundary	"[Is] there an intention to erect a secure boundary along the southern boundary of the order limits with my clients field boundary? The boundary is currently only demarcated by a open drain running alongside Torksey Ferry Road behind which a short but steep bank rising to my clients	The land in question forms part of the proposed Cable Route Corridor. Works in this area are to be limited to the laying of the grid connection cable and any associated works.

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			farmland. There is no fencing or indeed hedgerow along this stretch of the boundary."	

National Grid Electricity Transmission plc [RR-035]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
NGET-01	The Scheme	National Grid Apparatus	<p>"This relevant representation is submitted on behalf of National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc ("National Grid") in respect of the Project, and in particular National Grid's infrastructure and land which is within or in close proximity to the proposed Order Limits. National Grid will require appropriate protection for retained apparatus including compliance with relevant standards for works proposed within close proximity of its apparatus."</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment.</p> <p>The Applicant confirms that they are committed to consultation and agreement with operators and/or owners of utility infrastructure that is likely to be directly impacted by the location or design of the Scheme to ensure no adverse impacts to the continued operation of the relevant utility.</p> <p>The Applicant has included protective provisions for the protection of National Grid in Part 3 of Schedule 16 to the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] to ensure that its statutory undertaking is not subject to serious detriment as a result of the Scheme. The Applicant is confident that agreement on the protective provisions can be reached with National Grid prior to the end of the Examination.</p> <p>The Scheme, through the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], provides (in Requirement 13 of Schedule 2) that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a construction environmental management plan for that part has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities". It further provides that "The construction environmental management plan must be substantially in accordance with the outline construction environmental management plan."</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
NGET-02	The Scheme	Rights of Access	"National Grid's rights of access to inspect, maintain, renew and repair such apparatus must also be maintained at all times and access to inspect and maintain such apparatus must not be restricted."	<p>The Applicant notes this comment.</p> <p>Protective provisions for the protection of National Grid are contained in Part 3 of Schedule 16 to the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], which contain provisions relating to National Grid's rights of access.</p>
NGET-03	The Scheme	Acquisition of land/ rights	"Further, where the Applicant intends to acquire land or rights, or interfere with any of National Grid's interests in land or National Grid's apparatus, National Grid will require appropriate protection and further discussion is required on the impact to its apparatus and rights."	<p>The Applicant notes this comment.</p> <p>Protective provisions for the protection of National Grid are contained in Part 3 of Schedule 16 to the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], which contain provisions relating to National Grid's rights over land and in respect of its apparatus.</p>
NGET-04	The Scheme	The Order Limits	"National Grid infrastructure within/in close proximity to the proposed Order Limits National Grid owns or operates ... infrastructure within or in close proximity to the proposed Order Limits for the Project: Electricity Transmission NGET has a substation and high voltage electricity overhead transmission lines within or in close proximity to the proposed Order Limits including Cottam 400kV	<p>The Applicant notes this comment and has included protective provisions for the protection of National Grid in Part 3 of Schedule 16 to the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] to ensure that its statutory undertaking is not subject to serious detriment as a result of the Scheme. The protective provisions require the Applicant to obtain National Grid's consent prior to undertaking any specified works.</p> <p>The requirement for on-site surveys to ground-truth the location of utilities is set out in paragraphs 21.3.4 and 21.3.5 of C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21_Other Environmental Matters [APP-056] as secured through C7.1_A Outline Construction Environmental Management</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>Substation. The substation and overhead lines form an essential part of the electricity transmission network in England and Wales."</p> <p>"As a responsible statutory undertaker, National Grid's primary concern is to meet its statutory obligations and ensure that any development does not impact in any adverse way upon those statutory obligations. As such, National Grid has a duty to protect its position in relation to infrastructure and land which is within or in close proximity to the draft Order Limits."</p>	<p>Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.1_A]. The Applicant confirms that they are committed to consultation and agreement with operators and/or owners of utility infrastructure that is likely to be directly impacted by the location or design of the Scheme to ensure no adverse impacts to the continued operation of the relevant utility.</p> <p>The provision of a detailed Construction Environmental Management Plan is secured through Requirement 13 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>
NGET-05	The Scheme	Draft DCO Permanent Right of Access	"National Grid's rights to retain its apparatus in situ and rights of access to inspect, maintain, renew and repair such apparatus located within or in close proximity to the Order Limits should be maintained at all times and access to inspect and maintain such apparatus must not be restricted."	The Applicant notes that protective provisions discussions are ongoing with National Grid, as described in the response rows above.
NGET-06	The Scheme	Draft DCO	"National Grid will require protective provisions to be included within the	The Applicant notes that protective provisions discussions are ongoing with National Grid, as described in the response rows above. The

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>draft Development Consent Order (the "Order") for the Project to ensure that its interests are adequately protected and to ensure compliance with relevant safety standards. National Grid is liaising with the Applicant in relation to such protective provisions, along with any supplementary agreements which may be required. National Grid requests that the Applicant continues to engage with it to provide explanation and reassurances as to how the Applicant's works pursuant to the Order (if made) will ensure protection for those National Grid assets which will remain in situ, along with facilitating all future access and other rights as are necessary to allow National Grid to properly discharge its statutory obligations. National Grid will continue to liaise with the Applicant in this regard with a view to concluding matters as soon as possible during the DCO Examination and will keep the Examining Authority</p>	<p>Applicant is confident that agreement will be reached prior to the close of the Examination.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			updated in relation to these discussions."	
NGET-07	The Scheme	Draft DCO	"Compulsory Acquisition Powers in respect of the Project As noted, where the Applicant intends to acquire land or rights, or interfere with any of National Grid's interests in land, National Grid will require further discussion with the Applicant. National Grid reserves the right to make further representations as part of the Examination process in relation to specific interactions with its assets but in the meantime will continue to liaise with the Applicant with a view to reaching a satisfactory agreement."	The Applicant notes this comment and notes that protective provisions discussions are ongoing with National Grid, as described in the response rows above.
NGET-08	The Scheme	Grid Connection	"The Project proposes a connection to Cottam 400kV Substation. In relation to the connection National Grid is working with the Applicant to enter into connection agreements and other commercial arrangements at the relevant time."	Paragraphs 2.1.1 to 2.1.5 of C7.7 Cottam Grid Connection Statement [APP-346] note that a Bilateral Connection Agreement (BCA) between the Applicant and National Grid Electricity System Operator Limited was entered into in January 2021 which allows for the import and export of 600MW via the Cottam 400KV Substation which is owned by NGET. The Scheme currently has a grid connection date of 2029 although there is the potential that an earlier connection could be achieved should the Applicant approach NGET with an Expression of Interest to bring forward the connection date from 2029

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				(see paragraph 4.3.6 of C6.2.4_A ES Chapter 4_Scheme Description Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.4_A]).
NGET-09	The Scheme	Statement of Common Ground	"Further updates will be provided in the Statement of Common Ground."	The Applicant notes this comment. A Statement of Common Ground is not presently being prepared by the Applicant. Should matters of interest to National Grid be unable to be agreed through written representations, the Applicant is content to enter into a Statement of Common Ground with the party.

National Highways [RR-036]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
NH-01	Transport and Access	Safeguarding Roads	"In relation to the Cottam Solar Project, our principal interest is in safeguarding the A1, M180 and A47 [sic A46] trunk roads."	The Applicant notes this comment. A Statement of Common Ground is being entered into with National Highways.
NH-02	Transport and Access	Strategic Road Network (SRN)	"Although the [Strategic Road Network] SRN is outside the Order Limits, it is understood that construction traffic will be routed via the SRN. As such, we reserve the right to make written representations if an impact of construction traffic on the SRN is identified, or if changes to the application are made which result in other impacts to the SRN."	The Applicant notes this comment. A Statement of Common Ground is being entered into with National Highways.

Natural England [RR-037]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
NE-01	Ecology and Biodiversity Soils and Agriculture	Soils and Best and Most Versatile Land (BMV)	<p>"Overall, Natural England are satisfied that the proposals address the majority of potential impacts to the natural environment. The only areas of concern we consider require further assessment and or information to enable the examining authority to make an informed decision are: Soils and Best an[d] Most Versatile (BMV) Agricultural Land and Protected Species"</p> <p>"These are primarily issues on which further information would be required in order to allow the Examining Authority to properly undertake its task or where further work is required to determine the effects of the project."</p>	<p>Matters relating to soils and agriculture and BMV agricultural land are addressed in C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A] and its associated appendices C6.3.19.1 ES Appendix 19.1 [APP-145] and C6.3.19.2 ES Appendix 19.2 [APP-146].</p> <p>The Applicant confirms that C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A] and its associated appendices will be revised and resubmitted prior to Deadline 1.</p> <p>Matters relating to protected species are addressed in C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] and its associated appendices C6.3.9.1-12 ES Appendices 9.1-12 [APP-078 to APP-089].</p>
NE-02	The Scheme	Statement of Common Ground (SoCG)	<p>"We have not been engaged regarding the development of a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) or any other supporting documentation, such as a Letter of No Impediment (LoNI). If the applicant wishes to develop any such</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment and has initiated engagement with NE through a Statement of Common Ground.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			documentation, further engagement should be sought in due course. In the absence of a SoCG, Natural England advises that the matters set out in these representations will require consideration by the Examining Authority as part of the examination process."	
NE-03	Ecology and Biodiversity	Internationally Designated Sites	<p>"Impacts to internationally designated sites are discussed within ES Chapter 9 (Ecology and Biodiversity) and the 'Information to Support a Habitats Regulations Assessment' contains a more detailed assessment of potential impacts to these sites. Natural England have worked with the applicant through our Discretionary Advice Service, including providing advice regarding potential impacts to Internationally Designated Sites.</p> <p>The 'Information to Support a Habitats Regulation Assessment' concludes that no significant effects are likely to occur. Natural England concur with this conclusion."</p>	The Applicant notes this comment.

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
NE-04	Ecology and Biodiversity	Nationally Designated Sites	<p>"Section 9.7 of ES Chapter 9 is an assessment of effects to ecology and biodiversity, including on nationally designated sites.</p> <p>Natural England advised within our DAS response that Cottam 3 lies partially within the surface water catchment of Laughton Common SSSI. The ES points out that Cottam 3 is likely to drain to the Northorpe Beck, which flows downstream of the designated site. As such, this impact pathway may not be relevant.</p> <p>Despite the possible absence of a hydrological link to the SSSI, the CEMP and EPMS contain measures to prevent pollution. We consider that where the order limits and the SSSI were linked, these measures would nonetheless prevent any significant impacts to the notified features of the SSSI. ...</p> <p>Due to the physical separation of these SSSIs from the order limits and immobile nature of their interest</p>	The Applicant notes this comment.

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>features, we consider other direct impacts to be unlikely.</p> <p>Ashton's Meadow SSSI & Treswell Wood SSSI[:]</p> <p>Due to the separation from the order limits of these two SSSIs and the non-mobile nature of their interest features, we consider significant impacts to be unlikely."</p>	
NE-05	Ecology and Biodiversity	Protected Species	<p>"Natural England have provided advice via our Discretionary Advice Service regarding Great Crested Newts, Bats, Water Voles and Otters. This advice has been provided within the application at Appendix 9.1 Item 5.</p> <p>As it stands, ES Chapter 9 indicates that no protected species licences are required from Natural England, although it is noted that a number of licences may be required where avoidance is not possible.</p> <p>As there may be a requirement for protected species licences from</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment and has initiated engagement with NE through a Statement of Common Ground. Engagement to determine the requirement of protected species licences will be undertaken through the Statement of Common Ground process.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>Natural England, we would like to flag this within our representations, but acknowledge that there may be a circumstance where no licences are required; as such this would not pose a significant obstacle. At this stage, Natural England have not been engaged regarding the production of a Letter of No Impediment (LoNI) for protected Species Licences; should this be required submission of draft protected species licence applications would be required for review.</p> <p>Aside from these comments, our advice at this stage is limited to our Standing Advice."</p>	
NE-06	Ecology and Biodiversity	Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and Biodiversity Enhancements	<p>"Natural England acknowledge the production of Appendix 9.12 (Biodiversity Net Gain Report), which illustrates via use of the Biodiversity Metric 3.1 that the proposal will give rise to gains for biodiversity in the magnitude of 96.09% for habitat units, 70.22% for hedgerow units and 10.69% for river units. This is in</p>	The Applicant notes this comment.

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>exceedance of the intended 10% mandatory gain and is welcomed.</p> <p>Overall, Natural England welcome the biodiversity enhancement proposals, illustrated in the Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (ES figures 8.16.1 to 8.16.10) which include a variety of habitats complimentary to the local environment."</p>	
NE-07	Landscape and Visual	Nationally Designated Landscapes	<p>"The proposed development is not located within, or within the setting of, any nationally designated landscapes. As a result, Natural England has no specific comments to make on the landscape implications of this development. The examining authority should have regard for the landscape character of the area; we welcome the reference to Natural England's National Character Areas and other Local Landscape Character Assessments within ES Chapter 8 (Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment). We would also like to</p>	<p>The Applicant recognises that the Scheme is not located within, or within the setting of, any nationally designated landscapes.</p> <p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8_Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') takes into consideration the landscape implications of the Scheme on the AGLV designation, in particular the Ridge AGLV (as identified in paragraph 8.4.11) when viewed across the low-lying Till Vale.</p> <p>The LVIA also considers the impacts of the Scheme alongside the proposed Gate Burton, West Burton and Tillbridge Solar proposals (see paragraphs 8.10.1 to 8.10.26) and has concluded that there will be no significant adverse effects on landscape character and visual amenity over an extensive area as a result of the cumulative impacts of the schemes.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			stress the importance of cumulative landscape impacts from the development; note the significant number of other solar developments proposed in Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, and Rutland."	
NE-08	Soils and Agriculture	Best and Most Versatile (BMV) Agricultural Land	"Based on the information provided within the Environmental Statement (ES) (Chapter 19: Soils and Agriculture and Appendix 19.1 Agricultural Land Quality, Soil Resources & Farming Circumstances), it appears that the proposed development will result in the temporary development of 1179.7ha, of which 48.1ha is BMV agricultural land (Grades 1, 2 and 3a land in the Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) system), as determined from detailed ALC surveys. It is acknowledged that some of the order limits will comprise retained arable fields and 'set aside' land. Within the Order Limits, 29ha are proposed to be permanently lost, of which none is BMV."	<p>The Applicant confirms that the above-ground physical infrastructure at the Sites will be removed, and the Sites returned to the landowner(s) following decommissioning of the Scheme, as set out in paragraph 4.8.6 of C6.2.4_A ES Chapter 4 Scheme Description Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.4_A].</p> <p>The Applicant confirms that the Scheme will not result in the permanent loss of agricultural land. Decommissioning activities will reinstate the agricultural land, as set out in section 2.1 of C7.2 Outline Decommissioning Statement [APP-338] which is secured by Requirement 21 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>The Applicant notes NE's observation and reassures NE that the reference to the permanent loss of agricultural land is an error within C6.2.19_A ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A] which is to be revised and resubmitted at the earliest opportunity.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
NE-09	Soils and Agriculture	Cable Corridor	"Section 19.8.4 states 'A dedicated soil survey of the corridor will be undertaken as part of an agreed Soil Management Plan'. Section 4.1.1 of the oSMP sets out the requirement for specific soil sampling along the cable route prior to works commencing. Natural England advise that this should be made a requirement of the DCO, along with restoration of the cable trenches to their ALC grade prior to operation of the scheme, to ensure the impacts along the cable route are only temporary as described."	A Soils Resource Management Plan, substantially in accordance with C7.18 Outline Soil Management Plan [APP-355] will be submitted and approved prior to the commencement of development as secured by Requirement 19 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] .
NE-10	Soils and Agriculture	Best and Most Versatile (BMV) Agricultural Land	"The discussion within chapter 19 is limited to the ALC grade of the whole site, and the area to be permanently lost to the substation and power storage infrastructure (29ha). The ES (Chapter 19) should include additional information to clearly show the amounts and proportions of agricultural land, including BMV across the full Order Limits, impacted by each element of the Proposed	<p>The Applicant notes NE's observation over the permanent loss of 29 hectares of agricultural land and reassures NE that this is an error within C6.2.19_A ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A].</p> <p>C6.2.19_A ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A] will be revised and resubmitted by Deadline 1 to reflect the Applicant's stance as detailed in NE-08 above.</p> <p>The Applicant respectfully disagrees that the amounts and proportions of agricultural land have not been identified. The</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			Development, including permanent infrastructure, temporary solar PV arrays; retained arable fields/set aside land and other mitigation and enhancement options (i.e., Biodiversity Opportunity Areas) to properly inform an assessment of impacts."	<p>Applicant refers to part 10 of Annex 1 of C6.3.19.1 ES Appendix 19.1 Agricultural Land Quality Soil Resources and Farming Circumstances [APP-145] which provides full results of agricultural land classification surveys across each of the four Sites that comprise the Scheme.</p> <p>As captured within C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] para. 3.3.11, the operational life of the Scheme is assessed over a 40-year period.</p> <p>Once the Scheme ceases to operate, it will be decommissioned. Reversion of the land for agricultural use will occur as part of the decommissioning process, minimising any risk of loss of agricultural land extent or quality. Decommissioning activities will reinstate the agricultural land, as set out in section 2.1 of C7.2 Outline Decommissioning Statement [APP-338] which is secured by Requirement 21 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>
NE-11	The Scheme Soils and Agriculture	Temporary Nature of the Proposal	"During the life of the proposed development, it is likely that there will be a reduction in agricultural production over the whole development area. Furthermore, if not time limited as described, the proposed development has the	The Applicant notes this comment and respectfully disagrees that the Scheme would result in the permanent reduction in agricultural production. The Applicant confirms that the Scheme will be decommissioned and restored to its pre-construction condition (see paragraph 2.1.5 of C7.2 Outline Decommissioning Statement [APP-338]) which is secured by Requirement 21 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] .

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			potential to lead to the permanent reduction in agricultural production."	
NE-11	Soils and Agriculture	Best and Most Versatile (BMV) Agricultural Land	"We would also draw to your attention to Planning Practice Guidance for Renewable and Low Carbon Energy (March 2015) (in particular paragraph 013) and advise you to fully consider BMV land issues in accordance with that guidance."	PPG for Renewable and Low Carbon Energy (March 2015) paragraph 013 is explicitly referred to in paragraph 19.2.14 of C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A] and as such has been fully considered. Furthermore, as referenced by paragraph 19.2.21 C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A] , the ES refers to NE guidance given in TIN049, against which the ES and its associated appendix C6.3.19.1 ES Appendix 19.1 [APP-145] provides results of a detailed ALC assessment of the Sites.
NE-12	Soils and Agriculture	Soil Resource Benefits	"It should be noted that whilst arable reversion to grassland has been shown to benefit Soil Organic Matter (SOM), this benefit will only extend to the duration of the reversion, i.e., during the operational phase and restricted to those areas of land currently under cultivation. However, there could be a disbenefit to the soil resource due to unknowns as a result of the solar development infrastructure. It is currently unclear as to what impact the solar panels may have on the soil properties such	Some benefits of improved soil health (such as those set out in paragraph 19.9.13 to 19.9.16 in C6.2.19_A ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A]) will be delivered through the operational fallow of the Sites. For instance, improved topsoil structural stability (gained through a recovery of soil organic matter) will facilitate adoption of regenerative agriculture management such as direct drilling. Achieving the same degree of improved soil health through arable management which alone would require a longer period of time than fallow alone. The Defra R&D report SP080161 is clear that we have confidence in the positive effect of reverting arable land to grassland for improving carbon storage as well as other wider environmental impacts.

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>as carbon storage, structure and biodiversity.</p> <p>It is considered that as the solar panels would be secured to the ground by steel piles with limited soil disturbance, they could be removed in the future with no permanent loss of agricultural land quality likely to occur, provided the appropriate soil management is employed and the development is undertaken to high standards. Consequently, Natural England would advise that any grant of planning permission should be made subject to requirements to safeguard soil resources and agricultural land. The potential impact on agricultural land and BMV land could be lessened if the Proposed Development was time limited."</p>	<p>Soil management measures associated with the Scheme are set out in C7.18 Outline Soil Management Plan [APP-355]. A Soils Resource Management Plan, substantially in accordance with C7.18 Outline Soil Management Plan [APP-355] will be submitted and approved prior to the commencement of development as secured by Requirement 19 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>
NE-13	Soils and Agriculture	Soil Management	<p>General guidance for protecting soils during development is also available in Defra's Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites, and</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment and confirms that works will be undertaken in line with best practice guidance as set out in Section 3 of C7.18 Outline Soil Management Plan [APP-355]. Provision of a full Soils Resource Management Plan is secured by Requirement 19 in</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>should the development proceed, we recommend that relevant parts of this guidance are followed, e.g., in relation to handling or trafficking on soils in wet weather.</p> <p>The British Society of Soil Science has published the Guidance Note Benefitting from Soil Management in Development and Construction which sets out measures for the protection of soils within the planning system and the development of individual sites, which we also recommend is followed.</p>	<p>Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>
NE-14	Soils and Agriculture	Outline Soil Management Plan (OSMP)	<p>"Natural England welcomes the preparation of an Outline Soil Management Plan (oSMP) which has been prepared and submitted with the application. We have made some specific comments on the oSMP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed requirements in oSMP section 8 should make reference to the Defra Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites. 	<p>The Applicant confirms that, where appropriate, amendments to C7.18 Outline Soil Management Plan [APP-355] will be made in line with the Party's comments.</p> <p>A Soils Resource Management Plan, substantially in accordance with C7.18 Outline Soil Management Plan [APP-355] will be submitted and approved prior to the commencement of development as secured by Requirement 19 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> oSMP section 7.1.2 states 'A map of topsoil units will be prepared as a requirement of the SMP and retained to ensure topsoil units are restored to their original location', which is welcomed. The stockpiled soils should be labelled and protected from trafficking and damage. Any soil stockpiles in place for more than 6 months need to be seeded. Section 8.7 of the oSMP sets out the details of the decommissioning requirements, however, Natural England consider that specific requirement for restoration of arable land occupied by the Solar PV site to its former ALC grade where appropriate, should be secured through the SMP. This would comprise an example of implementing good practice to assure restoration of the land to the baseline ALC grade, minimising the potential loss of soil functions. The restoration criteria need to be set out in the detailed SMP, including the restored ALC grade 	

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>for all land within the Order Limits. This could be set out similarly to the proposals for mapping stored soils in section 7.1.2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific soil sampling along the cable route should be made a requirement of the DCO, to ensure operations and restoration are correctly informed and the cable route is restored to it's current ALC grade. • Tall vegetation / crops should be cleared prior to topsoil stripping. • Areas of the site which are not to be stripped or used for stockpiling, haul routes or compounds must be clearly marked by signs and barrier tape and protected from trafficking and construction. • The scope of the oSMP should be expanded to include the soil management of the land under any proposed Biodiversity Opportunity Areas, and aftercare. Although there is no soil movement proposed in these areas, soil trafficking may occur and therefore mitigation measures need to be in 	

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			place to minimise the potential impact on the soil resource.	
NE-15	Ecology and Biodiversity	Ancient Woodland and Ancient/Veteran Trees	"We note that there is no Ancient Woodland or ancient/veteran trees within the order limits or within close proximity; as such, have no detailed comments to make."	The Applicant notes this comment.
NE-16	The Scheme Transport and Access Socio-economics, tourism and recreation	Connecting People with Nature	<p>"There are no National Trails, Open Access Land or Coast paths within the order limits; as such, no impacts to these features are likely.</p> <p>We welcome the retention of all PRow within the order limits and the intention to keep them open throughout all phases of the development. We also note the provision of an additional permissive footpath connecting Stow to the development site and to existing PRow through and near to the site. Nonetheless, we note that further provision for access across the site could be achieved through the development; would provide additional benefit to local residents</p>	<p>The Applicant confirms that there are no National Trails, Open Access Land or Coast paths within the Order Limits.</p> <p>The Applicant confirms that all Public Rights of Way are to be retained through all phases of the Scheme subject to the measures set out in sections 2, 3 and 4 of C6.3.14.3 ES Appendix 14.3 Public Rights of Way Management Plan [APP-136]. The provision of an additional permissive path is secured through Work No. 11 in Schedule 1 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>Table 5.9 of C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design evolution [APP-040] explains that the location of the permissive path was chosen following landowner input and ecological assessment to minimise openings in hedgerows and to minimise impact on BMV land.</p> <p>The Scheme will also provide extensive areas of mitigation along the existing sections of footpaths and bridleways to enhance their amenity value and benefit the public as a whole as demonstrated in</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			and users of the PRoW network. Access around areas proposed for Biodiversity Enhancement could provide and promote access to nature."	C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') (see paragraphs 8.8.22 to 8.9.29). The proposed mitigation would apply to receptors Fill/86/1, Fill/767/1, Pilh/20/1, Stow/83/1 and TFle/31/2.
NE-17	The Party	Examination	"Natural England does not intend to make oral representations regarding this examination but is happy to work with the applicant and examining authority to ensure the development will not have adverse impacts on the natural environment."	The Applicant notes this comment and has initiated engagement with NE through a Statement of Common Ground.
NE-18	The Scheme DCO	Draft DCO	"Requirement 7 – Landscape and Ecological Management Plan: Natural England welcomes the inclusion of a requirement for the LEMP; consider the measures as set out in the oLEMP to be satisfactory in protecting the elements of the natural environment which represent the key areas of our remit."	The Applicant notes this comment
NE-19	The Scheme DCO	Draft DCO	"Requirement 8 – Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy:	The Applicant notes this comment

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			Natural England welcomes the inclusion of a requirement for the EPMS; consider the measures as set out in the oEPMS to be satisfactory in protecting the elements of the natural environment which represent the key areas of our remit."	
NE-20	The Scheme DCO	Draft DCO	<p>"Requirement 9 – Biodiversity Net Gain:</p> <p>Natural England welcome the inclusion of a requirement for a Biodiversity Net Gain strategy to be produced, however, would recommend that this requirement makes it a necessity for a minimum of 10% Net Gains in habitat, hedgerow and river units to be delivered."</p>	As per Requirement 9 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] , "No part of the authorised development may commence until a biodiversity net gain strategy has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority, in consultation with the relevant statutory nature conservation body."
NE-21	The Scheme DCO	Draft DCO	<p>"Requirement 13 – Construction Environment [sic] Management Plan:</p> <p>Natural England welcomes the inclusion of a requirement for the CEMP; consider the measures as set out in the oCEMP to be satisfactory in protecting the elements of the natural</p>	The Applicant notes this comment.

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			environment which represent the key areas of our remit."	
NE-22	The Scheme DCO	Draft DCO	"Requirement 14 – Operational Environment Management Plan: Natural England welcome the inclusion of a requirement for the OEMP"	The Applicant notes this comment.
NE-23	The Scheme DCO	Draft DCO	"Requirement 17 – Permissive Paths: Natural England welcome the specific requirement for the proposed permissive footpath; timing of it's opening."	The Applicant notes this comment.
NE-24	The Scheme DCO	Draft DCO	"Requirement 18 – Public Rights of Way: Natural England welcome the requirement for a Public Rights of Way Management [sic] plan to retain access throughout all development phases."	The Applicant notes this comment
NE-25	The Scheme DCO	Draft DCO	"Requirement 19 – Soils Management:	A Soils Resource Management Plan, substantially in accordance with C7.18 Outline Soil Management Plan [APP-355] will be submitted and approved prior to the commencement of development as secured

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			Natural England welcome the requirement for production of a detailed soil management plan, however, we consider additional information must be included in the plan that is not currently outlined in the oSMP. Our specific comments on the contents of the SMP can be found in the section of this letter entitled 'Soils and best and most versatile agricultural land' (pages 7-9)."	by Requirement 19 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] . Please see the Applicant's response to NE-14 (above) which addresses this issue in detail.
NE-26	The Scheme DCO	Draft DCO	"Requirement 21 – Decommissioning [sic] and Restoration: Natural England welcome the requirement for a decommissioning plan; for its production within 12 months of the decision to decommission the development. As noted within our above comments on Soils and best and most versatile agricultural land, we consider the implementation of a time limit within the DCO would reduce the potential long-term impact on agricultural land and BMV land."	The decommissioning mitigation and site restoration measures set out in C7.2 Outline Decommissioning Statement [APP-338] are secured by Requirement 21 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] . The Applicant considers that the Draft DCO satisfactorily provides for the protection and restoration of agricultural land and BMV post-decommissioning.

Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust [RR-039]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
NHFT-01	The Scheme Transport and Access	Construction Traffic	"The main issue that is of interest to the Hospital is the potential for pressures/delays on the local road network/infrastructure within the vicinity of the site during construction, as this could impact service delivery."	<p>Paragraphs 14.7.42 to 14.7.45 of C6.2.14 ES Chapter 14_Transport and Access [APP-049] concludes that "the likely effect of construction traffic on driver delay within the study area is considered to be negligible and temporary, which is not significant".</p> <p>An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been prepared to support the application within C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A]. C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], provides (in Requirement 15 of Schedule 2) that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a construction traffic management plan for that part must be submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities". It further provides that "The construction traffic management plan must be substantially in accordance with the outline construction traffic management plan."</p> <p>The outline CTMP submitted as part of the DCO application provides a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements to and from the Scheme, to ensure that the effects of the temporary construction phase on the local highway network are minimised and made acceptable.</p>

National Grid Electricity Distribution [RR-040]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
NGED-01	The Party	Introduction	<p>"1. Project Reference: EN010133. Submitted by Osborne Clarke LLP on behalf of National Grid Electricity Distribution (East Midlands) plc ("NGED").</p> <p>2. Osborne Clarke LLP act for NGED whose registered office is at Avonbank, Feeder Road, Bristol, BS2 0TB. NGED is the licensed distribution network operator under Section 6 Electricity Act 1989 (the "EA1989") for the area in which the Cottam Solar Project Order 202* (the "Order") is proposed to have effect. Section 9 of the EA1989 places a duty on NGED as the electricity distributor to develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical system of electricity distribution."</p>	The Applicant notes this comment.
NGED-02	The Scheme	Consultation Response	<p>"3. NGED formally responded to the consultation phase relating to the proposed Authorised Development on 14 July 2022."</p>	The Applicant notes this comment and acknowledges that National Grid Electricity Distribution had previously responded during the consultation phase. The response provided by National Grid Electricity

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				Distribution was considered by the Applicant (see C5.11 Consultation Report Appendix - Section 42 Applicant Response [APP-034]).
NGED-03	The Scheme	Draft DCO	"The application includes land in or upon which NGED have may have assets and which may include (but are not limited to) high voltage electricity cables. NGED is currently reviewing the draft Order setting out the Authorised Development to establish the extent to which their apparatus and interests are affected."	The Applicant notes this comment. The Applicant and National Grid Electricity Distribution are currently negotiating the protective provisions for the benefit of National Grid Electricity Distribution that are set out in Part 4 of Schedule 16 to the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] .
NGED-04	The Scheme	Draft DCO	"4. While NGED will continue to seek to have positive engagement with the applicant in relation to the project, NGED needs to ensure that the wider powers being sought in the Order will not have a detrimental impact on NGED's electricity network and its duties under the EA1989. This includes ensuring acceptable terms of any proposed protective provisions."	C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] contains protective provisions for the protection of National Grid Electricity Distribution's statutory undertaking, at Part 4 of Schedule 16. The Applicant is currently liaising with National Grid Electricity Distribution on the drafting of the protective provisions and associated side agreement and is confident that agreement can be reached prior to the end of the Examination.
NGED-05	The Scheme	Draft DCO	"5. NGED is therefore making this representation as a holding objection to the application until an asset protection arrangement has been	The Applicant is currently liaising with National Grid Electricity Distribution to agree the protective provisions and side agreement and is confident that National Grid Electricity Distribution will be able

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>agreed between the parties. No formal agreement has yet been concluded and accordingly we are lodging this representation to protect NGED's position pending conclusion of an appropriate agreement. Once NGED is satisfied that its network is protected, we will notify the Planning Inspectorate promptly and withdraw the objection."</p>	<p>to withdraw the holding objection prior to the end of the Examination.</p>

7000 Acres [RR-041]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
7A-01	The Scheme	Acceptability of the Scheme	"1. Summary Introduction: Overall, the limited energy security and decarbonisation benefits the Cottam Solar Project claims to achieve are outweighed by the significant adverse impacts it would have on the region (its communities, ways of life, landscape and its wildlife) and on the nation (in particular pressure on land use and food security)."	The Applicant notes this summary point and has addressed the points raised in the 'Summary Introduction' through responses to the Party's Detailed comments below.
7A-02	The Scheme Cumulative Development	Cumulative Development	"The Cottam Solar Project (CSP) is one of four NSIP proposals in West Lindsey, Lincolnshire, which fall within a 6 mile radius which together would cover 10, 000 acres of farmland and become the largest solar complex in Europe."	Paragraph 12.1.3 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] concludes that "Large-scale solar generation is essential to support the urgent decarbonisation of the GB electricity sector" and paragraph 4.4.11 describes that the location of the Scheme presents a "highly suitable solution for the efficient delivery of solar at scale over timeframe which will provide significant decarbonisation benefits". It concludes that this Scheme and others located near it will all be essential for the decarbonisation of the UK electricity sector. Paragraph 8.5.10 and Section 8.5 more generally of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describe and express agreement with the Government's view that decentralised and community energy systems are unlikely to lead to the significant replacement of large-scale infrastructure. The Applicant therefore supports Government's view

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>that large scale solar must be deployed to meet the urgent national need for low-carbon electricity generation.</p> <p>Paragraphs 3.3.17 and 3.3.18 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] explain the Government's view that irradiance, site topography and proximity to suitable connection points to the transmission network are likely to be key inputs to site selection. Section 7.5 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes the site selection process for large-scale solar more fully, and Section 7.7 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] sets out how the design of the Scheme seeks to maximise utilisation of the grid connection capacity available at Cottam Substation.</p> <p>Chapter 9 of the C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes the suitability of the proposed location as a point of connection for the Scheme, thus enabling it to contribute to the urgent need for increased energy security and a low-carbon electricity supply. The Applicant has secured an agreement to connect to the grid at Cottam substation as demonstrated in C7.7 Cottam Grid Connection Statement [APP-346].</p>
7A-03	The Scheme Cumulative Development	Examination of Cumulative Development	"Due to the unprecedented nature of this development and the significant impact on the area and communities, the four NSIP solar projects need to be considered together by the Planning Inspectorate, i.e. Cottam Solar Project, West Burton Solar	<p>The Applicant notes this comment and seeks to assure the Interested Party that a cumulative effects assessment has been prepared for the Application within the Environmental Statement [APP-036 to APP-058].</p> <p>Cumulative effects assessments for each topic are set out in each of the ES Chapters and include the assessment of the impacts of the</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			Project, Gate Burton Energy Park and Tillbridge Solar Project."	<p>Scheme cumulatively with the NSIPs identified by 7000 Acres (Gate Burton Energy Park, West Burton Solar Project and Tillbridge Solar Project) (see paragraph 2.5.9 of C6.2.2 ES Chapter 2 EIA Process and Methodology [APP-037]).</p> <p>This assessment is in accordance with Schedule 4 of the 2017 EIA Regulations and PINS Advice Note 17. The mitigation measures set out across the ES therefore account for anticipated cumulative effects.</p>
7A-04	The Scheme	Public Consultation	"2. Inadequate Consultation: The Public Consultation was insufficient/inadequate. Information was lacking and misleading. Access to and comprehension of information for all was limited. Therefore, those affected were unable to gain understanding of the proposals."	<p>The Applicant acknowledges this comment but is confident that the level of consultation undertaken, and information presented throughout the pre-application stage was in accordance with the Planning Act 2008 and associated guidance. This has been evidenced in C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], which was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and accepted for examination.</p> <p>For example, as described in Chapter 2 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], the Applicant undertook two phases of community consultation to share information and invite feedback at different stages of Scheme development.</p> <p>Chapter 7 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes the Applicant's approach to statutory consultation, including consulting with relevant authorities on a draft Statement of Community Consultation. Table 7.1 sets out the comments received from authorities on the Applicant's approach to consultation and how the Applicant has had regard to these in developing the Scheme. Table 7.3 in Chapter 7 describes how the Applicant complied with commitments</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>made in the Statement of Community Consultation when undertaking statutory consultation.</p> <p>Chapter 8 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes how the Applicant undertook a six-week statutory phase two consultation on the Scheme, during which the Applicant presented consultees with environmental information sufficient for consultees to understand the potential likely significant effects of the Scheme in a Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR). A non-technical summary was published to accompany the PEIR, with public information events and free-to-use communications channels open to help aid accessibility and understanding of the Scheme. A Consultation Summary Report for this phase of statutory consultation was published on the dedicated Scheme website, shared with elected representatives and stakeholders and issued to over 9,000 properties within the vicinity of the Scheme, to help consultees understand how their feedback was being considered. A copy of the Phase Two Consultation Summary Report is provided as C5.7 Appendix 5.7: Phase Two Community Consultation Materials [APP-028].</p> <p>Chapter 11 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes the significant volume of responses received to Section 47 consultation (local community), including the issues raised and how the Applicant has had regard to these in developing the Scheme. This is further evidenced by C5.10 Appendix 5.10: Consultation Report Appendix – Section 47 Applicant Response [APP-033].</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				The host authorities have confirmed that the statutory consultation process was adequate [AOC-001 to AOC-025] .
7A-05	Cumulative Development Landscape and Visual Impact	Cumulative Landscape and Visual Effects	"3. Adverse impact on visual aspect of landscape: The proposed Cottam Solar Project would have a significant impact on visual amenity in its own right. The combined effect of four large solar farms in one area of Lincolnshire would be overwhelming; solar arrays would become a devastating, dominating feature of our landscape."	<p>The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Party's comment and considers the approach taken and subsequent conclusions regarding assessing the impacts of the Scheme alongside the proposed Gate Burton, West Burton and Tillbridge Solar proposals would not result in significant adverse effects on landscape character and visual amenity over an extensive area. For some receptors, in localised areas, at the construction stage and assessment year 1, adverse effects have been identified. with the Scheme and the Tillbridge proposals. These findings are set out within the individual receptor sheets C6.3.8.2.3.1 and C6.3.8.2.3.2 ES Appendix 8.2 [APP-074].</p> <p>The assessment of potential cumulative landscape effects is set out in detail within C6.3.8.2 ES Appendix 8.2 Assessment of Potential Landscape Effects (the 'LVIA') that includes individual receptor sheets 8.2.1-8.2.12 [APP-074] where effects of the Tillbridge proposals are considered to the north of the Cottam 1 North Site. This assessment notes that the boundaries of Cottam 1 North and the Tillbridge proposals are located directly adjacent to each other, just south of Kexby Road and to the west of the settlement of Fillingham. This location takes account of those travelling along the regularly used routes such as major roads or popular paths.</p> <p>The cumulative effects with the Gate Burton proposals are illustrated on C6.4.8.15.2.6 ES Figure 8.15.2.6 Gate Burton Cumulative Developments Cottam 1, 2 and 3a and 3b Augmented ZTV [APP-</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>300]. The settlements of Willingham by Stow, Kexby and Upton provide screening and separation between Gate Burton and the Cottam 1 Site. In respect of the Cottam 2 Site, the distance between Gate Burton and this particular site is approximately 6km, while the separation distance between Gate Burton and Cottam 3a and 3b Sites is approximately 9km. Cumulative effects are therefore not considered to occur due to the significant distance between the projects.</p> <p>The cumulative effects with the West Burton proposals are illustrated on C6.4.8.15.2.9 ES Figure 8.15.2.9 West Burton Cumulative Developments Cottam 1, 2 and 3a and 3b Augmented ZTV [APP-303]. The settlements of Sturton by Stow, Bransby and Broxholme provide screening and separation between West Burton and the Cottam 1 Site. In respect of the Cottam 2 Site, the distance between West Burton and this particular site is approximately 10km, while the separation distance between West Burton and Cottam 3a and 3b Sites is approximately 14km. Cumulative effects are therefore not considered to occur due to the significant distance between the projects.</p> <p>The cumulative effects with the Tillbridge proposals are illustrated on C6.4.8.15.2.8 ES Figure 8.15.2.8 Tillbridge Cumulative Developments Cottam 1, 2 and 3a and 3b Augmented ZTV [APP-301], the Tillbridge proposals are located to the west and east of the settlement of Springthorpe and situated between the settlements of Heapham, Hemswell Cliff and Glentworth.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>The Cottam 1 Site and Tillbridge boundaries are located adjacent to each other. Cumulative effects of these two proposals have been identified at the construction phase and operational phase (Year 1) of the Scheme, with potential significant effects predicted, that would be adverse, during the construction phase and operational phase (Year 1).</p> <p>The Cottam 2 Site and Tillbridge boundaries are located in close proximity to each other, with Corringham Road in between. Cumulative effects of these two proposals have been identified at the construction phase and operational phase (Year 1) of the Scheme, with potential significant effects predicted during the construction phase and operational phase (Year 1).</p> <p>Section 8.10, Cumulative Effects, of C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact [APP-043] provides a summary of the findings with detail set out within the individual receptor sheets within C6.3.8.2 ES Appendix 8.2 Assessment of Potential Landscape Effects [APP-074] and C6.3.8.3 ES Appendix 8.3 Assessment of Potential Visual Effects [APP-075].</p> <p>The effects of the developments cumulatively are shown on C6.4.8.15.1 Figure 8.15.1 Cottam 1,2 and 3 Cumulative Sites Cottam Augmented ZTV [APP-290] and C6.4.8.15.2 Figure 8.15.2 Cottam 1,2 and 3 Cumulative Developments Augmented ZTV [APP-294].</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>All sites and development included within the cumulative assessment have been discussed and agreed with the consenting authorities, including Lincolnshire County Council during the LVIA Workshops. This is set out within C6.3.8.4.1 of C6.3.8.4 ES Appendix 8.4 Consultation includes 8.4.1- 8.4.4 [APP-076], which documents the engagement with The Planning Inspectorate, Bassetlaw District Council, Lincolnshire County Council, Natural England (see pages 2 to 13) and within C6.3.8.4.2 ES Appendix 8.4.2 Consultation [APP-076], which documents the engagement with Lincolnshire County Council, Bassetlaw District Council, Natural England (see pages 1 to 41) and within C6.3.8.4.4 3 ES Appendix 8.4.3 Consultation [APP-076], which documents engagement at public engagement events in November 2021 and with The Planning Inspectorate, Bassetlaw District Council, Lincolnshire County Council, Natural England, (see pages 1 to 14) and within C6.3.8.4.4 ES Appendix 8.4.4 Consultation [APP-076], which shows liaison with Lincolnshire County Council and Nottinghamshire County Council (see pages 1 and 2).</p> <p>The mitigation proposals associated with the landscape and visual receptors for the Scheme are included in C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A], and within C6.4.8.16.1 to C6.4.8.16.10 Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Figures 8.16.1 to 8.16.10) [APP-305 to APP-315]. This mitigation takes into account the findings of the cumulative assessment, and therefore the proposed mitigation will mitigate the cumulative effects identified. This mitigation is aimed at benefitting the community as a whole as well as tourists, visiting</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>walkers, local residents, ornithologists and cyclists. The landscape mitigation measures seek to provide new planting, which will include new native hedgerows and tree cover, and this will also include their management and maintenance.</p> <p>Measures set out in C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] are secured through Requirement 7 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>
7A-06	<p>Landscape and Visual Impact</p> <p>Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation</p> <p>Other Environmental Matters: Human Health</p>	<p>Health and Wellbeing and Cumulative Socio-Economic Effects</p>	<p>"4. Impact on Health & Wellbeing: The CSP has the potential to have a significant detrimental impact on the general health and wellbeing of residents (rural mental health is a particularly important issue locally), depriving access to visual amenity, changing views, destroying agricultural jobs and livelihoods. There is the possibility of socioeconomic decline from the cumulative effect and size of these developments, which would then affect people's health and wellbeing, which then has the long-term potential to impact on health inequality. Such impacts have not</p>	<p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact [APP-043] includes a full and detailed assessment that deals with both effects on the landscape itself and effects on the visual amenity of people, as well as interrelationships of these with other related topics in the ES. The LVIA process is iterative and as a result, the design of the Scheme changed to respond to the findings of the assessment to ensure that landscape mitigation is fully considered as part of the process. For example, the LVIA mitigation has had regard to the need to consider the landscape character and visual amenity for the users of PRoW within the Cottam 1 Site. The PRoW bridleway (Fill/86/1) leads from Short Lane (at the settlement of Ingham) to join with PRoW footpath (Ingh/17/1), then eventually joins with Willingham Road. As a result of the Scheme, the foreground of the view would change from a large, gently sloping arable field to an area of panels. This is set out in C6.3.8.3 ES Appendix 8.3 Assessment of Potential Visual Effects includes 8.3.1 - 8.3.5 [APP-075] on sheet [EN010133/APP/C6.3.8.3.5.2.1] Public Rights of Way Receptor – Fill/86</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>been appropriately considered by Island Green Power. "</p>	<p>(Fill/86/1) and on sheet [EN010133/APP/C6.3.8.3.2.3.19]. In this instance (Sheet C6.3.8.3.5.2.1 page 1), the Embedded Mitigation would include panels set a minimum of 15m from the adjacent PRoW. Existing hedges would also be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of the existing hedges at close range. Furthermore (Sheet C6.3.8.3.2.3.19 on page 3), in the middle distance, new and augmented hedgerows will provide a series of strong field boundaries both formally strengthening the existing and historical field pattern and also in creating a multi-layered landscape.</p> <p>The LVIA concludes that in relation to some aspects of the Scheme (the construction phase in particular), the presence of the panels will result in an adverse effect. Where impacts and effects are identified then landscape mitigation measures are applied to offset or remedy any adverse effects.</p> <p>Where the LVIA has identified significant adverse effects, extensive landscape mitigation is set out in C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] and is also shown on C6.4.8.16.1 - C6.4.8.16.10 Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Figures 8.16.1 to 8.16.10) [APP-301 to APP-315]. This mitigation seeks to visually enhance the landscape through the addition of new planting and the positive management of the existing tree and hedgerow stock. This mitigation also seeks to reduce</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>the visibility of the Scheme and help with its assimilation into the landscape from public vantage points including transport routes, public footpaths, permissive footpaths and green lane networks. This mitigation is aimed to benefit the community as a whole as well as tourists, visiting walkers, local residents, ornithologists and cyclists. The landscape mitigation measures will provide new planting, which will include new native hedgerows and tree cover, and this will also include their management and maintenance.</p> <p>Measures set out in C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] are secured through Requirement 7 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>The Applicant is cognisant of the significance of the countryside for physical and mental wellbeing and, as such, likely impacts on the desirability and use of recreational facilities in the countryside, such as public rights of way, have been assessed in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]. The greatest level of effect to access, desirability and use of recreational facilities is moderate-minor adverse and is anticipated during construction (see paras. 18.7.60 to 18.7.67) and decommissioning (see paras. 18.7.143 to 18.7.153). These effects are not anticipated to be significant.</p> <p>This is re-iterated in Section 21.5 of C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21 Other Environmental Matters [APP-056].</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>The cumulative effects of the identified Schemes (including the four identified by 7000 Acres) are assessed in Section 18.10 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]. The greatest level of cumulative effect to access, desirability and use of recreational facilities is anticipated during construction (see paras. 18.10.28 to 18.10.31). These effects are therefore anticipated to be significant and adverse, albeit short-term for the cumulative construction phase only.</p> <p>The Applicant has assessed the level of impact on employment and the local economy from the Scheme in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053], and the cumulative impacts from the identified projects (including those identified by 7000 Acres) in Section 18.10.</p> <p>The Scheme is anticipated to lead to a maximum loss of approximately 17 full-time equivalent agriculture jobs, as stated in paragraph 18.7.15 of document C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]. The Scheme is estimated to employ 10 full-time equivalent employees from the local area during operation; see Table 18.16. The net change in employment and in economic performance as measured by Gross Value Added (GVA) in the local area (defined as West Lindsey and Bassetlaw Districts) is:</p> <p>For construction: +661 FTE jobs (para. 18.7.23 [APP-053]), +£30.9 million per year (para. 18.7.52 [APP-053]);</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>For operation: -2 FTE jobs(para. 18.7.79 [APP-053]), +£2.2million per year (para. 18.7.97 [APP-053]);</p> <p>For decommissioning: +509 FTE jobs (para. 18.7.125 [APP-053]), minor beneficial impact to GVA (para. 18.7.135 [APP-053]).</p> <p>The net peak cumulative changes to employment, and to economic Gross Value Added in the local area (defined as West Lindsey and Bassetlaw districts) are:</p> <p>For construction: +2,401 FTE jobs (para. 18.10.14 [APP-053]), +£120.9 million per year (para. 18.10.25 [APP-053]);</p> <p>For operation: -39 FTE jobs (para. 18.10.38 [APP-053]), +£5.7million per year (para. 18.10.49 [APP-053]);</p> <p>For decommissioning: +1,507 FTE jobs (para. 18.10.65 [APP-053]), +£120.3 million per year (para. 18.10.73 [APP-053]).</p> <p>C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] assesses impacts on socio-demographic and health receptors both for Cottam Solar Project in isolation (Section 18.7), and cumulatively (Section 18.10). The full list of effects from the Scheme set out in Table 18.29 [APP-053] demonstrates no significant adverse effects to socio-demographic and human health indicators.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
7A-07	Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation	Mitigation of Harm to Employment and Livelihoods	"5. Socio-economic: The Cottam Solar Project fails to describe how proposed development could mitigate the harm through loss of employment and livelihoods caused by the development or contribute to local planning policies and actions to remedy the underlying socio-economic situation."	<p>The Applicant respectfully disagrees with this statement.</p> <p>The Scheme is anticipated to lead to a maximum loss of approximately 17 full-time equivalent agriculture jobs, as stated in paragraph 18.7.15 of document C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]. The Scheme is estimated to employ 10 full-time equivalent employees from the local area during operation; see Table 18.16. The net change in employment in the local area (defined as West Lindsey and Bassetlaw Districts) during the Scheme's operational life is a loss of approximately 2 full-time jobs, once consideration of direct, indirect and induced employment, and impacts on the tourism and recreation industry are considered (see para. 18.7.79). Overall, the economic benefit to the local area is estimated to be £2.2 million per year (see para. 18.7.97).</p> <p>Section 18.6 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] describes the embedded mitigation measures ensuring adverse socio-economic impacts from construction of the Scheme design are adequately mitigated. Furthermore, Section 18.8 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] describes further mitigation and enhancement measures, such as those set out in C7.10 Skills Supply Chain and Employment Plan [APP-349] which will be implemented during the operational lifetime and decommissioning phase of the Scheme as secured by Requirement 20 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_A draft DCO Revision A [AS-012].</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
7A-08	The Scheme	Parish Council Opposition to the Scheme and Cumulative Development	"6. Opposition from local Parishes & Councils: All local Parish Councils and Meetings that have expressed a view to date are opposed to the proposed developments. These Parishes have all signed up to a Statement of Common Ground against the application. Development at this scale, against the express wishes of local councils and their communities is undemocratic."	<p>The Applicant notes this comment and is seeking to enter into Statements of Common Ground with Interested Parties to narrow the scope of issues between parties and the Applicant.</p> <p>The Applicant has undertaken two main consultation events, held in tandem with the West Burton Solar Project. The first, a six-week non-statutory consultation held November to December 2021, received 525no. feedback form responses, indicating 48% of those responding were in support of the proposals. The second was a six-week statutory consultation period in which approximately 700 responses were fed back to the Applicant team.</p> <p>The significant volume of feedback received through consultations, and how the Applicant has had regard to these responses, is presented in C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021]. The Applicant shared the results of consultation with consultees and communities following each phase of consultation by publishing interim Consultation Summary Reports. The Applicant has taken an issue-led approach to considering comments, in order to incorporate feedback and address concerns where practicable.</p> <p>The Applicant is confident that the methods used, level of consultation undertaken and information presented throughout the pre-application stage is compliant with the Planning Act 2008 and associated guidance, which makes clear the importance of consulting local communities and parish councils. This is in C5.1 Consultation</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				Report [APP-021] , which was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and accepted for examination.
7A-09	The Scheme Socio- Economics, Tourism and Recreation	Benefits of the Scheme	"7. No consideration for community benefit: The Cottam Solar Project will provide power to the National Grid rather than local homes. It will displace agricultural jobs, provide few employment opportunities, and reduce local amenity, providing little or nothing in return."	<p>The Applicant respectfully disagrees with this statement.</p> <p>Section 4.6 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] details the 'Other Benefits of the Scheme', beyond the national benefits as described through Sections 4.2 to 4.5 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A].</p> <p>Paragraph 4.6.2 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] states that the Scheme will result in a significant Net Gain for biodiversity (96.09% in habitat units, 70.22% in hedgerow units and 10.69% in river units). This is secured through Requirement 9 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], which states that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a biodiversity net gain strategy has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority, in consultation with the relevant statutory nature conservation body."</p> <p>Paragraph 4.6.3 [APP-341] goes on to explain that a new permissive path from Stow village to Stow Pastures will be in place during the operational phase of the Scheme, thus improving local amenity.</p> <p>Paragraph 4.6.6 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] goes on to explain that a Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan, as secured by Requirement 20 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_A draft DCO Revision A [AS-012], will be in place prior to</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>construction and will set out the measures that the Applicant will implement to advertise and promote employment and training opportunities associated with the Scheme in construction and operation locally.</p> <p>Whilst not a part of the DCO Application, paragraph 4.8.1 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] explains that the Applicant is committed to providing a Community Benefit Fund.</p> <p>The Scheme is anticipated to lead to a maximum loss of approximately 17 full-time equivalent agriculture jobs, as stated in paragraph 18.7.15 of document C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]. The Scheme is estimated to employ 10 full-time equivalent employees from the local area during operation; see Table 18.16. The net change in employment in the local area (defined as West Lindsey and Bassetlaw Districts) during the Scheme's operational life is a loss of approximately 2 full-time jobs, once consideration of direct, indirect and induced employment, and impacts on the tourism and recreation industry are considered (see para. 18.7.79). Overall, the economic benefit to the local area is estimated to be £2.2 million per year (see para. 18.7.97).</p> <p>The overall employment and economic benefit to the local area from the two-year construction period is anticipated to be 661 full-time equivalent jobs (see para. 18.7.23), generating £30.9 million per year (see para. 18.7.52).</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
7A-10	Landscape and Visual Impact Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation Other Environmental Matters: Human Health	Impact on the Local Community	<p>"8. Sustainability of Communities: Many small villages surrounded by the Cottam Solar Project have few opportunities for employment and very few amenities other than the open countryside landscape that it sits in. The scale of the CSP would rob villages of this key attribute and erode the attractiveness of villages, driving some people away and serving to deter people from moving in, therefore reducing their capacity to sustain communities and populations."</p>	<p>The Scheme comprises a series of separate parcels of land or Sites (see Sections 3.3 to 3.6 of C6.2.3 ES Chapter 3_The Order Limits [APP-038]) which are set within an extensive agricultural landscape. With large tracts of land between each parcel, each is set apart by their associated features such as robust hedgerows, woodland and tree cover, intervening settlements and road and rail infrastructure (see paragraphs 8.5.88, 8.5.106 and 8.5.124 of C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8_Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043]).</p> <p>The layout of the Sites has been informed by a series of design parameters and include offset distances as a result of needing to balance the functionality of the Scheme against environmental considerations (see paragraph 8.6.21 of C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8_Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043]).</p> <p>Paragraph 8.3.10 of C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8_Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] notes the [Secretary of State's] need to "judge whether the visual effects on sensitive receptors, such as local residents, and other receptors, such as visitors to the local area, outweigh the benefits of the project". C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8_Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] sets out details of the offsets that are proposed around sensitive receptors such as settlement edges, individual residential properties, PRoW and transport routes (see section 8.11 of C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8_Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043]) which aim to assist in the assimilation and dispersion of the Scheme across the landscape.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>The separate parcels of land in the Scheme are placed far apart such that the solar panels are distributed 'in and amongst' the landscape allowing them to assimilate into the landscape to a comfortable degree.</p> <p>The Applicant is also cognisant of the significance of the countryside for physical and mental wellbeing and, as such, likely impacts on the desirability and use of recreational facilities in the countryside, such as public rights of way, have been assessed in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]. The greatest level of effect to access, desirability and use of recreational facilities is moderate-minor adverse and is anticipated during construction (see para. 18.7.60-67) and decommissioning (see para. 18.7.143-153). These effects are not anticipated to be significant.</p> <p>This is re-iterated in Section 21.5 of C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21 Other Environmental Matters [APP-056].</p>
7A-11	The Scheme Cumulative Development Landscape and Visual Impact	The Scheme and Cumulative Landscape and Visual Effects	"9. Separation of communities in an industrial landscape: The large islands of development proposed for the Cottam Solar Project are, in terms of size, an order of magnitude larger than many of the villages they surround. This is compounded by there being 4 schemes within a close area. The partitioning of the	The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Party's comment and considers the approach taken and subsequent conclusions regarding assessing the impacts of the Scheme alongside the proposed Gate Burton, West Burton and Tillbridge Solar proposals would not result in significant adverse effects on landscape character and visual amenity over an extensive area. For some receptors, in localised areas, at the construction stage and assessment year 1, significant and adverse effects have been identified with the Scheme and the Tillbridge

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>countryside in this way effectively segregates rural villages and places them in an industrialised landscape.”</p>	<p>proposals. These findings are set out within the individual receptor sheets C6.3.8.2.3.1 and C6.3.8.2.3.2 ES Appendix 8.2 [APP-074].</p> <p>The assessment of potential cumulative landscape effects is set out in detail within C6.3.8.2 ES Appendix 8.2 Assessment of Potential Landscape Effects (the 'LVIA') that includes individual receptor sheets 8.2.1-8.2.12 [APP-074] where effects of the Tillbridge proposals are considered to the north of the Cottam 1 North Site. This part of the assessment notes that the boundaries of Cottam 1 North and the Tillbridge proposals are located directly adjacent to each other, just south of Kexby Road and to the west of the settlement of Fillingham. This location takes account of those travelling along the regularly used routes such as major roads or popular paths.</p> <p>The cumulative effects with the Gate Burton proposals are illustrated on C6.4.8.15.2.6 ES Figure 8.15.2.6 Gate Burton Cumulative Developments Cottam 1, 2 and 3a and 3b Augmented ZTV [APP-300]. The settlements of Willingham by Stow, Kexby and Upton provide screening and separation between Gate Burton and the Cottam 1 Site. In respect of the Cottam 2 Site, the distance between Gate Burton and this particular site is approximately 6km, while the separation distance between Gate Burton and Cottam 3a and 3b Sites is approximately 9km. Cumulative effects are therefore not considered to occur due to the significant distance between the projects.</p> <p>The cumulative effects with the West Burton proposals are illustrated on C6.4.8.15.2.9 ES Figure 8.15.2.9 West Burton Cumulative</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>Developments Cottam 1, 2 and 3a and 3b Augmented ZTV [APP-303]. The settlements of Sturton by Stow, Bransby and Broxholme provide screening and separation between West Burton and the Cottam 1 Site. In respect of the Cottam 2 Site, the distance between West Burton and this particular site is approximately 10km, while the separation distance between West Burton and Cottam 3a and 3b Sites is approximately 14km. Cumulative effects are therefore not considered to occur due to the significant distance between the projects.</p> <p>The cumulative effects with the Tillbridge proposals are illustrated on C6.4.8.15.2.8 ES Figure 8.15.2.8 Tillbridge Cumulative Developments Cottam 1, 2 and 3a and 3b Augmented ZTV [APP-301], the Tillbridge proposals are located to the west and east of the settlement of Springthorpe and situated between the settlements of Heapham, Hemswell Cliff and Glentworth.</p> <p>The Cottam 1 Site and Tillbridge boundaries are located adjacent to each other. Cumulative effects of these two proposals have been identified at the construction phase and operational phase (Year 1) of the Scheme, with potential significant, and adverse effects predicted. These findings are set out within the individual receptor sheets C6.3.8.2.3.1 and C6.3.8.2.3.2 ES Appendix 8.2 [APP-074].</p> <p>The Cottam 2 Site and Tillbridge boundaries are located in close proximity to each other, with Corringham Road in between. Cumulative effects of these two proposals have been identified at the construction phase and operational phase (Year 1) of the Scheme,</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>with potential significant effects predicted during the construction phase and operational phase (Year 1).</p> <p>Section 8.10, Cumulative Effects, of C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact [APP-043] provides a summary of the findings with detail set out within the individual receptor sheets within C6.3.8.2 ES Appendix 8.2 Assessment of Potential Landscape Effects [APP-074] and C6.3.8.3 ES Appendix 8.3 Assessment of Potential Visual Effects [APP-075].</p> <p>The effects of the developments cumulatively are shown on C6.4.8.15.1 Figure 8.15.1 Cottam 1,2 and 3 Cumulative Sites Cottam Augmented ZTV [APP-290] and C6.4.8.15.2 Figure 8.15.2 Cottam 1,2 and 3 Cumulative Developments Augmented ZTV [APP-294].</p> <p>All sites and development included within the cumulative assessment have been discussed and agreed with the consenting authorities, including Lincolnshire County Council during the LVIA Workshops. This is set out within C6.3.8.4.1 of C6.3.8.4 ES Appendix 8.4 Consultation includes 8.4.1- 8.4.4 [APP-076], which documents the engagement with the Planning Inspectorate, Bassetlaw District Council, Lincolnshire County Council, Natural England (see pages 2 to 13) and within C6.3.8.4.2 ES Appendix 8.4.2 Consultation [APP-076], which documents the engagement with Lincolnshire County Council, Bassetlaw District Council, Natural England (see pages 1 to 41) and within C6.3.8.4.4 3 ES Appendix 8.4.3 Consultation [APP-076], which documents engagement at public engagement events in November</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>2021 and with the Planning Inspectorate, Bassetlaw District Council, Lincolnshire County Council, Natural England, (see pages 1 to 14) and within C6.3.8.4.4 ES Appendix 8.4.4 Consultation [APP-076], which shows liaison with Lincolnshire County Council and Nottinghamshire County Council (see pages 1 and 2).</p> <p>The mitigation proposals associated with the landscape and visual receptors for the Scheme are included in C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A], and within C6.4.8.16.1 to C6.4.8.16.10 Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Figures 8.16.1 to 8.16.10) [APP-305 to APP-315]. This mitigation takes into account the findings of the cumulative assessment, and therefore the proposed mitigation will mitigate the cumulative effects identified. This mitigation is aimed at benefitting the community as a whole as well as tourists, visiting walkers, local residents, ornithologists and cyclists. The landscape mitigation measures seek to provide new planting, which will include new native hedgerows and tree cover, and this will also include their management and maintenance. Measures set out in C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] are secured through Requirement 7 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>
7A-12	The Scheme	Screening of the Scheme	"10. Inadequate mitigation / screening: The Cottam Solar Project proposes solar panels which would	The assessment of both the landscape and visual effects of the 4.5m high solar panels is set out within Section 8.6 of C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') and

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
	Landscape and Visual Impact		<p>have a height of 4.5m as well as extensive security fencing. At that height, the character of the land would undoubtedly be dominated by solar panels, which could not be adequately screened by hedgerows (at all) or by trees (for many years), Island Green Power propose to re-evaluate landscape and visual effects after 15 years, which represents a significant proportion of people's lives"</p>	<p>within the detailed receptor sheets at C6.3.8.2 ES Appendix 8.2 Assessment of Potential Landscape Effects [APP-074] and C6.3.8.3 ES Appendix 8.3 Assessment of Potential Visual Effects [APP-075].</p> <p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') looks to provide landscape mitigation that seeks to enhance the landscape character of the Study Area and to reduce the visibility of the Scheme from residential properties and other public vantage points including transport routes, public footpaths, permissive footpaths and green lane network. This mitigation is aimed to benefit the community as a whole to enhance their way of life as well as green infrastructure (see paras. 8.1.1 and 8.8.3). Public consultation has also taken account of landscape and visual matters (see paras. 8.2.8 and 8.4.20).</p> <p>The visual effects are set out in C6.3.8.3 ES Appendix 8.3 Assessment of Potential Visual Effects [APP-075], which shows that some effects on visual receptors would be significant at construction and year 1 of operation, but with mitigation this is reduced across the majority of the landscape receptors to not significant at year 15 of operation.</p> <p>Year 15 is an acceptable year of assessment for setting the standard for mitigation measures and for predicting the findings of the assessment within the LVIA process. This is set out in recognised guidance' Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition (GLVIA3) by the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment. This guidance states at paragraph 4.31 that "Mitigation measures, especially planting</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				schemes, are not always immediately effective. Advance planting can help reduce the time between the development commencing and the planting becoming established. If such planting forms part of the scheme design it should be included in the design and access statement and in the project description. Where planting is intended to provide a visual screen for the development it may be appropriate to assess the effects for different seasons and periods of time (for example, at year 0, representing the start of the operational stage, year 5 and year 15) in order to demonstrate the contribution to reducing the adverse effects of the scheme at different stages. In such projections the assumptions made about growth rates of planting should be clearly stated."
7A-13	Cultural Heritage	ES Chapter: Baseline and Methodology	"11. Cultural Heritage: The area in which the Cottam Solar Development is proposed is dotted with rural historic parishes, within which many historic buildings remain, including several dating as far back as the Domesday Book. The impact of the proposed scheme to heritage and such cultural assets has not been adequately explored or mitigated."	The Heritage Statement within C6.3.13.5 ES Appendix 13.5 [APP-125 to APP-128] provides a detailed assessment of all Grade II Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas within 2km of the Scheme, and all Grade I and II* Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments with a 5km study area surrounding the Scheme. C6.2.13 ES Chapter 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048] (see paras. 13.5.11 to 13.5.25, 13.7.18 to 13.7.25, 13.7.35 to 13.7.39 and 13.8.5 to 13.8.10) provides further detailed assessment of the predicted impacts upon the historic built environment. The assessment identifies that there would be 'Slight Adverse' effects (i.e., 'not significant' in EIA terms) at six Grade II Listed Buildings and nine non-designated historic buildings during the construction phase. During the operational phase there would be residual 'Slight Adverse' effects (i.e., 'not significant' in EIA terms) at 3 Grade II Listed Buildings and 11 non-designated historic buildings, and

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>Moderate Adverse (i.e., 'significant' in EIA terms) at a single non-designated historic building.</p> <p>The LVIA has identified the need for extensive landscape mitigation that is set out in the C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] which is secured by Requirement 7 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>C6.2.13 ES Chapter 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048] (see para. 13.8.9) identifies that the landscape mitigation proposals (e.g., planting of shelter belts and scattered trees, planting of new hedgerows, existing hedgerow reinforcement) which should reach maturity by Year 15 would reduce 'Slight Adverse' effects to 'Neutral' at three Listed Buildings (NHLE 1308921, NHLE 1317186 and NHLE 1359417), and nine non-designated historic buildings (HB2, HB4, HB5, HB14, HB15, HB16, HB17, HB19 and HB23), and reduce the Moderate Adverse effects (i.e., 'significant' in EIA terms) to Slight Adverse (i.e., 'not significant' in EIA terms) at two non-designated historic buildings (C6.3.13.8.9 ES Appendix 13.8.9 - HB18 and HB22).</p>
7A-14	Cumulative Development Transport and Access	The Scheme's and Cumulative Development's Impact upon the Local Road Infrastructure	"12. Traffic Disruption: The volume of road movements and size of vehicles, particularly during construction, maintenance and decommissioning are not compatible with the local, inadequate road infrastructure. Again, there is a cumulative affect with the	An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been prepared to support the application within C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A] . C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] , provides (in Requirement 15 of Schedule 2) that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a construction traffic management plan for that part

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>potential for 4 major solar developments in the same region. The Cottam Solar Project does not adequately consider the impact of traffic through rural routes and villages and the potential for disruption, damage, and noise."</p>	<p>must be submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities". It further provides that "The construction traffic management plan must be substantially in accordance with the outline construction traffic management plan."</p> <p>The outline CTMP submitted as part of the DCO application provides a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements to and from the Scheme, to ensure that the effects of the temporary construction phase on the local highway network are minimised and made acceptable. C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A] covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction methodology; • Site access; • Construction vehicle trip generation; • Construction vehicle routing; • Abnormal load movement; and • Mitigation and management measures. <p>By example, measure xxi of C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A] is for a road condition survey. This will ensure that any identified highways defects resulting from</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>construction activities associated with the Site will be corrected to the satisfaction of the local highway authority.</p> <p>The Transport Assessment within C6.3.14.1 ES Appendix 14.1 [APP-134] provides an assessment of the transport effects of the Scheme and concludes, through paragraphs 11.1 to 11.11, that the Scheme is acceptable from a transport perspective.</p> <p>Tables 10.10.1, 10.2 and paragraph 10.5 of C6.3.14.1 ES Appendix 14.1 Transport Assessment [APP-134] highlight that cumulatively, development only affects the main 'A'-roads within the local highway network. These roads are considered to be less sensitive to change than more local/rural roads.</p>
7A-15	Energy Need Cumulative Development	The Scheme's and Cumulative Development's Impact upon Energy Security and Food Security	"13. UK Food Security: The land proposed to be developed for the Cottam Solar Project is productive arable land, as is the land associated with the three other large solar developments in the region. The impact of the Cottam Solar Project, and the cumulative impact of the 4 schemes on Food Security has not been considered, particularly in light of the circumstances of war, pandemic, crop disease and global	<p>Paragraph 8.9.5 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] quotes from the British Energy Security Strategy (April 2022): "If we're going to get [energy] prices down and keep them there for the long term, we need a flow of energy that is affordable, clean and above all, secure. We need a power supply that's made in Britain, for Britain".</p> <p>As set out in the C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350], Cottam Solar Project brings forward significant benefits in terms of decarbonisation (Section 7.4), Energy Security (Section 8.8) and affordability of electricity supplies (Section 10.3). The Applicant's position is that such benefits outweigh the potential harm associated with developing the Scheme.</p> <p>The Applicant does not consider that the Scheme would result in adverse food security impacts either alone or cumulatively. The UK</p>

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			<p>warming (e.g. rising sea levels) on national and global supply chains.</p> <p>14. Existing Land Productivity: The proposed area covered by the Cottam Solar Project is productive agricultural land, producing food for people and animals, as well as biofuels. The overall sustainability impact of displacing this production has not been considered, in terms of what production will be lost and the additional food miles and carbon impact of production being required elsewhere."</p>	<p>annual balance of domestically produced food is sensitive to non-planning factors including weather and markets. The relevant assessment for policy purposes (and therefore decision-making purposes under the Planning Act 2008) is one that is based on the grade of the agricultural land, rather than its current use and the intensity of that use. In terms of key threats to UK food security, the Defra UK Food Security Report highlights that the main threat is climate change.</p> <p>As the Scheme will be decommissioned there will not be a permanent loss of agricultural land resource. In addition, the agricultural land can remain in productive use through the operational period, being grazed by livestock (see paras 19.10.2, 19.10.6, 19.10.10 of C6.2.19_A ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A]).</p>
7A-16	Ecology and Biodiversity	Wildlife Impact and Biodiversity Net Gain	<p>"15. Impact on wildlife: The details provided by Island Green Power to date do not provide a thorough assessment of the potential harm to the ecology and biodiversity of the area, In addition, Solar farm biodiversity net gain claims are unproven in the UK at this scale."</p>	<p>C6.2.9 Chapter 9 of the Environmental Statement [APP-044] sets out the extensive findings of all ecological investigations undertaken within the Order Limits together with an appraisal of the relative importance of each species or species group, habitat or designated site. This survey scope has been formulated through consultation with Natural England as well as Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trusts and has deemed to be thorough and appropriate.</p> <p>A comprehensive package of mitigation has been provided, in tandem with embedded mitigation established through the ecologically</p>

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				<p>sensitive design of the Scheme (such as the wide buffering of all field boundaries and the use of existing hedgerow gaps for accesses).</p> <p>These measures are further detailed within C7.19 Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [APP-356] (as secured by Requirement 8 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]) and C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] (as secured by Requirement 7 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]) which will ensure that all identified impacts are minimised as far as possible.</p> <p>In many cases, the reversion from intensive agriculture to pasture or meadow grassland with additional hedgerow, scrub, tree and wetland habitat creation will bring about positive effects for wildlife. In particular, terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates, botanical diversity, small mammals and many species of bird all stand to benefit.</p> <p>In this way, an anticipated substantial net gain for biodiversity will be achieved (see C6.3.9.12 ES Appendix 9.12 Biodiversity Net Gain Report [APP-089]), predominantly through the creation of extensive low-input grassland resulting in a net gain of 96.09% in habitat units, but also several new ponds and wetland habitat parcels resulting in a net gain of 10.69% in river units, and the planting of several kilometres of species-rich hedgerow resulting in a net gain of 70.22% in hedgerow units.</p>

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				This is secured through Requirement 9 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] , which states that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a biodiversity net gain strategy has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority, in consultation with the relevant statutory nature conservation body."
7A-17	The Scheme Soils and Agriculture	Period for Construction, Operation and decommissioning of the Scheme.	"16. Nature of the schemes is not truly temporary: Between the operational period of up to 40 years, plus a period of construction and decommissioning, a life-cycle of the development of around 50 years could never be classed as temporary."	Once the Scheme ceases to operate, it will be decommissioned. A 40-year period for the operational phase of the Scheme has been assessed in the EIA and reported the ES (see paragraph 2.4.9 of C6.2.2 ES Chapter 2_EIA Process and Methodology [APP-037]). Decommissioning is estimated to be no earlier than 2066 (see paras. 3.3.15 to 3.3.18 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A]). Decommissioning is expected to take between 12 and 24 months. A 24-month decommissioning period has been assumed for the purposes of a worst-case assessment in the ES, (See paragraph 4.3.6 of C6.2.4_A ES Chapter 4_Scheme Description Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.4_A]). In addition, the agricultural land can remain in productive use through the operational period, being grazed by livestock (see paras 19.10.2, 19.10.6, 19.10.10 of C6.2.19_A ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A]).
7A-18	The Scheme	Design Parameters of the Scheme	"17. Scale Effects: The project design fails to consider or mitigate the impact of the large individual parcels of the	The Scheme comprises a series of separate parcels of land or Sites (see Sections 3.3 to 3.6 of C6.2.3 ES Chapter 3_The Order Limits [APP-038]) which are set within an extensive agricultural landscape. With large tracts of land between each parcel, each is set apart by

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
	Landscape and Visual Impact		Cottam Solar Project, each of which dwarfs the villages they surround."	<p>their associated features such as robust hedgerows, woodland and tree cover, intervening settlements and road and rail infrastructure (see paragraphs 8.5.88, 8.5.106 and 8.5.124 of C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8_Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043]).</p> <p>The layout of the Sites has been informed by a series of design parameters and include offset distances as a result of needing to balance the functionality of the Scheme against environmental considerations (see paragraph 8.6.21 of C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8_Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043]).</p> <p>Paragraph 8.3.10 of C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8_Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] notes the [Secretary of State's] need to "judge whether the visual effects on sensitive receptors, such as local residents, and other receptors, such as visitors to the local area, outweigh the benefits of the project". C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8_Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] sets out details of the offsets that are proposed around sensitive receptors such as settlement edges, individual residential properties, PRow and transport routes (see section 8.11 of C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8_Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043]) which aim to assist in the assimilation and dispersion of the Scheme across the landscape.</p> <p>The separate parcels of land in the Scheme are placed far apart such that the solar panels are distributed 'in and amongst' the landscape allowing them to assimilate into the landscape to a comfortable degree.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
7A-19	The Scheme Cumulative Development Socio- Economics, Tourism and Recreation	Effects of the Scheme on Tourism	<p>"18. Lost appeal for visitors / tourism / new people: Development at the scale of the Cottam Solar Project would alter the character and appeal of the region to attract visitors, tourists, or new people to the region, particularly when considered in the context of the 4 proposed large solar developments. The development would be clearly visible from historic buildings, such as Lincoln Castle and Lincoln Cathedral. The project has failed to assess the potential impact of the development in this important regard."</p>	<p>Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] assesses the likely impacts on recreational use of the land and facilities therein, and the potential impacts to the visitor economy from the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Scheme.</p> <p>The greatest effect during construction is anticipated to be medium-term temporary moderate adverse on the landscape setting of tourism attractions (see para. 18.7.57), which is a significant effect. During operation, the greatest effects to tourism and recreation receptors are anticipated to be long-term moderate-minor adverse (see para. 18.7.101), which is not significant in EIA terms.</p> <p>Furthermore, Section 18.10 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] assesses the likely cumulative impacts on tourism and recreation receptors during construction (para. 18.10.27 to 18.10.31), operation (para. 18.10.51 to 18.10.55), and decommissioning (Table 18.29).</p> <p>The only significant adverse cumulative effect from the proposed solar NSIPs is anticipated to be to the Trent Valley Way. This long-distance recreational route could experience a peak cumulative short to medium-term temporary moderate adverse effect during construction (para 18.10.31).</p> <p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') takes account of the intervisibility between the Scheme and Lincoln Castle and Lincoln Cathedral.</p>

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				<p>Additional views within the LVIA suggested by Lincolnshire County Council and Nottinghamshire County Council that take account of locations where heritage assets may be affected are taken into account at Section 8.2. This includes viewpoints that capture the Lincoln 'Cliff' as well as distant intervisibility with Lincoln Castle and Lincoln Cathedral. These viewpoints include Lincolnshire County Council viewpoints LCC-C-A, LCC-C-B and LCC-C-C that are located to the east and southeast of the settlements of Stow and Sturton by Stow. With viewpoint LCC-C-B, this is scoped out of the assessment, and this has been agreed with LCC. With viewpoints LCC-C-A and LCC-C-C, there would be No Significant effects. With views towards Lincoln Castle and Lincoln Cathedral, there are potential long distance views, except that these assets are located at a distance of approximately 8.5km to the south east of West Burton 1 and West Burton 2 and even though their elevated position (approximately 15m AOD) may reveal some intervisibility, the distance between the Scheme and these assets would likely to give rise a barely perceptible magnitude of change.</p> <p>No additional viewpoints (above the NCC and LCC recommendations), have therefore been assessed as being necessary. The LVIA takes this intervisibility into consideration within the baseline to form the judgements on viewpoints (paras. 8.4.11, 8.5.96, 8.5.99, 8.5.104, 8.5.133, 8.10.22, 8.10.24, 8.11.11). For example, the LVIA sets out with Viewpoint VP01 Tillbridge Lane (Table 8.11) that this is a "Specific location, well-used vantage point. Gateway from the south and one of</p>

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				<p>the first opportunities to experience views over the agricultural landscape to NW of Lincoln. To the wider SE of Cottam 1."</p> <p>Detailed overlap and consultation with the Heritage topic areas has also been undertaken when developing the landscape and visual baseline and in identifying landscape and visual effects for the LVIA in the context of heritage receptors and this is set out within C6.3.8.4.3 ES Appendix 8.4 Consultation responses [APP-076].</p>
7A-20	Transport and Access Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation	Effects of the Scheme on Leisure and Recreation	<p>"19. Impact on Leisure & Recreation: There is an extensive network of footpaths, bridleways and isolated rural roads within the area covered by the Cottam Solar Project, which are used for walking, cycling, and horse-riding. The direct impact of the Cottam Solar Project, and the combined impact of the 4 proposed large solar projects on leisure and recreation have not been adequately considered."</p>	<p>The Applicant is cognisant of the significance of the countryside for physical and mental wellbeing and, as such, likely impacts on the desirability and use of recreational facilities in the countryside, such as public rights of way, have been assessed in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053].</p> <p>The greatest level of effect to access, desirability and use of recreational facilities is moderate-minor adverse and is anticipated during construction (see para. 18.7.60 to 18.7.67) and decommissioning (see para. 18.7.143 to 18.7.153). These effects are not anticipated to be significant.</p> <p>Section 18.10 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] assesses the likely cumulative impacts on tourism and recreation receptors during construction (para. 18.10.27 to 18.10.31), operation (para. 18.10.51 to 18.10.55), and decommissioning (Table 18.29).</p> <p>The only significant adverse cumulative effect from the proposed solar NSIPs is anticipated to be to the Trent Valley Way. This long-distance</p>

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				<p>recreational route could experience a peak cumulative short to medium-term temporary moderate adverse effect during construction (para 18.10.31).</p> <p>As set out in Table 5.9 in C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040], the permissive path from Stow village will contribute to the wider network of footpaths in the area and facilitate greater public access to the countryside.'</p>
7A-21	The Scheme Cumulative Development	Cumulative Assessment	"20. Joint consideration of schemes: Because of the unprecedented nature of this development and the significant impact on the area and communities, the four NSIP solar projects should be considered together by the Planning Inspectorate, i.e., Cottam Solar Project, West Burton Solar Project, Gate Burton Energy and Tillbridge solar."	The Applicant notes this comment.
7A-22	The Scheme Planning Policy	Policy Accordance with Neighbourhood Plans	"21. Failure to consider neighbourhood plans: The project does not consider the detailed work by communities in developing approved neighbourhood plans, including, for example aspirations for	The Scheme has been assessed against relevant local planning policies as set out at paragraphs 5.9.2 and 5.9.3 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] . Appendix 3 of [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] , 'Local Planning Policy Accordance Table', sets out the relevant adopted and draft Neighbourhood planning policies in full and sets out the accordence of the Scheme against the policies.

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			green spaces, open landscapes and the rural nature of villages."	
7A-23	The Scheme	Planning Policy	"22. Policy Landscape: While there is a clear case for solar playing a role in decarbonisation, there is no clear case for extensive displacement of farmland through the installation of large-scale ground-mounted solar farms."	<p>The Applicant agrees that there is a clear case for solar playing a role in decarbonisation.</p> <p>Chapter 4 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] sets out the UK's legal requirement to decarbonise and explains how that requirement has created an increased need and urgency to meet the UK's obligations under the Paris Agreement (2015) as detailed within para. 4.2.7. The Chapter summarises the latest expert views on the urgency for and depth of low-carbon infrastructure needed to deliver the UK's Net Zero legal obligations, and demonstrates that there is an urgent need for the development of large-scale solar schemes.</p> <p>Paragraphs 6.2.17 - 6.2.19 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] explain that it is against this backdrop that NPS EN-1 paragraph 4.1.2 sets a presumption in favour of granting permission for energy NSIP projects. This is carried through to Draft NPS EN-1 at paragraphs 4.1.2 and 4.1.3.</p> <p>Section 6.2 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] sets out how the Scheme will meet the compelling need for renewable energy in accordance with relevant national planning policies. In summary, the Scheme would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver a large amount of renewable generation capacity (35,590,658 MWh over the estimated 40-year assessed lifetime) to deliver the Government's energy objectives and legally binding net

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>zero commitments in line with the requirements of paragraph 1.1.1 of NPS EN-3, paragraph 3.3.21 of draft NPS EN-1, section 3.4 of NPS EN-1 and the National Infrastructure Strategy 2020 (para. 6.2.32);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver a reduction of 5,974,155 tCO₂e over the lifetime of the Scheme compared to if it did not go ahead which would make a significant contribution towards reducing carbon emissions as required by paragraph 1.1.1 of NPS EN-1, paragraph 2.3.2 of Draft NPS EN-1, the National Infrastructure Strategy 2020 and the Energy White Paper: "Powering our net zero future" (para. 6.2.35); • Deliver in a timescale that is short in the context of the delivery of other forms of energy generation in line with the urgent need to decarbonise set out in paragraphs 3.3.5, 3.3.15 and 3.4.5 of NPS EN-1, Paragraph 2.3.2 of Draft NPS EN-1 and the National Infrastructure Strategy 2020 (paras. 6.2.1, 6.2.4 and 6.2.8); • Enable all consumers to benefit from the effect of low-marginal cost solar generation by reducing market prices, in line with the aim to provide affordable energy for consumers set out at Paragraph 2.3.2, Paragraph 2.3.5 and 3.3.21 of Draft NPS EN-1 (para 6.2.8, 6.2.9, and 6.2.10); • Help ensure security and reliability of energy supply in line with Paragraph 2.3.2 and 2.3.5 of the Draft NPS EN-1 (para 6.2.8 and 6.2.9). <p>The selection of the Scheme's location has followed a systematic step-by-step process as set out in detail within C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067]. This took a sequential approach to the consideration of potential sites in terms of</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				agricultural land classification. As a result, paragraph 3.3.22 states that the Scheme maximises the utilisation of low grade, non best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land with 95.9% of the land being classified as non BMV land.
7A-24	The Scheme	National Planning Policy	"23. Failure to Follow NPS: The proposed project has failed to follow the requirements of the current and draft National Policy Statements in a number of areas."	The Applicant respectfully disagree with this statement. Section 6 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] demonstrates that when considered against existing and emerging national planning policies, the Scheme accords with the relevant policies. With regard to specific policy tests, the substantial benefits of the Scheme are considered, on balance, to outweigh its limited number of significant residual adverse impacts. Therefore, it is considered that development consent for the Scheme should be granted.
7A-25	The Scheme Energy Need Climate Change Alternatives and Design Evolution Soils and Agriculture	Nature of the Scheme	"24. Pressure on Land Use: Many planning requirements call for effective land use, the re-use of brownfield sites and avoiding BMV crop land. The Cottam Solar Project uses no brownfield sites. Given the limited contribution to decarbonisation and the adverse consequences arising from using farmland at this scale, the Cottam Solar Project represents a grossly	Table 7.1 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] shows the electricity generated per hectare by different low-carbon technologies. At the UK's average solar load factor (11%), solar generation produces much more energy per hectare than biogas, and generates a similar amount of energy as onshore wind. Furthermore, paragraph 7.6.8 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] states that: "Draft NPS EN-3 includes an anticipated range of 2 to 4 acres for each MW of output generally required for a solar farm along with its associated infrastructure." The Scheme as proposed delivers a large-scale solar generation asset which is consistent with this range, as is described through paragraphs 4.2.1 to 4.2.3 of C6.2.4_A ES Chapter 4 Scheme Description Revision A

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			inefficient use of land in the face of ever-increasing pressures on its use."	<p>[EN010133/EX1/C6.2.4_A]. This demonstrates that the proposed locations for the Scheme are suitable sites which will accommodate an asset which is consistent with government's view of best practice ratios of land take and installed capacity.</p> <p>The consideration of alternatives has been undertaken within C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040] and its accompanying appendix C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067]. Specifically, paragraphs 2.1.23 to 2.1.32 detail the consideration of brownfield land and roof tops and sets out why these were discounted as unsuitable. The methodology used for the site selection process is considered reasonable and proportionate and complies with the requirements of NPS EN-1 4.4.3.</p> <p>The effect of decarbonisation and quantification of changes in CO₂e emissions as a result of the Scheme over its lifetime is set out in C6.2.7 ES Chapter 7 Climate Change [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.7_A]. The effect has been shown to be major beneficial over the lifetime of the Scheme.</p> <p>Paragraph 7.8.60 [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.7_A] details that the Scheme has a total energy generation figure of around 35,590,658 MWh over the estimated 40-year assessed lifetime.</p> <p>Paragraph 7.8.61 [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.7_A] explains that the carbon intensity of the Scheme is estimated to be 21.2gCO₂e/kWh which compares favourably to fossil fuel alternatives (e.g., a Combined Cycle</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				Gas Turbine (CCGT) which has a GHG intensity (gCO ₂ e/kWh) of between 380 and 500 – as per Table 7.29.).
7A-26	Soils and Agriculture	Confidence in the Scheme's Agricultural Land Classification	"25. Agricultural Land Classification: The group does not have confidence in the Agricultural Land Classification data published by Island Green Power for the Cottam Solar Project. Given the potential for a margin of error or change in the developer's ALC figures, it is imperative that there is an independent soil analysis conducted to establish the accurate picture and to be certain of the methodology that has been followed. Aside from the sub-classification of land between 3a and 3b, there is also debate within the Government that all grade 3 land should be included in BMV."	<p>The Applicant has provided a detailed ALC assessment for the Sites, as detailed in C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19_Soils and Agriculture [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A] following the guidance provided by Natural England in 'TIN049 edition 2'.</p> <p>The NPPF is clear that the 'best and most versatile agricultural land' in England comprises ALC Grades 1, 2 and 3a (see paragraph 19.2.5 of C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19_Soils and Agriculture [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A]). Grade 3b land is not best and most versatile.</p>
7A-27	The Scheme Alternatives and Design Evolution	Site Selection	"26. Failure to consider alternative sites: The proposed project fails in that reasonable alternatives have not been adequately considered, as is required by the EIA regulations and the National Policy Statements."	The consideration of alternatives has been undertaken within C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040] . This includes the consideration of alternative sites (Section 5.5), alternative technologies (Section 5.6), alternative layouts (Section 5.7), alternative substation locations (section 5.8) and alternative cable routes (Section 5.9).

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>The selection of the Scheme's location has followed a systematic step-by-step process as set out in detail within C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067]. This took a sequential approach to the consideration of potential sites in terms of agricultural land classification. As a result, paragraph 3.3.22 states that the Scheme maximises the utilisation of low grade, non best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land with 95.9% of the land being classified as non BMV land.</p> <p>Paragraphs 2.1.23 to 2.1.32 of C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] detail the consideration of brownfield land and roof tops and sets out why these were discounted as unsuitable. The methodology used for the site selection process is considered reasonable and proportionate and complies with the requirements of NPS EN-1 4.4.3.</p> <p>The land required for the Scheme has been demonstrated within C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] to perform better than 8 of the assessed Potential Development Areas (PDAs) and equal to the remaining one following the site selection process. Consequently, there are no obviously more suitable locations for the Scheme within the Search Area.</p>
7A-28	Energy Need The Scheme	The Scheme's Acceptability as an NSIP	"27. Misuse of NSIP process: Given the load factor of solar in the UK and the intermittency of power produced – and the fact that the development would provide no power when the	<p>The Applicant respectfully disagrees.</p> <p>Paragraph 5.2.2 of the C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] outlines that the Scheme is defined as an NSIP under Sections 14(1)(a), 15(1) and 15(2) of the Planning Act 2008.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>country would most need it on winter evenings (i.e. it could not be relied upon when needed), its status of "National Significance" or strategic importance is questionable, and it is therefore a misuse of the NSIP process to develop the project in this way."</p>	<p>The application of the NSIP regime is based on a generating station's capacity.</p> <p>Section 3.1 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes the assessment basis provided by the existing NPSs and their draft Revisions. Paragraph 3.1.1 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes that "Where developments do not fall within the scope of those NPSs (such as for solar), then they will be an important and relevant consideration pursuant to Section 105 of the Planning Act 2008."</p> <p>At Paragraph 3.1.4 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350], it is described that the suite of 2021 Revised Draft NPS documents has been extended to include solar generation developments of greater than 50MW capacity, and that the "Secretary of State has decided that for any application accepted for examination before designation of the 2021 amendments, the 2011 suite of NPSs should have effect in accordance with the terms of those NPS." And that "any emerging draft NPSs (or those designated but not having effect) are potentially capable of being important and relevant considerations in the decision-making process".</p> <p>Since the submission of the Application, the revised energy National Policy Statements have been made available, as of March 2023. The March 2023 draft NPS EN-3 states through paragraph 2.6.1 that the "NPS covers the following types of nationally significant renewable</p>

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				<p>electricity generating stations" inclusive of "solar photovoltaic (PV) (>50 MW in England and >350MW in Wales)".</p> <p>C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] shows, at Figure 7.2, National Grid Electricity System Operator's projections for the future installed capacity of different electricity generation technologies in Net-Zero consistent scenarios. In all scenarios, solar is required to make a significant contribution to the future generation mix.</p> <p>This is aligned with Government's position (as described in Paragraph 3.3.7 of the C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350]). Section 7.4 describes the decarbonisation benefits of solar energy. Sections 8.8 and Section 8.9 describe the energy security benefits of solar energy, and Section 10.2 and Section 10.3 describe the economic benefits of solar energy within the UK electricity system.</p>
7A-29	The Scheme Alternatives and Design Evolution	Draft DCO Site Selection	"28. Compulsory Purchase: Given the flawed arguments surrounding the potential benefits of the CSP development, as well as the failure of the developer to consider alternatives which would have fewer adverse impacts, the CSP does not meet the necessarily high threshold to allow compulsory purchase."	<p>The Applicant respectfully disagrees with this statement.</p> <p>The justification for the use of compulsory acquisition powers is set out within sections 7 and 8 of the C4.1_A Statement of Reasons Revision A [AS-013]. The Applicant considers the use of compulsory acquisition powers to be necessary and proportionate, and required as a last resort in order to ensure the deliverability of this nationally significant infrastructure project, should the Applicant not be able to secure voluntary agreements with affected landowners.</p>
7A-30	The Scheme	The Application	"29. Accuracy and fullness of information provided by IGP:	Paragraphs 1.4.5 and 1.4.6 of C6.2.1 ES Chapter 1 Introduction [APP-036] explain that a Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			Supporting information provided by IGP's consultants and experts is partial and fails to objectively consider all aspects and implications of the development."	<p>(PEIR) was prepared and published in June 2022 to satisfy the requirement of the EIA Regulations where it is stated that a PEIR "is reasonably required for the consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the development (and of any associated development)".</p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate has since accepted the Application for examination on 10 February 2023 which signifies that the information provided by the Applicant is sufficient to progress the DCO Application into examination.</p>
7A-31	The Scheme	Cumulative Development	"30. Combined impact of concentrated energy development in a single area: The combined impact of all solar developments in the region (NSIP and locally determined developments) would take a significantly higher proportion of land locally than the national average figure quoted by solar developers to illustrate how little land would be used by solar, thus the impact on the region would be disproportionate."	<p>Cumulative effects assessments have been prepared for the Application within the Environmental Statement [APP-036 to APP-058]. Cumulative effects assessments for each topic are set out in each of the ES Chapters and include the assessment of the impacts of the Scheme cumulatively with the NSIPs identified in paragraph 2.5.9 of C6.2.2 ES Chapter 2 EIA Process and Methodology [APP-037]. This assessment is in accordance with Schedule 4 of the 2017 EIA Regulations and PINS Advice Note 17.</p> <p>C6.2.19_A ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A] concludes, through paragraph 19.11.8, that there are no significant cumulative effect identified for soils and agriculture for the six cumulative sites. These six sites are Tillbridge Solar, Gate Burton Energy Park, West Burton Solar, Heckington Fen Solar, Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park and Mallard Pass Solar.</p>

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				Additionally, as the Scheme will be decommissioned there will not be a permanent loss of agricultural land. In addition, the agricultural land can remain in productive use through the operational period, being grazed by livestock (see paras 19.10.2, 19.10.6, 19.10.10 of C6.2.19_A ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A]).
7A-32	The Scheme Energy Need	Nature of the Scheme	"31. Limited benefits of solar (load factor & timing): that matching electricity supply with demand in the moment is an essential part of electricity supply, the CSP cannot deliver on claims to power 180,000 homes owing to the low overall load factor for solar power in the UK, along with its intermittency and seasonal variation in output."	C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] shows, at Figure 7.2, National Grid Electricity System Operator's projections for the future installed capacity of different electricity generation technologies in Net-Zero consistent scenarios. In all scenarios, solar is required to make a significant contribution to the future generation mix. This is aligned with Government's position (see para. 3.3.7). Section 7.4 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes the decarbonisation benefits of solar energy. Sections 8.8 and Section 8.9 describe the energy security benefits of solar energy, whilst Section 10.2 and Section 10.3 describes the economic benefits of solar energy within the UK electricity system.
7A-33	The Scheme Energy Need Alternatives and Design Evolution	Alternatives and Design Evolution	"32. No consensus about how much solar is needed: Given the untapped resource of solar on domestic rooftops (only 3% of domestic properties have solar panels in the UK) and commercial properties (which, alone could double the UK's current solar capacity), there is no	Figure 7.1 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] shows National Grid Electricity System Operator's projections of the capacity of solar generation required to deliver a net-zero consistent system, which are 25 – 42GW by 2030, and 57 – 92GW by 2050, compared to just 14GW today as captured within paragraph 7.2.10.

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			clear case for uncontrolled development of large scale, ground-mounted solar farms such as the Cottam Solar Project."	<p>The Energy System Catapult projects that up to 80GW of solar could be required by 2050 (see paragraph 7.2.15 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350]).</p> <p>C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] concludes in Section 7.6, that on their own, brownfield developments are unlikely to be able to meet the national need for solar. Paragraph 8.5.10 and Section 8.5 more generally of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describe and express agreement with the Government's view that decentralised and community energy systems are unlikely to lead to the significant replacement of large-scale infrastructure. The Applicant therefore supports Government's view that large scale solar must be deployed to meet the urgent national need for low-carbon electricity generation.</p> <p>Paragraphs 2.1.23 to 2.1.32 of C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] detail the consideration of brownfield land and roof tops and sets out why these were discounted as unsuitable. The methodology used for the site selection process is considered reasonable and proportionate and complies with the requirements of NPS EN-1 4.4.3.</p>
7A-34	The Scheme Energy Need Climate Change	Scheme's Contribution to CO2 Policy	"33. Questionable net effect of solar on CO2 policy objective by allowing uncontrolled solar development: Uncontrolled development of large-scale solar farms such as the Cottam Solar Project has the potential to limit	Section 3.3 of document C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] , specifically paragraphs 3.3.2, 3.3.5 and 3.3.11, describes the Government's view that large capacities of low-carbon generation will be required to meet increased demand and replace output from retiring (fossil fuel) plants, and that "a secure, reliable, affordable, Net Zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>the contribution of solar to carbon reduction policy. The incremental effect of "too much" solar, through uncontrolled development means that the incremental gain anticipated by the addition of each scheme will diminish, as each scheme contributes to provide power at the same time, beyond what is nationally required, thus diminishing the potential contribution to the CO2 policy objectives from each scheme."</p>	<p>predominantly of wind and solar". This support for large scale solar as part of the 'answer' to net zero and energy security has been repeated in its recent policy documents published in March 2023.</p> <p>Figure 7.1 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] shows National Grid Electricity System Operator's projections of the capacity of solar generation required to deliver a net-zero consistent system, which are 25 - 42GW by 2030, and 57 - 92GW by 2050, compared to just 14GW today as captured within paragraph 7.2.10.</p> <p>The Applicant therefore would prioritise the urgent issue at hand, which is that there is currently insufficient operational solar in the UK to achieve Net Zero, and a significant capacity of solar is required in the UK in National Grid Electricity System Operator's forward projections.</p> <p>In addition to the above, the effect of decarbonisation and quantification of changes in CO2e emissions as a result of the Scheme over its lifetime is set out in C6.2.7 ES Chapter 7_Climate Change [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.7_A]. The effect has been shown to be major beneficial over the lifetime of the Scheme.</p> <p>Paragraph 7.8.60 [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.7_A] details that the Scheme has a total energy generation figure of around 35,590,658 MWh over the estimated 40-year assessed lifetime.</p> <p>Paragraph 7.8.61 [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.7_A] explains that the carbon intensity of the Scheme is estimated to be 21.2gCO2e/kWh which compares favourably to fossil fuel alternatives (e.g., a Combined Cycle</p>

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				Gas Turbine (CCGT) which has a GHG intensity (gCO ₂ e/kWh) of between 380 and 500 – as per Table 7.29.).
7A-35	The Scheme Energy Need	Suitability of Solar as a Source of Energy	"34. Solar has the least impact on electricity price: solar provides power when demand is typically at its lowest in the UK, and along with the economics of supply and demand, this is when the prices are also typically at their lowest (at these times, already sometimes negative). The claimed economic benefit of solar on energy prices is, at best, therefore marginal."	The Applicant respectfully disagrees, solar power generates during the daytime, while UK power demand is typically lowest overnight. Paragraph 3.3.7 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes government's expectation that "a secure, reliable, affordable, Net Zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar" (2021 draft National Policy Statement EN-1, Para 3.3.31, also included in the more recent draft EN-1 of March 2023 at Paragraph 3.3.20) and provides additional analysis and discussion of this statement in the surrounding paragraphs. With this as a context, Section 8.8 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes the energy security benefits of solar generation when it is deployed alongside a portfolio of wind, although other technologies are also anticipated to contribute to net zero and will also have energy security benefits.
7A-36	The Scheme Energy Need	The Scheme's Ability to Consistently Power Homes	"35. Claiming to be able to power homes with solar and batteries at low cost is misleading: As a solution, for any electricity system, solar and batteries alone would be an uneconomic proposition, because there would need to be so much excess solar production capacity required to cater for intermittency,	Section 3.3 of document C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] , specifically paragraphs 3.3.2, 3.3.5 and 3.3.11, describes the Government's view that large capacities of low-carbon generation will be required to meet increased demand and replace output from retiring (fossil fuel) plants, and that "a secure, reliable, affordable, Net Zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar". This support for large scale solar as part of the 'answer' to net zero and energy security has been repeated in its recent policy documents published in March 2023.

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			along with vast amounts of energy storage – which, together would render the concept unfeasible.”	<p>Solar is now a leading low-cost generation technology and Figure 10.3 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] shows that on a levelised cost of energy basis (the estimated cost per unit of energy across the productive lifetime of an electricity generating station), large scale solar is already cheaper than offshore wind, and the Government's projections are that it will remain cheaper in the future. In 2021, Great Britain sourced 42% of its electricity from renewables, of which approximately 9.4% was from solar.</p> <p>Section 8.8 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes the energy security benefits of solar generation when it is deployed alongside a portfolio of wind.</p>
7A-37	The Scheme	Nature of the Scheme and Direct Community Benefit	<p>“36. Claims of community benefit are exaggerated: The proposed Cottam Solar Project takes power generated at low voltages in parcels of land that surround villages, stepping up the voltage through transformers to connect directly to the National Grid at 400kV, rather than directly to local villages, hence, Island Green Power's claims to be able to “repower the region with clean, green energy” are misleading.”</p>	<p>Section 9 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes the advantages of connecting large-scale solar to the existing and robust National Electricity Transmission System (NETS) at the proposed Point of Connection at Cottam, specifically by connecting to the existing Cottam 400kV substation (paragraph 9.2.5). Paragraph 9.2.5 also explains how the transmission network links to the local distribution network and therefore will be used by local and national residents and businesses alike.</p> <p>Section 3.3 of document C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350], specifically paragraphs 3.3.2, 3.3.5 and 3.3.11, describes the Government's view that large capacities of low-carbon generation will be required to meet increased demand and replace output from retiring (fossil fuel) plants, and that “a secure, reliable, affordable, Net</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>Zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar”.</p> <p>The Scheme is in possession of a grid connection offer to connect at Cottam Power Station (see C7.7 Cottam Grid Connection Statement [APP-346]), a former coal fired power station which closed in 2019. By connecting to the grid infrastructure which served Cottam Power Station but has been unused since it was decommissioned, the Scheme is repowering the region with low-carbon, low-cost electricity.</p> <p>Paragraph 3.3.11 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] explains the benefits of connecting generators to the national electricity transmission system (NETS) to enable “the pooling of both generation and demand and more efficient bulk transfer of power and enabling surplus generation capacity in one area to be used to cover shortfalls elsewhere” which is to the benefit of local villages (which are also connected via distribution networks to the national grid) and consumers nationally.</p> <p>In terms of the Scheme's benefits to the local community, section 5 of C7.10 Skills Supply Chain and Employment Plan [APP-349] demonstrates what additional measures are being pursued as part of the Scheme to provide local economic benefits. These include providing additional skills training (see paragraphs 5.2.1 to 5.2.12), maximising local recruitment and enhancing opportunities for local procurement (see paragraphs 5.3.1 to 5.4.6). A Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan is secured through Requirement 20 in Schedule 2 of</p>

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				<p>the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>The Applicant is committed to providing a Community Benefit Fund – see paragraph 4.8.1 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A]. This fund will be available for community-based benefits such as (but not limited to) community-led energy related projects.</p>
7A-38	The Scheme Grid Connection	The Effective Use of Grid Connections	<p>“37. Connecting solar directly to 400kV represents an inefficient use of strategic national infrastructure: using this connection to the National Grid for CSP would sterilise the use of a high voltage substation connection, and preclude its use by future high-power applications.”</p>	<p>The Applicant has secured an agreement to connect to the grid at Cottam substation as demonstrated in C7.7 Cottam Grid Connection Statement [APP-346].</p> <p>Section 8.4 and Chapter 9 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] explain how the Scheme will connect to National Grid's transmission network. There is no sterilisation of a high voltage connection as the Scheme is a high voltage generator. The Applicant is not aware of any non-solar schemes which are proposing to connect to the Cottam Power Station grid connection point in a timeframe which supports the urgent need for low carbon electricity generation to keep the country on track to meet Net Zero.</p>
7A-39	The Scheme Grid Connection	The Scheme's Need for a Grid Connection and Site Selection	<p>“38. There is no requirement to connect solar direct to the National Grid: Because solar power is generated at low voltages, there are few restrictions to where it can be connected or located. that IGP have</p>	<p>Paragraph 7.6.3 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] analyses the potential contribution of “brownfield” solar sites to the national need for solar generation. Brownfield sites, including rooftop and other community energy systems, are likely to grow in the UK and will make a contribution to decarbonisation of the UK energy system.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>cited the connection to the National Grid at the Cottam substation as a starting point for the site location undermines the breadth of alternatives considered as part of the CSP development."</p>	<p>However, C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] concludes in Section 7.6, that on their own, brownfield developments are unlikely to be able to meet the national need for solar.</p> <p>Paragraph 8.5.10 and Section 8.5 more generally of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describe and express agreement with the Government's view that decentralised and community energy systems are unlikely to lead to the significant replacement of large-scale infrastructure.</p> <p>The Applicant therefore supports Government's view that large scale solar must be deployed to meet the urgent national need for low-carbon electricity generation.</p> <p>It would not be possible to connect the amount of electricity generated by the Scheme to the local distribution network as the network has not been designed to operate in that way. Connecting a project of this scale to the transmission network is more efficient and avoids stability issues as detailed in paragraphs 9.3.6 to 9.3.12 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350].</p>
7A-40	The Scheme Grid Connection	Grid Connection and the Construction Phase of the Scheme	<p>"39. Connection to National Grid: Congestion in National Grid connection applications process means that the likely connection date for the Cottam Solar Project is September 2029. In the CSP PIER document, the operation date is end</p>	<p>As is explained in paragraph 4.3.6 of C6.2.4 ES Chapter 4: Scheme Description [APP-039], the dates for construction given are the earliest possible dates that construction could commence for the purposes of the environmental impact assessments.</p> <p>Whilst the grid offer received for the Scheme is guaranteed for 2029, should the Scheme be consented, the Applicant will work with</p>

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			of Q1 2026. It is therefore not possible to complete and operate the project in the timescales indicated by IGP."	National Grid to confirm whether an earlier connection date is possible, and align construction timetables with this.
7A-41	The Scheme Soils and Agriculture	Site Selection and Agricultural Land Use	"40. Inefficient land use: Given the low solar gain, the CSP constitutes a grossly inefficient use of land – let alone productive arable land and undermines the credibility of the developer to claim that reasonable alternatives have been considered."	<p>Table 7.1 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] shows the electricity generated per hectare by different low-carbon technologies. At the UK's average solar load factor (11%), solar generation produces much more energy per hectare than biogas, and generates a similar amount of energy as onshore wind.</p> <p>Furthermore, paragraph 7.6.8 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] states that: "Draft NPS EN-3 includes an anticipated range of 2 to 4 acres for each MW of output generally required for a solar farm along with its associated infrastructure." The Scheme as proposed delivers a large-scale solar generation asset which is consistent with this range, as is described through paragraphs 4.2.1 to 4.2.3 of C6.2.4_A ES Chapter 4 Scheme Description Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.4_A]. This demonstrates that the proposed locations for the Scheme are suitable sites which can accommodate an asset which is consistent with government's view of best practice ratios of land take and installed capacity.</p> <p>The selection of the Scheme's location has followed a systematic step-by-step process as set out in detail within C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067]. This took a sequential approach to the consideration of potential sites in terms of agricultural land classification. As a result, paragraph 3.3.22 states that the Scheme maximises the utilisation of low grade, non best and most</p>

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				versatile (BMV) agricultural land with 95.9% of the land being classified as non BMV land.
7A-42	Other Environmental Matters: Human Health	Electromagnetic Fields	"41. Electromagnetic Fields: The developer, Cottam Solar Project, has not made adequate consideration of the impact of Electro Magnetic Fields (EMF) and no attempt has been made to reduce EMF's and their associated impact."	<p>All items carrying an electrical current will induce electric and magnetic fields. The electromagnetic fields generated by the Scheme are not anticipated to pose any significant risk to human health, nor detrimental impact to nearby infrastructure. This was agreed by the Planning Inspectorate and local authorities as demonstrated by EMF impacts being scoped out of the Environment Impact Assessment.</p> <p>The International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) set levels of 100µT for magnetic fields or 5kVm⁻¹ for electric fields as the reference levels for monitoring for long-term human health impacts (see section 21.2 of C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21 Other Environmental Matters [APP-056]). The greatest source of EMF from the Scheme is from the substation, which has been located to ensure it is more than 300m from any location accessible to the public (Stone Pit Lane) (see paragraph 21.2.9). The ICNIRP reference levels for magnetic fields may be exceeded along the shared cable route corridor, but only directly above the cables in transient spaces (roads, footpaths) to avoid impacts on residential or business properties. Therefore, no impact to human health from EMF is anticipated in these locations (paras. 21.2.7 to 21.2.9).</p>
7A-43	Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	Flood Risk and Soil Erosion	"42. Flood Risk and Soil Erosion: The potential for surface run-off and soil erosion from such a vast area of solar panels on this network does not	The Applicant respectfully disagrees with this statement and the Applicant's position is that its assessments are inadequate.

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	Soils and Agriculture		appear to have been properly evaluated, particularly when considered in conjunction with other proposed schemes. Information available relating to flood management, drainage and soil erosion are therefore inadequate."	<p>Arable land within the Sites will revert to low input pasture with year-round crop cover eliminating the annual periods of bare soil created by cultivation (see paragraph 19.9.13 of C6.2.19_A ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A]). These periods of bare soil present the highest risk of soil erosion and surface runoff. As elaborated through paragraph 19.9.13, year-round grass cover will improve rainfall infiltration and slow any overland flow that occurs.</p> <p>A Soils Resource Management Plan, substantially in accordance with C7.18 Outline Soil Management Plan [APP-355] will be submitted and approved prior to the commencement of development as secured by Requirement 19 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>As stated in Section 4.0 'Soil Management' and paragraph 5.3.4 of C6.3.10.1 ES Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy Report [APP-090], mitigation against potential soil erosion, the existing intensively managed agricultural land will be replaced by planted wildflower and grassland below the solar panels. The planted surface will act as a level spread / energy dissipater to promote low erosivity sheet flow during the operation of the solar farm. The vegetation will be managed organically and will either be mowed or used for light grazing.</p>
7A-44	Ecology and Biodiversity	The Scheme's Impact upon Soil Quality and	"43. Long-term soil quality / BNG: Island Green Power claim there will be a 10% biodiversity net gain from the	The Scheme has been carefully designed to retain all field boundaries which will be generously buffered and receive ecologically-led

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
	Soils and Agriculture	Biodiversity Net Gain	Cottam Solar Project, but have failed to explain how this would be achieved, nor is it clear what methodology or assumptions lie behind the assertion."	<p>management prescriptions, as stated in Section 9.6 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044].</p> <p>While the Scheme is operational, the soil resource at the Sites will remain under a perennial green cover. There are benefits anticipated to the soil resource during the operational period. These are set out in paragraphs 19.9.13 to 19.9.16 of C6.2.19_A ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A].</p> <p>A Soils Resource Management Plan, substantially in accordance with C7.18 Outline Soil Management Plan [APP-355] will be submitted and approved prior to the commencement of development as secured by Requirement 19 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>Furthermore, the grassland beneath panelled land will receive low-intensity management and be seeded to create a habitat of significantly increased species diversity than existing. In this way, an anticipated substantial net gain for biodiversity will be achieved (see C6.3.9.12 ES Appendix 9.12 Biodiversity Net Gain Report [APP-089]), predominantly through the creation of extensive low-input grassland resulting in a net gain of 96.09% in habitat units, but also several new ponds and wetland habitat parcels resulting in a net gain of 10.69% in river units, and the planting of several kilometres of species-rich hedgerow resulting in a net gain of 70.22% in hedgerow units.</p>

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7A-45	The Scheme	Associated Development Nature of the BESS	"44. Role of Batteries: Island Green Power provide very little detail on the storage facility included in the proposed development. Operating in a separate segment of the electricity market, it is unclear therefore whether the proposed energy storage system can truly be considered to be associated development for the proposed solar farm."	<p>Planning Act 2008: Guidance on associated development applications for major infrastructure projects (GADA) provides guidance on what can properly be regarded as 'Associated Development' for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs). GADA sets out five principles which the Secretary of State will take into account in making a decision on a proposed project.</p> <p>The Works Nos. which are noted as 'Associated Development' are explained within paragraphs 3.1.4 to 3.1.8 of C3.2 Draft Explanatory Memorandum [APP-017]. The Applicant's position is that the BESS is 'Associated Development' because:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is a direct relationship between the associated (BESS) development and the principal (solar) development, because the BESS supports the operation of the solar panels; 2. The BESS is not an aim in itself and is subordinate to the solar; 3. The BESS is not being developed only to cross-subsidise the cost of the solar development; 4. The proposed BESS is proportionate to the principal development; and 5. The Applicant proposes to bring the BESS forwards alongside the solar.
7A-46	The Scheme Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	Safety and Fire Risks Posed by the BESS	"45. Safety & Environmental risks of batteries: The safety and environmental concerns arising from battery development at this scale have not been appropriately considered, including through	As stated in paragraph 3.11.4 of C6.3.10.4 ES Appendix 10.1 Annex D 10.1.3 Cottam 1 West [APP-093] , automated actuating valves will be placed on outfalls from the drainage system for the BESS. They will close if a fire alarm is detected isolating the site drainage from the wider watercourses.

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
	Other Environmental Matters: Major Accidents and Disasters		operation and transportation. Large scale battery installations have begun to be developed in recent years but have been susceptible to failures involving fires and the emission of toxic and flammable fumes. Resulting in environmental damage from toxic run-off."	<p>Paragraph 3.11.5 [APP-093] goes on to state that after a fire event, the wastewater will be tested to ascertain the level of contamination. A decision will then be made as to the appropriate methodology to dispose of the attenuated water. This may involve on-site treatment and release or tankering.</p> <p>Paragraph 4.1.18 of C7.9 Outline Battery Storage Safety Management Plan [APP-348] explains that the design of the BESS has integrated fire detection and suppression systems that will automatically operate to contain battery fires. Paragraph 5.3.1 states that if fire spreads to multiple units, external firefighting water facilities are available by means of 228,000 litre water storage tanks within the battery compounds.</p> <p>Human health and other environmental impacts resulting from plumes from potential battery fires have been initially assessed in C6.2.17 ES Chapter 17_Air Quality [APP-052] and are proposed to be supplemented by additional information during the examination process.</p> <p>The Applicant has submitted an C7.9 Outline Battery Storage Safety Management Plan [APP-348] and, through C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], has secured by Requirement 6 of Schedule 2 that "Work Nos. 2 and 3 must not commence until a battery storage safety management plan has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority."</p>

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				As stated in paragraphs 3.11.1 to 3.11.5 of C6.3.10.4 ES Appendix 10.1 Annex D 10.1.3 Cottam 1 West [APP-093] , fire water provision in line with Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue requirements has been accommodated within the Scheme.
7A-47	Glint and Glare	The Scheme's Glint and Glare impact on Receptors.	"46. Glint / Glare: The impact of glint and glare on aviation (e.g. RAF, airfields, gliding clubs), or other outdoor activities (e.g. horse riding, hunts) has not been thoroughly considered, as well as visibility from prominent roads."	<p>C6.2.16 ES Chapter 16 Glint and Glare [APP-051] has considered the impact upon aviation operations and infrastructure associated with the nearby airfields in sections 3.1 to 3.3 of C6.3.16.1 ES Appendix 16.1 Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study [APP-140]. It concludes in paragraph 16.8.3 of C6.2.16 ES Chapter 16_Glint and Glare [APP-051] that "Minor/Negligible Adverse effects are predicted in respect of aviation receptors."</p> <p>The findings of the report were shared with the major airfields to seek their opinion on the impact of the Scheme. All airfields' safeguarding teams have agreed with the conclusion of the report as noted in paragraph 16.7.12 of C6.2.16 ES Glint and Glare [APP-051].</p> <p>More generally, the assessment [APP-140] considers glint and glare effects upon receptors such as Public Rights of Way, dwellings, roads, railway infrastructure as well as aviation receptors (see the executive summary contained within C6.3.16.1 ES Appendix 16.1 Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study [APP-140]).</p> <p>Where glint and glare effects are predicted to be of "Moderate" or higher impact (see paragraph 16.8.2 of C6.2.16 ES Chapter 16_Glint and Glare [APP-051]) embedded mitigation has been implemented as part of the landscape plan (see C6.4.8.16.1 to C6.4.8.16.10 Landscape</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Figures 8.16.1 to 8.16.10) [APP-305 to APP-315]).
7A-48	Noise and Vibration	Noise impacts of the Scheme	"47. Noise: It is unclear from the information provided by Island Green Power what noise pollution will arise from the proposed Cottam Solar Development, either from electrical equipment (e.g. battery and inverter fans), or from wind noise / resonance from the configuration of large panel structures."	<p>The main construction and decommissioning noise-generating activities (being the use of excavators and dozers for trenching, the use of piling rigs and construction traffic) have been assessed within C6.2.15 ES Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration [APP-050] (see paragraphs 15.7.2 and 15.7.40 to 15.7.63). Noise effects during the decommissioning phase of the Scheme will be similar to or less than noise effects during the construction phase; therefore, construction and decommissioning impacts have been considered together.</p> <p>The main operational noise-generating activities (being the conversion units, solar PV panels, Substations and Battery Energy Storage System) have been assessed within C6.2.15 ES Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration [APP-050] (see paragraphs 15.7.63 to 15.7.94).</p> <p>As concluded through paragraphs 15.11.1 and 15.11.3 of C6.2.15 ES Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration [APP-050], the noise effects resulting from construction, operation and decommissioning activities are not anticipated to be significant.</p>
7A-49	The Scheme Waste	Scheme Decommissioning and Recycling	"48. Decommissioning Arrangements & Recycling: The Cottam Solar Project documentation provides little detail on the arrangements for decommissioning and recycling, nor the standards to which the developer	The likely impacts on waste and recycling are set out in Section 20.7 of C6.2.20 ES Chapter 20 Waste [APP-055] . Subject to the mitigation measures set out in paragraphs 20.8.1 to 20.8.3, there are no significant effects anticipated from the decommissioning of the Scheme on local waste handling facilities.

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			would be held to at the end of the life of the project. That Island Green Power does not have experience of development at this scale, there is no guarantee the region is not left with the legacy of a disused solar farm liability at the end of the project's useful lifetime."	<p>C7.2 Outline Decommissioning Statement [APP-338] sets out the principles of decommissioning and environmental considerations (see paras. 2.1.1 to 2.1.8) and provides a summary of potential mitigation and management measures during decommissioning through Table 3.1. It also sets out how roles, responsibilities and actions required in respect of implementation of the mitigation measures will be managed, along with principles for monitoring and reporting. By example and as contained within Table 3.1, provision is made that "Infrastructure such as PV panels and battery storage units will be removed and recycled as far as practical and in accordance with legislation and guidance applicable at the time".</p> <p>Further details will be provided in the final decommissioning plan submitted for approval prior to decommissioning. The commitment for the final decommissioning plan to be substantially in accordance with the Outline Decommissioning Statement is secured by Requirement 21 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>
7A-50	The Scheme The Applicant	Decommissioning of the Scheme	"49. Financial Due Diligence: It is evident from Financial Returns that neither Cottam Solar Project Limited nor its parent company Island Green Power have direct capital to support the estimated £880 - £890 Million pounds to develop the project or deal with the decommissioning of the	The Applicant confirms that the following is secured through Requirement 21 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] : "Within 12 months of the date that the undertaker decides to decommission any part of the authorised development, the undertaker must submit to the relevant planning authority for that part a decommissioning plan for approval" where "The decommissioning plan must be substantially in accordance with the outline decommissioning statement."

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			Cottam Solar Project. It is widely expected therefore that if approved the Project will be sold or further investment found. It will be important that the decommissioning is secured and be completed with the land being returned to its previous state. With this in mind it is strongly recommended that if the application is approved, it is conditional on the incumbent landowners ultimately being made responsible for the identified decommissioning as a backstop against unforeseen circumstances, e.g. financial default by the developer or its successor companies."	The Applicant acknowledges that non-compliance with the terms of the Order, inclusive of non-compliance with any management plans secured through requirement, is a criminal offense.
7A-51	Skills and Supply Chain The Scheme	Sustainable Sourcing of Raw Materials for the Scheme	"50. Sustainability and ethics in sourcing of materials: The U.S. government has identified forced labour in China as an area of concern for the solar supply chain. Furthermore, the process of extracting the raw materials for batteries requires large amounts of energy and water, often in mines	Paragraph 7.3.1 and 7.3.2 of C7.10 Skills Supply Chain and Employment Plan [APP-349] sets out information on the safeguarding measures taken to prevent human rights abuses. The Applicant confirms that a Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan is secured by Requirement 20 of Schedule 2 to C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] . This requirement states that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a skills, supply chain and employment plan in

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>where workers face unsafe conditions. Any materials sourced by IGP for the Cottam Solar Project should be truly sustainable, e.g. free of forced labour, where workers' safety is paramount, and where the full environmental implications are understood."</p>	<p>relation to that part has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority for that part or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities."</p> <p>Paragraph 5.4.7 of C7.10 Skills Supply Chain and Employment Plan [APP-349] states that "Any procurement of supplies internationally will comply with both national and international law, and all policy and safety measures will be adhered to in the transportation of supplies."</p>

Tillbridge Solar Limited [RR-043]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
TSL-01	The Party	Introduction	<p>Tillbridge Solar Limited is proposing to build a project for the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) panel arrays and a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), connecting to the National Grid (the Scheme). The Scheme is defined as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project under Sections 14(1)(a) and 15(2) of the Planning Act 2008 as an onshore generating station in England exceeding 50 megawatts and Tillbridge Solar will therefore make an application to the Secretary of State for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the Scheme. The Scheme is currently in the pre-application stage and Tillbridge Solar intends to commence Statutory Consultation in Q2 2023 with the application for development consent to be submitted later in 2023. The Scheme is located approximately five kilometres to the</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>east of Gainsborough and approximately 13 kilometres to the north of Lincoln. The Scheme comprises two distinct sections, which are: - 'the Principal Site', which is the location where ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, electrical sub-stations and BESS will be installed; and - 'the Cable Route Corridor', which will comprise the underground electrical infrastructure required to connect the Principal Site to national transmission system. The Principal Site covers an area of approximately 1,400 hectares and is located to the south of Harpswell Lane (A631), to the west of Middle Street (B1398) and largely to the north of Kexby Road and to the east of Springthorpe. The Cable Route Corridor is approximately 16km long and crosses the administrative areas of West Lindsey District Council and Bassetlaw District Council - design refinement is on-going."</p>	

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
TSL-02	Cumulative Development	Other Schemes	"Tillbridge Solar Limited wishes to register as an Interested Party for the Cottam Solar Project DCO Examination, as it may wish to participate in the Examination given the proximity of the two schemes, the commonality of certain stakeholders and the potential for similar or cumulative environmental effects and coordination of mitigation measures."	The Applicant notes this comment.
TSL-03	The Scheme	Draft DCO	"Tillbridge Solar Limited proposes to include protective provisions for the benefit of Cottam Solar within its development consent order and requests that Cottam Solar includes reciprocal protective provisions for the benefit of Tillbridge Solar Limited within the development consent order."	A Cooperation Agreement has been entered into between the Applicant, West Burton Solar Project Limited, Gate Burton Energy Park Limited and Tillbridge Solar Limited. Protective provisions for the benefit of Tillbridge will be added to the draft DCO as soon as the Tillbridge DCO Application has been submitted and accepted.
TSL-04	Examination	Examination Process	"The Examining Authority for the Cottam Solar DCO Examination may also wish to direct related questions to Tillbridge Solar Limited."	The Applicant notes this comment.

UK Health Security Agency [RR-044]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
UKHSA-01	The Party	Introduction	"Thank you for your consultation regarding the above development. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) welcomes the opportunity to comment on your proposals at this stage of the project. Please note that we request views from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) and the response provided is sent on behalf of both UKHSA and OHID."	The Applicant notes this comment.
UKHSA-02	The Scheme Air Quality	BESS Fire Risk Assessment	"We can confirm that: The battery energy storage system fire risk assessment has not used UK Air Quality Standards to consider potential impacts from a fire on site. We recommended at the Section 42 stage (21st July 2022) that health protective standards from the UK were considered in their assessment. This does not appear to have been addressed in the application."	The Applicant has been in discussions with UKHSA and will be providing a supplementary information to address this issue which is to be submitted by Deadline 1.

Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board [RR-045]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
UWIDB-01	The Scheme Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	The Scheme and Access to watercourses	<p>"Some of the proposed sites are within the Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board district and a number of Board maintained watercourses are within or adjacent to the sites. Some of the site is also within the Board's Extended Area where the Board acts as agent to Lincolnshire CC for Consents under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, and the Land Drainage Act. 1991. A map has been provided to the applicant previously showing the areas and watercourses. Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board OBJECTS to the proposals. Fencing, planting and solar panels are shown on the submitted documents within the maintenance access strip adjacent to a number of Board maintained watercourses preventing or obstructing access. All Fencing, planting and solar panels needs to be relocated 9m from the top of the bank</p>	<p>As set out within the Statement of Common Ground with Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board [C8.3.7] the Applicant has discussed this matter with the IDB and both parties are in agreement that the scale of the Scheme makes it impossible to provide the full information regarding detailed design at this stage. The Upper Witham IDB requirement of a 9m (from the bank top) clear strip adjacent to all the maintained watercourses is not fully defined on the current drawings. However, the Applicant can confirm that distances between IDB watercourses and drains and all Scheme infrastructure will be offset at a distance of at least 9m from the bank top. Detailed drawings showing the required offsets will be provided to the IDB at the detailed design stage post DCO consent.</p> <p>Protective provisions for the benefit of the IDB are included in part 8 to Schedule 16 of the draft DCO [AS-012] which require that the IDB be consulted and approve any "specified works" within 9m of any of the IDB's drains or watercourses.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			as agreed following the initial consultation with the Board."	
UWIDB-02	Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	ES Chapter	<p>"Environmental Statement Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage Table 10.1: Consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Witham 3 Internal Drainage Board' is incorrect and needs to be replaced with 'Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board'. New Byelaws have now been adopted with a 9m Byelaw distance from the top of the bank. All other comments are correct and it is noted that there is on going engagement. <p>This section should also include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the terms of the Land Drainage Act. 1991 the prior written consent of Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board is required for any proposed temporary or permanent works or structures within any watercourse including 	<p>The Applicant confirms that 'Witham 3 Internal Drainage Board', as written into C6.2.10 ES Chapter 10_Hydrology Flood Risk and Drainage [APP-045], will be updated by Deadline 1 with 'Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board'.</p> <p>The Applicant acknowledges the new bylaws which have been adopted with a 9m Byelaw distance from the top of the bank. It is noted that the Upper Witham IDB requirement of a 9m (from the bank top) clear strip adjacent to all the maintained watercourses is not fully defined on the current drawings, for the reasons detailed in UWIDB-01 above. However, the Applicant can confirm that distances between IDB watercourses and drains and all Scheme infrastructure will be offset at a distance of at least 9m from the bank top. Detailed drawings showing the required offsets will be provided to the IDB at the detailed design stage post DCO consent.</p> <p>Part 8 of Schedule 16 of C3.1 A Draft Development Consent Order [AS-012] secures a number of provisions for the protection of Internal Drainage Boards. The provisions seek to regulate any approvals required by the Applicant for works potentially affecting the Internal Drainage Board's watercourses.</p> <p>The Applicant notes and confirms that the Applicant will seek "<i>prior written consent of Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board</i>" (as) "<i>required</i></p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>infilling or a diversion within the Boards district.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the provisions of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, and the Land Drainage Act. 1991, the prior written consent of the Lead Local Flood Authority (Lincolnshire County Council) is required for any proposed works or structures in any watercourse outside those designated main rivers and Internal Drainage Districts." 	<p><i>for any proposed temporary or permanent works or structures within any watercourse including infilling or a diversion within the Boards district".</i></p> <p>Under the provisions of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, and the Land Drainage Act. 1991, the Applicant confirms that prior written consent of the Lead Local Flood Authority will be established for any proposed works or structures in any watercourse outside those designated main rivers and Internal Drainage Districts.</p>
UWIDB-03	The Scheme Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	Development Consent	"Within the 'extended area' Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board acts as Agents for the Lead Local Flood Authority and as such any works, permanent or temporary, in any ditch, dyke or other such watercourse will require consent from the Board."	<p>The Applicant notes this comment and confirms that the Applicant will seek consent from the Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board for any works, permanent or temporary.</p> <p>Part 8 of Schedule 16 of C3.1 A Draft Development Consent Order [AS-012] secures a number of provisions for the protection of Internal Drainage Boards. The provisions seek to regulate any approvals required by the Applicant for works potentially affecting the Internal Drainage Board's watercourses.</p>
UWIDB-04	Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	ES Chapter	<p>"10.7 Embedded Mitigation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This states '8m easements have been established around all watercourses, including Main Rivers and Ordinary Watercourses 	<p>The Applicant has discussed this matter with the IDB and both parties are in agreement that the scale of the Scheme makes it impossible to provide the full information regarding detailed design at this stage. The Upper Witham IDB requirement of a 9m (from the bank top) clear</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>and 9 m from IDB assets.' However, the submitted plans show encroachment of fencing/ planting/ solar panels within the 9m distance to IDB watercourses which is unacceptable. Note the 9m is 'from the top of the bank' it is required to allow access for large plant to undertake maintenance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood zone 2 and 3. The document indicates that some of the area in within Flood zone 2 and 3. But the is not proposed mitigation it would be recommended that all the electrical equipment is above design flood levels in the main river system and any construction is resilient to flooding." 	<p>strip adjacent to all the maintained watercourses is not fully defined on the current drawings, for the reasons detailed in UWIDB-01 above.</p> <p>The Applicant notes that the drawings [APP-305 to APP-315] are based on the currently available data and mapping and in some cases the 'top of bank' is not defined. It notes that further survey work will be required to establish the 'top of bank' which will in turn give the 9m offset and required clear working access. The IDB has confirmed that it can provide a shape file to confirm the locations in due course.</p> <p>The Applicant will then provide a specific plan to the IDB at the detailed design stage (post DCO consent) to give clear details of each of the IDB maintained watercourses. See SoCG with IDB [C8.3.7].</p> <p>As set out in paragraph 3.2.2 of C6.3.10.1 ES Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy Report [APP-090], mitigation such as equipment specific raising above the flood level is proposed.</p> <p>Preparation of a detailed surface and foul water drainage strategy is secured by Requirement 11 in Schedule 2 of the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>
UWIDB-05	Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	Mitigation Measures	"It is noted 3.2.2 in Appendix 10.1 includes mitigation.	<p>The Applicant notes this comment.</p> <p>With regard to the second bullet point, the Applicant has discussed this matter with the IDB and both parties are in agreement that the scale of the Scheme makes it impossible to provide the full information regarding detailed design at this stage, for the reasons</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>Environmental Statement Appendix 10.1: Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is noted various measures are included to reduce the impact of increased impermeable areas. • 3.2.2 states '8m easements have been established around all watercourses, including Main Rivers and Ordinary Watercourses and 9 m from IDB assets' However, the submitted plans show encroachment of fencing/planting/solar panels within the 9m distance to IDB watercourses which is unacceptable. Note the 9m is 'from the top of the bank' it is required to allow access for large plant to undertake maintenance. • It is noted 'Fixed panels should be located within areas of the Site which are located in Flood Zone 1 whereas tracker panels can be located in areas that are within Flood Zones 2 and 3 on the basis of 	<p>detailed in UWIDB-01 above. The Upper Witham IDB requirement of a 9m (from the bank top) clear strip adjacent to all the maintained watercourses is not fully defined on the current drawings. However, the Applicant can confirm that distances between IDB watercourses and drains and all Scheme infrastructure will be offset at a distance of at least 9m. Detailed drawings showing the required offsets will be provided to the IDB at the detailed design stage post DCO consent.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>the additional flood protection offered by their potential to be stowed horizontally.'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is noted 'Electrical infrastructure associated with the panels can be adequately waterproofed to withstand the effect of flooding. Where possible the sensitive electrical equipment has been located in parts of the Site that are within Flood Zone 1. Where this hasn't been possible, equipment will be raised 0.6 m above the 0.1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flood level or where this is not possible as high as practicable.' <p>EN010133-000461-C7.6 Design and Access Statement_Part 2 of 4 Solar Panels and fencing within 9m of the top of the bank of an Upper Witham IDB watercourse.</p> <p>EN010133-000462-C7.6 Design and Access Statement_Part 3 of 4</p>	

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
UWIDB-06	Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	Identification of IDB Watercourses	<p>“Figure 8.16.2: IDB watercourses not clearly identified.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0502 - Fillingham South Drain. Fencing, planting and potentially solar panels within the 9m Byelaw distance (from the top of the bank) preventing access for maintenance 0500 - East Till. Fencing, planting and potentially solar panels within the 9m Byelaw distance (from the top of the bank) preventing access for maintenance. <p>Figure 8.16.3: IDB watercourses not clearly identified.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0600 - Cammeringham Drain. Fencing, planting and potentially solar panels within the 9m Byelaw distance (from the top of the bank) preventing access for maintenance. <p>Figure 8.16.4: IDB watercourses not clearly identified.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0600 - Cammeringham Drain. Fencing, planting and potentially solar panels within the 9m Byelaw distance (from the top of the bank) 	<p>These IDB watercourses and drains have been considered throughout the layouts with a 9m offset as has been possible and as shown on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Figures 8.16.1 to 8.16.10) [APP-305 to APP-315]. Notwithstanding that, the Applicant is working to more clearly identify the IDB's watercourses and assets within the Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Figures 8.16.1 to 8.16.10) [APP-305 to APP-315]. These plans are being updated and will be submitted by Deadline 1.</p> <p>The Applicant notes that the drawings are based on the currently available data and mapping and in some cases the 'top of bank' is not defined, for the reasons detailed in UWIDB-01 above. It notes that further survey work will be required to establish the 'top of bank' which will in turn give the 9m offset and required clear working access. The IDB has confirmed it can provide a shape file to confirm the locations in due course.</p> <p>The Applicant will then provide a specific plan to the IDB at the detailed design stage (post DCO consent) to give clear details of the set off distances of the Scheme from each of the IDB maintained watercourses.</p> <p>Part 8 of Schedule 16 of C3.1 A Draft Development Consent Order [AS-012] secures a number of provisions for the protection of Internal Drainage Boards. The provisions seek to regulate any approvals</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>preventing access for maintenance.</p> <p>Figure 8.16.5: IDB watercourses not clearly identified.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0700 - Cricket Till. Fencing and potentially solar panels within the 9m Byelaw distance (from the top of the bank) preventing access for maintenance. <p>Figures 8.16.7.1 & 2: IDB watercourses not clearly identified.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0500 - East Till. Fencing, planting and potentially solar panels within the 9m Byelaw distance (from the top of the bank) preventing access for maintenance. • 0400 - Padmoor Drain. No comments. • 0106 - Throops Drain. Fencing, planting and potentially solar panels within the 9m Byelaw distance (from the top of the bank) preventing access for maintenance. 	<p>required by the Applicant for works potentially affecting the Internal Drainage Board's watercourses.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>Figure 8.16.6: IDB watercourses not clearly identified.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0106 - Throops Drain. Fencing, planting and potentially solar panels within the 9m Byelaw distance (from the top of the bank) preventing access for maintenance. 	
UWIDB-07	The Scheme Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	Consultation with other IDBs	<p>"Only Cottam 1 is within the area relevant to Upper Witham IDB. For Cottam 2 and Cottam 3A/3B Scunthorpe & Gainsborough IDB should be consulted."</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment and confirms, through Table 1 of C5.8 Consultation Report Appendix Section 42 Consultation Materials [APP-031], that as part of the pre-application procedure, the Applicant had consulted the Scunthorpe & Gainsborough Water Management Board (between 15 June and 27 July 2022) along with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trent Valley IDB; • Isle of Axholme and North Nottinghamshire Water Level Management Board; • Witham Third Internal Drainage Board; • Doncaster East Internal Drainage Board; and • Ancholme Internal Drainage Board. <p>The Applicant had not received S42 consultation comments from Scunthorpe & Gainsborough (IDB) Water Management Board or Trent Valley IDB. Neither party has gone on to submit a Relevant Representation. Notwithstanding this, the Applicant is attempting, prior to Deadline 1, to make contact with Scunthorpe & Gainsborough and Trent Valley IDBs to seek their approval of the wording of the</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				Protective Provisions within C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] .

Weightmans LLP on behalf of Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) PLC [RR-046]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
NPPLC-01	The Scheme Draft DCO	The Scheme's impact upon the Interested Party's Assets and the Draft DCO	<p>"The following representations are submitted on behalf of Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) PLC as an electricity undertaker for the area within which the Cottam Solar Project is located: Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) PLC ('Northern Powergrid') is in principle supportive of the above project but has concerns regarding the impacts the proposed scheme will have on existing assets and their pending improvement works. Areas shown within the proposed development boundary have a direct impact on Northern Powergrid's existing critical national infrastructure which serve significant numbers of customers in the local and wider area, and the rights for these assets are essential in maintaining an uninterrupted power supply to the customers we serve.</p> <p>The proposed development seeks to interfere with Northern Powergrid's</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment and will continue to engage with Northern Powergrid to, amongst other things, agree a set of final protective provisions to be included in the DCO. It is noted that the current protective provisions (in Part 5 of Schedule 16 to the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]) do provide that the Applicant cannot acquire any apparatus or override any easement or other interest of Northern Powergrid otherwise than by agreement with Northern Powergrid, such agreement not to be unreasonably withheld or delayed.</p> <p>The requirement for on-site surveys to ground-truth the location of utilities is established in para 21.3.4 and 21.3.5 of C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21_Other Environmental Matters [APP-056] and detailed within Table 3.14 of C7.1 Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) [APP-337]. A provision of a detailed CEMP has been secured by Requirement 13 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]. The Applicant is committed to consultation and agreement with operators and/or owners of utility infrastructure that is likely to be directly impacted by the location or design of the Scheme.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>existing infrastructure including, pylons, overhead cables, underground cables and access and servicing rights. Each of these are vital for Northern Powergrid's existing operations. The accompanying compulsory purchase order for the development seeks to acquire land and interests which, if acquired, would adversely affect Northern Powergrid's ability to use, access and maintain it's substation. It is not necessary to acquire these interests where an agreement between the parties would be more appropriate.</p> <p>In addition to the technical impacts of the proposed development, Northern Powergrid has concerns over the proposed protective provisions contained within the draft order as they do not take into account site specific issues and do not accord with Northern Powergrid's standard protective provision requirements.</p>	

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>Northern Powergrid has discussed its concerns with National Grid and the parties are working closely to reduce the project's impacts on Northern Powergrid's apparatus. Northern Powergrid is keen to keep an open dialogue with National Grid and to engage with the applicant's legal representative to agree appropriate amendments to the protective provisions."</p>	

Winterquay Limited [RR-047]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
WL-01	The Scheme	Nature of the Scheme	"Land owned by Winterquay borders Cottam 3A, Cottam 3B and Cottam 1. In my opinion, these areas are not suitable for large scale, long term solar development."	<p>The selection of the Scheme's location has followed a five-stage systematic step-by-step process where as set out in C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067]:</p> <p>Stage 1 - Identification of the Area of Search (see para. 2.1.6);</p> <p>Stage 2 - Exclusion of Planning, Environmental and Spatial Constraints (see para. 2.1.12);</p> <p>Stage 3 - Identifying Potential Solar Development Areas (see 2.1.17);</p> <p>Stage 4 - Evaluation of Potential Solar Development Areas (see 2.1.35); and</p> <p>Stage 5 - Widening the Search to consider Grade 3 agricultural land (see 2.1.40).</p> <p>The land required for the Scheme has been demonstrated within C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] to perform better than 8 of the assessed Potential Development Areas (PDAs) and equal to the remaining one following the site selection process. Consequently, there are no obviously more suitable locations for the Scheme within the Search Area.</p>
WL-02	The Scheme Landscape and Visual Impact	Disruption Resulting from the Scheme	"The disruption to the daily life and work of the surrounding farms and villages will be intolerable."	<p>Whilst it has not been possible for the Scheme to avoid all significant residual impacts, these have been identified within the Environmental Statement [APP-036 to APP-058] and have been minimised, where</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
	Transport and Access Noise and Vibration Glint and Glare Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation Other Environmental Matters: Human Health			<p>possible, through careful and sensitive design and detailed mitigation strategies.</p> <p>The Scheme comprises a series of separate parcels of land or Sites (see Sections 3.3 to 3.6 of C6.2.3 ES Chapter 3_The Order Limits [APP-038]) which are set within an extensive agricultural landscape. With large tracts of land between each parcel, each is set apart by their associated features such as robust hedgerows, woodland and tree cover, intervening settlements and road and rail infrastructure (see paragraphs 8.5.88, 8.5.106 and 8.5.124 of C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8_Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043]).</p> <p>The layout of the Sites has been informed by a series of design parameters and include offset distances as a result of needing to balance the functionality of the Scheme against environmental considerations (see paragraph 8.6.21 of C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8_Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043]).</p> <p>Paragraph 8.3.10 of C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8_Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] notes the [Secretary of State's] need to "judge whether the visual effects on sensitive receptors, such as local residents, and other receptors, such as visitors to the local area, outweigh the benefits of the project". C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8_Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] sets out details of the offsets that are proposed around sensitive receptors such as settlement edges, individual residential properties, PRoW and transport routes (see section 8.11 of C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8_Landscape</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] which aim to assist in the assimilation and dispersion of the Scheme across the landscape.</p> <p>An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been prepared to support the application within C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A]. C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], provides (in Requirement 15 of Schedule 2) that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a construction traffic management plan for that part must be submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities". It further provides that "The construction traffic management plan must be substantially in accordance with the outline construction traffic management plan."</p> <p>The outline CTMP submitted as part of the DCO application provides a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements to and from the Scheme, to ensure that the effects of the temporary construction phase on the local highway network are minimised and made acceptable.</p> <p>C6.2.16 ES Chapter 16 Glint and Glare [APP-051] considers dwellings within 1km from the Order Limits of the Scheme. Figures contained within Section 5.2 of C6.3.16.1 ES Appendix 16.1 Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study [APP-140] set out those dwellings within 1km from the Scheme (Study Area). The impacts upon those dwellings</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>identified are summarised in the following paragraphs within the ES Chapter: paragraph 16.5.3 and 16.8.2 of C6.2.16 ES Chapter 16 Glint and Glare [APP-051]. For those dwellings that are predicted to experience a "Moderate" impact, the Applicant is committed to implementing embedded mitigation to reduce the effects to acceptable levels. The mitigation will be in the form of screening (immediate and long term), and it is outlined within the Glint and Glare Assessment Section 7.1 of C6.3.16.1 ES Appendix 16.1 Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study [APP-140], and Section 16.9 of C6.2.16 ES Chapter 16 Glint and Glare [APP-051].</p> <p>Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] assesses the likely impacts on recreational use of the land and facilities therein, and the potential impacts to the visitor economy from the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Scheme.</p> <p>The greatest effect during construction is anticipated to be medium-term temporary moderate adverse on the landscape setting of tourism attractions (see para. 18.7.57), which is a significant effect. During operation, the greatest effects to tourism and recreation receptors are anticipated to be long-term moderate-minor adverse (see para. 18.7.101), which is not significant in EIA terms.</p> <p>The ES has assessed that there is no anticipated significant adverse impact to human health as a result of any part of the Scheme, as set</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>out in Table 21.5.4. in C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21 Other Environmental Matters [APP-056].</p> <p>Furthermore, the likely impacts of noise and vibration, including any anticipated impacts to residential and commercial properties, have been assessed in Section 15.7 of C6.2.15 ES Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration [APP-050]. The noise and vibration effects are not anticipated to be significant.</p>

The Woodland Trust [RR-048]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
TWT-01	Ecology and Biodiversity	Arboricultural Impact Assessment	<p>"Thank you for the opportunity to register as an interested party on the following project. The Trust notes that a significant number of trees are located within the site boundary for this proposal, yet the applicants have not submitted an Arboricultural Impact Assessment to support this application. It is therefore difficult to assess the potential impact of the scheme on ancient/veteran trees which may be located on site. We ask that the applicants confirm the presence/absence of any ancient/veteran trees, and provide suitable arboricultural information to allow the Examining Authority to make an informed decision on the tree impacts proposed. We hope our comments are of use to you."</p>	<p>Table 3.5 of C7.1_A Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.1_A] (the 'OCEMP') states that a pre-construction Tree Survey, Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) and accompanying Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) will be taken into account where construction works are likely to affect trees. The production of a detailed CEMP is provisioned as secured by Requirement 13 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>In addition to the above, C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] notes, through paragraph 9.7.60, that no mature or semi-mature trees are anticipated to be lost as a result of the Scheme. The Applicant therefore considers that an appropriate level of arboricultural information has been provided at this time. The Applicant reaffirms however that, through the OCEMP, a pre-construction Tree Survey, AIA and AMS will guide works which are likely to affect trees.</p> <p>Appendix 1 of C7.17_A Crossing Schedule Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C7.17_A], when read in conjunction with Appendix 2 of the same document, details the crossings which have been identified as being proposed for HDD given the proximity of several mature trees within a confined area.</p> <p>In certain instances, minor vegetation removal may be necessary to accommodate vehicle's swept path and ensure visibility (see table 3.3</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>in C7.1_A Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.1_A]. In relation to abnormal loads, no additional vegetation removal has been identified as being required, except for minor pruning in just one location at the Normanby Road 'S' bend (see appendix 2 sheets 1 to 3 of drawing no: 22-1062.SPA02 in C6.3.14.1 ES Appendix 14.1 Transport Assessment [APP-134]).</p> <p>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 the Hedgerow Removal Plans in Appendix C of C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan Revision A [EN010133/EX1PEX/C7.3_A]. 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>Where these minor areas of hedgerow removal are required to enable construction only and are not required as operational accesses, vegetation will be reinstated as secured by Requirement 13 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] once construction is complete (see table 3.3 of C7.1_A Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.1_A]).</p>

Emma Hill [RR-188]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
EMH-01	Landscape and Visual Impact	Proximity of infrastructure to residential properties	"I live in the area of the proposed solar panel farm I am only now being made aware of the true scale of it, I think to have this type of infrastructure close to residential properties would affect enjoyment of the country side and its views."	<p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') considers both the landscape and visual effects of the Scheme, including the proximity to people's houses to ensure the impacts and effects on the views and visibility are taken into account (see paragraphs 8.4.28 to 8.4.32). This includes singular buildings, groups of buildings and towns or villages. Table 8.15 of the LVIA sets out the selection of initial residential receptors for the purpose of the assessment and the reason for their selection are those receptors within the 1km Study Area for the Scheme and the 0.5km Study Area from the outer boundary of the Cable Route Corridor (see para. 8.4.12). The detailed analysis is set out at C6.3.8.3 ES Appendix 8.3 Assessment of Potential Visual Effects [APP-075].</p> <p>Mitigation, including offsets and planting, has been proposed to address and minimise adverse effects on the character of the landscape and promote wildlife conservation. This is in line with the agreed methodology and the hierarchy of approach advocated by the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition and matters agreed with LCC at the series of workshops set out in C6.3.8.4 ES Appendix 8.4 Consultation [APP-076].</p> <p>For example, in respect to the settlement of Sturton by Stow, which is located approximately 4km to the east of Marton, the assessment has taken account of the 50m off set from residential properties to ensure the best possible fit with their setting. The photography and photomontage information at ES Figures 8.14.1 [APP-199] to 8.14.90</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>[APP-288] shows how the proposed landscape mitigation will play a key role in making sure the panels are comfortably accommodated. For example, ES Figure 8.14.5 [APP-203] and 8.14.23 [APP-221] show the fencing and panels set back from residential properties, the public highway and also from the existing hedgerows to allow for their proposed thickening and growth. The photomontages also show how the planting mitigation has been designed with improvements to existing hedgerows and new hedgerows and tree belts.</p> <p>The Scheme comprises a series of separate areas of land or Sites (see Sections 3.3 to 3.6 of C6.2.3 ES Chapter 3_The Order Limits [APP-038]) which are set within an extensive agricultural landscape. With large areas of land between each of the Sites, each is set apart by their associated features such as robust hedgerows, woodland and tree cover, intervening settlements and road and rail infrastructure (see paragraphs 8.5.88, 8.5.106 and 8.5.124 of C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8_Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043]).</p> <p>The Sites have been informed by a series of design parameters and include offset distances as a result of needing to balance the functionality of the Scheme against the key environmental constraints (see paragraph 8.6.21 of C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8_Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043]).</p> <p>Paragraph 8.3.10 of C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8_Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] notes the Secretary of State's need to "judge whether the visual effects on sensitive receptors, such as local residents, and other receptors, such as visitors to the local area, outweigh the benefits of the project". Resultingly, C6.2.8 ES Chapter</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>8_Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] has identified offsets with regards to sensitive receptors such as settlement edges, individual residential properties, PRoW and transport routes (see section 8.11 of C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8_Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043]) which further assists the assimilation and dispersion of the Scheme across the landscape.</p> <p>The discrete areas of land in the Scheme are placed so far apart that the Scheme would not be perceived in its entirety and the solar panels are distributed 'in and amongst' the landscape features to assimilate them into the landscape such that the majority of effects on landscape and visual receptors are considered to be not significant and adverse.</p>
EMH-02	Cultural Heritage	Heritage Sites	"Marton and surrounding areas have a lot of heritage sites that would be affected"	<p>The Applicant notes this comment and would like to highlight that a full suite of archaeological assessment, survey and field evaluation has been undertaken for the Scheme. The results of various assessments are detailed in appendices: C6.3.13.1 ES Appendix 13.1 Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments [APP-109]; C6.3.13.2 ES Appendix 13.2 Archaeological Geophysical Survey Reports [APP-110 to APP-122]; C6.3.13.3 ES Appendix 13.3 Geoarchaeological Desk Based Assessment [APP-123]; C6.3.13.4 ES Appendix 13.4 Air Photo and LiDAR Report [APP-124]; C6.3.13.5 ES Appendix 13.5 Heritage Statement [APP-125 to APP-128]; and C6.3.13.6 ES Appendix 13.6 Archaeological Evaluation Trenching Reports [APP-129 to APP-130]. Features associated with an Iron Age / Roman settlement were identified and characterised through geophysical survey and evaluation trial trenching to the south of Stow Park Rad, c. 420m east of Marton, and a Roman trackway and field boundary was identified by cropmarks on aerial photography to the south-east of</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>Marton. Between 872 - 873 the Viking Great Army overwintered on land between Marton and Torksey, and a post-medieval flood defences are located to the south of the Marton. The extensive archaeological assessment work has been used to inform a programme of archaeological mitigation as detailed in a WSI [APP-131], which is secured by Requirement 12 of Schedule 2 to C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>
EMH-03	Ecology and Biodiversity Transport and Access	Construction of the Scheme	<p>"as well as the disruption to wildlife and their habitat also if they are going to take 4 years to construct How much more traffic can we expect on an already busy road?"</p>	<p>Section 9.6 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] sets out the extensive findings of all ecological investigations undertaken within the Order Limits together with an appraisal of the relative importance of each species or species group, habitat or designated site. A comprehensive package of mitigation measures has been identified, in tandem with embedded mitigation (see Section 9.6) established through the ecologically sensitive design of the Scheme (such as the wide buffering of all field boundaries and the use of existing hedgerow gaps for accesses). These measures have been further detailed within C7.19 Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [APP-356] (as secured by Requirement 8 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]) and C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] (as secured by Requirement 7 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]) which will ensure that all identified impacts are minimised as far as possible. In many cases, the reversion from intensive agriculture to pasture or meadow grassland</p>

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				<p>with additional hedgerow, scrub, tree and wetland habitat creation will bring about positive effects for wildlife. In particular, terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates, botanical diversity, small mammals and many species of bird all stand to benefit.</p> <p>More specifically, in our experience of monitoring over 100 active solar arrays, we find that brown hare and badgers are highly active on solar arrays owing to the improved foraging habitat within them. Birds of prey, including owls, are one species group likely to benefit from the provision of large areas of optimal habitat for small mammals such as field voles which require tussocky and dense grassland which will be created within buffered field boundaries.</p> <p>Construction activities will be temporary, and since they are limited primarily to the piling of metal supports into the ground and laying of electrical cabling, they are not considered to create a level of disturbance which significantly exceeds that generated by typical agricultural sowing, spraying and harvesting operations. See Paragraphs 9.7.86 and 9.7.149 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044].</p> <p>An indicative construction programme is set out within Table 4.1 of the C6.3.14.1 Transport Assessment [APP-132]. This shows that the construction period will last approximately 24 months.</p> <p>C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A] (as secured through Requirement 15 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] has been submitted with the DCO Application. This provides a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements to and from the Sites and cable route corridor, to ensure that the effect of the construction phase on the local highway network is minimised. It covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction methodology; • Site access; • Construction vehicle trip generation; • Construction vehicle routing; • Abnormal load movement; and • Mitigation and management measures.

Sir Edward Leigh MP [RR-172]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
ELMP-01	The Scheme Energy Need Soils and Agriculture	Local Opposition and Agricultural Land Use	<p>"Speaking as the Member of Parliament for the area, this project is an inappropriate development which is broadly opposed by people who live or work in the area.</p> <p>It takes good land out of agricultural use at a time when food security is more of a concern than ever before and when global food distribution networks have been disrupted by Russia's invasion of Ukraine."</p>	<p>The Applicant does not consider that the Scheme would result in adverse food security impacts either alone or cumulatively. The UK annual balance of domestically produced food is sensitive to non-planning factors including weather and markets. The relevant assessment for policy purposes (and therefore decision-making purposes under the Planning Act 2008) is one that is based on the grade of the agricultural land, rather than its current use and the intensity of that use. As such, it should be noted that the site is predominantly ALC Grade 3b, not "best and most versatile" agricultural land (see para 19.8.5 of C6.2.19_A ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A]).</p> <p>In terms of key threats to UK food security, the Defra UK Food Security Report highlights that the main threat is climate change.</p> <p>As the Scheme will be decommissioned there will not be a permanent loss of agricultural land resource. In addition, the agricultural land can remain in productive use through the operational period, being grazed by livestock (see paras 19.10.2, 19.10.6, 19.10.10 of C6.2.19_A ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A]).</p> <p>Section 3.3 of document C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350], specifically paragraphs 3.3.2, 3.3.5 and 3.3.11, describes the Government's view that large capacities of low-carbon generation will be required to meet increased demand and replace output from</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>retiring (fossil fuel) plants, and that "a secure, reliable, affordable, Net Zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar". This support for large scale solar as part of the 'answer' to net zero and energy security has been repeated in its recent policy documents published in March 2023.</p> <p>Section 7.5 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes how suitable locations for large-scale solar are identified and assessed. Paragraph 7.5.2 outlines the broad criteria for determining site suitability.</p> <p>Figure 7.4 shows the level of photovoltaic power potential at the proposed location. Section 9 describes the advantages of connecting large-scale solar to the existing and robust National Electricity Transmission System at the proposed Point of Connection at Cottam Power Station, and Paragraph 9.4.4 concludes that the Scheme will contribute to national system adequacy and decarbonisation targets.</p>
ELMP-02	The Scheme	The Application	"The solar panels proposed are large and visually unappealing and would have a significant negative impact on the surrounding area."	<p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') includes a full and detailed assessment that deals with both effects on the landscape itself and effects on the visual amenity of people, as well as interrelationships of these with other related topics in the ES.</p> <p>The LVIA process is iterative and as a result, the design of the Scheme changed to respond to the findings of the assessment to ensure that landscape mitigation is fully considered as part of the process. This assessment is undertaken in accordance with C6.3.8.1 ES Appendix</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>8.1 LVIA Methodology [APP-068]. For example, within the Cottam 1 Site, the PRoW bridleway (Fill/86/1) leads from Short Lane (at the settlement of Ingham) to join with PRoW footpath (Ingh/17/1), then eventually joins with Willingham Road. As a result of the Scheme, the foreground of the view would change from a large, gently sloping arable field to an area of panels. This is set out in C6.3.8.3 ES Appendix 8.3 Assessment of Potential Visual Effects includes 8.3.1-8.3.5 [APP-075] on sheet C6.3.8.3.5.2.1 Public Rights of Way Receptor – Fill/86 (Fill/86/1) and on sheet C6.3.8.3.2.3.19. In this instance (Sheet C6.3.8.3.5.2.1, page 1), the Embedded Mitigation would include panels set a minimum of 15m from the adjacent PRoW. Existing hedges would also be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of the existing hedges at close range. Furthermore (Sheet C6.3.8.3.2.3.19, page 3), in the middle distance, new and augmented hedgerows will provide a series of strong field boundaries both formally strengthening the existing and historical field pattern and also in creating a multi-layered landscape.</p> <p>Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] assesses the likely impacts on recreational use of the land and facilities therein, and the potential impacts to the visitor economy from the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Scheme.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				The greatest effect during construction is anticipated to be medium-term temporary moderate adverse on the landscape setting of tourism attractions (see para. 18.7.57), which is a significant effect. During operation, the greatest effects to tourism and recreation receptors are anticipated to be long-term moderate-minor adverse (see para. 18.7.101), which is not significant in EIA terms.
ELMP-03	The Scheme	Mitigation and Community Benefit	"The mitigation and community gain is woefully inadequate."	<p>NPS EN-1 paragraph 3.2.3. and Draft NPS EN-1 paragraph 3.1.1 both acknowledge that 'it will not be possible to develop the necessary amounts of such infrastructure without some significant residual adverse impacts' as explained at paragraph 6.2.20 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A].</p> <p>Whilst it has not been possible for the Scheme to avoid all significant residual impacts, these have been identified within the Environmental Statement [APP-036 to APP-058] and have been minimised, where possible, through careful and sensitive design and detailed mitigation strategies, in accordance with applicable policy.</p> <p>As for community gain, the Applicant is committed to providing a Community Benefit Fund – see paragraph 4.8.1 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A]. This fund will be available for community-based benefits such as (but not limited to) community-led energy related projects.</p> <p>With regard to local employment and the local economic environment, it is acknowledged that the majority of employment and economic benefit will be experienced by the construction industry (see para</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>4.6.4 [APP-341]), during construction, and in the energy industry during the Scheme's operation. That notwithstanding, there are wider anticipated benefits through indirect employment and spending which will benefit local manufacturers, suppliers, maintenance workers, and induced employment and spending which will benefit the wider local economy through increased spending by employees of the Scheme and its supply chains (see paras. 4.6.1 to 4.6.6). The full assessment of the extent of these likely effects is set out in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053].</p> <p>Section 5 of C7.10 Skills Supply Chain and Employment Plan [APP-349] furthermore demonstrates what additional measures are being pursued as part of the Scheme to provide local economic benefits. These include providing additional skills training (paras. 5.2.1 to 5.2.12), maximising local recruitment and enhancing opportunities for local procurement (paras. 5.3.1 to 5.4.6).</p> <p>The Applicant confirms that a Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan is secured by Requirement 20 of Schedule 2 to C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]. This requirement states that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a skills, supply chain and employment plan in relation to that part has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority for that part or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities."</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
ELMP-04	The Party	Stance on Scheme	"I fear it would be grossly irresponsible to do anything but reject this scheme in its entirety."	The Applicant notes this comment, but respectfully disagrees.

Former Cllr Jessie Milne [RR-265]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
CJM-01	Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation	Impacts Socio-Economic Conditions	<p>"As the Councillor for Lea ward, I write in support of many elderly people and everyone in my ward on the impact this application will have if it goes ahead. Loss of Livelihood of Tenant Farmers, Bed and Breakfast, Holiday Lets, Holiday Lodges, and Caravan Parks, The value of people's homes is already being affected by people pulling out of house sales."</p>	<p>The Scheme is anticipated to lead to a maximum loss of approximately 17 full-time equivalent agriculture jobs, as stated in paragraph 18.7.15 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]. The Scheme is estimated to employ 10 full-time equivalent employees from the local area during operation; see Table 18.16. The net change in employment in the local area (defined as West Lindsey and Bassetlaw Districts) during the Scheme's operational life is a loss of approximately 2 full-time jobs, once consideration of direct, indirect and induced employment, and impacts on the tourism and recreation industry are considered (see para. 18.7.79). Overall, the economic benefit to the local area is estimated to be £2.2 million per year (see para. 18.7.97).</p> <p>The land included in the Scheme covers 4 farm businesses, all of which are owner occupiers of the land within the Sites. This is detailed in full in para. 7.1.1 to 7.1.17 of C6.3.19.1 ES Appendix 19.1 Agricultural Land Quality Soil Resources and Farming Circumstances [APP-145].</p> <p>The Scheme is anticipated to lead to some level of adverse impact on the tourism and recreation industry as a result of reduced desirability of the area and use of tourism and recreation venues, attractions, and facilities (See paras. 18.7.50, 18.7.68, 18.7.95, 18.7.112-113, 18.7.133, and 18.7.154 in C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>Recreation [APP-053]). The effects on employment and economic value in the tourism industry are not assessed to be significant.</p> <p>Property value is not a material consideration in the consideration and determination of DCOs, and has therefore not been assessed.</p>
CJM-02	<p>Ecology and Biodiversity</p> <p>Transport and Access</p> <p>Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation</p> <p>Other Environmental Matters: Human Health</p>	Impacts upon Mental Health	<p>"Mental health, This is already taking its toll on very sick people as they will no longer be able to stroll around their villages and enjoy the peace and quiet, listen to the birds sing, observe the Deer, Foxes, Badgers the many different species of bird life both overwintering and resident species as well as the flora and fauna on the verges which will be devastated as these great big lorries churn up the grass verges because the majority of these country lanes are narrow with blind bends and narrow verges."</p>	<p>The Applicant is cognisant of the significance of the countryside for physical and mental wellbeing and, as such, likely impacts on the desirability and use of recreational facilities in the countryside, such as public rights of way, have been assessed in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053].</p> <p>The greatest level of effect to access, desirability and use of recreational facilities is moderate-minor adverse and is anticipated during construction (see para. 18.7.60-67) and decommissioning (see para. 18.7.143-153). These effects are not anticipated to be significant.</p> <p>This is re-iterated in Section 21.5 of C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21 Other Environmental Matters [APP-056].</p> <p>An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been prepared to support the application within C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A]. C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], provides (in Requirement 15 of Schedule 2) that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a construction traffic management plan for that part must be submitted to and approved by the relevant planning</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>authority or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities". It further provides that "The construction traffic management plan must be substantially in accordance with the outline construction traffic management plan."</p> <p>The outline CTMP submitted as part of the DCO application provides a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements to and from the Scheme, to ensure that the effects of the temporary construction phase on the local highway network are minimised and made acceptable.</p> <p>Specifically, measure xxi of C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A] is for a road condition survey. This will ensure that any identified highways defects resulting from construction activities associated with the Site will be corrected to the satisfaction of the local highway authority.</p> <p>In addition, an anticipated substantial net gain for biodiversity will be achieved (see C6.3.9.12 ES Appendix 9.12 Biodiversity Net Gain Report [APP-089]), predominantly through the creation of extensive low-input grassland resulting in a net gain of 96.09% in habitat units, but also several new ponds and wetland habitat parcels resulting in a net gain of 10.69% in river units, and the planting of several kilometres of species-rich hedgerow resulting in a net gain of 70.22% in hedgerow units.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				This will be secured through the management and ecological monitoring prescriptions set out within C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] which are secured through Requirement 7 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] .
CJM-03	Landscape and Visual Impact Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation	Impacts upon Tourism	"Tourism. All that will be seen for miles and miles around will be 4.5-meter-high glass panels. People visit this area because of our Big Skies, so tourism will be very badly affected many residents who have come to live in this area are now trying to move but no one wants to buy houses around here anymore."	<p>The likely impacts on the desirability and use of tourism attractions and recreational facilities in the countryside, such as public rights of way and key landscape features, have been assessed in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]. The greatest level of effect to access, desirability and use of recreational facilities is moderate-minor adverse and is anticipated during construction (see paras. 18.7.60 to 18.7.67) and decommissioning (see paras. 18.7.143 to 18.7.153). These effects are not anticipated to be significant.</p> <p>With regards to 'Big Skies', the LVIA takes account of the perception of Big Skies through paragraphs 8.5.14 8.5.21 8.5.31 and 8.5.152 of [APP-053].</p> <p>The assessment of both the landscape and visual effects of the 4.5m high solar panels is set out within Section 8.6 of C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') and within the detailed receptor sheets at C6.3.8.2 ES Appendix 8.2 Assessment of Potential Landscape Effects [APP-074] and C6.3.8.3 ES Appendix 8.3 Assessment of Potential Visual Effects [APP-075].</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] assesses the likely impacts on recreational use of the land and facilities therein, and the potential impacts to the visitor economy from the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Scheme.</p> <p>The greatest effect during construction is anticipated to be medium-term temporary moderate adverse on the landscape setting of tourism attractions (see para. 18.7.57), which is a significant effect.</p> <p>During operation, the greatest effects to tourism and recreation receptors are anticipated to be long-term moderate-minor adverse (see para. 18.7.101), which is not significant in EIA terms.</p>
CJM-04	Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation Soils and Agriculture	Impacts upon Farmers and Agricultural Land Use	"Tenant Farmers. Tenant farmers will lose their living and in some cases their homes, there is already a problem with farmers committing suicide, this will push more of them to the brink, I have already seen some in tears who have spent their lives working the land to put food on the table for this country and now it will all go under glass for 50 or 60 years leaving the land as a brownfield site, in other words, industrialisation."	<p>The land included in the Scheme covers 4 farm businesses, all of which are owner occupiers of the land within the Sites. This is detailed in full in para. 7.1.1 to 7.1.17 of C6.3.19.1 ES Appendix 19.1 Agricultural Land Quality Soil Resources and Farming Circumstances [APP-145].</p> <p>Resultingly, the Scheme is anticipated to lead to a maximum loss of approximately 17 full-time equivalent agriculture jobs, as stated in paragraph 18.7.15 of document C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]. The Scheme is estimated to employ 10 full-time equivalent employees from the local area during operation; see Table 18.16. The net change in employment in the local area (defined as West Lindsey and Bassetlaw Districts) during the Scheme's operational life is a loss of</p>

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				<p>approximately 2 full-time jobs, once consideration of direct, indirect and induced employment, and impacts on the tourism and recreation industry are considered (see para. 18.7.79). Overall, the economic benefit to the local area is estimated to be £2.2 million per year (see para. 18.7.97).</p> <p>As the Scheme will be decommissioned there will not be a permanent loss of agricultural land resource. Furthermore, the agricultural land can remain in productive use through the operational period, being grazed by livestock (see paras 19.10.2, 19.10.6, 19.10.10 of C6.2.19_A ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A]).</p>
CJM-05	Waste	Recycling of Panels	"These solar panels cannot be destroyed so, therefore, have to go to landfill leaving 10.000 acres of wasteland good for nothing."	<p>The solar panels will be decommissioned, disassembled, and removed from the site for waste management, of which it is assumed 75-82.6% will be recycled as set out in para. 20.5.5 and 20.5.10 of C6.2.20 ES Chapter 20 Waste [APP-055]. Solar panels are predominantly made from recyclable materials such as the metal frames, mounting structures, and glass facing panes. There is also an emerging industry for recycling and reusing the internal fittings and electrical equipment within solar panels (para. 20.7.29).</p> <p>Decommissioning of the Scheme will include measures for remediation of the land back to agricultural use as set out by the measures within C7.2 Outline Decommissioning Statement [APP-338] (see table 3.1).</p>

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				The Scheme, in the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] , secures through Requirement 21 of Schedule 2 that "Within 12 months of the date that the undertaker decides to decommission any part of the authorised development, the undertaker must submit to the relevant planning authority for that part a decommissioning plan for approval."
CJM-06	The Scheme Air Quality Other Environmental Matters: Major Accidents and Disasters	BESS Susceptibility to Failure	"Batteries. The size of the Lithium batteries alone is massive needing a substantial building to hold them all, of course, the implications to health should these batteries ignite as they have been known to do, they are unstable and the pollutants they give off are highly poisonous which does not bear thinking about."	<p>Additional modelling assessment will be undertaken following consultation with the UK Health Security Agency regarding potential BESS Fires, however, risk to human health as a result of fires or unconfined explosions within the BESS compound are set out in paragraphs 21.6.40 to 21.6.47 of C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21 Other Environmental Matters [APP-056] which concludes that there is no significant risk of harm to human health due to the physical separation of the BESS compound from publicly accessible areas.</p> <p>Paragraph 4.1.18 of C7.9 Outline Battery Storage Safety Management Plan [APP-348] explains that the design of the BESS has integrated fire detection and suppression systems that will automatically operate to contain battery fires. Paragraph 5.3 of C7.9 Outline Battery Storage Safety Management Plan [APP-348] states that if fire spreads to multiple units, external firefighting water facilities are available by means of 228,000 litre water storage tanks within the battery compounds.</p> <p>An C7.9 Outline Battery Storage Safety Management Plan [APP-348] has been prepared and is provided with the Application. A Battery Storage Safety Management Plan will be submitted and</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				approved prior to commencement of development as secured through Requirement 6 of Schedule 2 to C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] .
CJM-07	The Scheme Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	The Scheme's Impact upon Flooding Issues	"Flooding. Many areas in my Ward already have flooding issues the compacted soil that will be left when these panels have been transported and erected on site will cause even more problems for homeowners some of whom have suffered from flooding for years after any heavy rainfall. I shudder at the thought of spending even more hours helping the residents to overcome the trauma of water in their homes."	<p>Construction activities will be managed by the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) as secured by Requirement 13 in Schedule 2 and decommissioning activities will be managed by the Decommissioning Plan as secured through Requirement 21 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>Arable land within the Sites will revert to low input pasture with year-round crop cover eliminating the annual periods of bare soil created by cultivation (see paragraph 19.9.13 of C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19_Soils and Agriculture [APP-054]).</p> <p>These periods of bare soil present the highest risk of soil erosion and surface runoff. As elaborated through paragraph 19.9.13, year-round grass cover will improve rainfall infiltration and slow any overland flow that occurs.</p> <p>As stated in Section 4.0 'Soil Management' and paragraph 5.3.4 of C6.3.10.1 ES Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy Report [APP-090], mitigation against potential soil erosion, the existing intensively managed agricultural land will be replaced by planted wildflower and grassland below the solar panels. The planted surface will act as a level spread / energy dissipater to promote low erosivity sheet flow during the operation of the Scheme. The</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>vegetation will be managed organically and will either be mowed or used for light grazing.</p> <p>A Soils Resource Management Plan, substantially in accordance with C7.18 Outline Soil Management Plan [APP-355] will be submitted and approved prior to the commencement of development as secured by Requirement 19 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>Additionally, as stated in C6.3.10.1 ES Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy Report [APP-090], any runoff from hardstanding/small buildings on the Sites will be captured on site, to prevent increasing runoff from the Sites.</p> <p>Provision of a full surface water drainage scheme is secured by Requirement 11 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>
CJM-08	The Scheme Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation	Impacts upon Businesses	<p>"Businesses The various businesses who supply the farms with machinery, seed, fertiliser. help harvest the crops and deal with the corn , potatoes, sugar beet animal foods and so much more will all suffer. A disaster waiting to happen."</p> <p>"I cannot sit back I have to support all those residents and anyone that will be affected in any way. I have every</p>	<p>The land included in the Scheme covers 4 farm businesses, all of which are owner occupiers of the land within the Sites. This is detailed in full in para. 7.1.1 to 17.1.17 of C6.3.19.1 ES Appendix 19.1 Agricultural Land Quality Soil Resources and Farming Circumstances [APP-145].</p> <p>Whilst it is recognised that there will be some level of impact on agricultural supply chains, this is anticipated to be more than offset by the employment and economic benefits associated with the establishment of indirect and induced employment during the operational life of the Scheme (see Table 18.17 and Table 18.18 in</p>

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			intention to fight to the bitter end against this outrage."	C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053].
CJM-09	The Scheme	Community Benefit	"The company whose job it is to sell the idea of these monstrosities to the residents are disingenuous they make promises and then renege on them, promising Parish Councils there will be a million pounds, just tell us what you want, I challenged them on this and it turns out there may be a million maybe not and it will be over a period of ten years and 5 parish councils will have to decide where the money will be spent, 5 out of 30 parishes."	<p>The Applicant is committed to providing a Community Benefit Fund (see paragraph 4.8.1 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A]). This fund will be available for community-based benefits such as (but not limited to) community-led energy related projects. No further details were given as a part of the Application because it will not be taken into account in the planning balance.</p> <p>The Applicant has identified a potential mechanism for the distribution of the fund in the form of Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire Community Foundations in order to ensure that the fund can be distributed across the Scheme's geographical extents, and have undertaken early stage discussions with them.</p>
CJM-10	The Scheme Energy Need	Community Benefit	<p>"They have also stated that there will be NO cheap electricity to those who suffer from these panels, in fact, there is No benefit at all to anyone, just their whole lifestyle in tatters</p> <p>I was present when they met up with residents who already have a flooding issue, they looked at the fields directly behind their properties and said to the residents, " well we won't put any</p>	<p>Section 9 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes the advantages of connecting large-scale solar to the existing and robust National Electricity Transmission System (NETS) at the proposed Point of Connection at Cottam, specifically by connecting to the existing Cottam 400kV substation (paragraph 9.2.5). Paragraph 9.2.5 also explains how the transmission network links to the local distribution network and therefore will be used by local and national residents and businesses alike.</p> <p>Section 3.3 of document C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350], specifically paragraphs 3.3.2, 3.3.5 and 3.3.11, describes the</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>in this field and that field " as reassurance, but as they left they said "if (they) "agree" in other words the promises were of no account.</p>	<p>Government's view that large capacities of low-carbon generation will be required to meet increased demand and replace output from retiring (fossil fuel) plants, and that "a secure, reliable, affordable, Net Zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar".</p> <p>The Scheme is in possession of a grid connection offer to connect at Cottam Power Station (see C7.7 Cottam Grid Connection Statement [APP-346]), a former coal fired power station which closed in 2019. By connecting to the grid infrastructure which served Cottam Power Station but has been unused since it was decommissioned, the Scheme is repowering the region with low-carbon, low-cost electricity.</p> <p>In terms of the Scheme's benefits to the local community, section 5 of C7.10 Skills Supply Chain and Employment Plan [APP-349] demonstrates what additional measures are being pursued as part of the Scheme to provide local economic benefits. These include providing additional skills training (see paragraphs 5.2.1 to 5.2.12), maximising local recruitment and enhancing opportunities for local procurement (see paragraphs 5.3.1 to 5.4.6). A Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan is secured through Requirement 20 in Schedule 2 of the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>The Applicant is confident that the level of consultation undertaken, and information presented throughout the pre-application stage is in accordance with the Planning Act 2008 and associated guidance. This has been evidenced in C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], which</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and accepted for examination.</p> <p>For example, as described in Chapter 2 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], the Applicant undertook two phases of community consultation to share information and invite feedback at different stages of Scheme development.</p> <p>Chapter 7 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes the Applicant's approach to statutory consultation, including consulting with relevant authorities on a draft Statement of Community Consultation. Table 7.1 sets out the comments received from authorities on the Applicant's approach to consultation and how these were considered by the Applicant. Table 7.3 in Chapter 7 describes how the Applicant complied with commitments made in the Statement of Community Consultation when undertaking statutory consultation.</p> <p>Chapter 8 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes how the Applicant undertook a six-week statutory phase two consultation on the Scheme, during which the Applicant presented consultees with environmental information sufficient for consultees to understand the potential likely significant effects of the Scheme in a Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR). A non-technical summary was published to accompany the PEIR, with public information events and free-to-use communications channels open to help aid accessibility and understanding of the Scheme. A Consultation Summary Report for this phase of statutory consultation was published on the</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>dedicated Scheme website, shared with elected representatives and stakeholders and issued to over 9,000 properties within the vicinity of the Scheme, to help consultees understand how their feedback was being considered. A copy of the Phase Two Consultation Summary Report is provided as C5.7 Appendix 5.7: Phase Two Community Consultation Materials [APP-028].</p> <p>Chapter 11 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes the significant volume of responses received to Section 47 consultation (local community), including the issues raised and how these were considered by the Applicant. This is further evidenced by C5.10 Appendix 5.10: Consultation Report Appendix – Section 47 Applicant Response [APP-033].</p> <p>The Applicant is committed to providing a Community Benefit Fund – see paragraph 4.8.1 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A]. This fund will be available for community-based benefits such as (but not limited to) community-led energy related projects.</p>
CJM-11	The Applicant	Consultation and Response	<p>"If you question the solar representatives you never get an answer no matter how many times you ask the question, people get frustrated and very angry, they feel they are of no account and treat them with disdain with their banal replies in other words there just there to sell it</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment and refers the Party to Figure 1.1 and Table 1.2 in C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] which detail the key stages of pre-application consultation.</p> <p>Chapter 7 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes the Applicant's approach to statutory consultation, including consulting with relevant authorities on a draft Statement of Community Consultation. Table 7.1 sets out the comments received from local</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>to the residents and when they achieve their aim will walk away with their money and leave disaster behind them."</p>	<p>authorities on the Applicant's approach to consultation and how these were considered by the Applicant. Table 7.3 in Chapter 7 describes how the Applicant complied with commitments made in the Statement of Community Consultation when undertaking statutory consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant shared the results of consultation with consultees and communities following each phase of consultation by publishing interim Consultation Summary Reports. The Applicant has taken an issue-led approach to considering comments, in order to incorporate feedback and address concerns where practicable.</p> <p>The Applicant is confident that the methods used, level of consultation undertaken and information presented throughout the pre-application stage was compliant with the Planning Act 2008 and associated guidance, which makes clear the importance of consulting local communities and parish councils. This is set out in detail in C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], which was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and accepted for examination.</p> <p>When deciding whether to accept an application for examination, the Planning Inspectorate takes into account any Adequacy of Consultation Representations from relevant local authorities on whether the Applicant has complied with s42, s47 and s48 of the Planning Act 2008. The Applicant notes that 24 relevant local authorities submitted Adequacy of Consultation Representations to</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>confirm the statutory consultation process was considered adequate [AOC-001 to AOC-025].</p> <p>Please refer to the response to 'CJM-13' below for a fuller response.</p>
CJM-12	The Scheme	Site Selection	<p>"When I asked one of the representatives why they chose this area the response was" we just drove around looking for likely sites" that is how much thought went into this"</p>	<p>The consideration of alternatives has been undertaken within C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040]. This includes the consideration of alternative sites (Section 5.5), alternative technologies (Section 5.6), alternative layouts (Section 5.7), alternative substation locations (section 5.8) and alternative cable routes (Section 5.9). C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040] concludes in paragraphs 5.10.2, 5.10.3 and 5.10.4 that alternative potential development areas did not perform as well as the Sites.</p> <p>The selection of the Scheme's location has followed a five-stage systematic step-by-step process where as set out in C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067]:</p> <p>Stage 1 - Identification of the Area of Search (see para. 2.1.6);</p> <p>Stage 2 - Exclusion of Planning, Environmental and Spatial Constraints (see para. 2.1.12);</p> <p>Stage 3 - Identifying Potential Solar Development Areas (see 2.1.17);</p> <p>Stage 4 - Evaluation of Potential Solar Development Areas (see 2.1.35); and</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>Stage 5 - Widening the Search to consider Grade 3 agricultural land (see 2.1.40).</p> <p>As a result, and as stated within para. 3.3.30 of Appendix 5.1, the Scheme maximises the utilisation of low grade, non-best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land with 95.9% of the land being classified as non BMV land.</p> <p>Paragraphs 2.1.23 to 2.1.32 of C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] detail the consideration of brownfield land and roof tops and sets out why these were discounted as unsuitable. The methodology used for the site selection process is considered reasonable and proportionate and complies with the requirements of NPS EN-1 4.4.3.</p> <p>The land required for the Scheme has been demonstrated within C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] to perform better than 8 of the assessed Potential Development Areas (PDAs) and equal to the remaining one following the site selection process. Consequently, there are no obviously more suitable locations for the Scheme within the Search Area.</p>
CJM-13	The Scheme	Public Consultation	"they have been going around people trying to find out whether they own the land or not and some of the elderly have been very upset by their attitude and by all the mail they have received, they are giving the	<p>The Applicant has a statutory obligation under the Planning Act 2008 to identify, contact and consult with landowners affected by the Scheme.</p> <p>Throughout the consultation process the Applicant has welcomed feedback from a range of stakeholders, including communities, landowners and occupiers, on the Scheme proposals. The outcome of</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>implication that this solar project is already a done deal, that is how devious they are, so many times I have been told this by residents when I speak with them. I am appalled."</p>	<p>this consultation and engagement is evidenced in C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], which was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and accepted for examination.</p> <p>For example, Table 1.1 of Chapter 1 to C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], details how the cable route corridor for the Scheme has been refined through engagement and consultation with landowners and the community.</p> <p>Table 1.2 of Chapter 1 to C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], details how the Applicant provided consultation documents to landowners to inform them regarding upcoming statutory consultation and methods to provide feedback.</p> <p>Chapter 7 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes the Applicant's approach to statutory consultation, including consulting with relevant authorities on a draft Statement of Community Consultation. Table 7.1 sets out the comments received from authorities on the Applicant's approach to consultation and the Applicant has had regard to these in developing the Scheme. Table 7.3 in Chapter 7 describes how the Applicant complied with commitments made in the Statement of Community Consultation when undertaking statutory consultation.</p> <p>Chapter 8 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes how the Applicant undertook a six-week statutory phase two consultation on the Scheme, to provide communities, stakeholders and landowners a sufficient period of time, and sufficient environmental information</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>about the Scheme, to provide meaningful feedback. A Consultation Summary Report for this phase of statutory consultation was published on the dedicated Scheme website, shared with elected representatives and stakeholders and issued to over 9,000 properties within the vicinity of the Scheme, to help consultees understand how their feedback was being considered. A copy of the Phase Two Consultation Summary Report is provided as C5.7 Appendix 5.7: Phase Two Community Consultation Materials [APP-028].</p> <p>Chapter 11 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes the significant volume of responses received to Section 47 consultation (local community), including the issues raised and how the Applicant has had regard to these in developing the Scheme. This is further evidenced by C5.10 Appendix 5.10: Consultation Report Appendix – Section 47 Applicant Response [APP-033].</p> <p>9 responses were received to Section 42 consultation from Section 44 landowners. How the Applicant has had regard to these in developing the Scheme is evidenced in C5.11 Appendix 5.10: Consultation Report Appendix – Section 47 Applicant Response [APP-033].</p>
CJM-14	The Scheme	Site Selection and Draft DCO	"They have also searched the Land Registry and tried to claim grounds that are in the ownership of residents."	<p>The Applicant has a statutory obligation under the Planning Act 2008 to undertake diligent enquiries to identify the owners of land, this includes obtaining Land Registry information and sending out land interest questionnaires.</p> <p>Landowners along the proposed cable route have been identified and contacted in order to commence discussions regarding the laying of</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>cables. In paragraph 2.1.5 of C4.3 Book of Reference [APP-020], it explains that each plot of land is coloured on the Land Plan (C2.2_A Land Plan Revision A [AS-006]), with the colour of the plot indicating the purpose for which the land in that plot is required. The purposes are explained in detail in the same paragraph.</p> <p>Where ownership of the land was not known, enquiries have been made to establish the owners.</p>
CJM-15	The Scheme	Public Consultation	"Call meetings at village halls that have not been published, in the name of consultation which they know counts towards the application succeeding. Unscrupulous."	<p>The Applicant acknowledges this comment but is confident that the level of consultation undertaken and information presented throughout the pre-application stage was in accordance with the Planning Act 2008 and associated guidance. This has been evidenced in C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], which was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and accepted for examination.</p> <p>Please refer to the response to 'CJM-13' above for a fuller response.</p>
CJM-16	The Applicant	The Scheme	"They will make money by selling these fields of food-producing farmland to British Airways or some other conglomerate that wants to offset their carbon footprint."	<p>The powers set out in the draft DCO are granted to the undertaker. Upon decommissioning, the Scheme will be returned to its previous condition, as detailed in paragraph 2.1.1 of C7.2 Outline Decommissioning Statement [APP-338].</p> <p>The power generated by the Scheme will feed into the National Grid to supply the electricity demand of homes and businesses, as detailed in Section 9 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350].</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>The details of the sale of the electricity generated are not a relevant planning matter.</p> <p>Section 3.3 of document C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350], specifically paragraphs 3.3.2, 3.3.5 and 3.3.11, describes the Government's view that large capacities of low-carbon generation will be required to meet increased demand and replace output from retiring (fossil fuel) plants, and that "a secure, reliable, affordable, Net Zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar". This support for large scale solar as part of the 'answer' to net zero and energy security has been repeated in its recent policy documents published in March 2023.</p>
CJM-17	The Scheme Energy Need	Site Selection and Energy Need	<p>"I find the whole thing beyond belief, I am not saying we don't have a use for solar energy but there are so many better places for them to be placed, this country's population is growing ever greater day by day and all of these incumbents will need feeding on what? It is time for some serious thinking to take place and for peoples perspective, to what other sites could be used there are plenty of spaces out there that have no effect on people or their lives."</p>	<p>Section 3.3 of document C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350], specifically paragraphs 3.3.2, 3.3.5 and 3.3.11, describes the Government's view that large capacities of low-carbon generation will be required to meet increased demand and replace output from retiring (fossil fuel) plants, and that "a secure, reliable, affordable, Net Zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar". This support for large scale solar as part of the 'answer' to net zero and energy security has been repeated in its recent policy documents published in March 2023.</p> <p>Section 7.5 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes how suitable locations for large-scale solar are identified and assessed. Paragraph 7.5.2 outlines the broad criteria for determining site suitability.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>Figure 7.4 shows the level of photovoltaic power potential at the proposed location. Section 9 describes the advantages of connecting large-scale solar to the existing and robust National Electricity Transmission System at the proposed Point of Connection at Cottam Power Station, and Paragraph 9.4.4 concludes that the Scheme will contribute to national system adequacy and decarbonisation targets.</p> <p>The Applicant does not consider that the Scheme would result in food security impacts either alone or cumulatively. The UK annual balance of domestically produced food is sensitive to non-planning factors including weather and markets. The relevant assessment for policy purposes (and therefore decision-making purposes under the Planning Act 2008) is one that is based on the grade of the agricultural land, rather than its current use and the intensity of that use. In terms of key threats to UK food security, the Defra UK Food Security Report highlights that the main threat is climate change.</p> <p>Additionally, paragraph 7.6.3 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] analyses the potential contribution of "brownfield" solar sites to the national need for solar generation. Brownfield sites, including rooftop and other community energy systems, are likely to grow in the UK and will make a contribution to decarbonisation of the UK energy system. However, C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] concludes in Section 7.6, that on their own, brownfield developments are unlikely to be able to meet the national need for solar.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>With reference to the party's comment on the viability of other Sites, the Applicant points the party to the response provided within Applicant's Ref. 'CJM-12'.</p>

EDF Energy [AS-002]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
EDF-01	The Scheme	Draft DCO	<p>"This relevant representation is submitted on behalf of EDF Energy (Thermal Generation) Limited ("EDF") requesting that EDF is treated as an Interested Party for the Examination of the DCO application for the Cottam Solar Project (PINS reference EN010133) (the "Project").</p> <p>EDF owns Cottam Power Station, a coal-fired station in close proximity to the proposed Order Limits, through which part of the proposed cable corridor of the Project will run. The station ceased generating in 2019 and EDF has responsibility for the safe decommissioning and demolition of the power station assets. Cottam Power Station houses critical live infrastructure for both National Grid and the adjacent Cottam Development Centre (CDC) which is owned and operated by Uniper.</p> <p>The Book of Reference ("BoR") identifies plots 18-385, 19-390, 19-391</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment and notes that discussions are ongoing with EDF to develop protective provisions to be included within the DCO that will protect the Party's existing rights and infrastructure.</p> <p>The requirement for on-site surveys to ground-truth the location of utilities is established in para 21.3.4 and 21.3.5 of C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21_Other Environmental Matters [APP-056] and detailed within Table 3.14 of C7.1 Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) [APP-337]. A provision of a detailed CEMP has been secured by Requirement 13 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]. The Applicant is committed to consultation and agreement with operators and/or owners of utility infrastructure that is likely to be directly impacted by the location or design of the Scheme.</p>

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			<p>and 19-392 (the "EDF Plots") as land owned by EDF over which compulsory acquisition powers to acquire new rights and imposition of restrictions are sought. To safeguard EDF's interests, and the safety and integrity of the ongoing decommissioning and continuing operations, EDF objects to the inclusion of the EDF Plots in the DCO and the compulsory powers in respect of such plots.</p> <p>EDF will require appropriate protection to ensure that the Project does not jeopardise continuing operations (including those of the CDC) or site decommissioning and demolition. EDF's rights of access to inspect, maintain, renew and repair such infrastructure must be maintained at all times and access to inspect and maintain such apparatus must not be restricted.</p> <p>EDF are responsible for third-party critical infrastructure on the site (a make-up and purge line which</p>	

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			supplies the CDC, a 400kV underground electricity cable and gas pipeline all owned by Uniper, underground and overground cables owned by National Grid, numerous cables owned by Western Power Distribution and potable water supplies). Any infrastructure or operations associated with the Project must protect this third-party infrastructure and be undertaken in full compliance with the terms of existing legal agreements and obligations."	
EDF-02	The Scheme	Planning Policy	"The wider Cottam Site has been designated in the draft Bassetlaw Local Plan as a "Priority Regeneration Area," and EDF wish to ensure that regeneration of the site is facilitated in line with the Council's requirements and ambitions. It is therefore imperative that the proposed cable route does not sterilise development land or detract from future development plans."	The Scheme will not sterilise development land or detract from future development plans, as set out in paragraph 6.2.29 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] . The cable route corridor is the only aspect of the Scheme for which this policy is relevant. The location and means of construction for the Cable Route will not prejudice the comprehensive redevelopment of the Cottam Site.

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EDF-03	The Scheme	Draft DCO: Protective Provisions	<p>"EDF will require protective provisions to be included within the draft DCO for the Project to ensure that its interests are adequately protected and to ensure compliance with relevant safety, decommissioning and third-party obligations. Additionally, EDF recommend that a pre-commencement requirement be imposed under the DCO, if granted, related to the approval of the final cable routing and that EDF be a named consultee for subsequent discharge of such a requirement.</p> <p>EDF is liaising with the Promoter in relation to the proposed route and such protective provisions, along with any supplementary agreements which may be required. EDF reserves the right to make further representations as part of the Examination process but in the meantime will continue to liaise with the Promoter with a view to reaching a satisfactory agreement."</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment and notes that discussions are ongoing with EDF to develop protective provisions to be included within the DCO that will protect the Party's existing rights and infrastructure. In the event that it is agreed that the Applicant should consult with EDF prior to discharging specific requirements then this will be included in the protective provisions.</p> <p>Please refer to the response to 'EDF-01' above for a fuller response.</p>

The Coal Authority [AS-003]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
TCA-01	The Scheme	Minerals	<p>"Further to the notification of 16 February 2023 from the Communications team at Cottam Solar Project, I have checked the site location plan (Figure 1.1 – Application Doc No. C6.4.1.1, 03/12/2022) against the information held by the Coal Authority and can confirm that the project area is located off the coalfield.</p> <p>Accordingly, the Coal Authority's Planning team have no specific comments to make."</p>	The Applicant notes this comment.

Health and Safety Executive (RR not made. See Appendix C)

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
HSE-01	The Scheme	Consultation	Will the proposed development fall within any of HSE's consultation distances?	<p>The Applicant confirms that the Scheme falls within the HSE consultation zones, including the Inner Zone, of a number of major accident hazard sites and pipelines.</p> <p>The requirement for on-site surveys to ground-truth the location of utilities such as major pipelines is set out in paragraphs 21.3.4 and 21.3.5 of C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21_Other Environmental Matters [APP-056] and secured through C7.1_A Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.1_A]. The Applicant is committed to consultation and agreement with operators and/or owners of utility infrastructure that is likely to be directly impacted by the location or design of the Scheme.</p> <p>The Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan is secured in the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] which provides (in Requirement 13 of Schedule 2) that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a construction environmental management plan for that part has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities". It further provides that "The construction environmental management plan must be substantially in accordance with the outline construction environmental management plan."</p>

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HSE-02			<p>Hazardous Substance Consent</p> <p>HSE notes the Applicant's comments made in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <i>Table 21.6.2 of its Chapter C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21: Other Environmental Matters document, 'Major accident hazard sites and major accident hazard pipelines have been identified and preliminary offsets as required by easements and operator safety distances have been embedded in the Scheme design.', and</i> ii. <i>The comments provided on PDF page 366 of document Chapter C5.11 Consultation Report Appendix - Section 42 Applicant Response between the Applicant and Exolum Pipeline System Ltd.</i> <p>The Applicant is reminded that construction activities within the consultation zones related to Major Accident Hazard Pipelines require the Applicant to obtain permission for the work from the pipeline operator.</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment and confirms that, in any case, permission for construction works within the consultation zones relating to Major Accident Hazard Pipelines will be obtained from the pipeline operator.</p>

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HSE-03	Major Accidents and Disasters	Explosives	HSE has no comment to make as there are no licensed explosives sites in the vicinity.	The Applicant notes this comment.
HSE-04	Major Accidents and Disasters	Electrical Safety	No comment from a planning perspective.	The Applicant notes this comment.

Alison Amanda Wood [RR-060]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
AAW-01	The Scheme Cumulative Development	Cumulative Development and Agricultural Land Use	"It is proposed that the area in which I live will be impacted by as many as four separate schemes to develop solar farms in a small rural set of communities amounting to about 10,000 acres."	The cumulative effects of the identified Schemes are assessed in Section 18.10 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] . The greatest level of cumulative effect to access, desirability and use of recreational facilities is anticipated during construction (see paras. 18.10.28 to 18.10.31). These effects are therefore anticipated to be significant and adverse, albeit short-term for the cumulative construction phase only.
AAW-02	The Scheme Energy Need Ecology and Biodiversity Socio- Economics, Tourism and Recreation Soils and Agriculture Other Environmental Matters: Human Health	Nature of the Scheme	"This area is made up of valuable, high yielding arable farmland in a time when we cannot afford to remove any productive agricultural land from the food supply. This will impact not only the latter but wildlife, the ecosystem, local jobs, the local community and the environment."	<p>The selection of the Scheme's location has followed a systematic step-by-step process as set out in detail within C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067]. This took a sequential approach to the consideration of potential sites in terms of agricultural land classification. As a result, the Scheme maximises the utilisation of low grade, non-best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land with 95.9% of the land being classified as non BMV land.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the above, the Applicant recognises the significance of the agricultural industry in the local economy and has assessed the economic impact of the Scheme in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] and the direct impacts on local agriculture in Sections 19.9 and 19.10 of C6.2.19_A ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A].</p> <p>The Scheme is anticipated to lead to a maximum loss of approximately 17 full-time equivalent agriculture jobs, as stated in</p>

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				<p>paragraph 18.7.15 of document C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]. The Scheme is estimated to employ 10 full-time equivalent employees from the local area during operation; see Table 18.16. The net change in employment in the local area (defined as West Lindsey and Bassetlaw Districts) during the Scheme's operational life is a loss of approximately 2 full-time jobs, once consideration of direct, indirect and induced employment, and impacts on the tourism and recreation industry are considered (see para. 18.7.79). Overall, the economic benefit to the local area is estimated to be £2.2 million per year (see para. 18.7.97).</p> <p>The overall employment and economic benefit to the local area from the two-year construction period is anticipated to be 661 full-time equivalent jobs (see para. 18.7.23), generating £30.9 million per year (see para. 18.7.52).</p> <p>Section 3.3 of document C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350], specifically paragraphs 3.3.2, 3.3.5 and 3.3.11, describes the Government's view that large capacities of low-carbon generation will be required to meet increased demand and replace output from retiring (fossil fuel) plants, and that "a secure, reliable, affordable, Net Zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar". This support for large scale solar as part of the 'answer' to net zero and energy security has been repeated in its recent policy documents published in March 2023.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>Section 7.5 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes how suitable locations for large-scale solar are identified and assessed. Paragraph 7.5.2 outlines the broad criteria for determining site suitability.</p> <p>Figure 7.4 shows the level of photovoltaic power potential at the proposed location. Section 9 describes the advantages of connecting large-scale solar to the existing and robust National Electricity Transmission System at the proposed Point of Connection at Cottam Power Station, and Paragraph 9.4.4 concludes that the Scheme will contribute to national system adequacy and decarbonisation targets.</p> <p>Additionally, an anticipated substantial net gain for biodiversity will be achieved (see C6.3.9.12 ES Appendix 9.12 Biodiversity Net Gain Report [APP-089]), predominantly through the creation of extensive low-input grassland resulting in a net gain of 96.09% in habitat units, but also several new ponds and wetland habitat parcels resulting in a net gain of 10.69% in river units, and the planting of several kilometres of species-rich hedgerow resulting in a net gain of 70.22% in hedgerow units.</p> <p>This is secured by Requirement 9 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], which states that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a biodiversity net gain strategy has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority, in consultation with the relevant statutory nature conservation body."</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
AAW-03	Energy Need Landscape and Visual Impact	Proximity of Panels to Dwelling	"The visual impact will be enormous: my isolated property will be surrounded by solar panels instead of productive farmland for the prospect of producing a very limited potential supply of power."	<p>The Applicant has been unable to identify the Party's isolated property and invites the Party to provide clarity on the location of their property.</p> <p>Table 7.1 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] shows the electricity generated per hectare by different low-carbon technologies. At the UK's average solar load factor (11%), solar generation produces much more energy per hectare than biogas, and generates a similar amount of energy as onshore wind.</p> <p>Furthermore, paragraph 7.6.8 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] states that: "Draft NPS EN-3 includes an anticipated range of 2 to 4 acres for each MW of output generally required for a solar farm along with its associated infrastructure." The Scheme as proposed delivers a large-scale solar generation asset which is consistent with this range, as is described through paragraphs 4.2.1 to 4.2.3 of C6.2.4_A ES Chapter 4 Scheme Description Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.4_A]. This demonstrates that the proposed locations for the Scheme are suitable sites which can accommodate an asset which is consistent with government's view of best practice ratios of land take and installed capacity.</p> <p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') takes into account the effects on residential receptors and this includes singular buildings, groups of buildings and towns or villages. Table 8.15 of the LVIA sets out the selection of initial residential receptors for the purpose of the assessment, the reason for their selection being that the receptors are all within the 1km</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>Study Area for the Scheme and the 0.5km Study Area from the outer boundary of the Cable Route Corridor. The LVIA sets out (paras. 8.1.1, 8.4.5, 8.6.1, 8.8.2, 8.8.3 and 8.11.1) that the assessment process is iterative and as a result, the design of the Scheme is modified to respond to have regard to the feedback of the stakeholders, including the local residents and to take account of the findings of the LVIA to ensure that landscape mitigation is fully considered as part of the process.</p> <p>For example, within the LVIA, at the Cottam 1 Site, the PRoW bridleway (Fill/86/1) leads from Short Lane (at the settlement of Ingham) to join with PRoW footpath (Ingh/17/1), then eventually joins with Willingham Road. As a result of the Scheme, the foreground of the view would change from a large, gently sloping arable field to an area of panels. This is set out in C6.3.8.3 ES Appendix 8.3 Assessment of Potential Visual Effects includes 8.3.1 - 8.3.5 [APP-075] on sheet [EN010133/APP/C6.3.8.3.5.2.1] Public Rights of Way Receptor – Fill/86 (Fill/86/1) and on sheet [EN010133/APP/C6.3.8.3.2.3.19]. In this instance (Sheet C6.3.8.3.5.2.1 page 1), the Embedded Mitigation would include panels set a minimum of 15m from the adjacent PRoW. Existing hedges would also be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of the existing hedges at close range. Furthermore (Sheet C6.3.8.3.2.3.19 on page 3), in the middle distance, new and augmented hedgerows will provide a series of strong field</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				boundaries both formally strengthening the existing and historical field pattern and also in creating a multi-layered landscape.
AAW-04	The Scheme Landscape and Visual Impact Other Environmental Matters: Human Health	Human Health impacts of the Scheme	"The boundary between my garden and the adjoining field (in which it is proposed to place these solar panels) is less than 10 metres away. I am very worried that this will impact my severely autistic daughter's well-being who is very susceptible to small sensory changes in her environment and, for whom, we moved to this rural area over twenty years ago so that she could benefit from the calm and tranquil environment that it has to offer and that she loves so much."	<p>The Applicant welcomes the Party to make a more detailed representation so that a fuller response can be provided.</p> <p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') takes into account the effects on residential receptors and this includes singular buildings, groups of buildings and towns or villages. Table 8.15 of the LVIA sets out the selection of initial residential receptors for the purpose of the assessment, the reason for their selection being that the receptors are all within the 1km Study Area for the Scheme and the 0.5km Study Area from the outer boundary of the Cable Route Corridor.</p> <p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] sets out that for some aspects of the Scheme (the construction stages in particular) (para. 8.6.2), the effects have been assessed to be significant adverse. Where significant adverse effects are identified then strategic landscape mitigation measures (para. 8.6.3) will be applied to offset or remedy any adverse effects.</p> <p>The C7.1_A Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.1_A] sets out measures to control working hours, noise, and lighting (Sections 2.4 to 2.6) originating from the construction activities for the Scheme to control and minimise adverse impacts. This outline plan is secured by Requirement 13 in Schedule 2</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] .
AAW-05	The Scheme Landscape and Visual Impact	Cumulative Landscape and Visual Effects	"If these proposal were to go ahead. this rural landscape would never recover from the consequences of this industrialisation,"	<p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') takes into account the effects on the landscape character in detail, including the rural landscape and that it is part of the heritage of Lincolnshire, as set out within the Trent Vale Conservation Management Plan (TVCMP) (see paras. 8.5.42 to 8.5.44). The TVCMP also sets out the importance of heritage trails and the promotion of circular walks (para. 8.5.46).</p> <p>The Scheme has been designed to enhance and retain the rural character of the local area and has been designed to be sympathetic to the mixed field system heritage of the landscape as set out within the LVIA (see para. 8.5.119). The findings also note this is a predominantly rural and sparsely settled area with small villages and dispersed farms and residential dwellings linked by long roads and a network of minor tracks which follow geometric field patterns.</p> <p>With regard to the cumulative effects of the Scheme, the LVIA [APP-043] assesses the impacts of the Scheme alongside the proposed Gate Burton, West Burton and Tillbridge Solar proposals and shows that significant adverse effects would not occur on landscape character and visual amenity over an extensive area.</p> <p>With Gate Burton, this is illustrated on C6.4.8.15.2.6 ES Figure 8.15.2.6 Cottam 1, 2 and 3 Gate Burton Cumulative Development Augmented ZTV [APP-300], as being located to the west of the</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>settlements of Willingham by Stow, Kexby and Upton. This is showing that the cumulative effects of these projects would therefore not occur due to the significant distance between them. The LVIA concludes that with Regional Character Areas [paras. 8.10.12 to 8.10.16] and Individual Contributors to Landscape Character [paras. 8.10.17 to 8.10.25], there is potential for cumulative effects, but that these would be Not Significant.</p> <p>With West Burton, this is illustrated on C6.4.8.15.2.9 ES Figure 8.15.2.9 Cottam 1, 2 and 3 West Burton Cumulative Development Augmented ZTV [APP-303], as being located to the west and south west of the settlements of Sturton by Stow, Bransby and Broxholme. This is showing the cumulative effects of these projects would therefore not occur due to the significant distance between them. The LVIA concludes that with Regional Character Areas [paras. 8.10.12 to 8.10.16] and Individual Contributors to Landscape Character [paras. 8.10.17 to 8.10.25], there is potential for cumulative effects, but that these would be Not Significant.</p> <p>With the Tillbridge proposals, this is illustrated on C6.4.8.15.2.8 ES Figure 8.15.2.8 Cottam 1, 2 and 3 Tillbridge Solar Cumulative Development Augmented ZTV [APP-301], as being located to the west and east of the settlement of Springthorpe and situated between the settlements of Heapham, Hemswell Cliff and Glentworth. The Cottam 1 and Cottam 2 Sites and Tillbridge boundaries are located adjacent to each other. Cumulative effects of these three proposals have been identified, for example in relation to land use. At the</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>construction phase and operation phase (Year 1) of the Scheme, there are potential significant effects predicted of the adverse type. Whereas, at the operation phase (Year 15) of the Scheme, the type of effect would change from adverse to neutral with no significant effects predicted. This is set out in more detail at C6.3.8.2.3.1 and C6.3.8.2.3.2 and C6.3.8.2.3.3 ES Appendix 8.2 Assessment of Potential Landscape Effects [APP-074].</p> <p>Effects on landscape character will be experienced at the local level and it is recognised within the LVIA that some features, such as land use, open character and the local highway network will undergo change, but the majority of the key characteristics will not be altered, including industrial heritage of the River Trent, which is identified within the LVIA as a key feature (para. 8.5.149). The LVIA also notes that agriculture is the dominant land use, and that the landscape contains views of an open nature beneath vast skies that are often extensive and uninterrupted (paras. 8.5.14, 8.5.21, 8.5.31 and 8.5.152).</p>
AAW-06	The Scheme Public Consultation Cumulative Development	Public Support for the Scheme and Cumulative Development	"There is widespread concern and anxiety over these schemes within the local community. There is no support for them from the local parish or district council and I think it is a democratic right for the local community's concerns to be consulted and listened to. To sanction	<p>The Applicant acknowledges this comment but is confident that the level of consultation undertaken and information presented throughout the pre-application stage was in accordance with the Planning Act 2008 and associated guidance. This has been evidenced in C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], which was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and accepted for examination.</p> <p>For example, as described in Chapter 2 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], the Applicant undertook two phases of community</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>their development would be to ride rough-shod over the wishes of the local community and people who actually live here.</p>	<p>consultation to share information and invite feedback at different stages of Scheme development.</p> <p>Chapter 7 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes the Applicant's approach to statutory consultation, including consulting with relevant authorities on a draft Statement of Community Consultation. Table 7.1 sets out the comments received from authorities on the Applicant's approach to consultation and how the Applicant has had regard to these in developing the Scheme. Table 7.3 in Chapter 7 describes how the Applicant complied with commitments made in the Statement of Community Consultation when undertaking statutory consultation.</p> <p>Chapter 8 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes how the Applicant undertook a six-week statutory phase two consultation on the Scheme, during which the Applicant presented consultees with environmental information sufficient for consultees to understand the potential likely significant effects of the Scheme in a Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR). A non-technical summary was published to accompany the PEIR, with public information events and free-to-use communications channels open to help aid accessibility and understanding of the Scheme. A Consultation Summary Report for this phase of statutory consultation was published on the dedicated Scheme website, shared with elected representatives and stakeholders and issued to over 9,000 properties within the vicinity of the Scheme, to help consultees understand how their feedback was being considered. A copy of the Phase Two Consultation Summary</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>Report is provided as C5.7 Appendix 5.7: Phase Two Community Consultation Materials [APP-028].</p> <p>Chapter 11 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes the significant volume of responses received to Section 47 consultation (local community), including the issues raised and how the Applicant has had regard to these in developing the Scheme. This is further evidenced by C5.10 Appendix 5.10: Consultation Report Appendix - Section 47 Applicant Response [APP-033].</p>

The Derry Family [RR-160]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
TDF-01	Landscape and Visual Impact	Residential Receptors	"Our property will overlook the Solar Farm."	<p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') takes into account the effects on residential receptors and this includes singular buildings, groups of buildings and towns or villages. Table 8.15 of the LVIA sets out the selection of initial residential receptors for the purpose of the assessment, the reason for their selection being that the receptors are all within the 1km Study Area for the Scheme and the 0.5km Study Area from the outer boundary of the Cable Route Corridor.</p> <p>The Applicant can provide a more specific response if further details can be provided on the location of the dwelling in due course.</p>
TDF-02	The Scheme Landscape and Visual Impact	Agricultural Land Use	"At present, this land is valuable farmland, with change of crops grown year after year. The annual harvesting of crops in these fields is wonderful to see."	<p>The Applicant notes this comment and notes that the Scheme, inclusive of the BESS, will be decommissioned in full and as such, there will not be a permanent loss of the agricultural land resource. As a worst case scenario, the ES assumes that a small area of land could be lost to agricultural use (see paragraph 19.7.7 of C6.2.19_A ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A]).</p> <p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') includes a full and detailed assessment that deals with both effects on the landscape itself and effects on the visual amenity of people, as well as interrelationships of these with other related topics in the ES.</p>

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				The LVIA process is iterative and as a result, the design of the Scheme changed to respond to the findings of the assessment to ensure that landscape mitigation is fully considered as part of the process. This assessment is undertaken in accordance with C6.3.8.1 ES Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology [APP-068] .
TDF-03	Ecology and Biodiversity	Wildlife and Habitats	"There is an abundance of wildlife, to include deer, foxes, hares, barn owls, tawny owls as well as a variety of insects during the summer of months. Buzzards nest every year in the Oak trees. The Solar Farm would have a huge negative impact to the wildlife and devastate their habitat. We are supposed to be nurturing the environment and protecting what we have."	Section 9.6 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] sets out the extensive findings of all ecological investigations undertaken within the Order Limits together with an appraisal of the relative importance of each species or species group, habitat or designated site. A comprehensive package of mitigation measures has been identified, in tandem with embedded mitigation (see Section 9.6) established through the ecologically sensitive design of the Scheme (such as the wide buffering of all field boundaries and the use of existing hedgerow gaps for accesses). These measures have been further detailed within C7.19 Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [APP-356] and C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] as secured by Requirements 8 and 7 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] respectively. C6.3.9.12 ES Appendix 9.12 Biodiversity Net Gain Report [APP-089] sets out how a significant net gain for biodiversity has been calculated and will be secured via Requirement 9 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] for the life of the Scheme alongside the implementation of the LEMP C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>[EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A], as secured by Requirement 7 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]. The BNG Report [APP-089] shows that a net gain of 96.09% for habitat units, 70.22% for hedgerow units and 10.69% for river units is anticipated to be achieved through the Scheme. The LEMP allows for regular ecological monitoring and adaptation of the management prescriptions in response to changing conditions within the Order Limits so as to ensure the long-term achievement of its aims and persistence of net gain.</p>
TDF-04	Transport and Access	Construction Site Accesses	"During development of the proposed project, there will be disruption with access to and from our property, as this is a main route to the fields."	<p>An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been prepared to support the application within C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A]. C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], provides (in Requirement 15 of Schedule 2) that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a construction traffic management plan for that part must be submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities". It further provides that "The construction traffic management plan must be substantially in accordance with the outline construction traffic management plan."</p> <p>The outline CTMP submitted as part of the DCO application provides a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements to and from the Scheme, to ensure that the effects of the temporary</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>construction phase on the local highway network are minimised and made acceptable.</p> <p>The Applicant can provide a more specific response if further details can be provided on the location of the dwelling in due course.</p>

Emma Kimberley [RR-189]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
EK-01	The Scheme Cumulative Development	Nature of the Scheme and Cumulative Development	"I do not support any of the 4 projects, in particular - its routing. All 4 projects should be looked at as 1. The scale is astronomical. On a personal level as a small land owner, it destroys anything we have ever worked for."	<p>The Applicant notes this comment. Whilst it has not been possible for the Scheme to avoid all significant residual impacts, these have been identified within the Environmental Statement [APP-036 to APP-058] and have been minimised, where possible, through careful and sensitive design and detailed mitigation strategies. The Environmental Statement [APP-036 to APP-058] has considered cumulative effects throughout.</p> <p>With regards to traffic routing, an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been prepared to support the application within C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A]. C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], provides (in Requirement 15 of Schedule 2) that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a construction traffic management plan for that part must be submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities". It further provides that "The construction traffic management plan must be substantially in accordance with the outline construction traffic management plan."</p> <p>The outline CTMP submitted as part of the DCO application provides a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements to and from the Scheme, to ensure that the effects of the temporary</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>construction phase on the local highway network are minimised and made acceptable.</p> <p>With regard to the cable's routing, the consideration of alternatives has been undertaken within C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040]. This includes the consideration of alternative sites (Section 5.5), alternative technologies (Section 5.6), alternative layouts (Section 5.7), alternative substation locations (section 5.8) and most importantly, in relation to the party's comment, alternative cable routes (Section 5.9). C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040] concludes in paragraphs 5.10.2, 5.10.3 and 5.10.4 that alternative potential development areas did not perform as well as the Sites. As such, the routing of the cable is reflective of the land required for the Scheme which has been demonstrated within C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] to perform better than 8 of the assessed Potential Development Areas (PDAs) and equal to the remaining one following the site selection process.</p>
EK-02	The Scheme Consultation	Adequacy of Consultation	<p>"Although the companies vying for this project have appeared to "consult" land owners, this is not the case, documentation has been deliberately misleading and confusing. We have voiced our opinions numerous times - but we have had no further response (notably after we</p>	<p>The Applicant is confident that the methods used, level of consultation undertaken and information presented throughout the pre-application stage was compliant with the Planning Act 2008 and associated guidance, which makes clear the importance of consulting local communities and parish councils. This is set out in detail in the C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], which was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and accepted for examination.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			shared our real time costs for moving our animals)."	Following an on site walk over of the land on 13 April 2023 where the cost implications of crossing the land and the disturbance to the land owner were discussed, an alternative route through neighbouring land but within the existing planning application boundary is now being explored.
EK-03	The Scheme Energy Need Climate Change Ecology and Biodiversity Transport and Access Soils and Agriculture	Nature of the Scheme and its Potential Impacts	"It is not clear when this project will actually make its money back for the people of the UK, and when it will truly be "green" with the increased amount of traffic, use of silica sand for the panel build, increased health and safety risk, increased risk to animals and their habitats (I have a leucistic barn owl that frequently visits my land), loss of productive land and general disruption to a phenomenal number of people."	<p>Chapter 4 of the C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] sets out the UK's legal requirement to decarbonise and explains how that requirement has created an increased need and urgency to meet the UK's obligations under the Paris Agreement (2015) as detailed within para. 4.2.7. The chapter summarises the latest expert views on the urgency for and depth of low-carbon infrastructure needed to deliver the UK's Net Zero legal obligations, and demonstrates that there is an urgent need for the development of large-scale solar schemes.</p> <p>Paragraphs 6.2.17 to 6.2.19 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] explain that it is against this backdrop that NPS EN-1 paragraph 4.1.2 sets a presumption in favour of granting permission for energy NSIP projects. This is carried through to Draft NPS EN-1 at paragraphs 4.1.2 and 4.1.3.</p> <p>Section 6.2 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] sets out how the Scheme will meet the compelling need for renewable energy in accordance with relevant national planning policies. In summary, the Scheme would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver a large amount of renewable generation capacity (35,590,658 MWh over the estimated 40-year assessed lifetime) (see

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>para. 6.2.32) to deliver the Government's energy objectives and legally binding net zero commitments in line with the requirements of paragraph 1.1.1 of NPS EN-3 (see para. 6.2.3), paragraph 3.3.21 of draft NPS EN-1 (see para. 6.2.10), section 3.4 of NPS EN-1 and the National Infrastructure Strategy 2020;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver a reduction of 5,974,155 tCO₂e over the lifetime of the Scheme compared to if it did not go ahead (see para. 6.2.35) which would make a significant contribution towards reducing carbon emissions as required by paragraph 1.1.1 of NPS EN-1, paragraph 2.3.2 of Draft NPS EN-1, the National Infrastructure Strategy 2020 and the Energy White Paper: "Powering our net zero future"; • Deliver in a timescale that is short in the context of the delivery of other forms of energy generation in line with the urgent need to decarbonise set out in paragraphs 3.3.5, 3.3.15 (see para. 6.2.4) and 3.4.5 of NPS EN-1 (see para. 6.2.1), Paragraph 2.3.2 (see para. 6.2.8) of Draft NPS EN-1 and the National Infrastructure Strategy 2020; • Enable all consumers to benefit from the effect of low-marginal cost solar generation on reducing market prices, in line with the aim to provide affordable energy for consumers set out at Paragraph 2.3.2, Paragraph 2.3.5 and 3.3.21 of Draft NPS EN-1 (see paras. 6.2.8, 6.2.9 and 6.2.10); • Help ensure security and reliability of energy supply in line with Paragraph 2.3.2 and 2.3.5 of the Draft NPS EN-1. <p>In addition, an anticipated substantial net gain for biodiversity will be achieved (see C6.3.9.12 ES Appendix 9.12 Biodiversity Net Gain Report [APP-089]), predominantly through the creation of extensive low-input grassland resulting in a net gain of 96.09% in habitat units,</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>but also several new ponds and wetland habitat parcels resulting in a net gain of 10.69% in river units, and the planting of several kilometres of species-rich hedgerow resulting in a net gain of 70.22% in hedgerow units.</p> <p>An assessment of potential impacts upon protected species and Important Ecological Features has been set out in paragraphs 9.7.105 - 9.7.241 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] and sets out the extensive findings of all ecological investigations undertaken within the Order Limits together with an appraisal of the relative importance of each species or species group, habitat or designated site. A comprehensive package of mitigation measures has been identified, in tandem with embedded mitigation (see Section 9.6) established through the ecologically sensitive design of the Scheme (such as the wide buffering of all field boundaries and the use of existing hedgerow gaps for accesses). These measures are further detailed within C7.19 Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [APP-356] and C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] as secured by Requirements 8 and 7 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] respectively, which will ensure that all identified impacts are minimised as far as possible.</p> <p>This will be secured through the management and ecological monitoring prescriptions set out within C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] which are</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>secured through Requirement 7 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>The solar panels will be decommissioned, disassembled, and removed from the site for waste management, of which it is assumed 75-82.6% will be recycled as set out in para. 20.5.5 and 20.5.10 of C6.2.20 ES Chapter 20 Waste [APP-055]. Solar panels are predominantly made from recyclable materials such as the metal frames, mounting structures, and glass facing panes. There is also an emerging industry for recycling and reusing the internal fittings and electrical equipment within solar panels (para. 20.7.29).</p>
EK-04	Energy Need Climate Change	Scheme's Renewable Nature	"I am not anti solar, but this project is unacceptable and is not green in any aspect, the numbers being produced are not viable."	<p>Section 3.3 of document C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350], specifically paragraphs 3.3.2, 3.3.5 and 3.3.11, describes the Government's view that large capacities of low-carbon generation will be required to meet increased demand and replace output from retiring (fossil fuel) plants, and that "a secure, reliable, affordable, Net Zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar". This support for large scale solar as part of the 'answer' to net zero and energy security has been repeated in its recent policy documents published in March 2023.</p> <p>Section 7.5 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes how suitable locations for large-scale solar are identified and assessed. Paragraph 7.5.2 outlines the broad criteria for determining site suitability.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>Figure 7.4 shows the level of photovoltaic power potential at the proposed location. Section 9 describes the advantages of connecting large-scale solar to the existing and robust National Electricity Transmission System at the proposed Point of Connection at Cottam Power Station, and Paragraph 9.4.4 concludes that the Scheme will contribute to national system adequacy and decarbonisation targets.</p> <p>In addition, an anticipated substantial net gain for biodiversity will be achieved (see C6.3.9.12 ES Appendix 9.12 Biodiversity Net Gain Report [APP-089]), predominantly through the creation of extensive low-input grassland resulting in a net gain of 96.09% in habitat units, but also several new ponds and wetland habitat parcels resulting in a net gain of 10.69% in river units, and the planting of several kilometres of species-rich hedgerow resulting in a net gain of 70.22% in hedgerow units.</p> <p>This will be secured through the management and ecological monitoring prescriptions set out within C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] which are secured through Requirement 7 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>
EK-05	The Scheme	The Order Limits and Nature of Proposal	"We have pregnant mares on our field and they want to put a cable through it. This is also our main source of feed for our horses (the grass and the	Works to lay the grid connection cable are covered under Work No.6B in in Schedule 1 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] . The nature of these works is confined to corridor set within the Order Limits that will be

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>hay/haylage we get from it). To lose it would be catastrophic."</p>	<p>determined at the detailed design stage, and as such will not require the entirety of the land identified in the Order Limits.</p> <p>As noted within paragraphs 14.7.55 to 14.7.61 of C6.2.14 ES Chapter 14 Transport and Access [APP-049], the construction period for the Grid Connection Route will be approximately 24 months. The Route will be constructed in 4km sections with each section taking approximately 90 days to complete. The impacts of constructing the Grid Connection will be temporary and are not anticipated to result in any loss of agricultural land (See paragraphs 19.3.7 to 19.3.10 of C6.2.19_A ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A]).</p> <p>Paragraph 5.5.24 of C7.6 Design and Access Statement - Part 1 of 4 [APP-342] notes that the "final cable route corridor is predominantly 50m in width" which allows for the micro-siting of the cable route. The Applicant intends to work with the landowner to micro-site the cable within the cable route corridor comprising the Order Limits to minimise disturbance as far as possible.</p> <p>All construction works are controlled by the measures set out in C7.1_A Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.1_A]. These measures are secured by Requirement 13 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>Landowners will be compensated for crop loss and disturbance created by the temporary construction works.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
EK-06	Transport and Access Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation	Construction Phase of the Scheme	"Our village has a lot of horses and thereby a lot of bridleways and footpaths being threatened by the work (which isn't clear when it is estimated to start and how long it will take)."	<p>Public Rights of Way may be subject to short-term temporary diversions or closures to facilitate cable laying as set out in para 3.13 of C6.3.14.3 ES Appendix 14.3 Public Rights of Way Management Plan [APP-136]. All Public Rights of Way are to remain open during construction where feasible, and all existing Public Rights of Way are to be retained during the Scheme's operational lifetime. These commitments will be secured through Requirement 18 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>Furthermore, C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A] provides a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements to and from the Scheme, to ensure that the effects of the temporary construction phase on the local highway network are minimised.</p> <p>The earliest date for construction to commence is Q4 2024, and will run for approximately 24 months, as described in paragraph 4.6.1 of C6.2.4_A ES Chapter 4 Scheme Description Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.4_A].</p>
EK-07	Transport and Access Noise and Vibration	Increase in HGV Traffic During Construction, Operation and Decommissioning	"The increased number of HGV's is really concerning (we already have a HGV hub in the next village, I cannot imagine having more - increased noise etc, I have young horses that I need to cross the road with, I am worried for my safety and my animals	<p>An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been prepared to support the application in C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A]. C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], provides (in Requirement 15 of Schedule 2) that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a construction traffic management plan for that part</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			welfare. I am concerned for my pregnant mares and the disruption and distress this will cause them. They will have to widen the road. People already drive far too fast in the 30mph and national speed areas around Cottam, widening the road will only encourage this. Will it take the death of a child to stop it?"	<p>must be submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities". It further provides that "The construction traffic management plan must be substantially in accordance with the outline construction traffic management plan."</p> <p>The outline CTMP submitted as part of the DCO application provides a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements to and from the Scheme, to ensure that the effects of the temporary construction phase on the local highway network are minimised and made acceptable.</p> <p>Additionally, the likely impacts of noise and vibration during each phase of the Scheme have been assessed in Section 15.7 of C6.2.15 ES Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration [APP-050]. The noise and vibration effects are not anticipated to be significant.</p>
EK-08	Transport and Access	Access to the Scheme	"I am also worried about the safety and security of my animals if an additional access gate to my field is put in."	<p>z provides a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements to and from the Scheme, to ensure that the effects of the temporary construction phase are minimised, and to ensure the safe movement of all users.</p> <p>A detailed Construction Traffic Management Plan is secured through Requirement 15 in C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
EK-09	Consultation The Scheme Energy Need	Adequacy and Detail of Responses	<p>"My husband joined their last web seminar and was disappointed of how they struggled to answer basic questions about their own project. Their claims for the project's contribution to the electricity supply also appear to be greatly inflated when compared to typical Solar project outputs. They were not even able to tell us at which point the project was at."</p>	<p>The Applicant acknowledges this comment but is confident that the level of consultation and engagement undertaken and information presented throughout the pre-application stage was in accordance with the Planning Act 2008 and associated guidance. This has been evidenced in C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], which was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and accepted for examination.</p> <p>Table 7.1 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] shows the electricity generated per hectare by different low-carbon technologies. At the UK's average solar load factor (11%), solar generation produces much more energy per hectare than biogas, and generates a similar amount of energy as onshore wind.</p> <p>Furthermore, paragraph 7.6.8 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] states that: "Draft NPS EN-3 includes an anticipated range of 2 to 4 acres for each MW of output generally required for a solar farm along with its associated infrastructure." The Scheme as proposed delivers a large-scale solar generation asset which is consistent with this range, as is described through paragraphs 4.2.1 to 4.2.3 of C6.2.4_A ES Chapter 4 Scheme Description Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.4_A]. This demonstrates that the proposed locations for the Scheme are suitable sites which can accommodate an asset which is consistent with government's view of best practice ratios of land take and installed capacity.</p>
EK-10	Energy Need	Risks and Acceptability of	<p>"Overall, this is not a healthy green choice and should be immediately</p>	<p>Section 3.3 of document C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350], specifically paragraphs 3.3.2, 3.3.5 and 3.3.11, describes the</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
	Climate Change	Mitigation for the Scheme	stopped. It does not meet the standards of the precautionary principle of risk and therefore until acceptable mitigations can be found the plans should be halted."	<p>Government's view that large capacities of low-carbon generation will be required to meet increased demand and replace output from retiring (fossil fuel) plants, and that "a secure, reliable, affordable, Net Zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar". This support for large scale solar as part of the 'answer' to net zero and energy security has been repeated in its recent policy documents published in March 2023.</p> <p>Section 7.5 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes how suitable locations for large-scale solar are identified and assessed. Paragraph 7.5.2 outlines the broad criteria for determining site suitability.</p> <p>Figure 7.4 shows the level of photovoltaic power potential at the proposed location. Section 9 describes the advantages of connecting large-scale solar to the existing and robust National Electricity Transmission System at the proposed Point of Connection at Cottam Power Station, and Paragraph 9.4.4 concludes that the Scheme will contribute to national system adequacy and decarbonisation targets.</p> <p>Paragraph 5.3.2 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes that the need for decarbonisation grows stronger each year because every year during which no action is taken, more carbon is released into the atmosphere and the global warming effect accelerates. Therefore, early action will have a correspondingly more beneficial impact on our ability to meet the 2050 targets than later action will.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>Because of the importance, therefore, of urgently bringing forward significant capacities of deliverable low carbon power to address climate change, the Government's application of the precautionary principle of risk is to plan infrastructure development "on a conservative basis" without over-relying on technologies which are yet to be proven, have long development lead-times, or which have historically experienced funding difficulties (see paragraph 5.5.9 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350]).</p>

Jonathan Carl Danes [RR-289]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
JCD-01	The Scheme Alternatives and Design Evolution Ecology and Biodiversity	Nature of the Scheme and the Order Limits	"Concerned about the impact of my own land in terms of access and the need to run potential cables through it, when I have an ecological concern and want to extend the ponds to a lake, which this could stop. Therefore having a greater understanding of the plans and input to the use of my land is important."	According to C4.3_A Book of Reference [AS-016] , Jonathan Carl Danes is an Owner/ Reputed Owner of plots 08-162 & 08-163, as shown on C2.2_A Land Plan Revision A [AS-006] . These two plots cover unregistered public highways. The Applicant has issued the respondent with correspondence at the Section 42 and Section 56 stages as they are registered as adjacent landowners of highway and therefore have rights of subsoil beneath the public highway. The Applicant is intending that in relation to these two plots there would only be use of the highway land and not any land outside of the highway. The Applicant has notified the respondent of this via an email dated 12th July 2023.

Nicholas Hill [RR-386]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
NIH-01	The Scheme Cumulative Development	Nature of the Scheme and Cumulative Development	"Cottage [Cottam] Is one of four nsip projects that will all be close together with a total of 10 thousand acres the project should be looked at as one project due to the massive impact on the area."	<p>Cumulative effects assessments have been prepared for the Application within the Environmental Statement [APP-036 to APP-058]. Cumulative effects assessments for each topic are set out in each of the ES Chapters and include the assessment of the impacts of the Scheme cumulatively with the NSIPs identified in paragraph 2.5.9 of C6.2.2 ES Chapter 2 EIA Process and Methodology [APP-037]. This assessment is in accordance with Schedule 4 of the 2017 EIA Regulations and PINS Advice Note 17. The mitigation measures set out across the ES therefore account for anticipated cumulative effects.</p> <p>A cumulative effects assessments summary table [EN010133/EX1/C8.1.8] which has the assessments for Cottam alongside West Burton, Gate Burton and Tillbridge will be provided during examination stage to ensure updates from the publication of the PEIR for Tillbridge Solar are included in the decision-making process.</p> <p>The Applicant is happy for the cumulative impacts of the projects to be considered together if the Planning Inspectorate and Examining Authorities deem it appropriate.</p>
NIH-02	Alternatives and Design Evolution Ecology and Biodiversity		"Ten thousand acres of 4.5 mt high solar panels, fences, batteries, ext that are all so close together will devastate wildlife and affect the mental health	<p>The assessment of both the landscape and visual effects of the 4.5m high solar panels is set out within Section 8.6 of C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') and within the detailed receptor sheets at C6.3.8.2 ES Appendix 8.2 Assessment of Potential Landscape Effects [APP-074] and C6.3.8.3 ES Appendix 8.3 Assessment of Potential Visual Effects [APP-075].</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
	Socio-Economics, Recreation and Tourism		and wellbeing of many people in the area including me."	<p>The effects associated with the sub-stations, panels and associated infrastructure such as fencing and cameras, and substation and battery storage have been taken into consideration in the assessment of both landscape and visual effects.</p> <p>Section 9.6 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] sets out the extensive findings of all ecological investigations undertaken within the Order Limits together with an appraisal of the relative importance of each species or species group, habitat or designated site. A comprehensive package of mitigation measures has been identified, in tandem with embedded mitigation (see Section 9.6) established through the ecologically sensitive design of the Scheme (such as the wide buffering of all field boundaries and the use of existing hedgerow gaps for accesses). These measures have been further detailed within C7.19 Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [APP-356] and C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] as secured by Requirements 8 and 7 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] respectively.</p> <p>C6.3.9.12 ES Appendix 9.12 Biodiversity Net Gain Report [APP-089] sets out how a significant net gain for biodiversity has been calculated and will be secured via Requirement 9 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] for the life of the Scheme alongside the implementation of the LEMP C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A], as secured by Requirement 7 of C3.1_B Draft</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]. The BNG Report [APP-089] shows that a net gain of 96.09% for habitat units, 70.22% for hedgerow units and 10.69% for river units is anticipated to be achieved through the Scheme.</p> <p>The Applicant is cognisant of the significance of the countryside for physical and mental wellbeing and, as such, likely impacts on the desirability and use of recreational facilities in the countryside, such as public rights of way, have been assessed in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]. The greatest level of effect to access, desirability and use of recreational facilities is moderate-minor adverse and is anticipated during construction (see para. 18.7.60-67) and decommissioning (see para. 18.7.143-153). These effects are not anticipated to be significant.</p> <p>This is re-iterated in Section 21.5 of C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21 Other Environmental Matters [APP-056].</p>
NIH-03	<p>Alternatives and Design Evolution</p> <p>Climate Change</p> <p>Waste</p>		<p>"I don't think it's right to have the panels ext imported and manufactured from abroad and then when the panels ext are at the end of their lifespan will be disposed of.Is this environmentally friendly? The land has been chosen on availability</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment and refers the Party to paragraph 7.5.4 of C6.2.7 ES Chapter 7 Climate Change [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.7_A] where it is anticipated that the PV panels will be sourced from China or a country of similar distance from the UK. Therefore, the Applicant has noted and accounted for the sourcing of panels within its assessment and that the manufacture and transport of products will likely be the largest sources of GHG emissions from the Scheme.</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
			and not suitability surely this isn't right."	<p>In respect of Climate Change, paragraph 7.10.2 of C6.2.7 ES Chapter 7 Climate Change [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.7_A] states 'Overall, the Scheme itself will provide major beneficial impacts and a net reduction in GHG'.</p> <p>The solar panels will be decommissioned, disassembled, and removed from the site for waste management, of which it is assumed 75-82.6% will be recycled as set out in paragraph 20.5.5 and 20.5.10 of C6.2.20 ES Chapter 20 Waste [APP-055]. Solar panels are predominantly made from recyclable materials such as the metal frames, mounting structures, and glass facing panes. There is also an emerging industry for recycling and reusing the internal fittings and electrical equipment within solar panels (see paragraph 20.7.29).</p> <p>The consideration of alternatives has been undertaken within C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040]. This includes the consideration of alternative sites (Section 5.5), alternative technologies (Section 5.6), alternative layouts (Section 5.7), alternative substation locations (section 5.8) and alternative cable routes (Section 5.9).</p> <p>The selection of the Scheme's location has followed a systematic step-by-step process as set out in detail within C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067]. This took a sequential approach to the consideration of potential sites in terms of agricultural land classification. As a result, paragraph 3.3.22 states that the Scheme maximises the utilisation of low grade, non best and most</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>versatile (BMV) agricultural land with 95.9% of the land being classified as non BMV land.</p> <p>Paragraphs 2.1.23 to 2.1.32 of C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] detail the consideration of brownfield land and roof tops and sets out why these were discounted as unsuitable. The methodology used for the site selection process is considered reasonable and proportionate and complies with the requirements of NPS EN-1 4.4.3.</p> <p>The land required for the Scheme has been demonstrated within C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] to perform better than 8 of the assessed Potential Development Areas (PDAs) and equal to the remaining one following the site selection process. Consequently, there are no obviously more suitable locations for the Scheme within the Search Area.</p>
NIH-04	The Scheme	Business Impact	"I have a new agricultural business and the implications of these proposals will have massive repercussions and ultimately may put me out of business and on benefits."	<p>The Applicant notes that the business referred to has recently been granted planning permission for the erection of 2 agricultural barns. This permission was granted on 18th January 2023, after the DCO Application was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. In light of the planning permissions, the Applicant is currently reviewing the route of the Shared Cable Corridor in collaboration with West Burton Solar Project and Gate Burton Energy Park.</p> <p>Based on the nature of the Shared Cable Route Corridor comprising linear infrastructure, the works involving the ground are temporary, with the land will be returned to its former use at the end of the</p>

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>construction period. Impacts from the laying of cables for each of the three identified solar projects will be minimised where possible through collaborative work to discharge any pre-construction requirements relating to works in the Shared Cable Corridor (see para. 4.5.55 in C6.2.4_A ES Chapter 4_Scheme Description Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.4_A]. C7.1 Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (OCEMP) [APP-337] has been prepared and submitted in support of the Scheme. The OCEMP, as secured by Requirement 13 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], secures best practice construction methods to minimise disruption.</p> <p>As such, it is estimated that construction of the Shared Cable Route would be 18 months, after which no further impacts on the land above would be anticipated. If the whole extent of cables are to be laid consecutively without works being shared, the maximum estimate for construction is 5 years [APP-039]. Nevertheless, during these periods, it is not anticipated that the business owner would experience significant adverse impacts on their use of or access to the land adjacent to any works undertaken for the laying of cables. In addition, as noted within paragraph 2.10 of C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A], the cable route corridor will be built out in sections over a 24-month period where it is estimated that each section will be approximately 4km. Each section will take approximately 90 working days to construct.</p>



Sarah Helen Danes [RR-468]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
SHD-01	The Scheme Alternatives and Design Evolution Ecology and Biodiversity	Nature of the Scheme and the Order Limits	"Cables may have to go on to my land and this will have an affect upon my plans for the land which is to create a lake. The cables could easily go around the land and have no impact. Therefore this needs addressing."	The respondent has referenced their land on C2.2_A Land Plan Revision A [AS-006] as 08-162 & 08-163. These two plots cover unregistered public highways. The Applicant has issued the respondent with correspondence at the Section 42 and Section 56 stages as they are registered as adjacent landowners of highway and therefore have rights of subsoil beneath the public highway. The Applicant is intending that, in relation to these two plots, there would only be use of the highway land and not any land outside of the highway. The Applicant has notified the respondent of this via an email dated 12th July 2023.
SHD-02	Landscape and Visual Impact Ecology and Biodiversity Cultural Heritage	Important Hedgerow	"Also concern over the plans that do not take account of an important hedgerow on our land, which the plans indicate the underground cabling will impact, title reference LL321108. Your ref on land plans 08-162 & 08-163."	It is not currently proposed to remove hedgerows within Title plan reference LL321108 (Applicant's reference: 08-162 & 08-163 on C2.2_A Land Plan Revision A [AS-006]). In relation to abnormal loads, no additional vegetation removal has been identified as being required, except for minor pruning in just one location at the Normanby Road 'S' bend (see appendix 2 sheets 1 to 3 of drawing no: 22-1062.SPA02 in C6.3.14.1 ES Appendix 14.1 Transport Assessment [APP-134]). 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 the Hedgerow Removal Plans in Appendix C of C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>Revision A [EN010133/EX1PEX/C7.3_A]. 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>Where these minor areas of hedgerow removal are required to enable construction only and are not required as operational accesses, vegetation will be reinstated as secured by Requirement 13 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] once construction is complete (see table 3.3 of C7.1_A Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.1_A]).</p> <p>The historically important hedgerows either side of Willingham Road are each c.750m in length. The gapping required for the cable route would be c.3-6.5m in width, and would, therefore, represent less than 1% of the length of the hedgerow. This very slight impact would be temporary and reversible.</p>

Susan Mary Sharp [RR-512]

Reference	Theme	Issue	Summary of issue raised	Applicant's Response
SMP-01	The Scheme	The Order Limits	"We have a small farm in Stow and they want to use 3 of our fields."	<p>The Applicant has included the land as a conservative approach as potential land required for the cable route corridor, in order to build flexibility into the Applicant's proposals (Land references: 10-221, 10-222 and 10-223 on C2.2_A Land Plan Revision A [AS-006]).</p> <p>However, current design proposals are that there would only be use of the highway land for the cable route and not any third-party land. The Applicant has notified the respondent of this via an email dated 13th July 2023.</p>

2.3 The Applicant's thematic responses to Members of the Public and all remaining Organisations and Businesses

Applicant's Response to Air Quality themed issues.

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
AIR-01	RR-062; RR-063; RR-064; RR-073; RR-074; RR-079; RR-129; RR-136; RR-147; RR-148; RR-152; RR-156; RR-157; RR-163; RR-165; RR-173; RR-180; RR-185; RR-194; RR-201; RR-204; RR-207; RR-210; RR-212; RR-216; RR-234; RR-236; RR-243; RR-249; RR-250; RR-251; RR-268; RR-269; RR-273; RR-274; RR-276; RR-277; RR-307; RR-337; RR-342; RR-356; RR-358; RR-362; RR-371; RR-382; RR-388; RR-393; RR-401; RR-403; RR-431; RR-437; RR-438; RR-439; RR-455; RR-459; RR-482; RR-484; RR-485; RR-488; RR-490; RR-492; RR-515; RR-527; RR-531; RR-538	Fire risk and explosions	<p>Fire, Explosions and Toxic Element Risks</p> <p>Fire risks, explosions and toxic elements could be released, which should be considered in the application.</p> <p>Some comments expressed specific concern that the BESS poses a fire and chemical risk.</p> <p>Comments also referred to its location near Willingham by Stow.</p>	<p>The Applicant has submitted an C7.9 Outline Battery Storage Safety Management Plan [APP-348] and, through C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], has secured by Requirement 6 of Schedule 2 that "Work Nos. 2 and 3 must not commence until a battery storage safety management plan has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority."</p> <p>Paragraph 4.1.18 of C7.9 Outline Battery Storage Safety Management Plan [APP-348] explains that the design of the BESS has integrated fire detection and suppression systems that will automatically operate to contain battery fires. Paragraph 5.3.1 states that if fire spreads to multiple units, external firefighting water facilities are available by means of 228,000 litre water storage tanks within the battery compounds.</p> <p>Human health and other environmental impacts resulting from plumes from potential battery fires have been assessed in C6.2.17 ES Chapter 17 Air Quality [APP-052]. Additional modelling assessment is being undertaken following further consultation with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) which will be carried out using AERMOD dispersion model software to determine pollutant levels of NO₂, Benzene, HCl, HF, and Particulate Matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) and their potential impacts.</p> <p>Further modelling assessment will be undertaken following consultation with the UK Health Security Agency regarding potential BESS Fires. The risk to human health as a result of fires or unconfined explosions within</p>

				<p>the BESS compound is set out in paragraphs 21.6.40 to 21.6.47 of C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21 Other Environmental Matters [APP-056] which concludes that there is no significant risk of harm to human health due to the physical separation of the BESS compound from publicly accessible areas.</p>
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Applicant's Response to Alternatives and Design Evolution themed issues.

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
ALT-01	RR-192; RR-233	Alternative Sites	Belief that the solar farm should be located somewhere else.	<p>The consideration of alternatives has been undertaken within C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040]. This includes the consideration of alternative sites (Section 5.5), alternative technologies (Section 5.6), alternative layouts (Section 5.7), alternative substation locations (section 5.8) and alternative cable routes (Section 5.9).</p> <p>The selection of the Scheme's location has followed a systematic step-by-step process as set out in detail within C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067]. This took a sequential approach to the consideration of potential sites taking into account agricultural land classification. As a result, paragraph 3.3.22 states that the Scheme maximises the utilisation of low grade, non best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land with 95.9% of the land being classified as non BMV land.</p> <p>Paragraphs 2.1.23 to 2.1.32 of C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] detail the consideration of brownfield land and roof tops and sets out why these were discounted as unsuitable. The methodology used for the site selection process is considered reasonable and proportionate and complies with the requirements of paragraph 4.4.3 in the currently adopted NPS EN-1.</p> <p>The land required for the Scheme has been demonstrated within C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] to perform better than 8 of the assessed Potential Development Areas (PDA's) and equal to the remaining one following the site selection process. Consequently,</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
				there are no obviously more suitable locations for the Scheme within the Search Area.
ALT-02	RR-051; RR-061; RR-063; RR-064; RR-066; RR-067; RR-069; RR-070; RR-073; RR-078; RR-079; RR-081; RR-089; RR-096; RR-098; RR-100; RR-102; RR-105; RR-107; RR-118; RR-120; RR-125; RR-161; RR-163; RR-166; RR-170; RR-182; RR-183; RR-193; RR-204; RR-205; RR-206; RR-209; RR-210; RR-215; RR-216; RR-221; RR-226; RR-228; RR-234; RR-244; RR-249; RR-255; RR-264; RR-266; RR-267; RR-269; RR-270; RR-275; RR-276; RR-284; RR-287; RR-288; RR-291; RR-292; RR-294; RR-297; RR-299; RR-301; RR-302; RR-303; RR-304; RR-308; RR-313; RR-314; RR-316; RR-323; RR-328; RR-329; RR-332; RR-335; RR-342;	Alternative Sites	<p>Alternative Sites for Solar - rooftops</p> <p>Solar panels should be put on rooftops.</p> <p>Some comments refer to placing solar on new builds.</p> <p>Some comments refer to placing solar on existing builds.</p> <p>Some comments refer to placing solar on industrial/commercial roofs.</p>	<p>Paragraph 7.6.3 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] analyses the potential contribution of "brownfield" solar sites to the national need for solar generation. Brownfield sites, including rooftop and other community energy systems, are likely to grow in the UK and will make a contribution to decarbonisation of the UK energy system. However, C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] concludes in Section 7.6, that on their own, brownfield developments are unlikely to be able to meet the national need for solar.</p> <p>Paragraph 8.5.10 and Section 8.5 more generally of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describe and express agreement with the Government's view that decentralised and community energy systems are unlikely to lead to the significant replacement of large-scale infrastructure. The Applicant therefore supports the Government's view that large scale solar must be deployed to meet the urgent national need for low-carbon electricity generation.</p> <p>The consideration of alternatives has been undertaken within C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040] and its accompanying appendix C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067]. Specifically, paragraphs 2.1.23 to 2.1.32 detail the consideration of brownfield land and roof tops and sets out why these were discounted as unsuitable. The methodology used for the site selection process is considered reasonable and proportionate and</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
	RR-354; RR-355; RR-359; RR-365; RR-366; RR-368; RR-369; RR-390; RR-403; RR-404; RR-408; RR-409; RR-410; RR-413; RR-414; RR-417; RR-419; RR-422; RR-427; RR-442; RR-443; RR-448; RR-464; RR-466; RR-469; RR-472; RR-481; RR-482; RR-485; RR-489; RR-492; RR-499; RR-502; RR-503; RR-508; RR-513; RR-517; RR-518; RR-519; RR-520; RR-529; RR-540; RR-541; RR-542; RR-543			complies with the requirements of paragraph 4.4.3 in the currently adopted NPS EN-1.
ALT-03	RR-057; RR-064; RR-065; RR-067; RR-068; RR-073; RR-109; RR-113; RR-118; RR-123; RR-136; RR-143; RR-147; RR-148; RR-150; RR-152; RR-157; RR-158; RR-165; RR-170; RR-173; RR-175; RR-193; RR-197; RR-203; RR-206; RR-216; RR-217; RR-223; RR-235; RR-238; RR-244; RR-249;	Alternative Sites	<p>Brownfield Sites</p> <p>The Scheme would be more suitably located on a brownfield site.</p> <p>Some comments made specific reference to local RAF sites being a possible option.</p>	<p>Paragraph 7.6.3 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] analyses the potential contribution of "brownfield" solar sites to the national need for solar generation. Brownfield sites, including rooftop and other community energy systems, are likely to grow in the UK and will make a contribution to decarbonisation of the UK energy system.</p> <p>However, C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] concludes in Section 7.6, that on their own, brownfield developments are unlikely to be able to meet the national need for solar. Paragraph 8.5.10 and Section 8.5 more generally of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describe and express agreement with the Government's view that decentralised and</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
	RR-254; RR-256; RR-267; RR-268; RR-269; RR-270; RR-273; RR-274; RR-276; RR-291; RR-315; RR-322; RR-342; RR-358; RR-365; RR-366; RR-374; RR-382; RR-391; RR-395; RR-397; RR-401; RR-403; RR-408; RR-418; RR-429; RR-431; RR-439; RR-463; RR-465; RR-467; RR-472; RR-486; RR-501; RR-508; RR-511; RR-519; RR-521; RR-525; RR-526; RR-531; RR-535; RR-538; RR-539; RR-540; RR-541; RR-542		<p>Some comments refer to local brownfield sites being a possible option.</p> <p>Some comments refer to the BESS being placed on a brownfield site.</p>	<p>community energy systems are unlikely to lead to the significant replacement of large-scale infrastructure. The Applicant therefore supports the Government's view that large scale solar must be deployed to meet the urgent national need for low-carbon electricity generation.</p> <p>The consideration of alternatives has been undertaken within C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040] and its accompanying appendix C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067]. Specifically, paragraphs 2.1.23 to 2.1.32 detail the consideration of brownfield land and roof tops and sets out why these were discounted as unsuitable.</p> <p>Paragraphs 3.2.14 to 3.2.17 of C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] summarise the assessment of the former RAF Scampton site. The assessment results for the Scheme are compared against RAF Scampton and other potential development areas at Annex E of [APP-067]. The RAF Scampton site did not score as highly in the RAG assessment as the the land chosen for the Scheme. At the time of site selection, the RAF Scampton site was an operational RAF base. Expressions of interest for acquiring the land were invited in April 2022. However, this was considered to be too late for the site to be considered as part of the Scheme due to the 2029 connection date. In addition, detailed technical assessment work had been ongoing for two years, statutory consultation had already been undertaken in relation to the Scheme and there still remained significant uncertainty about the timing and availability of the site. It was therefore discounted. The land required for the Scheme has been demonstrated within C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] to perform better than 8 of the assessed Potential Development Areas (PDAs) and equal to the remaining one following the site selection process. Consequently, paragraphs 4.1.1 to 4.1.8 conclude that there are no obviously more suitable locations for the Scheme within the Search Area.</p> <p>The BESS could not be located on a brownfield site because it needs to either be within, or in close proximity to, the site or the point of connection to maximise the efficiency of the storage capacity. No brownfield sites contained within the Bassetlaw and West Lindsey Brownfield Registers (See Annex A, Ref 24 & 25. C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] are in close enough proximity to the site and are of sufficient size to accommodate either the Option A (6.5ha) or Option B (15ha) site requirement, and provide adequate separation distance from neighbouring properties in terms of amenity and safety (See paragraph 21.6.34 of C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21_Other Environmental Matters [APP-056] considerations. There has been ongoing engagement with officers at the host authorities in developing the Scheme including in relation to landscape and visual impacts. With regard to offsets from neighbouring residential properties C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') considers both the landscape and visual effects of the Scheme, including the proximity to people's houses to ensure the impacts and effects on the views and visibility are taken into account (paras. 8.4.28 to 8.4.32). This includes singular buildings, groups of buildings and towns or villages. Table 8.15 of the LVIA sets out the selection of initial residential receptors for the purpose of the assessment and the reason for their</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>selection are those receptors within the 1km Study Area for the Scheme and the 0.5km Study Area from the outer boundary of the Cable Route Corridor (para. 8.4.12), including the BESS areas. The detailed analysis is set out at C6.3.8.3 ES Appendix 8.3 Assessment of Potential Visual Effects [APP-075].</p> <p>For example, this analysis takes account of the closest residential receptors to the BESS as being R64, R65, R66 and R67. With these receptors there is limited visibility towards the BESS at the Cottam 1 North Site due to distance from the Scheme and the screening effects of intervening topography, built form and vegetation including the mature tree cover within the grounds of the properties.</p> <p>Mitigation, including offsets and planting, has been proposed to address and minimise adverse effects on visual amenity and the character of the landscape and promote wildlife conservation. This is in line with the agreed methodology and the hierarchy of approach advocated by the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition and matters agreed with Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) at the series of workshops set out in C6.3.8.4 ES Appendix 8.4 Consultation [APP-076].</p> <p>As per paragraph 4.1.5 of C7.9 Outline Battery Storage Safety Management Plan [APP-348], the BESS has been located such as to minimise its proximity to receptors of any nuisance with the distance to properties maximised where possible. Resultingly, the BESS is no closer than 320m from the nearest residential property.</p> <p>The scheme, inclusive of the BESS, will be decommissioned in full and as such, there will not be a permanent loss of the agricultural land resource</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
				(see paragraph 19.7.7 of C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A]).
ALT-04	RR-485	Alternative Sources of Energy	Belief that the UK is a very densely populated country measured by head of population compared to square miles, so it would be better to explore renewable provision in areas which are not populated i.e. the sea.	<p>Chapter 4 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] sets out the UK's legal requirement to decarbonise and explains how that requirement has created an increased need and urgency to meet the UK's obligations under the Paris Agreement (2015) as detailed within para. 4.2.7.</p> <p>C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] shows, at Figure 7.2, National Grid Electricity System Operator's projections for the future installed capacity of different electricity generation technologies in Net-Zero consistent scenarios. In all scenarios, solar is required to make a significant contribution to the future generation mix.</p> <p>Section 7.5 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes how suitable locations for large-scale solar are identified and assessed. Paragraph 7.5.2 outlines the broad criteria for determining Site suitability.</p> <p>Figure 7.4 shows the level of photovoltaic power potential at the proposed location. Section 9 describes the advantages of connecting large-scale solar to the existing and robust National Electricity Transmission System at the proposed Point of Connection at Cottam Power Station, and Paragraph 9.4.4 concludes that the Proposed Development will contribute to national system adequacy and decarbonisation targets.</p> <p>Cottam Solar Project brings forward significant benefits in terms of Energy Security (Section 8.8) and affordability of electricity supplies (Section 10.3) of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350].</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>Section 10.2 and Section 10.3 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describe the economic benefits of solar energy within the UK electricity system.</p> <p>The Applicant's position is the above benefits outweigh the potential harm associated with developing the scheme.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the above, the selection of the Scheme's location has followed a systematic step-by-step process as set out in detail within C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067]. This took a sequential approach to the consideration of potential sites taking into account agricultural land classification. As a result, paragraph 3.3.22 states that the Scheme maximises the utilisation of low grade, non best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land with 95.9% of the land being classified as non BMV land.</p> <p>The land required for the Scheme has been demonstrated within C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] to perform better than 8 of the assessed Potential Development Areas (PDA's) and equal to the remaining one following the site selection process. Consequently, there are no obviously more suitable locations for the Scheme within the Search Area.</p> <p>The consideration of alternative technologies has been undertaken within Section 5.6 of C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040]. This assessment concluded that solar PV is the best renewable generating solution for the Order limits.</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
ALT-05	RR-051; RR-056; RR-057; RR-076; RR-083; RR-101; RR-118; RR-122; RR-126; RR-206; RR-221; RR-232; RR-249; RR-256; RR-281; RR-288; RR-291; RR-315; RR-322; RR-335; RR-342; RR-352; RR-366; RR-369; RR-374; RR-381; RR-397; RR-406; RR-409; RR-418; RR-444; RR-446; RR-467; RR-475; RR-485; RR-499; RR-519; RR-524; RR-536; RR-543	Alternative Sources of Energy	<p>Better alternative sources than Solar</p> <p>Belief that other sources of power are a better choice than Solar.</p> <p>Some comments refer to Wind power as a suitable alternative.</p> <p>Some comments refer to Tidal and Wave power as a suitable alternative.</p> <p>Some comments refer to SMR (Small Modular Reactor) as a suitable alternative.</p> <p>Some comments refer to an offshore alternative in a general manner.</p> <p>Some comments refer to nuclear</p>	<p>The consideration of alternatives has been undertaken within C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040]. This includes the consideration of alternative technologies (Section 5.6). This assessment concluded that solar PV is the best renewable generating solution for the Order limits.</p> <p>Section 5.4 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] analyses the contribution that nuclear power can make to the urgent need to decarbonise and concludes that the development timeframes associated with that technology mean that it is highly unlikely that new nuclear will make any contribution to decarbonisation in the critical pre-2030 timeframe beyond the commissioning of Hinkley Point C, currently scheduled for 2028.</p> <p>As described in Paragraph 5.5.9 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350], given the urgent need for massive capacities of low-carbon electricity generation assets to support government's energy security and net zero ambitions, 2021's Draft Revised NPS EN-1 (Para 3.3.11) articulates the government's prudent view that infrastructure development should be planned on a conservative basis, without over-relying on technologies which are yet to be proven, have long development lead-times, or which have historically experienced funding difficulties.</p> <p>In addition to the consideration of alternatives, Table 7.1 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] shows the electricity generated per hectare by different low-carbon technologies. At the UK's average solar load factor (11%), solar generation produces much more energy per</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>power as a suitable alternative.</p> <p>Some comments refer to hydroelectric power as a suitable alternative.</p> <p>Some comments refer to floating solar panels on a water source as a suitable alternative.</p> <p>Some comments refer to carbon capture and storage as a suitable alternative.</p>	<p>hectare than biogas, and generates a similar amount of energy as onshore wind.</p> <p>In addition, section 8.8 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes the energy security benefits of solar generation when it is deployed alongside a portfolio of wind.</p> <p>The Applicant notes that this Application does not preclude the development of nuclear facilities at either of the former power stations at Cottam or West Burton.</p>
ALT-06	RR-059	Alternative Sources of Energy	<p>Agreed with renewable energy but considered this to be the wrong type of project to be going ahead.</p>	<p>The consideration of alternatives has been undertaken within C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040]. This includes the consideration of alternative technologies (Section 5.6). This assessment concluded that solar PV is the best renewable generating solution for the Order limits.</p> <p>Section 3.3 of document C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes the Government's view that "a secure, reliable, affordable, Net Zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>and solar". This philosophy of support for large scale solar as part of the 'answer' to net zero and energy security has been repeated in its recent policy documents published in March 2023.</p> <p>Figure 7.2 of document C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] shows National Grid Electricity System Operator's projections for the future installed capacity of different electricity generation technologies in Net-Zero consistent scenarios. In all scenarios, solar is required to make a significant contribution to the future generation mix.</p>
ALT-07	RR-165; RR-249; RR-269; RR-276; RR-427; RR-431; RR-482; RR-097	Cable Route and Impacts	<p>Concern that up to 12 miles from the Grid connections on 10 separate parcels of land is excessive and unnecessary civil works involved in the cable connections will cause a significant unnecessary impact.</p> <p>Some comments refer to the ecological damage this will cause.</p> <p>Some comments refer to the excessive nature of the parcels</p>	<p>The selection of the Scheme's location has followed a systematic step-by-step process as set out in detail within C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067]. This describes at paragraph 2.1.12 how an initial search area was identified at a 5km radius from the Point of Connection (POC), however this was later expanded with the clear preference of identifying land as close to the POC as possible. The search area was enlarged incrementally until suitable options were found within a 20km radius.</p> <p>A sequential approach was taken to the consideration of potential sites in terms of agricultural land classification and a desk-based assessment of each of the identified Potential Development Areas (PDAs) was then undertaken against a range of planning, environmental and operational criteria, which included ecology and biodiversity (see Annex B: Assessment Indicators and Evaluation Criteria [APP-067]). Potential constraints for each of the sites were mapped and are contained in Annex D of [APP-067]. For ecology and biodiversity, this included the mapping of internationally, nationally and locally designated sites of</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>of land chosen and the cables required for this.</p> <p>Some comments refer to the parcels of land being chosen on the basis of obtaining voluntary agreements with landowners.</p> <p>Belief that distance from the Grid connection to solar proposals of up to 20 km is excessive, causing further unnecessary destruction of eco systems.</p>	<p>ecological, biological or geological importance and identification of ancient woodlands.</p> <p>Following the identification of the draft site area through the site selection process, detailed ecological assessment work was undertaken across a broad spectrum of species groups. The outcomes of the extensive ecological assessment are reported in C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9_Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044].</p> <p>Ecological mitigation and enhancement measures are captured within:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A], as secured by Requirement 7 of Schedule 2 to C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]. • C7.19 Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [APP-356], as secured by Requirement 8 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]. • C6.3.9.12 ES Appendix 9.12 Biodiversity Net Gain Report [APP-089], as secured by Requirement 9 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]. <p>The ecological assessment work has resulted in amendments to produce the final Order Limits for the Scheme including the cable route and has influenced the layout of solar panels and other infrastructure within the Site. The design evolution of the Scheme is set out within C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040]. See alternative layouts (Section 5.7), alternative substation locations (section 5.8) and</p>

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				<p>alternative cable routes (Section 5.9) for the changes made to the Scheme e.g. "Amendments to ecology offsets to hedgerows and trees were embedded in the design parameters following onsite detailed ecology surveys. Access tracks and strategy reformulated following detailed environmental surveys including removal where possible from ecology offset areas." (Table 5.8: Stage 3 – PEIR and Statutory Consultation (June-July 2022) C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040]).</p> <p>Based on the nature of the Cable Route Corridor comprising linear infrastructure, the works involving the ground are temporary, with the land returned to former use at the end of the construction period. Significant adverse effects resulting from the construction of the Cable Route Corridor will be avoided and minimised. Measures to minimise significant adverse effects have been secured through C7.19 Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [APP-356] (as secured by Requirement 8 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]) and C7.1_A Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.1_A] (as secured by Requirement 13 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]).</p> <p>Significant impacts from cable connections will be avoided or minimised through use of suitable construction techniques.</p> <p>Where significant impacts do occur, such as the anticipated cumulative moderate adverse effect to the Trent Valley Way long distance recreation</p>

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				<p>route (refer to para. 18.10.31 in C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18_Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]), these are short- to medium-term temporary effects during construction only. Similarly, medium-term adverse residual ecological effects felt at the Site to Local scales are predicted to occur where the cable route passes through species poor hedgerows and associated ditches.</p> <p>As an example of proposed ecological mitigation, C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] assesses that the Willingham to Fillingham Road Verges LWS located adjacent to Cottam 1 is vulnerable to temporary damage from the trenching involved in cable installation. In this case, Horizontal Directional Drilling will be adopted in relation to the installation of the two cables within proximity to the LWS, thereby avoiding the need to cause direct damage to it via opening a trench. The Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy (EPMS) [APP-356] (as secured by Requirement 8 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]) provides precautionary measures in relation to using HDD in proximity to sensitive sites.</p> <p>Furthermore, C6.2.12 ES Chapter 12 Minerals [APP-047] explains that to mitigate the impact on the Safeguarded Mineral Resource the Cable Route Corridor has been designed so that wherever possible cable routes follow existing infrastructure corridors or alternatively follow the edge of significant landscape features rather than directly crossing open fields. Such an approach avoids creating a further obstruction to the future exploitation of the mineral resource.</p>

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				<p>Soil quality will be protected through the duration of construction, operation and decommissioning through measures set out in a Soil Management Plan. Outline measures are set out within the Outline Soil Management Plan [APP-146], as secured by Requirement 19 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>A Decommissioning Plan will be prepared in accordance with the Outline Decommissioning Statement [APP-338] which is secured by Requirement 21 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]. This will ensure the potential decommissioning impacts are minimised.</p> <p>The solar modules and related built infrastructure, ancillary infrastructure, substations and energy storage will be removed and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at that time.</p> <p>The underground ducting within the Cable Route Corridor will be decommissioned but left in-situ to avoid unnecessary intrusion. It is possible to remove the cable itself by extracting it at the joint bays from within the ducting so that the cable can be recycled.</p>
ALT-08	RR-051; RR-053; RR-057; RR-058; RR-065; RR-066; RR-067; RR-068; RR-076; RR-077; RR-079; RR-081; RR-092; RR-094; RR-096; RR-100; RR-104; RR-106;	Efficiency of Solar	Efficiency of Solar Solar is an inefficient source of power compared to alternatives.	Chapter 4 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] sets out the UK's legal requirement to decarbonise and explains how that requirement has created an increased need and urgency to meet the UK's obligations under the Paris Agreement (2015) as detailed within para. 4.2.7.

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	RR-108; RR-109; RR-117; RR-118; RR-123; RR-126; RR-129; RR-131; RR-135; RR-149; RR-150; RR-163; RR-165; RR-170; RR-173; RR-175; RR-177; RR-179; RR-180; RR-185; RR-191; RR-193; RR-197; RR-203; RR-206; RR-214; RR-216; RR-217; RR-234; RR-238; RR-240; RR-246; RR-249; RR-253; RR-255; RR-256; RR-258; RR-270; RR-271; RR-273; RR-275; RR-282; RR-283; RR-284; RR-288; RR-292; RR-296; RR-297; RR-298; RR-312; RR-319; RR-327; RR-332; RR-335; RR-352; RR-357; RR-358; RR-366; RR-369; RR-371; RR-377; RR-378; RR-381; RR-397; RR-401; RR-403; RR-406; RR-408; RR-412; RR-414; RR-417; RR-431; RR-434; RR-437; RR-440; RR-446; RR-448; RR-452;		<p>Some comments refer to solar inefficiency in terms of energy output.</p> <p>Some comments refer to solar inefficiency due to change in weather conditions, seasonal changes and lack of operation at night.</p> <p>Some comments refer to solar inefficiency in relation to the cost of construction of panels and installing them.</p> <p>Some comments refer to solar inefficiency in relation to the amount of land being used for the Scheme.</p>	<p>Section 3.3 of document C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350], specifically paragraphs 3.3.2, 3.3.5 and 3.3.11, describes the Government's view that large capacities of low-carbon generation will be required to meet increased demand and replace output from retiring (fossil fuel) plants, and that "a secure, reliable, affordable, Net Zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar". This support for large scale solar as part of the 'answer' to net zero and energy security has been repeated in its recent policy documents published in March 2023.</p> <p>Paragraph 12.1.3 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] concludes that "Large-scale solar generation is essential to support the urgent decarbonisation of the GB electricity sector" and paragraph 4.4.11 describes that the location of the scheme presents a "highly suitable solution for the efficient delivery of solar at scale over timeframe which will provide significant decarbonisation benefits". It concludes that this Scheme and others located near it will all be essential for the decarbonisation of the UK electricity sector.</p> <p>Figure 10.2 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] shows that the efficiency of solar cell technology has increased year-on-year for decades. Many solar cells are now at or approaching 30% efficiency, which is comparable to the efficiency of the UK's recently closed coal stations. Paragraph 7.2.17 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] explains that, in 2021, GB sourced approximately 42% of its total electricity supply from renewables. Figure 8.2 shows that solar generation occurs year-round,</p>

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	RR-465; RR-481; RR-482; RR-484; RR-485; RR-486; RR-488; RR-491; RR-495; RR-503; RR-504; RR-508; RR-511; RR-519; RR-524; RR-525; RR-526; RR-530; RR-538			<p>although more is generated in the summer when days are longer, and the sun's rays are stronger.</p> <p>Table 7.1 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] shows the electricity generated per hectare by different low-carbon technologies. At the UK's average solar load factor (11%), solar generation produces much more energy per hectare than biogas, and generates a similar amount of energy as onshore wind.</p> <p>Section 8.8 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes the energy security benefits of solar generation when it is deployed alongside a portfolio of wind. Section 11.5 and Table 11.1 in particular describe the role of the energy storage facility as associated development to the main solar development, contributing to the smooth operation of an electricity system with a high share of renewable energy supply.</p> <p>The consideration of alternatives has been undertaken within C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040]. This includes the consideration of alternative sites (Section 5.5), alternative technologies (Section 5.6), alternative layouts (Section 5.7), alternative substation locations (section 5.8) and alternative cable routes (Section 5.9).</p> <p>Furthermore, paragraph 7.6.8 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] states that: "Draft NPS EN-3 includes an anticipated range of 2 to 4 acres for each MW of output generally required for a solar farm along with its associated infrastructure." The Scheme as proposed delivers a large-scale solar generation asset which is consistent with this range, as is described through paragraphs 4.2.1 to 4.2.3 of C6.2.4_A ES Chapter 4 Scheme</p>

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				Description Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.4_A] . This demonstrates that the proposed location is a suitable site which will provide for an asset which is consistent with the government's view of best practice ratios of land take and installed capacity.
ALT-09	RR-269	Efficiency of Solar in Mixed Conditions	The Trent Valley is known for being shrouded in thick fog throughout the Autumn and Winter due to the proximity of the river at a time when we would most need the electricity.	<p>Paragraphs 3.3.17 and 3.3.18 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] explain the Government's view that irradiance, site topography and proximity to suitable connection points to the transmission network are likely to be key inputs to site selection. Section 7.5 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes the site selection process for large-scale solar more fully, and Section 7.7 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] sets out how the design of the Scheme seeks to maximise utilisation of the grid connection capacity available at Cottam Substation. Figure 7.4 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] shows the level of photovoltaic power potential at the proposed location.</p> <p>In addition, Figure 10.2 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] shows that the efficiency of solar cell technology has increased year-on-year for decades. Many solar cells are now at or approaching 30% efficiency, which is comparable to the efficiency of the UK's recently closed coal stations.</p> <p>Table 7.1 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] shows the electricity generated per hectare by different low-carbon technologies. At the UK's average solar load factor (11%), solar generation produces much more energy per hectare than biogas, and generates a similar amount of energy as onshore wind.</p>

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ALT-10	RR-485	Grading of Land	<p>The British energy security strategy, last updated in April 2022, encourages large scale projects to locate on previously developed, or lower value land, where possible, and ensure projects are designed to avoid, mitigate, and where necessary, compensate for the impacts of using greenfield sites. This project does not meet these standards.</p>	<p>Section 3.3 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350], specifically paragraphs 3.3.2, 3.3.5 and 3.3.11, describes the Government's view that large capacities of low-carbon generation will be required to meet increased demand and replace output from retiring (fossil fuel) plants, and that "a secure, reliable, affordable, Net Zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar". This support for large scale solar as part of the 'answer' to net zero and energy security has been repeated in its recent policy documents published in March 2023.</p> <p>Paragraph 7.6.3 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] analyses the potential contribution of "brownfield" solar sites to the national need for solar generation. Brownfield sites, including rooftop and other community energy systems, are likely to grow in the UK and will make a contribution to decarbonisation of the UK energy system.</p> <p>However, C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] concludes in Section 7.6, that on their own, brownfield developments are unlikely to be able to meet the national need for solar.</p> <p>Paragraph 8.5.10 and Section 8.5 more generally of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describe and express agreement with the Government's view that decentralised and community energy systems are unlikely to lead to the significant replacement of large-scale infrastructure.</p> <p>The Applicant therefore supports the Government's view that large scale solar must be deployed to meet the urgent national need for low-carbon electricity generation.</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>The consideration of alternatives has been undertaken within C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040]. This includes the consideration of alternative sites (Section 5.5), alternative technologies (Section 5.6), alternative layouts (Section 5.7), alternative substation locations (section 5.8) and alternative cable routes (Section 5.9). C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040] concludes in paragraphs 5.10.2, 5.10.3 and 5.10.4 that alternative potential development areas did not perform as well as the Sites.</p> <p>The selection of the Scheme's location has followed a five-stage systematic step-by-step process as set out in C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067]:</p> <p>Stage 1 – Identification of the Area of Search (see para. 2.1.6);</p> <p>Stage 2 – Exclusion of Planning, Environmental and Spatial Constraints (see para. 2.1.12);</p> <p>Stage 3 – Identifying Potential Solar Development Areas (see 2.1.17);</p> <p>Stage 4 – Evaluation of Potential Solar Development Areas (see 2.1.35); and</p> <p>Stage 5 – Widening the Search to consider Grade 3 agricultural land (see 2.1.40).</p> <p>As a result, and as stated within para. 3.3.30 of Appendix 5.1 [APP-067], the Scheme maximises the utilisation of low grade, non-best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land with 95.9% of the land being classified as non BMV land.</p>

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				<p>Paragraphs 2.1.23 to 2.1.32 of C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] detail the consideration of brownfield land and roof tops and sets out why these were discounted as unsuitable. The methodology used for the site selection process is considered reasonable and proportionate and complies with the requirements of NPS EN-1 4.4.3.</p> <p>The land required for the Scheme has been demonstrated within C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] to perform better than 8 of the assessed Potential Development Areas (PDAs) and equal to the remaining one following the site selection process. Consequently, there are no obviously more suitable locations for the Scheme within the Search Area.</p>
ALT-11	RR-542	Location of the Scheme	Belief that installing and operating solar panels on the other side of the River Trent, nearer Cottam Power Station, makes more sense than the current location of the Scheme.	<p>The selection of the Scheme's location has followed a systematic step-by-step process as set out in detail within C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067]. This took a sequential approach to the consideration of potential sites taking into account agricultural land classification. As a result, paragraph 3.3.22 states that the Scheme maximises the utilisation of low grade, non best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land with 95.9% of the land being classified as non BMV land.</p> <p>The land required for the Scheme has been demonstrated within C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] to perform better than 8 of the assessed Potential Development Areas (PDAs) and equal to the remaining one following the site selection process. Consequently, it has been concluded that there are no obviously more suitable locations for the Scheme within the Search Area.</p>

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ALT-12	RR-251	Location of the Scheme	Belief that those making the decision on the Scheme regard Lincolnshire with disdain. Belief that references to Lincolnshire as "Nowhere Land" and "boring" are insulting.	The Applicant has not used such references in relation to Lincolnshire.
ALT-13	RR-273	Location of the Scheme	The grid connection is in Nottinghamshire not Lincolnshire, so we believe that Lincolnshire farmland has been unfairly sacrificed for the more affluent Nottinghamshire farmlands. The cables will have to cross the River Trent and this may cause issues.	<p>The Scheme is in possession of a grid connection offer to connect at Cottam Power Station (see C7.7 Cottam Grid Connection Statement [APP-346]), a former coal fired power station which closed in 2019.</p> <p>The selection of the Scheme's location has followed a five-stage systematic step-by-step process where, as set out in C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067]:</p> <p>Stage 1 – Identification of the Area of Search (see para. 2.1.6);</p> <p>Stage 2 – Exclusion of Planning, Environmental and Spatial Constraints (see para. 2.1.12);</p> <p>Stage 3 – Identifying Potential Solar Development Areas (see 2.1.17);</p> <p>Stage 4 – Evaluation of Potential Solar Development Areas (see 2.1.35); and</p> <p>Stage 5 – Widening the Search to consider Grade 3 agricultural land (see 2.1.40).</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>The land required for the Scheme has been demonstrated within C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] to perform better than 8 of the assessed Potential Development Areas (PDA's) and equal to the remaining one following the site selection process. Consequently, there are no obviously more suitable locations for the Scheme within the Search Area.</p> <p>Additionally, as the Scheme will be decommissioned there will not be a permanent loss of agricultural land. In addition, the agricultural land can remain in productive use through the operational period, being grazed by livestock (see paras 19.10.2, 19.10.6, 19.10.10 of C6.2.19_A ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A]).</p>
ALT-14	RR-304	Location of the Scheme	This project is within 20 feet of my front door I purchased the property in 2021 November. I would never of purchased a property that I can see this awful monstrosity from every window of my home.	<p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') takes into account the effects on residential receptors and this includes singular buildings, groups of buildings and towns or villages. Table 8.15 of the LVIA sets out the selection of initial residential receptors for the purpose of the assessment, the reason for their selection being that the receptors are all within the 1km Study Area for the Scheme and the 0.5km Study Area from the outer boundary of the Cable Route Corridor.</p> <p>Additionally, C6.2.16 ES Chapter 16 Glint and Glare [APP-051] considers dwellings within 1km from the Order Limits of the Scheme. Figures contained within Section 5.2 of C6.3.16.1 ES Appendix 16.1 Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study [APP-140] sets out those dwellings within 1km from the Scheme (Study Area). The impacts upon those dwellings identified are summarised in the following paragraphs within</p>

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				the ES Chapter: paragraph 16.5.3 and 16.8.2 of C6.2.16 ES Chapter 16 Glint and Glare [APP-051] . For those dwellings that are predicted to experience a "Moderate" impact, the Applicant is committed to implementing embedded mitigation to reduce the effects to acceptable levels. The mitigation will be in the form of screening (immediate and long term), and it is outlined within the Glint and Glare Assessment Section 7.1 of C6.3.16.1 ES Appendix 16.1 Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study [APP-140] , and Section 16.9 of C6.2.16 ES Chapter 16 Glint and Glare [APP-051] .
ALT-15	RR-075; RR-077; RR-085; RR-086; RR-107; RR-117; RR-118; RR-136; RR-139; RR-159; RR-161; RR-166; RR-168; RR-170; RR-171; RR-205; RR-220; RR-232; RR-263; RR-270; RR-278; RR-282; RR-293; RR-297; RR-338; RR-344; RR-345; RR-356; RR-360; RR-367; RR-391; RR-398; RR-403; RR-414; RR-416; RR-421; RR-426; RR-428; RR-430; RR-434; RR-438; RR-440; RR-455; RR-461; RR-470; RR-483; RR-485; RR-494;	Scale	Scale of Scheme Belief that the Scheme is too large.	<p>Section 3.3 of document C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350], specifically paragraphs 3.3.2, 3.3.5 and 3.3.11, describes the Government's view that large capacities of low-carbon generation will be required to meet increased demand and replace output from retiring (fossil fuel) plants, and that "a secure, reliable, affordable, Net Zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar". This support for large scale solar as part of the 'answer' to net zero and energy security has been repeated in its recent policy documents published in March 2023.</p> <p>Section 7.5 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes how suitable locations for large-scale solar are identified and assessed. Paragraph 7.5.2 outlines the broad criteria for determining Site suitability.</p> <p>Figure 7.4 shows the level of photovoltaic power potential at the proposed location. Section 9 describes the advantages of connecting large-scale solar to the existing and robust National Electricity Transmission System at the proposed Point of Connection at Cottam</p>

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	RR-511; RR-525; RR-531; RR-534; RR-538			<p>Power Station, and Paragraph 9.4.4 concludes that the Proposed Development will contribute to national system adequacy and decarbonisation targets.</p> <p>Section 7.7 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] sets out how the design of the Scheme seeks to maximise utilisation of the 600MW grid connection capacity available at Cottam Power Station.</p> <p>Paragraph 2.1.10 of C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] explains that the Applicant looked for sites that could accommodate a solar project to support the 600MW grid capacity. A land area of approximately 75ha of solar panels (100ha including landscaping and ecology mitigation land) is preferred to provide a solar scheme of approximately 50MW. For a grid connection of 600MW, a site size of approximately 1,300 ha (excluding cable route) was sought. The Applicant generally seeks to find a site which is around 10% larger than is needed for the grid connection offer. This larger site size allows flexibility for the accommodation of any additional mitigation measures and other constraints that may become known through the design development process.</p> <p>Tables 5.7 – 5.9 of C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040] set out the main design iteration stages for the Scheme which resulted in the area of the four combined sites minus the Cable Corridors, Means of Access and Cottam 1 permissive path being refined down to a total of 1188.52ha including associated infrastructure and landscape and ecology mitigation. The developable area of the Sites including solar panels and associated infrastructure but excluding</p>

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				<p>landscape and ecology mitigation, totals 909 ha as set out at Section 2.2 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A].</p> <p>Paragraph 7.6.8 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] states that: "Draft NPS EN-3 includes an anticipated range of 2 to 4 acres for each MW of output generally required for a solar farm not including its associated infrastructure." The Scheme as proposed delivers a large-scale solar generation asset which is consistent with this range, as is described through paragraphs 4.2.1 to 4.2.3 of C6.2.4_A ES Chapter 4 Scheme Description Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.4_A]. This demonstrates that the proposed location is a suitable site which will provide for an asset which is consistent with the government's view of best practice ratios of land take and installed capacity.</p>
ALT-16	RR-467	Site design	The many different 'patches' of land which have been identified in the proposals, together with the way in which they seem to be located a long distance from the grid, raises the question as to whether or not the land has been	<p>The selection of the Scheme's location has followed a systematic step-by-step process as set out in detail within C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067].</p> <p>This took a sequential approach to the consideration of potential sites in terms of agricultural land classification and then undertook a desk-based assessment of each of the identified Potential Development Areas (PDAs) against a range of planning, environmental and operational criteria, which included ecology and biodiversity (see Annex B: Assessment Indicators and Evaluation Criteria [APP-067]). Potential constraints for each of the sites were mapped and are contained in Annex D of [APP-067].</p> <p>C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] explains that Land Agents were contacted regarding potentially willing landowners</p>

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			targeted for development on the basis of suitability for the project or on the basis of who wants to sell their land, regardless of how appropriate it is or its impact on the people who actually live here.	<p>within the area at Stage 5 of the Site Selection process. This was not the starting point of the site selection process. Nevertheless, the availability of willing landowners is an important consideration because without them, a scheme of the scale proposed is undeliverable. It is desirable to compile a site in as few land ownerships as possible to minimise legal complexities and project costs.</p> <p>The methodology used for the site selection process is considered reasonable and proportionate and complies with the requirements of NPS EN-1 4.4.3 as explained at Section 2.1 [APP-067].</p> <p>The Applicant, through the Environmental Statement [APP-036 to APP-058], has sought to embed mitigation wherever possible, in order to mitigate adverse impacts across the environmental topics scoped into the Environmental Impact Assessment. Where adverse impacts of the Application have been identified taking into account the effect of embedded mitigation, the Applicant has proposed additional mitigation measures to mitigate for adverse impacts.</p>
ALT-17	RR-237	Site location	Belief that there will be fields full of batteries.	<p>The areas in which the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) is to be located in is denoted by Work No. 2 and Work No. 3 on C2.4_A Works Plan Revision A [AS-007]. Work No. 2 consists of approximately 1,200MWh of energy storage with a maximum footprint of 15.2 hectares, while Work No. 3 consists an optional further approximately 1,200MWh of battery energy storage with a maximum footprint of 15.2 hectares to give a potential combined BESS system of 2,400MWh over a maximum of 30.4 hectares (as set out in C7.15_A Concept Design Parameters and Principles [EN010133/EX1/C7.15_A]).</p>

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ALT-18	RR-499	Site Selection	Belief that this prime land has been chosen not because it is ideal land for conversion from agriculture to power generation, but that it is utilizing an obsolete power station to tap into the national grid at a minimum cost.	<p>Paragraphs 3.3.17 and 3.3.18 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] explain the Government's view that irradiance, site topography and proximity to suitable connection points to the transmission network are likely to be key inputs to site selection. Section 7.5 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes the site selection process for large-scale solar more fully, and Section 7.7 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] sets out how the design of the Scheme seeks to maximise utilisation of the grid connection capacity available at Cottam Substation.</p> <p>Section 9 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes the advantages of connecting large-scale solar to the existing and robust National Electricity Transmission System (NETS) at the proposed Point of Connection at Cottam, specifically by connecting to the existing Cottam 400kV substation (paragraph 9.2.5).</p> <p>Ultimately, connecting sites which are further away from a (new or existing) point of connection may cause more environmental harm, take longer to deliver and / or cost more than connecting to sites closer to existing points of connection.</p> <p>Section 7.5 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] explains how these factors and others fed into the site selection process. Given the context of an urgent national need and government policy to decarbonise the electricity system while also urgently protecting security of supply and managing the affordability of energy bills (Paragraph 3.3.5 of the [APP-350]), it would therefore be contrary to government policy for a development to pass over an existing, available and highly suitable grid</p>

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				<p>connection point, in favour of one which may either take longer to build or cause more environmental harm or both.</p> <p>The selection of the Scheme's location has followed a systematic step-by-step process as set out in detail within C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067]. This took a sequential approach to the consideration of potential sites taking into account agricultural land classification. As a result, paragraph 3.3.22 states that the Scheme maximises the utilisation of low grade, non best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land with 95.9% of the land being classified as non BMV land.</p>
ALT-19	RR-099	Site Selection	<p>Concern that the path and scale of the huge swathes of panels were pre agreed before the public could have their say, before we could voice our concerns or quantify our losses, which contravenes the very legislation designed to protect us. No government could win an election on a policy of bullying the public or using</p>	<p>The Applicant acknowledges this comment and is confident that the level of consultation undertaken and information presented throughout the pre-application stage is in accordance with the Planning Act 2008 and associated guidance. This has been evidenced in C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], which was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and accepted for examination.</p> <p>For example, Table 1.1 of Chapter 1 to C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], details how the cable route corridor for the Scheme has been refined through engagement and consultation with landowners and the community.</p> <p>Table 1.2 of Chapter 1 to C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], details how the Applicant provided consultation documents to Landowners to inform them regarding upcoming statutory consultation and methods to provide feedback.</p>

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			<p>money as a weapon, so this should not be the reality here.</p>	<p>As described in Chapter 2 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], the Applicant undertook two phases of community consultation to share information and invite feedback at different stages of Scheme development.</p> <p>Chapter 7 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes the Applicant's approach to statutory consultation, including consulting with relevant authorities on a draft Statement of Community Consultation. Table 7.1 sets out the comments received from authorities on the Applicant's approach to consultation and how these were considered by the Applicant. Table 7.3 in Chapter 7 describes how the Applicant complied with commitments made in the Statement of Community Consultation when undertaking statutory consultation.</p> <p>Chapter 8 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes how the Applicant undertook a six-week statutory phase two consultation on the Scheme, during which the Applicant presented consultees with environmental information sufficient for consultees to understand the potential likely significant effects of the Scheme in a Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR). A non-technical summary was published to accompany the PEIR, with public information events and free-to-use communications channels open to help aid accessibility and understanding of the Scheme. A Consultation Summary Report for this phase of statutory consultation was published on the dedicated Scheme website, shared with elected representatives and stakeholders and issued to over 9,000 properties within the vicinity of the Scheme, to help consultees understand how their feedback was being considered. A copy</p>

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				<p>of the Phase Two Consultation Summary Report is provided as C5.7 Appendix 5.7: Phase Two Community Consultation Materials [APP-028].</p> <p>Chapter 11 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes the significant volume of responses received to Section 47 consultation (local community), including the issues raised and how these were considered by the Applicant. This is further evidenced by C5.10 Appendix 5.10: Consultation Report Appendix – Section 47 Applicant Response [APP-033].</p> <p>The selection of the Scheme's location has followed a systematic step-by-step process as set out in detail within C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067]. This took a sequential approach to the consideration of potential sites taking into account agricultural land classification. As a result, paragraph 3.3.22 states that the Scheme maximises the utilisation of low grade, non best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land with 95.9% of the land being classified as non BMV land.</p> <p>The design evolution of the Scheme is set out within C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040]. See alternative layouts (Section 5.7), alternative substation locations (section 5.8) and alternative cable routes (Section 5.9) for the changes made to the Scheme. This sets out key changes made to the Scheme as a result of Stakeholder feedback e.g. Table 5.8 sets out that Fields D1, D7 (west end), D8, and E3 were removed at the request of Stow Parish Council and F1, F2, and F7 were removed upon request by Stow Parish Council on behalf of the residents</p>

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				of the hamlet of Normanby by Stow and due to archaeological interest in the Normanby by Stow mediaeval village.
ALT-20	RR-158	Site Selection	Reference to Little Crow solar farm next to the vast industrial Scunthorpe steel works and is shielded from view by mature pine forest. Belief that this site selection seems far more considered than Cottam.	<p>The selection of the Scheme's location has followed a systematic step-by-step process as set out in detail within C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067]. This took a sequential approach to the consideration of potential sites taking into account agricultural land classification. As a result, paragraph 3.3.22 states that the Scheme maximises the utilisation of low grade, non best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land with 95.9% of the land being classified as non BMV land. Paragraphs 2.1.23 to 2.1.32 of C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] detail the consideration of brownfield land and roof tops and sets out why these were discounted as unsuitable. The methodology used for the site selection process is considered reasonable and proportionate and complies with the requirements of NPS EN-1 4.4.3.</p> <p>The land required for the Scheme has been demonstrated within C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] to perform better than 8 of the assessed Potential Development Areas (PDAs) and equal to the remaining one following the site selection process. Consequently, paragraphs 4.1.1 to 4.1.8 conclude that there are no obviously more suitable locations for the Scheme within the Search Area.</p>

Applicant's Response to Climate Change themed issues.

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
CC-01	RR-180	Carbon footprint	The carbon footprint of the proposal is massively under calculated due to the fact that the panels and batteries would have to be replaced 2 and 4 times respectively over the scheme's 40-year lifetime.	<p>Paragraph 7.2.7 of C6.2.7 ES Chapter 7 Climate Change [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.7_A] states that, following consultation with the typical battery suppliers, the batteries have been assessed as needing to be replaced once over a 40-year period.</p> <p>Paragraph 20.7.21 of C6.2.20 ES Chapter 20_Waste [APP-055] states that waste electrical or electronic equipment arising from the operation and maintenance of the Scheme is anticipated to be limited to worn or broken PV panels. Paragraph 2.2.1 of C7.16 Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [APP-353] goes on to affirm that where components fail, such as solar PV panels, they will be replaced and renewed. Provision of a detailed OEMP has been secured by Requirement 14 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>In respect of Climate Change more widely, paragraph 7.10.2 of C6.2.7 ES Chapter 7 Climate Change [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.7_A] states 'Overall, the Scheme itself will provide major beneficial impacts and a net reduction in GHG'</p>
CC-02	RR-371	CO2 output	The CO2 footprint of a period up to four years of HGV vehicles passing over and through rural villages and settlements is	The Applicant notes this comment but considers that the effects of decarbonisation and the quantification of changes in CO2e emissions as a result of the Scheme should be considered holistically over the Scheme's lifetime. As set out in C6.2.7 ES Chapter 7_Climate Change [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.7_A] , the effect has been shown to be major beneficial over the lifetime of the Scheme.

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			<p>bound to cause lasting or even irreparable damage to the rural landscape, roads and peoples way of life. The initial construction to last up to four years, but maintenance and multiple panel replacement builds as Solar PV panels have a life expectancy less than half of that of projected sites.</p>	<p>As noted by Table 2.1 of C6.3.14.1 ES Appendix 14.1 Transport Assessment [APP-134], the expected construction period for the Scheme is only anticipated to take two years. Paragraph 4.5.55 of C6.2.4_A ES Chapter 4 Scheme Description Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.4_A] describes a cumulative scenario for those parts of the cable route that are shared with other proposed solar projects, where each project's ducts and cables are installed sequentially over a 5-year period. This scenario has been assessed as a part of the cumulative impact assessment, throughout the ES.</p> <p>As stated within paragraph 14.7.70 in C6.2.14 ES Chapter 14 Transport and Access [APP-049], "there are anticipated to be around five visits to each Site per month for maintenance purposes". In light of this, the transport effects during the assessed 40-year operational life of the Scheme are considered to be in negligible/ not significant.</p> <p>Paragraph 7.8.60 [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.7_A] details that the Scheme has a total energy generation figure of around 35,590,658 MWh over the estimated 40-year assessed lifetime.</p> <p>Paragraph 7.8.61 [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.7_A] explains that the intensity of the Scheme is estimated to be 21.2gCO₂e/kWh which compares favourably to fossil fuel alternatives (e.g., a Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) which has a GHG intensity (gCO₂e/kWh) of between 380 and 500 – as per Table 7.29.).</p> <p>Paragraph 20.7.21 of C6.2.20 ES Chapter 20 Waste [APP-055] states that waste electrical or electronic equipment arising from the operation and maintenance of the Scheme is anticipated to be limited to worn or broken</p>

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				<p>PV panels. Paragraph 2.2.1 of C7.16 Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [APP-353] goes on to affirm that where components fail, such as solar PV panels, they will be replaced and renewed. Provision of a detailed OEMP has been secured by Requirement 14 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been prepared to support the application within C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A]. C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], provides (in Requirement 15 of Schedule 2) that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a construction traffic management plan for that part has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities". It further provides that "The construction traffic management plan must be substantially in accordance with the outline construction traffic management plan."</p> <p>The outline CTMP submitted as part of the DCO application provides a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements to and from the Scheme, to ensure that the effects of the temporary construction phase on the local highway network are minimised and made acceptable. C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A] covers:</p>

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction methodology; • Site access; • Construction vehicle trip generation; • Construction vehicle routing; • Abnormal load movement; and • Mitigation and management measures. <p>By example, measure xxi of C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A] is for a road condition survey. This will ensure that any identified highways defects resulting from construction activities associated with the Site will be corrected to the satisfaction of the local highway authority.</p> <p>The Transport Assessment within C6.3.14.1 ES Appendix 14.1 [APP-134] provides an assessment of the transport effects of the Scheme and concludes, in paragraphs 11.1 to 11.11, that the Scheme is acceptable from a transport perspective.</p>
CC-03	RR-218	Extraction of Materials	Belief that the solar panels themselves require the use of rare earth metals, which can have environmental and social impacts associated with their	<p>Paragraph 5.4.7 of C7.10 Skills Supply Chain and Employment Plan [APP-349] states that "Any procurement of supplies internationally will comply with both national and international law, and all policy and safety measures will be adhered to in the transportation of supplies."</p> <p>The Applicant confirms that a Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan is secured by Requirement 20 of Schedule 2 to C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]. This requirement</p>

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			extraction and processing.	<p>states that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a skills, supply chain and employment plan in relation to that part has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority for that part or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities."</p> <p>Additionally, the solar panels will be decommissioned, disassembled, and removed from the site for waste management, of which it is assumed 75-82.6% will be recycled as set out in paragraph 20.5.5 and 20.5.10 of C6.2.20 ES Chapter 20 Waste [APP-055]. Solar panels are predominantly made from recyclable materials such as the metal frames, mounting structures, and glass facing panes. There is also an emerging industry for recycling and reusing the internal fittings and electrical equipment within solar panels (see paragraph 20.7.29).</p>
CC-04	RR-393	Increase in Local Temperature	The Photovoltaic Heat Island Effect cause by Larger solar power plants increase local temperatures and cause thermic pollution the dry up the ground and increase risk of wildfires in local area will increase and	<p>The PV array will be installed over arable land which is to remain under a perennial green cover during operation (see paragraphs 19.9.12 and 19.9.13 of C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [APP-054]. It is considered that the green cover will offset any microclimate impacts arising from the installation of PV panels.</p> <p>In monitoring nearly 200 active solar sites, the Applicant has not come across any vegetation fires caused by the presence of a PV array.</p>

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			increase risk of wildfires as a result.	
CC-05	RR-403	Lack of Transparency Regarding Evidence	The applicant has provided no evidence for the actual carbon savings that this scheme will produce. Until we see this evidence then the scheme has to be seen as not being carbon neutral. The risks of these proposals very much outweigh the hypothesised/speculated benefits put forward by Island Green Power. The significant Loss of Amenity Use and Visual Impact affecting a far greater area than the	<p>The effect of decarbonisation and quantification of changes in CO₂e emissions as a result of the Scheme over its lifetime is set out in C6.2.7 ES Chapter 7_Climate Change [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.7_A] and the effect has been shown to be major beneficial over the lifetime of the Scheme.</p> <p>Paragraph 7.8.60 [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.7_A] details that the Scheme has a total energy generation figure of around 35,590,658 MWh over the estimated 40-year assessed lifetime.</p> <p>Paragraph 7.8.61 [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.7_A] explains that the intensity of the Scheme is estimated to be 21.2gCO₂e/kWh which compares favourably to fossil fuel alternatives (e.g., a Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) which has a GHG intensity (gCO₂e/kWh) of between 380 and 500 – as per Table 7.29.).</p>

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			boundaries of the Scheme.	
CC-06	RR-279	Microclimate	Creation of an unwanted micro climate, affecting the flora and fauna that exists in this rural area. As we are led to believe, small changes in temperature can cause unwanted and undesired changes to the delicate balance that has evolved over centuries.	<p>Solar farms have the potential to affect the micro-climate beneath panels, which could impact on the potential growth of certain plant species. The planting and monitoring for the Scheme is provided within C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A], as secured by Requirement 7 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>Table 7.1 of C6.2.7 ES Chapter 7_Climate Change [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.7_A] notes that in March 2022, Lincolnshire County Council made comment regarding the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and its potential to generate a micro-climate. Resultingly, the Applicant had noted this comment at the time and confirms that the design of the BESS will allow for natural ventilation to prevent the creation of a micro-climate.</p> <p>The ecological assessments carried out within C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] are based on the considered professional judgment of an experienced ecological consultant who has been involved with the monitoring of nearly 200 active solar farms in the UK. At present, the Order Limits almost entirely occupy intensively managed arable systems which constitute a relatively modern and man-made habitat. The proposed Scheme will result in the reversion of this system to low-input and extensively-managed semi-natural grassland types. While it is true that the presence of solar panels has the potential to cause local shading directly beneath them, valuable grassland habitat</p>

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				<p>mosaics can be successfully created in a relatively short space of time and is what is proposed as part of this Scheme (See paragraphs 2.2.2, 4.7.6 and Appendix B of C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] - a detailed Landscape Ecological Management Plan is secured via Requirement 7 of Schedule 2 to C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]). The shade tolerant species which often grow under panels add to the overall species heterogeneity and, in the case of plants such as nettles and vigorous grasses, bring about further opportunities for the invertebrates which utilise them (see paragraphs 9.7.16 and 9.7.17 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9_Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044]).</p> <p>Furthermore, the Applicant is not aware of any adverse ecological impacts of potential thermal microclimates having a negative effect on the diversity of grass and flowering plant species established through ecological management plans on solar farms which we monitor.</p>
CC-07	RR-131	Sourcing of Materials	Belief that the argument that this is a green ecological option where the panels are made from rare earth metals, mined in inhumane and unecological	<p>Paragraph 7.3.1 and 7.3.2 of C7.10 Skills Supply Chain and Employment Plan [APP-349] discusses the safeguarding measures taken to prevent human rights abuses.</p> <p>The Applicant confirms that a Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan is secured by Requirement 20 of Schedule 2 to C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]. This requirement states that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a skills, supply chain and employment plan in relation to that part has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority for</p>

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			<p>conditions shipped round the world on boats that burn oil to be made in elsewhere and then shipped here to be mounted on steel and concrete, this is plainly ridiculous.</p>	<p>that part or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities.”</p> <p>Paragraph 5.4.7 of C7.10 Skills Supply Chain and Employment Plan [APP-349] states that “Any procurement of supplies internationally will comply with both national and international law, and all policy and safety measures will be adhered to in the transportation of supplies.”</p> <p>In addition, the solar panels will be decommissioned, disassembled, and removed from the site for waste management, of which it is assumed 75-82.6% will be recycled as set out in paragraphs 20.5.5 and 20.5.10 of C6.2.20 ES Chapter 20 Waste [APP-055]. Solar panels are predominantly made from recyclable materials such as the metal frames, mounting structures, and glass facing panes. There is also an emerging industry for recycling and reusing the internal fittings and electrical equipment within solar panels (para. 20.7.29).</p> <p>A greenhouse gas impact assessment has been completed as a part of the Environmental Statement and can be found as document C6.2.7 Climate Change [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.7_A]. Although it was concluded in paragraph 7.8.46 that there would be a minor adverse significant effect on the climate as a result of the Scheme's construction, during the operational phase there will be a major beneficial significant effect (para 7.8.69).</p>
CC-08	RR-057; RR-067; RR-100; RR-170; RR-173; RR-193; RR-210; RR-217; RR-250; RR-269; RR-276; RR-319;	Supply Chain Production	Carbon Footprint of Supply Chain	Paragraph 7.3.1 and 7.3.2 of C7.10 Skills Supply Chain and Employment Plan [APP-349] discusses the safeguarding measures taken to prevent human rights abuses.

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	RR-334; RR-335; RR-340; RR-371; RR-382; RR-401; RR-403; RR-406; RR-409; RR-418; RR-427; RR-431; RR-439; RR-452; RR-526; RR-528	and Emissions	<p>Production and transportation of project materials (i.e. batteries) will produce carbon and the Scheme will therefore have a carbon footprint.</p> <p>Comments refer to sourcing of materials from China.</p>	<p>The Applicant confirms that a Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan is secured by Requirement 20 of Schedule 2 to C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]. This requirement states that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a skills, supply chain and employment plan in relation to that part has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority for that part or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities."</p> <p>Paragraph 5.4.7 of C7.10 Skills Supply Chain and Employment Plan [APP-349] states that "Any procurement of supplies internationally will comply with both national and international law, and all policy and safety measures will be adhered to in the transportation of supplies."</p> <p>A greenhouse gas impact assessment has been completed as a part of the Environmental Statement and can be found as document C6.2.7_A ES Chapter 7 Climate Change [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.7_A]. Although it was concluded in paragraph 7.8.46 that there would be a minor adverse significant effect on the climate as a result of the Scheme's construction, during the operational phase there will be a major beneficial significant effect (para 7.8.69).</p>

Applicant's Response to Cultural Heritage themed issues.

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
CUL-01	RR-239; RR-343	Archaeological Sites of Interest	<p>This is a significant heritage area. Archaeological digs have found a variety of items of historic value and are the source of education for many local schools and families. The construction process will destroy much of the common walking areas that these have been found on and mean that they are not accessible for years to come.</p>	<p>C6.2.13 ES Chapter 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048] provides an assessment of potential impacts caused by the Scheme to Cultural Heritage. The Applicant considers that a reasonable, proportionate and consistent approach has been taken, guided by national and local guidance that has enabled the collection of high-quality reliable data. This has provided an adequate understanding of the archaeological potential and developmental impacts as set out in C6.2.13 ES Chapter 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048] and has been used to formulate an appropriate mitigation strategy as set out in C6.3.13.7 ES Appendix 13.7 Archaeological Mitigation WSI [APP-131].</p> <p>The extensive archaeological assessment work undertaken by the Applicant has identified numerous 'new' archaeological sites, which have greatly improved our understanding of former patterns of settlement and land use [APP-048]. Provision for public outreach and engagement is detailed in the WSI, see section 11 of [APP-0131], and would be aimed at enabling local communities, including schools and families, the opportunity to engage with their local history. The WSI is secured by Requirement 12 of Schedule 2 to C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>The Applicant is cognisant of the significance of the use of the countryside, and the likely impacts on the desirability and use of recreational facilities in the countryside, such as public rights of way This</p>

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				<p>has been assessed in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053].</p> <p>A Public Rights of Way Management Plan will be implemented during the construction phase of the Scheme. An Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan is included at C6.3.14.3 ES Appendix 14.3 Public Rights of Way Management Plan [PP-136]. A Public Rights of Way Management Plan will be submitted and approved prior to the commencement of development, as secured through Requirement 18 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>
CUL-02	RR-181	Cultural Heritage	Belief that individual's ancestors would be shocked to learn how this landscape will be ruined by short sighted targets which ultimately harm the environment we want to protect.	<p>C6.2.13 ES Chapter 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048] provides an assessment of potential impacts caused by the Scheme to Cultural Heritage. An assessment of the impact on the Historic Landscape Characterisation is provided in Tables 13.8-5 and 13.8-10 in C6.3.13.8 ES Appendix 13.8 Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Tables [APP-132].</p> <p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8_Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') includes a full and detailed assessment that deals with both effects on the landscape itself and effects on the visual amenity of people, as well as changing views. The LVIA process is iterative and as a result, the design of the Scheme has changed to respond to the findings of the assessment to ensure that landscape mitigation is fully considered as part of the process. This assessment has been undertaken in accordance with C6.3.8.1 ES Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology [APP-068].</p>

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CUL-03	RR-057; RR-180; RR-371; RR-400; RR-403; RR-432	Cultural Heritage	<p>Cultural heritage will be negatively impacted by the solar panels.</p> <p>Some comments refer to the negative impact to architecture.</p> <p>Some comments refer to negative impact on culture of food, festivals and family run businesses.</p>	<p>C6.2.13 ES Chapter 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048] provides an assessment of potential impacts caused by the Scheme to Cultural Heritage. An assessment of the impact on the Historic Landscape Characterisation is provided in Tables 13.8-5 and 13.8-10 in C6.3.13.8 ES Appendix 13.8 Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Tables [APP-132].</p> <p>The Applicant recognises the significance of the agricultural industry in the local economy and has assessed the economic impact of the Scheme in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] and the direct impacts on local agriculture in Sections 19.9 and 19.10 of C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A].</p> <p>The Scheme is anticipated to lead to a maximum loss of approximately 17 full-time equivalent agriculture jobs, as stated in paragraph 18.7.15 of document C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]. The Scheme is estimated to employ 10 full-time equivalent employees from the local area during operation; see Table 18.16. The net change in employment in the local area (defined as West Lindsey and Bassetlaw Districts) during the Scheme's operational life is a loss of approximately 2 full-time jobs, once consideration of direct, indirect and induced employment, and impacts on the tourism and recreation industry are considered (see para. 18.7.79). Overall, the economic benefit to the local area is estimated to be £2.2 million per year (see para. 18.7.97).</p>

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				<p>The overall employment and economic benefit to the local area from the two-year construction period is anticipated to be 661 full-time equivalent jobs (see para. 18.7.23), generating £30.9 million per year (see para. 18.7.52).</p> <p>The land included in the Scheme covers 4 farm businesses, all of which are owner occupiers of the land within the Sites. This is detailed in full in para. 7.1.1-17 of C6.3.19.1 ES Appendix 19.1 Agricultural Land Quality Soil Resources and Farming Circumstances [APP-145].</p> <p>The Applicant does not consider that the Scheme would result in food security impacts either alone or cumulatively. The UK annual balance of domestically produced food is sensitive to non-planning factors including weather and markets. The relevant assessment for policy purposes (and therefore decision-making purposes under the Planning Act 2008) is one that is based on the grade of the agricultural land, rather than its current use and the intensity of that use. In terms of key threats to UK food security, the Defra UK Food Security Report highlights that the main threat is climate change.</p>
CUL-04	RR-151	Cultural Heritage vs. Energy Need	Comment concerns the historical value of Stow, with the oldest Parish Church, St. Mary's or Stow Minster, the "Mother Church" to Lincoln Cathedral. It is a	C6.2.13 ES Chapter 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048] provides an assessment of potential impacts caused by the Scheme to Cultural Heritage. A Heritage Asset Setting Assessment has been undertaken in line with Historic England's Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning. Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets. As part of C6.2.13 ES Appendix 13.5: Heritage Statement [APP-125 – APP-128] . The assessment concluded that due to the location of the Church of St Mary (NHLE 1146624) at the centre of the village of Stow, the surrounding built

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			<p>unique place' along with the surrounding area. Belief that new "green" technology must play its part in contributing to the energy needs of the country, but its impact must be carefully considered and planned.</p>	<p>environment prevents any views out into the surrounding landscape. Views towards the church from the west are screened by the built environment and vegetation associated with the village. Consequently, this heritage asset was scoped out of further consideration as its significance would remain unaffected by the Scheme (heritage statement in paragraph 3.1.60 [APP-125 – APP-128]).</p> <p>With regard to the landscape setting of settlements and the historical merits of this landscape C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') takes account of the visibility of the Scheme from public vantage points from Stow. The assessment also includes vistas from the Lincoln 'Cliff' over to Nottinghamshire and across the Trent Valley from transport routes, public footpaths, permissive footpaths and the green lane network. In these locations, the proposed landscape mitigation measures will provide planting, which will include new native hedgerows and tree cover, and this will help enhance local views towards historical features in the landscape such as St Mary's Church, Stow. This mitigation is aimed to benefit the views for the community as a whole as well as tourists, visiting walkers, local residents, ornithologists and cyclists. The LVIA (paras. 8.5.65, 8.5.94, 8.5.96, 8.5.104, 8.5.114, 8.5.153, 8.5.183, 8.7.32, 8.10.21, 8.10.22 and 8.11.11) refers to these views from bridleways as being key features, especially where they offer a sequence of views to other landmark churches and settlements as well as the power stations on the Trent and eastward views to the scarp face of Lincoln 'Cliff'.</p>

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				<p>Additional views suggested by Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) are taken into account within the LVIA at Section 8.2 to take account of the history of the landscape setting to the Scheme. These additional views comprise LCC-C-A, LCC-C-B, LCC-C-C, LCC-C-E and LCC-C-J. For example, with viewpoint LCC-C-B, this is scoped out of the assessment due to distance and the screening effects of intervening topography, settlement and vegetation. With viewpoints LCC-C-A, LCC-C-C and LCC-C-E, there are no significant effects predicted at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) phases of the Scheme. With viewpoint LCC-C-J, significant effects are predicted at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) phases of the Scheme. Detailed overlap and consultation is set out at Appendix 8.4 [APP-076] to show that collaboration with the Heritage topic areas has also been undertaken when developing the landscape and visual baseline and in identifying landscape and visual effects for the LVIA Chapter. No additional viewpoints have been assessed as being necessary as long-distance views are not affected by the Scheme either to or from Lincoln Castle and Cathedral.</p> <p>Low-carbon electricity generation facilities are essential to deliver a zero-carbon electricity system, which can then be used also to deliver decarbonisation of other sectors including transport, industrial processes and home heating. Paragraph 8.9.3 of the C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes the Government's aim to achieve a decarbonised UK power system by 2035. To achieve this, significant capacities of low-carbon generation must be built out this decade, and Figure 7.2 of the Statement of Need shows National Grid's latest projections of the solar</p>

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				<p>generation capacity needed in the UK to keep the UK on the trajectory to meet Net Zero by 2050.</p> <p>The cumulative warming effect of carbon means that not delivering against plans set out for the 2020s will lead to a greater scale and urgency to future plans and their delivery in order to meet the temperature increase limit set by the Paris Agreement. Delaying decarbonisation actions increases the risk of losing the fight against climate change, whilst in the meantime ongoing climate change events and impacts are unlikely to slow or decrease, putting lives and livelihoods at risk.</p> <p>The Applicant therefore believes that, as described in paragraph 7.1.14 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A], "the national and local benefits of the Scheme are considered on balance to outweigh its adverse impacts". The Scheme will play an essential role in taking the UK to a zero-carbon electricity system by 2035 and will help maintain the zero-carbon status of the UK's electricity system throughout its operational life.</p>
CUL-05	RR-239	Damage to Cultural Heritage	The local heritage has not been taken into consideration and the finds on local trial digs appear to have been disregarded. Even the tiny unspoilt C12th church of St Ediths at Coates,	The Applicant has undertaken a robust field evaluation, including geophysical survey [APP-110 – APP-122] and evaluation trial trenching [APP-129 – APP-130] , which have identified numerous archaeological sites, and greatly improved our understanding of former patterns of settlement and land use. The results of the archaeological evaluations have been used to inform a comprehensive mitigation strategy [APP-131] . The WSI [APP-131] is secured by Requirement 12 of Schedule 2 to C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] .

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			<p>which escaped any damage during the reformation as it sits quietly protected and hidden by a handful of trees will not escape the panels under this proposed plan.</p>	<p>C6.2.13 ES Chapter 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048] provides an assessment of potential impacts caused by the Scheme to Cultural Heritage. A Heritage Asset Setting Assessment was undertaken in line with Historic England's Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning. Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets as part of C6.2.13 ES Appendix 13.5: Heritage Statement [APP-125 – APP-128].</p> <p>The assessment concluded that a dense block of woodland within the setting of the Church of St Edith (NHLE 1146742) created a sense of enclosure. Consequently, only minor views of the landscape that would be occupied by the Cottam 1D solar array were identified from the south side of the churchyard, within the Scheduled Coates medieval settlement and moated site (NHLE 1016979). To the north of the church, views are restricted by the layering effect of nearby boundary trees and hedgerows, vegetation and modern farm buildings at Hall Farm. Consequently, the church was scoped out of further consideration as its significance would remain unaffected by the Scheme (paragraphs 3.1.61. and 3.1.62 [APP-125 – APP-128]).</p> <p>The potential visual impacts of the development to the vicinity of the Church—with consideration to the Scheduled Coates medieval settlement and moated site (NHLE 1016979)—was also assessed, and a negligible level of visual impact was identified (paragraphs 3.3.11-3.3.14 [APP-125 – APP-128]).</p>

Applicant's Response to Ecology and Biodiversity themed issues.

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
ECO-01	RR-180	Air Flow	Belief that the Scheme will change air flow which will have a negative impact on insects and wildlife.	<p>Solar farms have the potential to affect the micro-climate (inclusive of wind) beneath panels, which could impact on the potential growth of certain plant species. The planting and monitoring for the Scheme is provided within C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A], as secured by Requirement 7 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>Whilst the Scheme is operational, the soil resource at the Site will remain under a perennial green cover (see paragraph 19.9.13 of C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [APP-054]). The Applicant notes that the installation of solar panels may alter air flows but such changes, although not assessed, are not considered to be detrimental to insects and wildlife given that the land at present is arable and therefore hinders, to some degree, insects and wildlife.</p> <p>In relation to the Battery Energy Storage System, Table 7.1 of C6.2.7 ES Chapter 7 Climate Change [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.7_A] notes that in March 2022, Lincolnshire County Council made comment regarding the BESS and its potential to generate a micro-climate. Resultingly, the Applicant had noted this comment at the time and confirms that the design of the BESS will allow for natural ventilation to prevent the creation of a micro-climate.</p> <p>The ecological assessments carried out within C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] are based on the considered</p>

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				<p>professional judgment of an experienced ecological consultant who has been involved with the monitoring of nearly 200 active solar farms in the UK. At present, the Order Limits almost entirely occupy intensively managed arable systems which constitute a relatively modern and man-made habitat. The proposed Scheme will result in the reversion of this system to low-input and extensively-managed semi-natural grassland types. While it is true that the presence of solar panels has the potential to cause local shading directly beneath them, valuable grassland habitat mosaics can be successfully created in a relatively short space of time (See paragraphs 2.2.2, 4.7.6 and Appendix B of C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] a detailed Landscape Ecological Management Plan is secured via Requirement 7 of Schedule 2 to C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]), and this is what is proposed within this Scheme. The shade tolerant species which often grow under panels add to the overall species heterogeneity and, in the case of plants such as nettles and vigorous grasses, bring about further opportunities for the invertebrates which utilise them. Furthermore, we have not found evidence of any adverse ecological impacts of potential thermal microclimates having a negative effect on the diversity of grass and flowering plant species established through ecological management plans on solar farms which we monitor. In addition, the extensive development-free ecological buffers to be imposed around valued features such as all hedgerows, ditches, watercourses, ponds, woodland and trees – which measure between 5 and 50m – will ensure that any shading, thermal or airflow impacts of the PV array will be avoided.</p>

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ECO-02	RR-073	Animal Welfare	Animals may be disturbed and impacted by the Scheme- in relation to noise, construction etc which need to be considered.	<p>Section 9.7 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] sets out the extensive findings of all ecological investigations undertaken within the Order Limits together with an appraisal of the relative importance of each species or species group, habitat or designated site. A comprehensive package of mitigation measures has been identified, in tandem with embedded mitigation (see Section 9.7) established through the ecologically sensitive design of the Scheme (such as the wide buffering of all field boundaries and the use of existing hedgerow gaps for accesses). These measures are further detailed within C7.19 Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [APP-356] (as secured by Requirement 8 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]) and C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] (as secured by Requirement 7 of Schedule 2 to C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]) which will ensure that all identified impacts are minimised as far as possible. In many cases, the reversion from intensive agriculture to pasture or meadow grassland with additional hedgerow, scrub, tree and wetland habitat creation will bring about beneficial effects for wildlife. In particular, terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates, botanical diversity, small mammals and many species of bird all stand to benefit.</p> <p>More specifically, in our experience of monitoring over 100 active solar arrays, we find that brown hare and badgers are highly active on solar arrays owing to the improved foraging habitat within them. Birds of prey, including owls, are one species group likely to benefit from the provision of large areas of optimal habitat for small mammals such as field voles</p>

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				<p>which require tussocky and dense grassland which will be created within buffered field boundaries.</p> <p>Construction activities will be temporary, and since they are limited primarily to the piling of metal supports into the ground and laying of electrical cabling, they are not considered to create a level of disturbance which significantly exceeds that generated by typical agricultural sowing, spraying and harvesting operations. See Paragraphs 9.7.86 and 9.7.149 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044].</p>
ECO-03	RR-057	Biodiversity	Aquatic invertebrates have not been adequately considered in regard to effects of the Scheme.	<p>Section 9.7 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] sets out the extensive findings of all ecological investigations undertaken within the Order Limits together with an appraisal of the relative importance of each species or species group, habitat or designated site. A comprehensive package of mitigation measures has been identified, in tandem with embedded mitigation (see Section 9.6) established through the ecologically sensitive design of the Scheme (such as the wide buffering of all field boundaries and the use of existing hedgerow gaps for accesses). These measures are further detailed within C7.19 Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [APP-356] (as secured by Requirement 8 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]) and C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] (as secured by Requirement 7 of Schedule 2 to C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]) which will ensure that all identified impacts are minimised as far as possible. In many cases, the reversion from intensive agriculture to</p>

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				<p>pasture or meadow grassland with additional hedgerow, scrub, tree and wetland habitat creation will bring about beneficial effects for wildlife. In particular, terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates, botanical diversity, small mammals and many species of bird all stand to benefit.</p> <p>The ecological survey scope was formulated with input from and consultation with Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust as well as Natural England. Habitat assessment for aquatic invertebrates was undertaken as part of C6.3.9.2 ES Appendix 9.2 Preliminary Ecological Appraisal [APP-079]. Due to the design of the Scheme and the embedded mitigation which will avoid direct or indirect impacts on watercourses and waterbodies, adverse ecological impacts on any potentially important communities or species of aquatic invertebrates were considered highly unlikely. Consequently, and in line with Government Circular 06/05, it was not considered proportionate to undertake specific, detailed investigations into the presence of aquatic invertebrates in this instance.</p>
ECO-04	RR-059; RR-061; RR-062; RR-063; RR-064; RR-065; RR-066; RR-073; RR-075; RR-076; RR-079; RR-080; RR-081; RR-085; RR-089; RR-093; RR-095; RR-098; RR-105; RR-106; RR-116; RR-118; RR-128; RR-129; RR-130; RR-131; RR-136;	Biodiversity	<p>Biodiversity, Wildlife and Ecosystem Impacts</p> <p>Comments that Scheme will detrimentally impact local biodiversity, wildlife and ecosystems.</p>	<p>Section 9.7 of C6.2.9 Chapter 9 of the Environmental Statement [APP-044] sets out the extensive findings of all ecological investigations undertaken within the Order Limits together with an appraisal of the relative importance of each species or species group, habitat or designated site. This survey scope has been formulated through consultation with Natural England as well as Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trusts and has deemed to be thorough and appropriate (see C6.3.9.1 ES Appendix 9.1 Consultation Responses [APP-078]).</p>

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	RR-140; RR-141; RR-148; RR-153; RR-154; RR-155; RR-156; RR-162; RR-168; RR-175; RR-178; RR-180; RR-181; RR-185; RR-187; RR-190; RR-191; RR-193; RR-194; RR-197; RR-199; RR-201; RR-210; RR-216; RR-217; RR-218; RR-220; RR-223; RR-237; RR-241; RR-243; RR-244; RR-246; RR-250; RR-256; RR-266; RR-267; RR-270; RR-271; RR-274; RR-290; RR-293; RR-297; RR-298; RR-303; RR-309; RR-310; RR-312; RR-313; RR-320; RR-327; RR-328; RR-329; RR-330; RR-332; RR-335; RR-337; RR-339; RR-342; RR-347; RR-351; RR-353; RR-354; RR-358; RR-359; RR-366; RR-367; RR-371; RR-376; RR-378; RR-381; RR-384; RR-385; RR-389; RR-390; RR-396; RR-400; RR-403;		<p>Some comments refer to a negative impact towards endangered species in the local area.</p>	<p>A comprehensive package of mitigation has been provided, in tandem with embedded mitigation (see Section 9.6 which sets out the details of the embedded mitigation which has been established through the ecologically sensitive design of the Scheme, such as the wide buffering of all field boundaries and the use of existing hedgerow gaps for accesses).</p> <p>These additional mitigation measures are been further detailed within C7.19 Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [APP-356] (as secured by Requirement 8 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]) and C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] (as secured by Requirement 7 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]) which will ensure that all identified impacts are minimised as far as possible.</p> <p>In many cases, the reversion from intensive agriculture to pasture or meadow grassland with additional hedgerow, scrub, tree and wetland habitat creation will bring about beneficial effects for wildlife. In particular, terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates, botanical diversity, small mammals and many species of bird all stand to benefit.</p> <p>In this way, an anticipated substantial net gain for biodiversity will be achieved (see C6.3.9.12 ES Appendix 9.12 Biodiversity Net Gain Report [APP-089]), predominantly through the creation of extensive low-input grassland resulting in a net gain of 96.09% in habitat units, but also several new ponds and wetland habitat parcels resulting in a net gain of</p>

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	RR-408; RR-409; RR-416; RR-417; RR-418; RR-419; RR-427; RR-428; RR-432; RR-436; RR-452; RR-453; RR-458; RR-461; RR-462; RR-463; RR-464; RR-466; RR-472; RR-473; RR-479; RR-482; RR-484; RR-485; RR-486; RR-490; RR-491; RR-492; RR-496; RR-498; RR-504; RR-506; RR-514; RR-515; RR-522; RR-526; RR-529; RR-530; RR-532; RR-533; RR-534; RR-535; RR-536; RR-538; RR-542			10.69% in river units, and the planting of several kilometres of species-rich hedgerow resulting in a net gain of 70.22% in hedgerow units. Requirement 9 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] provides that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a biodiversity net gain strategy has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority, in consultation with the relevant statutory nature conservation body."
ECO-05	RR-531	Biodiversity	Belief that the proposal fails to demonstrate how the biodiversity of the area will be maintained during the construction period and when the project is completed.	C6.3.9.12 ES Appendix 9.12 Biodiversity Net Gain Report [APP-089] sets out how a significant net gain for biodiversity has been calculated and will be secured via Requirement 9 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] for the life of the Scheme alongside the implementation of the LEMP C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] , as secured by Requirement 7 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] . The BNG Report [APP-089] shows that a net gain of 96.09% for habitat units, 70.22% for hedgerow units and 10.69% for river units is anticipated

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				to be achieved through the Scheme. The LEMP provides for regular ecological monitoring and adaptation of the management prescriptions in response to changing conditions within the Order Limits so as to ensure the long-term achievement of its aims and persistence of net gain.
ECO-06	RR-533	Biodiversity Loss	Concern for the wildlife in the rural area. Specific case regarding the ponds off Thorpe Lane provided; they have been proved to be an important site for the breeding cycle of great crested newts. This site has been identified and studied by Lincoln University. Further belief that the heavy construction traffic make these sites untenable for these creatures and our wonderful small population of beautiful hares.	<p>A population of great crested newts within ponds in proximity to the Order Limits, off Thorpe Lane, is known to the Applicant and its presence has influenced the design of the Scheme so as to avoid impacts on core habitat within 50m of the pond. Further information is provided in C6.3.9.7 ES Appendix 9.7 Great Crested Newt Survey Report [APP-084] and in Paragraphs 9.7.154 to 9.7.164 of C6.2.9 Chapter 9 of the Environmental Statement [APP-044] which concludes that no significant adverse effects will occur on great crested newts due to construction, and that a beneficial effect on the local great crested newt population stands to occur through the provision of enhanced habitat, which would be significant at a local level.</p> <p>As set out in paragraphs 9.7.148 to 9.7.153 C6.2.9 Chapter 9 of the Environmental Statement [APP-044], solar farm fencing and solar farms themselves are not considered to pose any impediment to the movement or behaviour of brown hare. This is based on extensive experience of monitoring c.200 active solar farms whereby in the vast majority of cases, brown hare numbers either remain stable or significantly increase following construction of the solar farm. It is anticipated that reversion of arable to low input grassland will result in a beneficial impact during the operational phase on brown hare.</p>

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ECO-07	RR-091; RR-396; RR-455	Biodiversity Net Gain	Concern regarding a lack of clear or specific evidence towards significant BNG being achieved, other than trees, hedges and flowers between the panel rows.	<p>C6.3.9.12 ES Appendix 9.12 Biodiversity Net Gain Report [APP-089] sets out how a significant net gain for biodiversity has been calculated and will be secured via Requirement 9 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] for the life of the Scheme alongside the implementation of the LEMP C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A], as secured by Requirement 7 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>The BNG Report [APP-089] shows that a net gain of 96.09% for habitat units, 70.22% for hedgerow units and 10.69% for river units is anticipated to be achieved through the Scheme. The LEMP provides for regular ecological monitoring and adaptation of the management prescriptions in response to changing conditions within the Order Limits so as to ensure the long-term achievement of its aims and persistence of net gain.</p> <p>Aside from the very significant and extensive valuable habitats of trees, hedgerows and diverse grassland types both beneath panels and within the wide buffer zones at the edge of fields, other habitats as set out in the BNG Report [APP-089] and the Outline LEMP [APP-339] (as secured by Requirement 7 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]) include wetland such as ponds for invertebrates and amphibians, scrapes for ground nesting birds such as lapwing and set aside-type habitat for turtle dove. These habitats have been arranged and designed in such a way that they contribute to the aims of the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership's Biodiversity Opportunities</p>

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				Mapping in order to create a more joined-up network of natural habitats for wildlife.
ECO-08	RR-193	Bird Flight Patterns	Belief that the glare and the huge change in the landscape could cause very serious damage to birds migration patterns and routes.	<p>The Applicant is not aware of any glint and glare issues affecting local wildlife and captive animals. Therefore, effects upon wildlife (such as birds) or captive animals are not scoped into the EIA and there is no need to assess such effects.</p> <p>The Natural England Evidence Review of the Impact of Solar Farms on Birds, Bats and General Ecology 2016 (NEER012) indicates that there is no evidence of a risk of bird migratory disruption or collision with panels in the UK and that risks to birds are likely to be greater from overhead power infrastructure. Furthermore, results of studies into the effects of polarised reflected light and invertebrates are difficult to extend to birds as the biology of bird eyesight surrounding polarised light detection is significantly different in birds.</p>
ECO-09	RR-168; RR-491	Birds of Prey	Birds of prey, especially the many owls in the area are unable to hunt in solar farms and could quickly become a memory in the large area of Lincolnshire.	<p>The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the assertion that birds of prey, including owls, are unable to hunt within solar farms. Ecological monitoring of c.200 active solar arrays regularly results in observations of hunting barn owls, sparrowhawk, kestrel, buzzard and other birds of prey. The presence of the panel structures themselves is therefore not considered to be a significant impediment to hunting, and species such as owls and sparrowhawk thrive within orchard environments which have a similar 3D structure. As set out in paragraphs 9.7.188 to 9.7.199 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044], the reversion from arable to low-input grassland will result in a significantly more optimal habitat for the proliferation of small mammals such as field voles which</p>

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				make up a large proportion of the diet of many birds of prey, especially owls. Similarly, the creation of tussocky, or flower rich marginal habitats within buffer zones which will be far wider than the present arable field margins will bring about improved habitat for seed-eating passerine birds as well as invertebrates such as dragonflies. In turn, raptor species such as kestrel, hobby and sparrowhawk all stand to benefit.
ECO-10	RR-330; RR-382; RR-486; RR-403	Cable Route	Concern regarding ecological damage which will be done laying the cable routes. Some comments may refer to the unnecessary length of the cable route.	Based on the nature of the Cable Route Corridor comprising linear infrastructure, the works involving the ground are temporary, with the land returned to former use at the end of the construction period. Significant impacts from cable connections will be avoided through use of suitable construction techniques. For example, C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] assesses that the Willingham to Fillingham Road Verges LWS located adjacent to Cottam 1 is vulnerable to temporary damage from the trenching involved in cable installation. In this case, Horizontal Directional Drilling will be adopted in relation to the installation of the two cables within proximity to the LWS, thereby avoiding the need to cause direct damage to it via opening a trench. The Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy (EPMS) [APP-356] (as secured by Requirement 8 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]) provides precautionary measures in relation to using HDD in proximity to sensitive sites.
ECO-11	RR-273	Cable Route	We are concerned that cable routes cross an area	It is acknowledged that the cable installation route crosses the Biodiversity Opportunity Area (BOA) identified by the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership. These areas are identified not for their current

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			<p>designated 'opportunity for ecological improvement' as noted on the biodiversity mapping for this area, which was drawn up by the County Council. We are concerned that these projects go against the vision that West Lindsey District Council set out for this area in their Green Strategy document.</p>	<p>biodiversity value but because they occupy land which is suitable for creating ecological links between other, known locations of valuable ecological habitat. The cable installation works would represent a temporary impact on a largely arable system of low inherent ecological value and any disturbed or removed habitat would be re-seeded or replanted as set out in the C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] (a detailed LEMP is secured through Requirement 7 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]), in order to ensure no long-term impact occurs. Elsewhere within the Order Limits, substantive measures to bring about ecological betterment have been committed to as secured through the C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] (see paragraph 2.1.1 of [APP-339]), including the creation of ponds, wetland scrapes, tree planting, hedgerow planting and the creation of extensive mosaics of valuable low-input grassland. The location of many of these has been influenced by the Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (see Section 2.2 of the Outline LEMP [APP-339]). In this way, the design of the Scheme has been substantially influenced by the aims of the Council's BOA strategy.</p>
ECO-12	RR-148	Ecology	<p>Concern that pollinators would again be lost which as we all know is vital to the food chain.</p>	<p>The vast majority of the footprint of the solar array within the Order Limits occupies intensive arable land with highly managed hedgerows and minimal field margins. At present, therefore, the majority of the land is of very limited value to pollinator invertebrate species and the species assemblage is likely to be of low abundance and diversity. The reversion of this arable land almost entirely to low-input grassland managed sensitively to promote its species diversity and create a mosaic of</p>

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				tussocky or flowering grasslands will be of great benefit to the local pollinator species assemblage. This is discussed in more detail in paragraphs 9.7.207 to 9.7.217 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] .
ECO-13	RR-197	Ecology at Cottam 1	Comment that the area especially around Cottam 1 is quite stunning and is an excellent wildlife and bird watching area which I visit often, turning up rare and unusual species such as 3 species of Harrier, 5 species of Owl, Red Kite, Merlin and Hobby to name just a few. Belief that the Scheme would negatively impact these species	The Applicant acknowledges the presence of a variety of birds of prey and other bird species as set out in C6.3.9.7 ES Appendix 9.8 Breeding Bird Survey Report [APP-086] . Ecological monitoring of c.200 active solar arrays regularly results in observations of hunting barn owls, sparrowhawk, kestrel, buzzard and other birds of prey. The presence of the panel structures themselves is therefore not considered to be a significant impediment to hunting, and species such as owls and sparrowhawk thrive within orchard environments which have a similar 3D structure. As set out in paragraphs 9.7.188 to 9.7.199 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] , the reversion from arable to low-input grassland will result in a significantly more optimal habitat for the proliferation of small mammals such as field voles which make up a large proportion of the diet of many birds of prey, especially owls. Similarly, the creation of tussocky, or flower rich marginal habitats within buffer zones which will be far wider than the present arable field margins will bring about improved habitat for seed-eating passerine birds as well as invertebrates such as dragonflies. In turn, raptor species such as kestrel, hobby and sparrowhawk all stand to benefit.
ECO-14	RR-197	Ecosystem Unbalance	Isolating large areas of countryside from browsing animals	The majority of animal species will be able to freely move through the operational sites and the boundary fencing in the same way as they are currently able to in other locations where deer fencing is used. An impact

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			<p>would localise and intensify grazing, therefore woodland, hedging and new planting would be severely damaged causing biodiversity to swing negatively further ruining the balance of eco systems and the beauty of our ever changing natural world. Quail numbers here have just Started recovering after generations of decline.</p>	<p>on the movement of deer is likely (Bullet point 9 within paragraph 9.6.5 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044]), although it is acknowledged from the ecological monitoring of numerous active solar schemes that deer are regularly noted within the fenced areas having exploited locations of undulating terrain and other opportunities for entry.</p> <p>C6.3.9.12 ES Appendix 9.12 Biodiversity Net Gain Report [APP-089] sets out how a significant net gain for biodiversity has been calculated and will be secured via Requirement 9 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] for the life of the Scheme.</p> <p>Fencing and other means of enclosure has been secured through Requirement 10 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] where it is stated that "No part of the authorised development may commence until written details of all proposed temporary fences, walls or other means of enclosure, including those set out in the construction environmental management plan, for that part have been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities."</p> <p>The effects associated with the fencing have also been taken into consideration in the assessment of both the landscape and visual effects, which is set out within the ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA'). The detailed assessment information</p>

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				<p>can be found within the individual receptor sheets at ES Appendix 8.2 [APP-074] and ES Appendix 8.3 [APP-075]. The assessment has taken account of the dimensional data such as heights and location and micro-positioned the fencing within the Scheme to ensure the best possible fit with the landscape. The photography and photomontage information at ES Figures 8.14.1 [APP-199] to 8.14.90 [APP-288] shows how the fencing is comfortably accommodated. For example, ES Figure 8.14.4 [APP-202] shows the fencing set back from the existing and proposed hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth and how the design is simply configured to reduce its prominence in the context of the panels and other infrastructure.</p> <p>The design also takes account of the spatial legibility for grazing and the migration of animal species since the fence comprises an open permeable mesh of a design that promotes the passage of animals through and across its bounds.</p> <p>Quails have been recorded sporadically at very low densities within the Order Limits. As set out in paragraphs 9.7.165-9.7.187 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] it is considered that the solar panels and surrounding fencing would not cause significant impediment to the use of the grassland, hedgerow or woodland edge habitats by quail. Suitable foraging and nesting habitat in the form of wide tussocky grassland margins will be created.</p>
ECO-15	RR-401	Effects on Wildlife on a	The effects of daytime and nocturnal wildlife	An assessment of potential impacts upon protected species and Important Ecological Features has been set out in paragraphs 9.7.105 – 9.7.241 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] . It is

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		Day/Night Basis	environments has been downplayed by the developers.	considered that, since the construction and operation of the Scheme will cause little or no impediment or behaviour of the majority of species and that artificial lighting is not to be implemented as part of the proposals, the potential for nocturnality or diurnality impacts is negligible.
ECO-16	RR-064; RR-237; RR-455; RR-535	EMF	Belief that electromagnetic frequencies from the panels will cause distress and harm wildlife and biodiversity.	Guidance for controlling levels of electromagnetic fields is restricted to the potential impacts on human health, and as such, effects on animal and plant life were not included as matters to be considered in Section 3.13 of C6.3.2.2 ES Appendix 2.2 EIA Scoping Opinion [APP-064] , hence they have not been assessed in the ES. That notwithstanding, the EMF generated by the panels is very low level static fields as a result of their generation at 400V DC. The peak EMF generated by the Scheme is from the joint cable route, where the three 400kV circuits run in parallel in the Share Cable Corridor, which is detailed in para. 21.2.3 to 21.2.9 of C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21 Other Environmental Matters [APP-056] . This is not likely to produce significant adverse effects to human health. Assessment of the impacts from EMF were scoped out of the Environmental Statement on this basis (see Section 3.13 of C6.3.2.2 ES Appendix 2.2 EIA Scoping Opinion [APP-064]).
ECO-17	RR-051; RR-065; RR-066; RR-067; RR-073; RR-094; RR-096; RR-168; RR-180; RR-193; RR-197; RR-216; RR-217; RR-256; RR-270; RR-273; RR-274; RR-335; RR-355; RR-356; RR-371;	Fencing	Impact of Security Fencing Comments that wildlife will be more restricted due to the	The majority of animal species will be able to freely move through the operational site and the boundary fencing in the same way as they are currently able to in other locations where deer fencing is used. An impact on the movement of deer is likely (Bullet point 9 within paragraph 9.6.5 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044]), although it is acknowledged from the ecological monitoring of numerous active solar schemes that deer are regularly noted within the fenced areas having

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	RR-378; RR-385; RR-403; RR-462; RR-467; RR-479; RR-491; RR-497; RR-519		fencing required for the Scheme.	<p>exploited locations of undulating terrain and other opportunities for entry.</p> <p>Fencing and other means of enclosure have been secured through Requirement 10 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] where it is stated that "No part of the authorised development may commence until written details of all proposed temporary fences, walls or other means of enclosure, including those set out in the construction environmental management plan, for that part have been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities."</p>
ECO-18	RR-382; RR-429; RR-515	Flora and Fauna	Disturbance to flora and fauna: Claims made by IGP for projected biodiversity gains need challenging in pursuit of real scientific data to substantiate the claims that have been made.	<p>C6.3.9.12 ES Appendix 9.12 Biodiversity Net Gain Report [APP-089] sets out how a significant net gain for biodiversity has been calculated. Requirement 9 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] provides that (for the life of the Scheme alongside the implementation of the LEMP) "No part of the authorised development may commence until a biodiversity net gain strategy has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority, in consultation with the relevant statutory nature conservation body."</p> <p>The Biodiversity Net Gain assessment has been carried out using the Defra Biodiversity Metric which is a recognised method for determining the likely change in habitat value through development.</p>

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ECO-19	RR-056; RR-096; RR-108; RR-129; RR-154; RR-157; RR-165; RR-180; RR-185; RR-194; RR-199; RR-207; RR-210; RR-217; RR-223; RR-246; RR-256; RR-263; RR-266; RR-267; RR-270; RR-273; RR-297; RR-319; RR-339; RR-355; RR-359; RR-371; RR-385; RR-389; RR-396; RR-408; RR-409; RR-412; RR-417; RR-418; RR-427; RR-429; RR-432; RR-436; RR-443; RR-451; RR-461; RR-463; RR-479; RR-482; RR-497; RR-524; RR-538; RR-542	Habitats	<p>Negative Impact on Habitats</p> <p>Opposition to the Scheme due to perceived negative impacts to habitats which would worsen the lives of animals.</p>	<p>Section 9.6 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] sets out the extensive findings of all ecological investigations undertaken within the Order Limits together with an appraisal of the relative importance of each species or species group, habitat or designated site. A comprehensive package of mitigation measures has been identified, in tandem with embedded mitigation (see Section 9.6) which has been established through the ecologically sensitive design of the Scheme (such as the wide buffering of all field boundaries and the use of existing hedgerow gaps for accesses). These measures are further detailed within C7.19 Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [APP-356] (as secured by Requirement 8 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]) and C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] (as secured by Requirement 7 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]) which will ensure that all identified impacts are minimised as far as possible. In many cases, the reversion from intensive agriculture to pasture or meadow grassland with additional hedgerow, scrub, tree and wetland habitat creation will bring about beneficial effects for wildlife. In particular, terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates, botanical diversity, small mammals and many species of bird all stand to benefit.</p> <p>More specifically, in our experience of monitoring over 100 active solar arrays, we find that brown hare and badgers are highly active on solar arrays owing to the improved foraging habitat within them. Birds of prey, including owls, are one species group likely to benefit from the provision of large areas of optimal habitat for small mammals such as field voles</p>

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				<p>which require tussocky and dense grassland which will be created within buffered field boundaries.</p> <p>Construction activities will be temporary, and since they are limited primarily to the piling of metal supports into the ground and laying of electrical cabling, they are not considered to create a level of disturbance which significantly exceeds that generated by typical agricultural sowing, spraying and harvesting operations. See Paragraphs 9.7.86 and 9.7.149 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044].</p>
ECO-20	RR-456	Land in between Panels	Belief that land in between panels should provide food for local animals.	<p>It is noted within paragraph 19.9.17 of C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [APP-054], the management of grass below and between the solar panels can include the grazing of livestock, where appropriate, thereby providing food for locally reared animals and ensuring that the Sites can continue in agricultural production for the operational period of the Scheme.</p>
ECO-21	RR-332; RR-334	Migratory Birds	Research done in the USA has proven that large scale solar farms are affecting migratory birds.	<p>The Applicant is not aware of any glint and glare issues affecting local wildlife and captive animals. Therefore, effects upon wildlife (such as birds) or captive animals are not scoped into the EIA and there is no need to assess such effects.</p> <p>The Applicant respectfully disagrees that the research referred to can be extrapolated to be relevant to a UK setting. The research in question stems from studies conducted in hot, arid and desertified environments in the US in which a 'lake effect' has been found to impact bird movements. No such evidence has been recorded to date in the UK or Europe. Natural England's evidence review of the impact of solar farms</p>

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				on birds, bats and general ecology 2016 (NEER012) which indicates that there is no evidence of a risk of bird migratory disruption or collision with panels in the UK and that risks to birds are likely to be greater from overhead power infrastructure. Furthermore, results of studies into the effects of polarised reflected light and invertebrates are difficult to extend to birds as the biology of bird eyesight surrounding polarised light detection is significantly different in birds.
ECO-22	RR-375	Oxygen Provided from Plants	Concern regarding a loss of Oxygen generating plants Impact on wildlife Solar gain contributing to global warming Environmental impact both during the construction phase & for the life of the project.	<p>The Scheme is anticipated to result in a substantial net gain for biodiversity (see C6.3.9.12 ES Appendix 9.12 Biodiversity Net Gain Report [APP-089]), predominantly through the creation of extensive low-input grassland resulting in an anticipated net gain of 96.09% in habitat units, but also several new ponds and wetland habitat parcels resulting in an anticipated net gain of 10.69% in river units, and the planting of several kilometres of species-rich hedgerow resulting in an anticipated net gain of 70.22% in hedgerow units.</p> <p>This will be secured through the management and ecological monitoring prescriptions contained within C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] as secured by Requirement 7 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>Invariably, such an increase in habitat, hedgerow and river units will result in an increase of oxygen generating plants.</p>
ECO-23	RR-427	Sheep	The grazing of sheep will keep the	It is noted within paragraph 19.7.17 of C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19_Soils and Agriculture [APP-054] that the management of grass below and between

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			vegetation under control but do we really need more sheep. The value of mutton and wool is minimal compared to our need for agricultural crops.	<p>the solar panels can include the grazing of livestock where appropriate. The Applicant considers it beneficial that, during the operation of the Scheme, the Sites can continue in agricultural production.</p> <p>Moreover, paragraph 3.3.22 in C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] states that the Scheme maximises the utilisation of low grade, non best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land with 95.9% of the land being classified as non BMV land.</p>
ECO-24	RR-216; RR-241; RR-249; RR-342; RR-429; RR-467; RR-479; RR-526	Specific Species Affected by the Scheme	Lincolnshire is home to a diverse range of species including emperor moths, nightingales, green-winged orchids, bitterns, and buzzards. But, if the solar panel projects are built, they could pose a threat to many different species,	<p>C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] sets out the extensive findings of all ecological investigations undertaken within the Order Limits together with an appraisal of the relative importance of each species or species group, habitat or designated site. A comprehensive package of mitigation measures has been identified, in tandem with embedded mitigation established through the ecologically sensitive design of the Scheme (such as the wide buffering of all field boundaries and the use of existing hedgerow gaps for accesses). These measures are further detailed within C7.19 Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [APP-356] (as secured by Requirement 8 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]) and C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] (as secured by Requirement 7 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]) which will ensure that all identified impacts are minimised as far as possible. In many cases, the reversion from intensive agriculture to pasture or meadow grassland with additional hedgerow, scrub, tree and wetland habitat creation will bring about beneficial effects</p>

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				for wildlife. In particular, terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates, botanical diversity, small mammals and many species of bird all stand to benefit.
ECO-25	RR-429	SSSI	Please when considering this application think about our livelihoods, destruction of our habitats and also the SSSI that they want to cut through near my village,	<p>The Applicant points the Party towards C6.2.3 ES Chapter 3_The Order Limits [APP-038] where in paragraph 3.2.25, it states that "the nearest SSSI to the Site [Cottam 3a] is Scotton Common which is 2.30km to the north of Cottam 3a".</p> <p>The Scheme does not propose to cut through any SSSIs.</p>
ECO-26	RR-239; RR-343	Swan Population	The environmental impact on the area will be significant. There are nesting owls and bats, deer as well as newts and frogs which will all be impacted on the construction process and are unlikely to recover after this time. There are pairs of nesting Swans that daily commute	<p>Individual mute swans were recorded on four occasions along the River Till (at Cottam 1) and its subsidiary drainage ditches and embankments which run parallel to it during the breeding bird surveys conducted to inform the Scheme. Similarly, a total of ten mute swan records were made within the same habitats during the wintering bird surveys. Only three of these records were of individual birds within the Order Limits, confined to the field boundary habitats and arable field margins. It is considered that no significant effects would occur on mute swan owing to their restriction to the corridor of the River Till and the preservation (and enhancement of) wide undeveloped field boundaries close to the River Till, especially in Cottam 1. It is considered that mute swan will continue to be able to access the River Till corridor and associated drainage channels and field margins unimpeded post construction of the Scheme. As such, no impacts or need for mitigation was identified within C6.2.9 ES</p>

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			<p>between the River Till and the surround fields. This option will be destroyed should this go ahead. The environmental impact from the reports commissioned by Island Green Power do not address any of these points and minimise the actual numbers and species diversity already at home in this area.</p>	<p>Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044]. Small and medium sized groups of Whooper swans were recorded flying over Cottam 1 on occasion, but none were seen to land or interact with land within the Order Limits.</p> <p>Habitat loss resulting from the Scheme will be restricted predominantly to arable and grazing pasture fields. The Scheme has been carefully designed to retain all field boundaries which will be generously buffered and will be subject to ecologically-led management prescriptions, as set out in Section 9.6 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044]. Furthermore, the grassland beneath panelled land will receive low-intensity management and be seeded to create a habitat of significantly increased species diversity compared with the existing baseline.</p> <p>The Scheme is anticipated to result in a substantial net gain for biodiversity (see C6.3.9.12 ES Appendix 9.12 Biodiversity Net Gain Report [APP-089]), predominantly through the creation of extensive low-input grassland resulting in a net gain of 96.09% in habitat units, but also several new ponds and wetland habitat parcels resulting in a net gain of 10.69% in river units, and the planting of several kilometres of species-rich hedgerow resulting in a net gain of 70.22% in hedgerow units.</p> <p>This will be secured through the management and ecological monitoring prescriptions contained within C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] as secured by Requirement 7 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>

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ECO-27	RR-335	Wildlife Corridors	Belief that the developers all pretend that they will ensure wildlife is saved and that they can shade under the panels, but as yet I have not seen any evidence of other solar farms or have ensured wildlife corridors remain open and that trees etc are planted to offset the damage.	<p>The Scheme is anticipated to result in a substantial net gain for biodiversity (see C6.3.9.12 ES Appendix 9.12 Biodiversity Net Gain Report [APP-089]), predominantly through the creation of extensive low-input grassland resulting in a net gain of 96.09% in habitat units, but also several new ponds and wetland habitat parcels resulting in a net gain of 10.69% in river units, and the planting of several kilometres of species-rich hedgerow resulting in a net gain of 70.22% in hedgerow units.</p> <p>Requirement 9 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] provides that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a biodiversity net gain strategy has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority, in consultation with the relevant statutory nature conservation body."</p> <p>Section 9.7 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] sets out the extensive findings of all ecological investigations undertaken within the Order Limits together with an appraisal of the relative importance of each species or species group, habitat or designated site. A comprehensive package of mitigation measures has been identified, in tandem with embedded mitigation (see Section 9.7) established through the ecologically sensitive design of the Scheme (such as the wide buffering of all field boundaries and the use of existing hedgerow gaps for accesses). These measures are further detailed within C7.19 Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [APP-356] (as secured by Requirement 8 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]) and C7.3_A Outline</p>

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				<p>Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] (as secured by Requirement 7 of Schedule 2 to C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]) which will ensure that all identified impacts are minimised as far as possible. In many cases, the reversion from intensive agriculture to pasture or meadow grassland with additional hedgerow, scrub, tree and wetland habitat creation will bring about beneficial effects for wildlife. In particular, terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates, botanical diversity, small mammals and many species of bird all stand to benefit.</p> <p>More specifically, in our experience of monitoring over 100 active solar arrays, we find that brown hare and badgers are highly active on solar arrays owing to the improved foraging habitat within them. Birds of prey, including owls, are one species group likely to benefit from the provision of large areas of optimal habitat for small mammals such as field voles which require tussocky and dense grassland which will be created within buffered field boundaries.</p> <p>Construction activities will be temporary, and since they are limited primarily to the piling of metal supports into the ground and laying of electrical cabling, they are not considered to create a level of disturbance which significantly exceeds that generated by typical agricultural sowing, spraying and harvesting operations. See Paragraphs 9.7.86 and 9.7.149 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044].</p>

Applicant's Response to Energy Need themed issues.

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
ENG-01	RR-217; RR-374	Cost of Solar	Belief that the initial cost of building and maintaining a solar farm can be high, and the cost of electricity generated from solar panels can be higher than that from traditional energy sources. Furthermore, the economic viability of solar farms can be affected by factors such as government subsidies and tax incentives.	<p>As stated within paragraph 2.2.3 of C4.2 Cottam Funding Statement [APP-019], on the assumption that the Scheme is consented, the Applicant would seek further funding with the support of its legal and financial advisors, as is common for privately funded infrastructure projects.</p> <p>Section 6.2 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] sets out how the Scheme will meet the compelling need for renewable energy in accordance with relevant national planning policies. Paragraphs 6.2.17 to 6.2.19 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] explain that it is against this backdrop that NPS EN-1 paragraph 4.1.2 sets a presumption in favour of granting permission for energy NSIP projects. This is carried through to Draft NPS EN-1 at paragraphs 4.1.2 and 4.1.3.</p> <p>Specifically, regarding the cost of electricity generated by solar, it will enable all consumers to benefit from the effect of low-marginal cost solar generation by reducing market prices, in line with the aim to provide affordable energy for consumers set out at Paragraph 2.3.2, Paragraph 2.3.5 and 3.3.21 of Draft NPS EN-1 (para 6.2.8, 6.2.9, and 6.2.10).</p> <p>The Applicant confirms that, for the Scheme, it is not in receipt of government subsidies.</p>
ENG-02	RR-206	Cost/Benefit Ratio of the Scheme	Cost Benefit queries- I cannot see in the proposals a clear cost-benefit analysis.	As set out in paragraphs 2.2.1 to 2.2.5 in the Funding Statement [APP-019] , the Applicant has set out the estimated project costs involved with the grid connection, land acquisition costs and costs associated with preparing the Application. IGP will seek further funding with the support

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			<p>It is therefore far from proven that the scheme has a true net value. The PV panels will come from abroad with all the transport costs that entails as is likely for the batteries. They will require precious materials such as rare earths and lithium which are needed elsewhere. There is a lack of evidence that the proposed battery farms are safe and environmentally sound.</p>	<p>of its legal and financial advisors if granted development consent by the Secretary of State. The Applicant has appointed a number of professional advisors in connection with the development of the Scheme, including solicitors, project managers and technical consultants, all of whom have extensive experience of working within projects similar to the Scheme. Having taken and considered the advice of these professional advisors the Applicant is confident that the Scheme is commercially viable and can be funded, if development consent is granted.</p> <p>As stated in paragraph 3.11.4 of C6.3.10.4 ES Appendix 10.1 Annex D 10.1.3 Cottam 1 West [APP-093], automated actuating valves will be placed on outfalls from the drainage system for the BESS. They will close if a fire alarm is detected isolating the site drainage from the wider watercourses.</p> <p>Paragraph 3.11.5 goes on to state that after a fire event, the wastewater will be tested to ascertain the level of contamination. A decision will then be made as to the appropriate means by which to dispose of the attenuated water. This may involve on-site treatment and release or tankering.</p> <p>Paragraph 4.1.18 of C7.9 Outline Battery Storage Safety Management Plan [APP-348] explains that the design of the BESS has integrated fire detection and suppression systems that will automatically operate to contain battery fires. Paragraph 5.3.1 states that if fire spreads to multiple units, external firefighting water facilities are available by means of 228,000 litre water storage tanks within the battery compounds. A detailed Battery Storage Safety Management Plan will be submitted and</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>approved prior to commencement of development as secured through Requirement 6 of Schedule 2 C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>Human health and other environmental impacts resulting from plumes from potential battery fires have been initially assessed in C6.2.17 ES Chapter 17_Air Quality [APP-052].</p> <p>As stated in paragraphs 3.11.1 to 3.11.5 of C6.3.10.4 ES Appendix 10.1 Annex D 10.1.3 Cottam 1 West [APP-093], fire water provision in line with Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue requirements has been accommodated within the Scheme.</p>
ENG-03	RR-254	Efficiency of Solar	Concern regarding the justification of solar farms on good producing arable land when the storage systems cannot store the power produced for when it is need most.	<p>Chapter 4 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] sets out the UK's legal requirement to decarbonise and explains how that requirement has created an increased need and urgency to meet the UK's obligations under the Paris Agreement (2015) as detailed within para. 4.2.7. The chapter summarises the latest expert views on the urgency for and depth of low-carbon infrastructure needed to deliver the UK's Net Zero legal obligations, and demonstrates that there is an urgent need for the development of large-scale solar schemes.</p> <p>Paragraphs 6.2.17 to 6.2.19 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] explain that it is against this backdrop that NPS EN-1 paragraph 4.1.2 sets a presumption in favour of granting permission for energy NSIP projects. This is carried through to Draft NPS EN-1 at paragraphs 4.1.2 and 4.1.3.</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>The selection of the Scheme's location has followed a systematic step-by-step process as set out in detail within C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067]. This took a sequential approach to the consideration of potential sites taking into account agricultural land classification. As a result, paragraph 3.3.22 states that the Scheme maximises the utilisation of low grade, non best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land with 95.9% of the land being classified as non BMV land.</p> <p>Section 11.5 in C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] explains how electricity storage (BESS) will play an important role in the development of a low-carbon GB energy system. Electricity storage may be connected as a standalone asset or collocated with a renewable generation scheme. Because the Scheme's grid connection agreement provides both import and export capacity, it enables the Scheme to contribute to meeting the national need for electricity storage by including, as associated development, an electricity storage asset which supports the operation of the principal solar development and provides the ability to balance the electricity produced by the solar scheme, with demand on the National Electricity Transmission System.</p> <p>Section 4, paragraphs 4.5.21 to 4.5.26 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] set out that the BESS proposed as part of the Scheme is designed to provide peak generation and grid balancing services to the electricity grid by allowing excess electricity generated either from the solar PV panels, or imported from the electricity grid, to be stored in and dispatched when required.</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
ENG-04	RR-082	Energy Capacity	Concern that benefits of the project have been exaggerated, particularly as there is only minimal capacity for storage of the energy generated	<p>Paragraph 7.2.8 of C6.2.7 ES Chapter 7 Climate Change [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.7_A] states that assumptions have been made for the storage capacity of the two battery site size options, as 1357MWh and 2773MWh, exporting at 600MW into the National Grid transmission network, therefore representing an approximate 2-hour or 4-hour energy supply. The time of day that this is provided can be controlled so that the energy stored can be supplied during hours of peak demand.</p> <p>Section 11.5 in C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] explains how electricity storage will play an important role in the development of a low-carbon GB energy system. The Scheme's grid connection agreement provides both import and export capacity and therefore it enables the Scheme to contribute to meeting the national need for electricity storage by including, as associated development, an electricity storage asset which supports the operation of the principal solar development and provides the ability to balance the electricity produced by the solar scheme, with demand on the National Electricity Transmission System.</p> <p>Section 6 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] demonstrates that when considered against national planning policies, the Scheme accords with the relevant policies. With regard to specific policy tests, the substantial benefits of the Scheme are considered, on balance, to outweigh its limited number of significant residual adverse impacts. Therefore, it is considered that development consent for the Scheme should be granted.</p>
ENG-05	RR-180	Energy Need	Belief that in reality, the colossal Battery	Section 11.5 in C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] explains how electricity storage will play an important role in the development of a low-

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
			Energy Storage System (BESS) of 600MW would do very little for UK energy security.	<p>carbon GB energy system. The Scheme 's grid connection agreement provides both import and export capacity and therefore it enables the Scheme to contribute to meeting the national need for electricity storage by including, as associated development, an electricity storage asset which supports the operation of the principal solar development and provides the ability to balance the electricity produced by the solar scheme, with demand on the National Electricity Transmission System.</p> <p>Section 4 paragraphs 4.5.21-4.5.26 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] sets out that the BESS proposed as part of the Scheme is designed to provide peak generation and grid balancing services to the electricity grid by allowing excess electricity generated either from the solar PV panels, or imported from the electricity grid, to be stored in and dispatched when required.</p>
ENG-06	RR-050; RR-111; RR-115; RR-145; RR-247; RR-260; RR-317; RR-372; RR-424; RR-449; RR-456; RR-457; RR-477	Energy Need	<p>General Support for the Scheme</p> <p>Some comments refer to due to the Scheme's contribution towards a lower carbon future and support towards lowering high electricity and gas prices.</p>	The Applicant acknowledges these comments and welcomes support for the Scheme.

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>Some comments issue support but ask for more information.</p> <p>Some comments state that the individual does not identify as a NIMBY.</p> <p>Some comments wish to raise concern regarding misinformation from campaign groups.</p>	
ENG-07	RR-324	Government Targets	Lincolnshire is not for sale or up for grabs by government to supposedly reach short-term, "popular" targets.	<p>Chapter 4 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] sets out the UK's legal requirement to decarbonise and explains how that requirement has created an increased need and urgency to meet the UK's obligations under the Paris Agreement (2015) as detailed within para. 4.2.7. The chapter summarises the latest expert views on the urgency for and depth of low-carbon infrastructure needed to deliver the UK's Net Zero legal obligations and demonstrates that there is an urgent need for the development of large-scale solar schemes.</p> <p>Paragraphs 6.2.17 to 6.2.19 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] explain that it is against this backdrop that NPS EN-1 paragraph 4.1.2 sets a presumption in favour of granting permission</p>

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				<p>for energy NSIP projects. This is carried through to Draft NPS EN-1 at paragraphs 4.1.2 and 4.1.3.</p> <p>Section 6.2 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] sets out how the Scheme will meet the compelling need for renewable energy in accordance with relevant national planning policies. In summary, the Scheme would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver a large amount of renewable generation capacity (35,590,658 MWh over the estimated 40-year assessed lifetime) to deliver the Government's energy objectives and legally binding net zero commitments in line with the requirements of paragraph 1.1.1 of NPS EN-3, paragraph 3.3.21 of draft NPS EN-1, section 3.4 of NPS EN-1 and the National Infrastructure Strategy 2020 (para. 6.2.32); • Deliver a reduction of 5,974,155 tCO₂e over the lifetime of the Scheme compared to if it did not go ahead which would make a significant contribution towards reducing carbon emissions as required by paragraph 1.1.1 of NPS EN-1, paragraph 2.3.2 of Draft NPS EN-1, the National Infrastructure Strategy 2020 and the Energy White Paper: "Powering our net zero future" (para. 6.2.35); • Deliver in a timescale that is short in the context of the delivery of other forms of energy generation in line with the urgent need to decarbonise set out in paragraphs 3.3.5, 3.3.15 and 3.4.5 of NPS EN-1, Paragraph 2.3.2 of Draft NPS EN-1 and the National Infrastructure Strategy 2020 (paras. 6.2.1, 6.2.4 and 6.2.8);

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable all consumers to benefit from the effect of low-marginal cost solar generation by reducing market prices, in line with the aim to provide affordable energy for consumers set out at Paragraphs 2.3.2, 2.3.5 and 3.3.21 of Draft NPS EN-1 (see paragraphs 6.2.8, 6.2.9, and 6.2.10 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A]); • Help ensure security and reliability of energy supply in line with Paragraphs 2.3.2 and 2.3.5 of the Draft NPS EN-1 (see paragraphs 6.2.8 and 6.2.9 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A]). <p>The site selection process is set out in C6.3.5.1 Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] and explains why the connection at Cottam Power Station was selected and the subsequent site selection process.</p>
ENG-08	RR-445	Heat from Electricity Generation	Stephen Hawking in his book "our universe in a nutshell" (2001) stated by the year 2600 we will be standing shoulder to shoulder and the earth will glow RED HOT FROM ELECTRICITY. We are already on the way when one considers	<p>The Applicant notes the comments regarding heat from the Scheme.</p> <p>Paragraphs 7.6.1 to 7.6.8 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] analyse the potential contribution of "brownfield" solar sites to the national need for solar generation. Brownfield sites, including rooftop and other community energy systems, are likely to grow in the UK and will make a contribution to decarbonisation of the UK energy system. However, paras 7.6.5 to 7.6.8 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] conclude that on their own, such developments are unlikely to be able to meet the national need for solar.</p> <p>In addition, section 3.3 of document C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350], specifically paragraphs 3.3.2, 3.3.5 and 3.3.11, describes the</p>

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			the latent heat emitted by the trillions of electrical appliances/cables. Individual house solar panels would negate the supposed need for large solar farms.	Government's view that large capacities of low-carbon generation will be required to meet increased demand and replace output from retiring (fossil fuel) plants, and that "a secure, reliable, affordable, Net Zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar". This support for large scale solar as part of the 'answer' to net zero and energy security has been repeated in its recent policy documents published in March 2023.
ENG-10	RR-104; RR-312	Local Energy Costs	Concern that local electricity bills will not come down if the Scheme is built.	Section 6.2 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] sets out how the Scheme will meet the compelling need for renewable energy in accordance with relevant national planning policies. The Scheme would enable all consumers to benefit from the effect of low-marginal cost solar generation by reducing market prices, in line with the aim to provide affordable energy for consumers set out at Paragraphs 2.3.2, 2.3.5 and 3.3.21 of Draft NPS EN-1 (see paragraphs 6.2.8, 6.2.9, and 6.2.10 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A]).
ENG-11	RR-425; RR-436	National Grid Supply	Solar forms a small part of the National supply so storage will never be needed therefore the proposed battery units would be redundant.	Paragraph 12.1.3 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] concludes that "Large-scale solar generation is essential to support the urgent decarbonisation of the GB electricity sector" and paragraph 4.4.11 describes that the location of the Scheme presents a "highly suitable solution for the efficient delivery of solar at scale over timeframe which will provide significant decarbonisation benefits". It concludes that this Scheme and others located near it will all be essential for the decarbonisation of the UK electricity sector.

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>Section 11.5 in C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] explains how electricity storage will play an important role in the development of a low-carbon GB energy system. The Scheme's grid connection agreement provides both import and export capacity and therefore it enables the Scheme to contribute to meeting the national need for electricity storage by including, as associated development, an electricity storage asset which supports the operation of the principal solar development and provides the ability to balance the electricity produced by the solar scheme, with demand on the National Electricity Transmission System.</p>
ENG-12	RR-408; RR-411; RR-451	Shortage of grid connection	Industrialising the rural landscape is not the solution and is very short sighted, especially with the limitations of solar power with our climate and also storage problems with excess power when created.	<p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') looks to provide landscape mitigation that seeks to enhance the landscape character of the Study Area and to reduce the visibility of the Scheme from residential properties and other public vantage points including transport routes, public footpaths, permissive footpaths and green lane network. This mitigation is aimed to benefit the community as a whole as well as enhancing green infrastructure (see paras. 8.1.1 and 8.8.3).</p> <p>Figure 10.2 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] shows that the efficiency of solar cell technology has increased year-on-year for decades. Many solar cells are now at or approaching 30% efficiency, which is comparable to the efficiency of the UK's recently closed coal stations. Paragraph 7.2.17 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] explains that, in 2021, GB sourced approximately 42% of its total electricity supply from renewables. Figure 8.2 shows that solar generation occurs year-round,</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>although more is generated in the summer when days are longer, and the sun's rays are stronger.</p> <p>Section 8.8 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes the energy security benefits of solar generation when it is deployed alongside a portfolio of wind. Section 11.5 and Table 11.1 in particular describe the role of the energy storage facility as associated development to the main solar development, contributing to the smooth operation of an electricity system with a high share of renewable energy supply.</p> <p>Table 7.1 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] shows the electricity generated per hectare by different low-carbon technologies. At the UK's average solar load factor (11%), solar generation produces much more energy per hectare than biogas, and generates a similar amount of energy as onshore wind.</p>
ENG-13	RR-399	Support of Scheme	Provides detailed list of benefits Solar energy provides. List of benefits can be found within [RR-399].	The Applicant notes this comment and points towards Section 4 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] for the consideration of benefits of the Scheme.
ENG-14	RR-364	Support of Scheme	Strong support of the application. It is clear that the U.K. needs to be more self sufficient in energy,	The Applicant acknowledges the comment and welcomes support for the Scheme.

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>and having examined the plans and similar projects I am satisfied that there will be little impact on the environment. In terms of losing use of fields to grow food, a lot of the fields in the area are used to grow crops for biofuels anyway, so generating the energy directly in the fields via solar panels makes much more sense. I am concerned that a lot of negativity about the project has been whipped up based on half truths and misinformation, so I wanted to speak out for the perhaps less vocal people who are</p>	

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
			in favour of the project.	
ENG-15	RR-455	Use of agricultural land	Belief that the words and policy of the last three Prime Ministers regarding solar power and agricultural land should be listened to by the Planning Inspectorate.	<p>Section 3.3 of document C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350], specifically paragraphs 3.3.2, 3.3.5 and 3.3.11, describes the Government's view that large capacities of low-carbon generation will be required to meet increased demand and replace output from retiring (fossil fuel) plants, and that "a secure, reliable, affordable, Net Zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar". This support for large scale solar as part of the 'answer' to net zero and energy security has been repeated in its recent policy documents published in March 2023.</p> <p>The selection of the Scheme's location has followed a systematic step-by-step process as set out in detail within C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067]. This took a sequential approach to the consideration of potential sites taking into account agricultural land classification. As a result, paragraph 3.3.22 states that the Scheme maximises the utilisation of low grade, non best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land with 95.9% of the land being classified as non BMV land.</p>
ENG-16	RR-444	Use of Scheme	I suggest that the whole scheme should be cut down by two-thirds and treated as a pilot project, to be	Figure 7.1 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] shows National Grid Electricity System Operator's projections of the capacity of solar generation required to deliver a net-zero consistent system, which are 25 – 42GW by 2030, and 57 – 92GW by 2050, compared to just 14GW today as captured within paragraph 7.2.10.

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
			evaluated after 10 years.	Paragraph 12.1.3 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] concludes that "Large-scale solar generation is essential to support the urgent decarbonisation of the GB electricity sector" and paragraph 4.4.11 describes that the location of the Scheme presents a "highly suitable solution for the efficient delivery of solar at scale over timeframe which will provide significant decarbonisation benefits". Resultingly, it concludes that this Scheme and others located near it will all be essential for the decarbonisation of the UK electricity sector.

Applicant's Response to General Comments.

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
GEN-01	RR-167	Assurance of Environmental Benefits	Wants assurance that the environmental benefits are real and not 'greenwashing.'	The environmental benefits from the Scheme as identified in the Environmental Statement, its appendices, and other documents supporting the DCO Application, are secured by the requirements as set out in Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] .
GEN-02	RR-332	Community Support	As a resident near to where these proposed industrial solar farms would be sited I feel strongly that there is no ethical approach with	Section 4.6 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] details the 'Other Benefits of the Scheme', beyond the national benefits as described through Sections 4.2 to 4.5 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] .

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
			regards to the local people. We have not heard of any offer of supporting the local communities or offsetting the impact of these corporate schemes.	<p>Paragraph 4.6.3 [APP-341] goes on to explain that a new permissive path from Stow village to Stow Pastures will be in place during the operational phase of the Scheme, thus improving local amenity.</p> <p>Paragraph 4.6.6 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] explains that a Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan, as secured by Requirement 20 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_A draft DCO Revision A [AS-012], will be in place prior to construction and will set out the measures that the Applicant will implement to advertise and promote employment and training opportunities associated with the Scheme in construction and operation locally.</p> <p>Whilst not a part of the DCO Application, paragraph 4.8.1 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] explains that the Applicant is committed to providing a Community Benefit Fund.</p>
GEN-03	RR-347	Compensation Payments	Belief there should be an offer to purchase local residences at full market value and pay legal expenses to allow people to move away from what would be the unknown future impacts.	The Applicant is not aware of any empirical evidence to suggest that the presence of solar farms affects nearby property values. The design of the Scheme has been informed by C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') which takes into account the effects on residential receptors and this includes singular buildings, groups of buildings and towns or villages and thus considers the visual assessment of residential properties. Table 8.15 of the LVIA sets out the selection of initial residential receptors for the purpose of the assessment, the reason for their selection being that the receptors are all within the 1km Study Area for the Scheme and the 0.5km Study Area from the outer boundary of the Cable Route Corridor. This assessment

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				has informed the appropriate setbacks between the Scheme and receptors and the planting mitigation strategy.
GEN-04	RR-079; RR-100; RR-104; RR-118; RR-123; RR-180; RR-181; RR-193; RR-222; RR-268; RR-273; RR-276; RR-290; RR-294; RR-307; RR-319; RR-358; RR-370; RR-371; RR-377; RR-382; RR-407; RR-412; RR-455; RR-467; RR-488; RR-503; RR-516; RR-542	Consultation	<p>Adequacy of Consultation</p> <p>Opposition to the Scheme due to a lack of adequate consultation.</p> <p>Comments include references to a lack of face-to-face interaction or a lack of access to materials.</p> <p>Some comments refer to a lack of consultation with younger people.</p>	<p>The Applicant is confident that the level of consultation undertaken and information presented throughout the pre-application stage is in accordance with the Planning Act 2008 and associated guidance. This has been evidenced in C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], which was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and accepted for examination.</p> <p>Throughout the consultation process the Applicant has welcomed feedback from a range of stakeholders, including communities, landowners and occupiers, on the Scheme proposals. The outcome of this consultation and engagement is evidenced in C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], which was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and accepted for examination.</p> <p>For example, Table 1.1 of Chapter 1 to C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], details how the cable route corridor for the Scheme has been refined through engagement and consultation with landowners and the community.</p> <p>Table 1.2 of Chapter 1 to C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], details how the Applicant provided consultation documents to Landowners to inform them regarding upcoming statutory consultation and methods to provide feedback.</p> <p>Chapter 7 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes the Applicant's approach to statutory consultation, including consulting with relevant authorities on a draft Statement of Community Consultation.</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>Table 7.1 sets out the comments received from authorities on the Applicant's approach to consultation and how these were considered by the Applicant. Table 7.3 in Chapter 7 describes how the Applicant complied with commitments made in the Statement of Community Consultation when undertaking statutory consultation.</p> <p>Chapter 8 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes how the Applicant undertook a six-week statutory phase two consultation on the Scheme, to provide communities, stakeholders and landowners a sufficient period of time to provide feedback. The Applicant presented consultees with environmental information sufficient for consultees to understand the potential likely significant effects of the Scheme in a Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR). A non-technical summary was published to accompany the PEIR, with public information events and free-to-use communications channels open to help aid accessibility and understanding of the Scheme. A Consultation Summary Report for this phase of statutory consultation was published on the dedicated Scheme website, shared with elected representatives and stakeholders and issued to over 9,000 properties within the vicinity of the Scheme, to help consultees understand how their feedback was being considered. A copy of the Phase Two Consultation Summary Report is provided as C5.7 Appendix 5.7: Phase Two Community Consultation Materials [APP-028].</p> <p>Chapter 11 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes the significant volume of responses received to Section 47 consultation (local community), including the issues raised and how these were considered</p>

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				<p>by the Applicant. This is further evidenced by C5.10 Appendix 5.10: Consultation Report Appendix – Section 47 Applicant Response [APP-033].</p> <p>9 responses were received to the Section 42 consultation from Section 44 landowners, including the issues raised and how these were considered by the Applicant. These can be further evidenced by C5.11 Appendix 5.11: Consultation Report Appendix – Section 42 Applicant Response [APP-034].</p>
GEN-05	RR-269	Consultation	<p>Belief that the information we received in the consultation phase was scant the PR Company ill-informed and the scale of drawings misleading. The website questionnaire asked only those questions which suited the developer and was designed to lead the user. It was not user friendly and the layout misleading. I</p>	<p>The Applicant acknowledges this comment but is confident that the level of consultation undertaken throughout the pre-application stage meets the requirements of the Planning Act 2008 and associated guidance. This has been evidenced in C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], which was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and accepted for examination.</p> <p>For example, as described in Chapter 2 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], the Applicant undertook two phases of community consultation to share information and invite feedback at different stages of Scheme development.</p> <p>Chapter 7 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes the Applicant's approach to statutory consultation, including consulting with relevant authorities on a draft Statement of Community Consultation. Table 7.1 sets out the comments received from authorities on the Applicant's approach to consultation and how these were considered by the Applicant.</p>

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			<p>had a number of interactions with Counter Context to try and verify if my comments were even registered as it was not obvious.</p>	<p>Table 7.3 in Chapter 7 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes how the Applicant complied with commitments made in the Statement of Community Consultation when undertaking statutory consultation. Included in this table is a commitment and evidence of the Applicant providing free, open communication methods for members of the community to ask questions, request information (including in alternative formats) and provide feedback. This was evidenced by the Applicant through the use of a freepost, a freephone and an email address during the pre-application stage.</p> <p>The Applicant notes that the physical and online feedback form during the second phase of consultation provided members of the community the opportunity to write open-ended feedback regarding their opinion of the Scheme, as well as an opportunity to provide any final thoughts on the Scheme. The Applicant notes that an acknowledgement email was sent to the sender during the statutory phase of consultation to confirm feedback was registered.</p> <p>Chapter 8 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes how the Applicant undertook a six-week statutory phase two consultation on the Scheme, during which the Applicant presented consultees with environmental information sufficient for consultees to understand the potential likely significant effects of the Scheme in a Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR). A non-technical summary was published to accompany the PEIR, with public information events and free-to-use communications channels open to help aid accessibility and understanding of the Scheme, including the accessibility of drawings and</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>illustrations of the Scheme. A Consultation Summary Report for this phase of statutory consultation was published on the dedicated Scheme website, shared with elected representatives and stakeholders and issued to over 9,000 properties within the vicinity of the Scheme, to help consultees understand how their feedback was being considered. A copy of the Phase Two Consultation Summary Report is provided as C5.7 Appendix 5.7: Phase Two Community Consultation Materials [APP-028].</p> <p>Chapter 11 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes the significant volume of responses received to Section 47 consultation (local community), including the issues raised and how these were considered by the Applicant. This chapter also details that the Applicant received 694 pieces of feedback. This included 195 hard copy feedback forms, 320 responses to the digital engagement platform, and 179 written responses received by email, or Freepost This is further evidenced by C5.10 Appendix 5.10: Consultation Report Appendix – Section 47 Applicant Response [APP-033].</p>
GEN-06	RR-270; RR-288; RR-387; RR-542	Consultation	Belief that there is no support from any parish or district councils, the views of the local community should be listened to.	Throughout the consultation process the Applicant has welcomed feedback from a range of stakeholders, including communities and statutory stakeholders including Parish, County and District councils, as well as businesses and local residents. The outcome of this consultation and engagement is evidenced in C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] , which was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and accepted for examination.

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>Table 1.2 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes how the Applicant publicised the first phase of community consultation by distributing a community consultation leaflet and feedback form to over 9,000 local homes and business.</p> <p>Chapter 5 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] details how the Applicant notified identified stakeholders of the launch of the phase one consultation by email on 3 November 2021. This email included an electronic copy of the Phase One Community Consultation Leaflet. Table 5.1 of the chapter details how district, county and parish councils relevant to the Scheme were notified.</p> <p>Chapter 7 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes the Applicant's approach to statutory consultation, including consulting with district and parish councils on a draft Statement of Community Consultation. Table 7.1 sets out how the Applicant has worked with and received comments in response to the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) from West Lindsey District Council, Bassetlaw District Council, Lincolnshire County Council, and Nottinghamshire County Council. The table further details how the Applicant responded and incorporated the comments made. Table 7.3 in Chapter 7 describes how the Applicant complied with commitments made in the SoCC when undertaking statutory consultation. An included commitment was to issue community members within the core consultation zone with communications such as consultation leaflets, to inform them of the Scheme and the methods available to provide feedback.</p>

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				<p>Chapter 8 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes how the Applicant undertook a six-week statutory phase two consultation on the Scheme, to provide communities, local authorities, businesses and landowners a sufficient period of time to provide feedback. A Consultation Summary Report for this phase of statutory consultation was published on the dedicated Scheme website, shared with elected representatives and stakeholders and issued to over 9,000 properties (including businesses) within the vicinity of the Scheme, to help consultees understand how their feedback was being considered. A copy of the Phase Two Consultation Summary Report is provided as C5.7 Appendix 5.7: Phase Two Community Consultation Materials [APP-028].</p> <p>Chapter 11 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes the significant volume of responses received to Section 47 consultation (local community), including the issues raised and how these were considered by the Applicant. This is further evidenced by C5.10 Appendix 5.10: Consultation Report Appendix – Section 47 Applicant Response [APP-033].</p>
GEN-07	RR-273	Consultation	Failure to consult with business: We believe there has been very little contact with businesses which could be directly affected.	<p>Throughout the consultation process the Applicant has welcomed feedback from a range of stakeholders, including communities and businesses. The outcome of this consultation and engagement is evidenced in C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], which was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and accepted for examination.</p> <p>Table 1.2 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes how the Applicant publicised the first phase of community consultation by</p>

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				<p>distributing a community consultation leaflet and feedback form to over 9,000 local homes and business.</p> <p>Chapter 7 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes the Applicant's approach to statutory consultation, including consulting with relevant authorities on a draft Statement of Community Consultation. Table 7.1 sets out clarification that business properties would receive consultation materials to inform them of the Scheme and the methods available to provide feedback.</p> <p>Table 7.3 in Chapter 7 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes how the Applicant complied with commitments made in the Statement of Community Consultation when undertaking statutory consultation. An included commitment was to issue all homes and businesses within the core consultation zone with communications such as consultation leaflets, to inform them of the Scheme and the methods available to provide feedback.</p> <p>Chapter 8 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes how the Applicant undertook a six-week statutory phase two consultation on the Scheme, to provide communities, stakeholders, businesses and landowners a sufficient period of time to provide feedback. A Consultation Summary Report for this phase of statutory consultation was published on the dedicated Scheme website, shared with elected representatives and stakeholders and issued to over 9,000 properties within the vicinity of the Scheme, to help consultees understand how their feedback was being considered. A copy of the Phase Two</p>

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				<p>Consultation Summary Report is provided as C5.7 Appendix 5.7: Phase Two Community Consultation Materials [APP-028].</p> <p>Chapter 11 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes the significant volume of responses received to Section 47 consultation (local community), including the issues raised and how these were considered by the Applicant. Table 11.1 of this chapter details how the Applicant received 5% of overall feedback through their feedback form and digital engagement platform channels.</p>
GEN-08	RR-073	Consultation	The company do not speak to those who are impacted by the Scheme.	<p>Throughout the consultation process the Applicant has welcomed feedback from a range of stakeholders, including communities, landowners and occupiers, on the Scheme proposals. The outcome of this consultation and engagement is evidenced in C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], which was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and accepted for examination.</p> <p>For example, Table 1.1 of Chapter 1 to C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], details how the cable route corridor for the Scheme has been refined through engagement and consultation with landowners and the community.</p> <p>Table 1.2 of Chapter 1 to C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], details how the Applicant provided consultation documents to Landowners to inform them regarding upcoming statutory consultation and methods to provide feedback.</p> <p>Chapter 4 to C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] details how the Applicant undertook early engagement with consultees. Table 4.1 details</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>the early engagement meetings which took place between the Applicant and the relevant stakeholder. This table includes the date the stakeholder met representatives of the Applicant and a summary of what was discussed at the meeting. Table 4.2 details the meetings which took place between the Applicant and near neighbours to the Scheme. Included in this table are the date the stakeholder met representatives of the Applicant and a summary of what was discussed at the meeting.</p> <p>Table 5.2 within Chapter 5 to C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] details the public information events which took place for the first phase of community consultation. The table includes the date, venue and number of attendees to each information event.</p> <p>Chapter 7 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes the Applicant's approach to statutory consultation, including consulting with relevant authorities on a draft Statement of Community Consultation. Table 7.1 sets out the comments received from authorities on the Applicant's approach to consultation and how these were considered by the Applicant. Table 7.3 in Chapter 7 describes how the Applicant complied with commitments made in the Statement of Community Consultation when undertaking statutory consultation.</p> <p>Chapter 8 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes how the Applicant undertook a six-week statutory phase two consultation on the Scheme, to provide communities, stakeholders and landowners a sufficient period of time to provide feedback. A Consultation Summary Report for this phase of statutory consultation was published on the dedicated Scheme website, shared with elected representatives and</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>stakeholders and issued to over 9,000 properties within the vicinity of the Scheme, to help consultees understand how their feedback was being considered. A copy of the Phase Two Consultation Summary Report is provided as C5.7 Appendix 5.7: Phase Two Community Consultation Materials [APP-028].</p> <p>This chapter further details the public information events which took place for the second phase of community consultation. Table 8.2 includes the date, venue and number of attendees to each information event during this phase of consultation.</p> <p>Chapter 11 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes the significant volume of responses received to Section 47 consultation (local community), including the issues raised and how these were considered by the Applicant. This is further evidenced by C5.10 Appendix 5.10: Consultation Report Appendix – Section 47 Applicant Response [APP-033].</p> <p>Chapter 12 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes the significant volume of responses received to the Section 42 consultation (statutory stakeholders), including the issues raised and how these were considered by the Applicant. This is further evidenced by C5.11 Appendix 5.11: Consultation Report Appendix – Section 42 Applicant Response [APP-034].</p>
GEN-09	RR-123	Consultation	There has not been meetings to discuss	Throughout the consultation process the Applicant has welcomed feedback from a range of stakeholders, including communities, landowners and occupiers, on the Scheme proposals. The outcome of this consultation and engagement is evidenced in C5.1 Consultation

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			<p>the pros and cons of the Scheme.</p>	<p>Report [APP-021], which was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and accepted for examination.</p> <p>For example, Table 1.1 of Chapter 1 to C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], details how the cable route corridor for the Scheme has been refined through engagement and consultation with landowners and the community.</p> <p>Table 1.2 of Chapter 1 to C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], details how the Applicant provided consultation documents to Landowners to inform them regarding upcoming statutory consultation and methods to provide feedback.</p> <p>Chapter 4 to C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] details how the Applicant undertook early engagement with consultees. Table 4.1 details the early engagement meetings which took place between the Applicant and the relevant stakeholder. This table includes the date the stakeholder met representatives of the Applicant and a summary of what was discussed at the meeting. Table 4.2 details the meetings which took place between the Applicant and near neighbours to the Scheme. Included in this table are the date the stakeholder met representatives of the Applicant and a summary of what was discussed at the meeting.</p> <p>Table 5.2 within Chapter 5 to C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] details the public information events which took place for the first phase of community consultation. The table includes the date, venue and number of attendees to each information event.</p>

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				<p>Chapter 7 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes the Applicant's approach to statutory consultation, including consulting with relevant authorities on a draft Statement of Community Consultation. Table 7.1 sets out the comments received from authorities on the Applicant's approach to consultation and how these were considered by the Applicant. Table 7.3 in Chapter 7 describes how the Applicant complied with commitments made in the Statement of Community Consultation when undertaking statutory consultation.</p> <p>Chapter 8 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes how the Applicant undertook a six-week statutory phase two consultation on the Scheme, to provide communities, stakeholders and landowners a sufficient period of time to provide feedback. A Consultation Summary Report for this phase of statutory consultation was published on the dedicated Scheme website, shared with elected representatives and stakeholders and issued to over 9,000 properties within the vicinity of the Scheme, to help consultees understand how their feedback was being considered. A copy of the Phase Two Consultation Summary Report is provided as C5.7 Appendix 5.7: Phase Two Community Consultation Materials [APP-028].</p> <p>This chapter further details the public information events which took place for the second phase of community consultation. Table 8.2 includes the date, venue and number of attendees to each information event for this phase of consultation.</p> <p>Chapter 11 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes the significant volume of responses received to Section 47 consultation (local</p>

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				<p>community), including the issues raised and how these were considered by the Applicant. This is further evidenced by C5.10 Appendix 5.10: Consultation Report Appendix – Section 47 Applicant Response [APP-033].</p> <p>Chapter 12 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes the significant volume of responses received to the Section 42 consultation (statutory stakeholders), including the issues raised and how these were considered by the Applicant. This is further evidenced by C5.11 Appendix 5.11: Consultation Report Appendix – Section 42 Applicant Response [APP-034].</p>
GEN-10	RR-073	Crime	Concern as to the security of housing as there will be more traffic and people able to view and see the area who wouldn't normally be here. Rural crime isn't handled well at the best of times, and opening the door for people to have more access to areas they wouldn't normally frequently be in.	<p>The Applicant is not aware evidence to suggest that rural crime would be impacted as a result of the Scheme's construction, operation and decommissioning.</p> <p>At the statutory consultation stage (Section 42), the Lincolnshire Police provided comment regarding the Scheme and raised no objection to the Scheme as a whole and raised no concerns relating to public security. As set out in C5.11 Consultation Report Appendix -Section 42 Applicant Response [APP-034]. The only comments provided relate to the security features of the Scheme itself.</p> <p>As set out in C7.1_A Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.1_A] Section 2.11, there will be designated security staff during construction who will manage the Order limits and patrol the perimeter.</p>

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				<p>The C7.16 Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [APP-353] in Section 2.8 sets out that the Sites will receive several security risk management threat assessments during the development, construction, operation, and ultimately decommissioning phases. These security risk management threat assessments are conducted by suitable qualified and experienced persons (SQEP) and will determine security risks.</p> <p>The Applicant recognises the symbiotic relationship between safety and security. The security arrangements to be present at the Site will therefore contribute to the overall safety of all who will, or may, enter the Sites. The security arrangements will be SQEP reviewed at identified times commensurate to the Security Risk rating and will further assess any changes in the Security Risk Management Threat Assessment.</p> <p>The security features that are proposed as part of the Scheme are set out within Section 4.5 Chapter 4 Scheme Description of the ES [APP-039] and set out in Section 2.8 of C7.16 Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [APP-353] (as secured by Requirement 14 of Schedule 2 respectively in the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detection systems such as beam break, image detection etc. to raise alarm when fence breached; • Audio announcement when intruder detected to warn alarm triggered and police on way; • Barriers/locked gates at main entrances to the Sites;

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steel doors on substation buildings; • Buried cables as much as possible; • Remote monitoring; and • Alarm response contract with keyholder/security company <p>For the solar arrays there will be a maximum of 2.5m high deer wire mesh fencing, 3m high maximum pole mounted CCTV systems. The substations and BESS is proposed to have palisade fencing which is a maximum height of 2.6m (see paragraphs 4.5.57 to 4.5.59 of C6.2.4_A ES Chapter 4 Scheme Description Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.4_A]).</p> <p>As per paragraph 4.5.61 of C6.2.4_A ES Chapter 4 Scheme Description Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.4_A], "Lighting is not required within the solar arrays. Lighting will be provided within substations and within the Energy Storage site to be used only in the event of it being required for maintenance and security purposes. Down lighting would be used on lighting columns of a maximum height of 3m."</p>
GEN-11	RR-273	Crime	Concern that the Scheme will cause an increase in crime.	<p>As set out in C7.1_A Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.1_A] Section 2.11, there will be designated security staff during construction who will manage the Order limits and patrol the perimeter.</p> <p>The C7.16 Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [APP-353] in Section 2.8 sets out that the Sites will receive several security risk management threat assessments during the development, construction, operation, and ultimately decommissioning phases. These</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>security risk management threat assessments are conducted by suitable qualified and experienced persons (SQEP) and will determine security risks.</p> <p>The Applicant recognises the symbiotic relationship between safety and security. The security arrangements to be present at the Sites will therefore contribute to the overall safety of all who will, or may, enter the Sites. The security arrangements will be SQEP reviewed at identified times commensurate to the Security Risk rating and will further assess any changes in the Security Risk Management Threat Assessment.</p> <p>The security features that are proposed as part of the Scheme are set out within Section 4.5 Chapter 4 Scheme Description of the ES [APP-039] and set out in Section 2.8 of C7.16 Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [APP-353] (as secured by Requirement 14 of Schedule 2 respectively in the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detection systems such as beam break, image detection etc. to raise alarm when fence breached; • Audio announcement when intruder detected to warn alarm triggered and police on way; • Barriers/locked gates at main entrances to the Sites; • Steel doors on substation buildings; • Buried cables as much as possible;

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remote monitoring; and • Alarm response contract with keyholder/security company <p>For the solar arrays there will be a maximum of 2.5m high deer wire mesh fencing, 3m high maximum pole mounted CCTV systems. The substations and BESS is proposed to have palisade fencing which is a maximum height of 2.6m (see paragraphs 4.5.57 to 4.5.59 of C6.2.4_A ES Chapter 4 Scheme Description Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.4_A]).</p> <p>As per paragraph 4.5.61 of C6.2.4_A ES Chapter 4 Scheme Description Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.4_A], "Lighting is not required within the solar arrays. Lighting will be provided within substations and within the Energy Storage site to be used only in the event of it being required for maintenance and security purposes. Down lighting would be used on lighting columns of a maximum height of 3m."</p>
GEN-12	RR-297	Decision on Scheme Acceptance	Belief that the final say should be made locally and not nationally.	<p>As stated in paragraph 5.2.2 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A], the Scheme is defined as an NSIP under Sections 14(1)(a), 15(1) and 15(2) of the Planning Act 2008.</p> <p>As such, under Section 103 of the Planning Act 2008, the Secretary of State has the function of deciding an application for an order granting development consent.</p> <p>That notwithstanding, "Advice Note two: The role of local authorities in the development consent process" as published February 2015 (Version 1) details the role local authorities can have within the DCO process. "The</p>

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				<p>role of local authorities" table set out in Section 1 of this advice note summarises these roles by the stage of an application.</p> <p>At this time and as per Section 60 (2) of the Planning Act 2008, the Secretary of State must give notice in writing to the host local authorities to invite them to submit a local impact report, where an application for an order granting development consent has been accepted. "Advice Note One: Local Impact Reports" which was republished in April 2012 on the Planning Inspectorate's website notes the importance of Local Impact Reports and that "in coming to a decision, the Secretary of State must have regard to any LIRs that are submitted by the deadline".</p>
GEN-13	RR-452	Decommissioning of Panels	Lack of belief regarding IGP's decommissioning plans, as other developers have been shown to renege on any such clean up and infrastructure improvement plans all around the country.	<p>Decommissioning is estimated to be no earlier than 2066 (see paras. 3.3.15 to 3.3.18 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A]. Decommissioning is expected to take between 12 and 24 months. A 24-month decommissioning period has been assumed for the purposes of a worst-case assessment in the ES, (See paragraph 4.3.6 of C6.2.4_A ES Chapter 4_Scheme Description Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.4_A]). In addition, the agricultural land can remain in productive use through the operational period, being grazed by livestock (see paras 19.10.2, 19.10.6, 19.10.10 of C6.2.19_A ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A]).</p> <p>The Scheme, in the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], secures through Requirement 21 of Schedule 2 that "Within 12 months of the date that the undertaker decides to decommission any part of the authorised development, the undertaker</p>

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				must submit to the relevant planning authority for that part a decommissioning plan for approval."
GEN-14	RR-273	Disclosure of Documents	In the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) there is no reference to disclosure by the companies used to produce the document, nor reference to conflict of interest to assess whether there is impartial transparency.	The Applicant has appointed a range of professionally qualified consultants to undertake and compile the assessment work required in the preparation and submission of a DCO. Within C6.3.1.1 ES Appendix 1.1 Statement of Competence [APP-059] sets out the qualifications and experiences of the EIA technical leads and coordinators. This is provided in order to comply with Paragraph 14(4)(b) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.
GEN-15	RR-150; RR-165; RR-173; RR-180; RR-225; RR-256; RR-290; RR-308; RR-337; RR-350; RR-358; RR-371; RR-377; RR-412; RR-418; RR-439; RR-482; RR-488; RR-490; RR-503	Engagement	Transparency of Applicant Engagement Belief that the Applicant has hidden, concealed or provided misleading information regarding the Scheme	The Applicant notes this comment but is confident that the level of consultation undertaken throughout the pre-application stage is in accordance with the Planning Act 2008 and associated guidance. This has been evidenced in C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] , which was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and accepted for examination. For example, as described in Chapter 2 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] , the Applicant undertook two phases of community consultation to share information and invite feedback at different stages of Scheme development.

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			<p>and its potential impacts.</p> <p>Some comments refer to the name of the Scheme implying the brownfield site at the power station would have been used.</p>	<p>Chapter 7 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes the Applicant's approach to statutory consultation, including consulting with relevant authorities on a draft Statement of Community Consultation. Table 7.1 sets out the comments received from authorities on the Applicant's approach to consultation and how these were considered by the Applicant.</p> <p>Table 7.3 in Chapter 7 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes how the Applicant complied with commitments made in the Statement of Community Consultation when undertaking statutory consultation. Included in this table is a commitment and evidence of the Applicant providing free, open communication methods for members of the community to ask questions, request information (including in alternative formats) and provide feedback. This was evidenced by the Applicant through the use of a freepost, a freephone and an email address during the pre-application stage.</p> <p>Chapter 11 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes the significant volume of responses received to Section 47 consultation (local community), including the issues raised and how these were considered by the Applicant. This is further evidenced by C5.10 Appendix 5.10: Consultation Report Appendix – Section 47 Applicant Response [APP-033].</p> <p>Chapter 8 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes how the Applicant undertook a six-week statutory phase two consultation on the Scheme, during which the Applicant presented consultees with environmental information sufficient for consultees to understand the</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>potential likely significant effects of the Scheme in a Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR). A non-technical summary was published to accompany the PEIR, with public information events and free-to-use communications channels open to help aid accessibility and understanding of the Scheme. A Consultation Summary Report for this phase of statutory consultation was published on the dedicated Scheme website, shared with elected representatives and stakeholders and issued to over 9,000 properties within the vicinity of the Scheme, to help consultees understand how their feedback was being considered. A copy of the Phase Two Consultation Summary Report is provided as C5.7 Appendix 5.7: Phase Two Community Consultation Materials [APP-028].</p> <p>The Scheme was named after its point of connection to the electricity grid.</p> <p>Whilst it has not been possible for the Scheme to avoid all significant residual impacts, these have been identified within the Environmental Statement [APP-036 to APP-058] and have been minimised, where possible, through careful and sensitive design and detailed mitigation strategies, which will be secured through the DCO and associated documents.</p> <p>The selection of the Scheme's location has followed a five-stage systematic step-by-step process as set out in C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067]:</p> <p>Stage 1 – Identification of the Area of Search (see para. 2.1.6);</p>

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				<p>Stage 2 – Exclusion of Planning, Environmental and Spatial Constraints (see para. 2.1.12);</p> <p>Stage 3 – Identifying Potential Solar Development Areas (see 2.1.17);</p> <p>Stage 4 – Evaluation of Potential Solar Development Areas (see 2.1.35); and</p> <p>Stage 5 – Widening the Search to consider Grade 3 agricultural land (see 2.1.40).</p> <p>As a result, and as stated within para. 3.3.30 of Appendix 5.1, the Scheme maximises the utilisation of low grade, non-best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land with 95.9% of the land being classified as non BMV land.</p> <p>Paragraphs 2.1.23 to 2.1.32 of C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] detail the consideration of brownfield land and roof tops and sets out why these were discounted as unsuitable. The methodology used for the site selection process is considered reasonable and proportionate and complies with the requirements of NPS EN-1 4.4.3.</p> <p>The land required for the Scheme has been demonstrated within C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] to perform better than 8 of the assessed Potential Development Areas (PDAs) and equal to the remaining one following the site selection process. Consequently, there are no obviously more suitable locations for the Scheme within the Search Area.</p>

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GEN-16	RR-057; RR-100; RR-114; RR-163; RR-165; RR-173; RR-203; RR-210; RR-216; RR-249; RR-268; RR-269; RR-270; RR-273; RR-276; RR-296; RR-322; RR-358; RR-371; RR-401; RR-403; RR-411; RR-417; RR-431; RR-482; RR-538; RR-543	Ethical Supply Chain	Ethical Concerns Sourcing materials from China raises ethical concerns.	<p>Paragraph 7.3.1 and 7.3.2 of C7.10 Skills Supply Chain and Employment Plan [APP-349] discusses the safeguarding measures taken to prevent human rights abuses.</p> <p>The Applicant confirms that a Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan is secured by Requirement 20 of Schedule 2 to C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]. This requirement states that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a skills, supply chain and employment plan in relation to that part has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority for that part or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities."</p> <p>Paragraph 5.4.7 of C7.10 Skills Supply Chain and Employment Plan [APP-349] states that "Any procurement of supplies internationally will comply with both national and international law, and all policy and safety measures will be adhered to in the transportation of supplies."</p>
GEN-17	RR-455	Financial Due Diligence	Belief that it is evidently clear from the Financial Returns that neither Cottam Solar Project Limited nor its parent company Island Green Power have direct capital to support the	<p>Paragraph 2.2.3 of C4.2 Funding Statement [APP-019] states that, should development consent be granted for the Scheme, Island Green Power would seek further funding with the support of its legal and financial advisors, as is common in privately funded infrastructure projects.</p> <p>The Applicant confirms that the following is secured through Requirement 21 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]: "Within 12 months of the date that the undertaker decides to decommission any part of the authorised development, the undertaker must submit to the relevant planning</p>

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			<p>estimated £880 - £890 Million pounds to develop the project or deal with the decommissioning of the Cottam Solar Project. The likely outcome is that if and when approved the Project will be sold or investment found. It will be important that the decommissioning is secured, and be completed with the land being returned to its previous state. With this in mind it is strongly recommended that if the application is approved, it is conditional on the incumbent land owner being made responsible for the</p>	<p>authority for that part a decommissioning plan for approval" where "The decommissioning plan must be substantially in accordance with the outline decommissioning statement."</p> <p>The Applicant confirms that the following is secured through Requirement 21 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]: "Within 12 months of the date that the undertaker decides to decommission any part of the authorised development, the undertaker must submit to the relevant planning authority for that part a decommissioning plan for approval" where "The decommissioning plan must be substantially in accordance with the outline decommissioning statement."</p> <p>The Applicant acknowledges that non-compliance with the terms of the Order, inclusive of non-compliance with any management plans secured through requirement, is a criminal offense.</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
			identified decommissioning.	
GEN-18	RR-195	Funding of Scheme	Belief that the Government are funding the Scheme, and it wouldn't be going ahead if otherwise.	There is no Government funding for large scale solar projects – the Scheme is privately funded, as detailed in Section 2 of C4.2 Funding Statement [APP-019] .
GEN-19	RR-305	General Comments	As a resident within the area of the planned development I would like to know what is being proposed.	The Scheme proposed is for a solar array electricity generating facility exceeding 50 megawatts (MW) capacity, with an Energy Storage Facility and connection to the UK electricity transmission system. A non-technical description of the detail of the Scheme can be found in Section 4 of C6.5 ES Non-Technical Summary [APP-336] . Non-statutory and statutory consultations with members of the public were undertaken (in Nov-Dec 2021, and June-July 2022 respectively) prior to the submission of the DCO Application.
GEN-20	RR-337	General Comments	Belief that the whole project is a farce and there is nothing net zero about it, nothing, built on child slavery, suffering, extraction of rare earths and lies.	The effect of decarbonisation and quantification of changes in CO ₂ e emissions as a result of the Scheme over its lifetime is set out in C6.2.7 ES Chapter 7 Climate Change [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.7_A] and the effect has been shown to be major beneficial over the lifetime of the Scheme. Paragraph 7.8.60 [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.7_A] details that the Scheme has a total energy generation figure of around 35,590,658 MWh over the estimated 40-year assessed lifetime.

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				<p>Paragraph 7.8.61 [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.7_A] explains that the intensity of the Scheme is estimated to be 21.2gCO₂e/kWh which compares favourably to fossil fuel alternatives (e.g., a Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) which has a GHG intensity (gCO₂e/kWh) of between 380 and 500 – as per Table 7.29.).</p> <p>With regards to ethical considerations, paragraph 7.3.1 and 7.3.2 of C7.10 Skills Supply Chain and Employment Plan [APP-349] sets out the safeguarding measures taken to prevent human rights abuses.</p> <p>Paragraph 5.4.7 of C7.10 Skills Supply Chain and Employment Plan [APP-349] states that “Any procurement of supplies internationally will comply with both national and international law, and all policy and safety measures will be adhered to in the transportation of supplies.”</p> <p>The Applicant confirms that a Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan is secured by Requirement 20 of Schedule 2 to C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]. This requirement states that “No part of the authorised development may commence until a skills, supply chain and employment plan in relation to that part has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority for that part or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities.”</p>
GEN-21	RR-138; RR-164; RR-219; RR-509	General Comments	Opposition to the Scheme in a general manner.	The Applicant notes this comment.

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GEN-22	RR-119	General Comments	Respondent sent through same document sent during second phase of consultation regarding inaccuracies of the Cottam PEIR. Please see [RR-119].	<p>The Applicant acknowledges this comment but is confident that the level of consultation undertaken, information presented throughout the pre-application stage and the resulting design evolution is in accordance with the Planning Act 2008 and associated guidance. This has been evidenced in C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], which was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and accepted for examination.</p> <p>The Applicant affirms to the Party that the consideration of alternatives and the Scheme's design evolution has been undertaken and is detailed within C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040]. This includes the consideration of alternative sites (Section 5.5), alternative technologies (Section 5.6), alternative layouts (Section 5.7), alternative substation locations (section 5.8) and alternative cable routes (Section 5.9). C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040] concludes in paragraphs 5.10.2, 5.10.3 and 5.10.4 that alternative potential development areas did not perform as well as the Sites.</p>
GEN-23	RR-537	Interested Party Registration	Registration as interested party.	The Applicant notes this comment.
GEN-24	RR-273	Lack of Data	Belief that there is insufficient qualitative data to assess the impact of the scheme on residents. Belief	<p>The Applicant acknowledges this comment but points the Party to Cottam Solar Project's acceptance for examination.</p> <p>An application for an order granting development consent, such as is the case, can only be accepted for examination if the Secretary of State</p>

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			that this is concerning because how would Island Green Power know how these proposals affect us individually (emotionally, mentally and/or physically).	concludes "that the application (including accompaniments) is of a standard that the Secretary of State considers satisfactory" as per Section 55 (3)(f) of the Planning Act 2008.
GEN-25	RR-146	Lack of Support of Scheme	Belief that the only people who want this to go ahead are the farmers who are renting their land to the developers.	The Applicant points the Party to issue points 'ENG-06', 'ENG-13' and 'ENG-14' above as examples of public support extending beyond those noted within the Party's comment.
GEN-26	RR-157	Land Ownership	Belief that leasing the land for the Scheme would provide landowners a far better and risk free returns whilst retaining ownership.	The landowners hosting solar panels within the Scheme have entered into voluntary agreements with the Applicant to lease their land, so freehold ownership is retained.

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GEN-27	RR-093	Landowner Agreements	Concern that not all landowners affected by the Scheme are in agreement with their land being used for solar panels.	<p>The Scheme has sought to minimise its impacts upon landowners where possible. As such, the land included in the Scheme to host solar panels covers 4 farm businesses, all of which are owner occupiers of the land within the Sites. This is detailed in full in para. 7.1.1 to 7.1.17 of C6.3.19.1 ES Appendix 19.1 Agricultural Land Quality Soil Resources and Farming Circumstances [APP-145].</p> <p>Where the Applicant is seeking powers of compulsory acquisition such as along the cable route, the Applicant's preference is to negotiate the acquisition of land and / or interests in land and enter into voluntary agreement with the landowner. However, compulsory acquisition powers are being sought to ensure the deliverability of this nationally significant infrastructure project.</p>
GEN-28	RR-343; RR-432	Liability Regarding an Incident	Island Green Power have failed each time to respond to questions on how they will ensure it is safe to walk, run and ride horses in the local area while this construction is taking place. As mentioned above, narrow roads, pedestrians and animals have not	<p>Public Rights of Way may be subject to short-term temporary diversions or closures to facilitate cable laying as set out in para 3.13 of C6.3.14.3 ES Appendix 14.3 Public Rights of Way Management Plan [APP-136]. All Public Rights of Way are to remain open during construction where feasible, and all existing Public Rights of Way are to be retained during the Scheme's operational lifetime. These measures will be secured through Requirement 18 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been prepared to support the application: C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A]. C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], provides (in Requirement 15</p>

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			<p>fared well when traffic increases and no one has stated how this issue will be dealt with, managed. Who will have the liability for this in the event of an incident and when this is an issue that was raised at the beginning of this consultation?</p>	<p>of Schedule 2) that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a construction traffic management plan for that part has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities". It further provides that "The construction traffic management plan must be substantially in accordance with the outline construction traffic management plan."</p> <p>The outline CTMP submitted as part of the DCO application provides a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements to and from the Scheme, to ensure that the effects of the temporary construction phase on the local highway network are minimised and made acceptable.</p>
GEN-29	RR-180	Local Elections	<p>Local Elections are being held on the 4th May 2023. This means that West Lindsey District Councillors may not be in place to make informed recommendations in relation to the Council's opinion of</p>	<p>The arrangements that each of the Host Authorities have in place for agreement and signing off comments/representations they provide on the Scheme is a matter for them.</p>

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			this scheme within the DCO timeframe.	
GEN-30	RR-443	Maintenance and Security	Concern that the Scheme will have their own maintenance problems in addition to security issues. Individual moved to a village to escape urbanisation, not to have it follow, they cannot see a personal gain for themselves in the near future.	<p>The proposals for the maintenance of the Scheme as a whole are set out in the C7.16 Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [APP-353] which provides a clear and consistent approach to the control of operational and maintenance activities within the Order limits, in accordance with relevant guidance and best practice. This is secured by Requirement 14 in the C3.1 Draft Development Consent Order [APP-016].</p> <p>Management and maintenance of any vegetation planting/ landscaping is set out in C7.3 Outline Landscape and Ecological Maintenance Plan [APP-339] (as secured through Requirement 7 the C3.1 Draft Development Consent Order [APP-016]).</p> <p>As set out in C7.1_A Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.1_A] Section 2.11, there will be designated security staff during construction who will manage the Order limits and patrol the perimeter.</p> <p>The C7.16 Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [APP-353] in Section 2.8 sets out that the Sites will receive several security risk management threat assessments during the development, construction, operation, and ultimately decommissioning phases. These security risk management threat assessments are conducted by suitable qualified and experienced persons (SQEP) and will determine security risks.</p>

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				<p>The Applicant recognises the symbiotic relationship between safety and security. The security arrangements to be present at the Site will therefore contribute to the overall safety of all who will, or may, enter the Site. The security arrangements will be SQEP reviewed at identified times commensurate to the Security Risk rating and will further assess any changes in the Security Risk Management Threat Assessment.</p> <p>The security features that are proposed as part of the Scheme are set out within Section 4.5 Chapter 4 Scheme Description of the ES [APP-039] and set out in Section 2.8 of C7.16 Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [APP-353]:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detection systems such as beam break, image detection etc. to raise alarm when fence breached; • Audio announcement when intruder detected to warn alarm triggered and police on way; • Barriers/locked gates at main entrances to the Sites; • Steel doors on substation buildings; • Buried cables as much as possible; • Remote monitoring; and • Alarm response contract with keyholder/security company <p>For the solar arrays there will be a maximum of 2.5m high deer wire mesh fencing, 3m high maximum pole mounted CCTV systems. The</p>

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				substations and BESS is proposed to have palisade fencing which is a maximum height of 2.6m.
GEN-31	RR-273	Light Pollution	We currently have minimal light pollution, and this worries us because there will be security lighting.	<p>As stated within paragraph 2.6.1 of C7.1_A Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.1_A], lighting (during construction) will be required for safety reasons but will be temporary in nature and predominately limited to the core working hours.</p> <p>Provision of a detailed CEMP has been secured by Requirement 13 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>Paragraph 2.5.1 of C7.16 Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [APP-353], notes that no part of the Scheme will be continuously lit and that the use of motion detection security lighting will avoid permanent lighting.</p> <p>Lighting is not required within the solar arrays. Lighting will be provided within substations and within the Energy Storage site to be used only in the event of it being required for maintenance and security purposes. Down lighting would be used on lighting columns of a maximum height of 3m.</p>
GEN-32	RR-398	Makeup of IGP Members and Finances	Belief that the makeup of IGP's employees and finance from Macquarie makes	In paragraph 2.1.3 to 2.1.6 of C4.2 Funding Statement [APP-019] the ownership and expertise of IGP and Macquarie are explained further. The origin of employees is not a planning concern.

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			them totally unsuitable to build on British farmland and not listen to local communities.	
GEN-32	RR-211	Marketing of the Scheme	Belief that the marketing material of the contractor is duplicitous. As electricity produced is sold at market rates the only beneficiary of the production of cheap energy is the producer not the consumer. The use of compulsory purchase for the benefit of private companies, The strange changes to the company structure of the main contractors parent company, The main contractor being foreign based which	<p>Section 10.2 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes how the UK electricity market functions, and how solar power reduces the wholesale cost of power. Section 8.9 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] summarises The Government's view that the deployment of large capacities of UK-based renewables – including up to 70GW by 2035 – is essential to reduce UK consumer exposure to volatile global wholesale energy prices.</p> <p>In paragraph 2.1.3 to 2.1.6 of C4.2 Funding Statement [APP-019] the ownership and expertise of IGP and Macquarie are explained further.</p>

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			will be used to avoid UK taxation.	
GEN-33	RR-539	Misinformation	Belief that being informed that the proposals blend in with or that they will enhance the countryside is incorrect as the landowners do not practice what they preach and do not have them located near where they live and in some cases not even in the same neighbourhood.	<p>The effects on the countryside have been taken into consideration in the assessment of both the landscape and visual effects, which is set out within C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact [APP-043] (the 'LVIA'). The detailed assessment information can be found within the individual receptor sheets at ES Appendix 8.2 [APP-074] and ES Appendix 8.3 [APP-075]. The assessment has taken account of the individual elements of the Scheme such as the panels, fencing, battery storage, sub-stations and access arrangements to ensure the best possible fit with the landscape. The photography and photomontage information at ES Figures 8.14.1 [APP-199] to 8.14.90 [APP-288] shows how these elements are comfortably accommodated. For example, ES Figure 8.14.6 [APP-204] shows the fencing and panels set back from the receptor and also from the existing and proposed hedgerows to allow for their proposed thickening and growth. The photomontage also shows how the planting mitigation has been designed to enhance the landscape character of this location with new native tree and shrub planting, improvements to existing hedgerows and new hedgerows.</p> <p>The Scheme is in possession of a grid connection offer to connect at Cottam Power Station (see C7.7 Cottam Grid Connection Statement [APP-346]), a former coal fired power station which closed in 2019. By connecting to the nationally significant grid infrastructure which served Cottam Power Station but has been unused since it was decommissioned,</p>

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				<p>the scheme is repowering the region with low-carbon, low-cost electricity.</p> <p>The selection of the Scheme's location has followed a systematic step-by-step process as set out in detail within C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067]. This describes at paragraph 2.1.12 how an initial search area was identified at a 5km radius from the Point of Connection (POC), however this was later expanded with the clear preference of identifying land as close to the POC as possible. The search area was enlarged incrementally until suitable options were found within a 20km radius.</p> <p>The land required for the Scheme has been demonstrated within C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] to perform better than 8 of the assessed Potential Development Areas (PDA's) and equal to the remaining one following the site selection process. Consequently, there are no obviously more suitable locations for the Scheme within the Search Area.</p>
GEN-34	RR-131; RR-319; RR-327	Motives of Government	Belief that the Scheme is driven by government who do not understand the local community and only care about votes.	Chapter 4 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] sets out the UK's legal requirement to decarbonise and explains how that requirement has created an increased need and urgency to meet the UK's obligations under the Paris Agreement (2015) as detailed within para. 4.2.7. The chapter summarises the latest expert views on the urgency for and depth of low-carbon infrastructure needed to deliver the UK's Net Zero legal obligations, and demonstrates that there is an urgent need for the development of large-scale solar schemes.

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				Paragraphs 6.2.17 – 6.2.19 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] explain that it is against this backdrop that NPS EN-1 paragraph 4.1.2 sets a presumption in favour of granting permission for energy NSIP projects. This is carried through to Draft NPS EN-1 at paragraphs 4.1.2 and 4.1.3.
GEN-35	RR-332	Operation and Decommissioning stages	Concern regarding who will maintain the solar panels, who will clear up the mess if the project is left deserted in the future. Belief that a disconnected solar panel on a rooftop would not look so bad, but acres of broken, unmaintained solar panels in our countryside...would look horrific.	<p>The proposals for the maintenance of the Scheme as a whole are set out in the C7.16 Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [APP-353] which provides a clear and consistent approach to the control of operational and maintenance activities within the Order limits, in accordance with relevant guidance and best practice. This is secured by Requirement 14 in the C3.1 Draft Development Consent Order [APP-016].</p> <p>Management and maintenance of any vegetation planting/ landscaping is set out in C7.3 Outline Landscape and Ecological Maintenance Plan [APP-339] (as secured through Requirement 7 the C3.1 Draft Development Consent Order [APP-016]).</p> <p>C7.2 Outline Decommissioning Statement [APP-338] sets out the principles of decommissioning and environmental considerations (see paras. 2.1.1 to 2.1.8) and provides a summary of potential mitigation and management measures during decommissioning in Table 3.1. It also sets out how roles, responsibilities and actions required in respect of implementation of the mitigation measures will be managed, along with principles for monitoring and reporting. By example and as contained within Table 3.1, provision is made that "Infrastructure such as PV panels</p>

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				<p>and battery storage units will be removed and recycled as far as practical and in accordance with legislation and guidance applicable at the time".</p> <p>Further details will be provided in the final Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan(s) DEMPs and Decommissioning Traffic Management Plan(s) DTMP submitted for approval prior to decommissioning. The commitment for the final DEMP and DTMP to be substantially in accordance with the Outline Decommissioning Statement is secured by Requirement 21 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] concludes in Section 7.6, that on their own, brownfield developments are unlikely to be able to meet the national need for solar. Paragraph 8.5.10 and Section 8.5 more generally of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describe and express agreement with the Government's view that decentralised and community energy systems are unlikely to lead to the significant replacement of large-scale infrastructure. The Applicant therefore supports the Government's view that large scale solar must be deployed to meet the urgent national need for low-carbon electricity generation.</p>
GEN-36	RR-098	Operation of Panels	Idea for vertical solar panels so the land can still be used for farming.	<p>The Applicant notes this comment and points the Party towards paragraph 19.7.17 of C6.2.19_A ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A] where the management of grass below and between the solar panels (in their fixed and tracker arrangements) enables the grazing of livestock where appropriate and as such, the Sites can continue in agricultural production for the operational period.</p>

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GEN-37	RR-503	PEIR	Belief that the PEIR is inaccurate in multiple cases. See [RR-503] for cases raised.	<p>The Applicant affirms to the Party that the consideration of alternatives and the Scheme's design evolution has been undertaken and is detailed within C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040]. This includes the consideration of alternative sites (Section 5.5), alternative technologies (Section 5.6), alternative layouts (Section 5.7), alternative substation locations (section 5.8) and alternative cable routes (Section 5.9). C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040] concludes in paragraphs 5.10.2, 5.10.3 and 5.10.4 that alternative potential development areas did not perform as well as the Sites.</p> <p>Throughout the consultation process the Applicant has welcomed feedback from a range of stakeholders, including communities, landowners and occupiers, on the Scheme proposals. The outcome of this consultation and engagement is evidenced in C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], which was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and accepted for examination.</p> <p>For example, chapter 7 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes the Applicant's approach to statutory consultation.</p> <p>Chapter 8 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes how the Applicant undertook a six-week statutory phase two consultation on the Scheme, during which the Applicant presented consultees with environmental information sufficient for consultees to understand the potential likely significant effects of the Scheme in a Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR). A non-technical summary was published to accompany the PEIR, with public information events and</p>

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				<p>free-to-use communications channels open to help aid accessibility and understanding of the Scheme. A Consultation Summary Report for this phase of statutory consultation was published on the dedicated Scheme website, shared with elected representatives and stakeholders and issued to over 9,000 properties within the vicinity of the Scheme, to help consultees understand how their feedback was being considered. A copy of the Phase Two Consultation Summary Report is provided as C5.7 Appendix 5.7: Phase Two Community Consultation Materials [APP-028].</p> <p>Chapter 11 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes the significant volume of responses received to Section 47 consultation (local community), including the issues raised and how these were considered by the Applicant. This is further evidenced by C5.10 Appendix 5.10: Consultation Report Appendix – Section 47 Applicant Response [APP-033].</p>
GEN-38	RR-293; RR-360	Supply Chain	<p>Supply chain concerns</p> <p>General concern regarding the influence of China in this Scheme.</p> <p>Some comments referred to sourcing materials from China</p>	<p>Paragraph 5.4.7 of C7.10 Skills Supply Chain and Employment Plan [APP-349] states that “Any procurement of supplies internationally will comply with both national and international law, and all policy and safety measures will be adhered to in the transportation of supplies.”</p> <p>The Applicant confirms that a Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan is secured by Requirement 20 of Schedule 2 to C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]. This requirement states that “No part of the authorised development may commence until a skills, supply chain and employment plan in relation to that part has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority for</p>

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			<p>raising security concerns.</p> <p>Some comments referred to concern regarding overdependence on Chinese imports.</p> <p>Some comments referred to concern regarding Chinese greed by offloading solar panels into the UK.</p>	<p>that part or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities."</p>
GEN-39	RR-064; RR-108; RR-194; RR-218; RR-243; RR-327; RR-335; RR-354; RR-356; RR-403; RR-407; RR-452; RR-481; RR-503; RR-515; RR-530; RR-538	Supply Chain Production	<p>Decommissioning of the Scheme</p> <p>Belief that solar panels have a finite life and use precious and rare resources are used to make them.</p> <p>Some comments question what happens to the</p>	<p>As captured within paragraph 2.2.1 of C7.16 Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [APP-353], activity within the Scheme will be minimal but is inclusive of the replacement and renewal of any components that fail. Provision of a detailed OEMP has been secured by Requirement 14 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>The solar panels will be decommissioned, disassembled, and removed from the site for waste management, of which it is assumed 75-82.6% will be recycled, as set out in paragraphs 20.5.5 and 20.5.10 of C6.2.20 ES Chapter 20 Waste [APP-055]. Solar panels are predominantly made from recyclable materials such as the metal frames, mounting structures, and glass facing panes. There is also an emerging industry for recycling and</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>panels at the end of their life.</p> <p>Some comments question how would the panels be greenly recycled if at all.</p> <p>Some comments raise question to the longevity of the panels and the damage lithium batteries may pose when disposed of.</p> <p>Some comments raise that there has been inadequate funds put in place to restore the land back to agricultural usage when and if this project ever reaches its end of life.</p> <p>Some comments refer to funding for decommissioning and</p>	<p>reusing the internal fittings and electrical equipment within solar panels (para. 20.7.29).</p> <p>C7.2 Outline Decommissioning Statement [APP-338] sets out the principles of decommissioning and environmental considerations (see paras. 2.1.1 to 2.1.8) and provides a summary of potential mitigation and management measures during decommissioning through Table 3.1. It also sets out how roles, responsibilities and actions required in respect of implementation of the mitigation measures will be managed, along with principles for monitoring and reporting. By example and as contained within Table 3.1, provision is made that "Infrastructure such as PV panels and battery storage units will be removed and recycled as far as practical and in accordance with legislation and guidance applicable at the time".</p> <p>Further details will be provided in the final DEMPs and DTMP submitted for approval prior to decommissioning. The commitment for the final DEMP and DTMP to be substantially in accordance with the Outline Decommissioning Statement is secured by Requirement 21 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>whether this will still be available after 40 years.</p> <p>Some comments refer to a lack of plan for the decommissioning stage.</p>	
GEN-40	RR-273	Working Hours	<p>Hours of business/works (weekends/nights?) how is this going to affect local communities?</p>	<p>C7.1 Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) [APP-337] sets out measures to control working hours, noise, and lighting (Sections 2.4 to 2.6) originating from the construction activities of the Scheme.</p> <p>The provision of a detailed CEMP is secured by Requirement 13 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>

Applicant's Response to Glint and Glare themed issues.

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
GG-01	RR-057; RR-293; RR-429	Glint from Panels	Birds may mistake panels as water/river sources and cause injury if attempting to land.	<p>The Applicant is not aware of any glint and glare issues affecting local wildlife and captive animals. Therefore, effects upon wildlife (such as birds) or captive animals are not scoped into the EIA and there is no need to assess such effects.</p> <p>The current guidance on this subject indicates that the risk posed to birds from solar panels is low, including the conclusions of a 2016 Natural England literature review (NEER012 – Evidence Review of the Impact of Solar Farms on Birds, Bats and General Ecology 2016). Furthermore, Natural England have responded in Section 42 consultation to confirm that impacts upon birds associated with the Humber Estuary SPA are unlikely (see pg.162-163 of C5.11 Consultation Report Appendix – Section 42 Applicant Response [APP-034]).</p>
GG-02	RR-057; RR-097; RR-114; RR-129; RR-148; RR-152; RR-173; RR-180; RR-181; RR-204; RR-263; RR-276; RR-375; RR-403	Glint from Panels	<p>Glint and Glare Risk</p> <p>Concern that Glint and Glare from the panels will cause negative issues.</p> <p>Some comments refer to glint and glare from the panels being a risk to motorists on nearby roads. Example roads</p>	<p>C6.3.16.1 ES Appendix 16.1 Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study [APP-140] considers glint and glare effects upon receptors such as Public Rights of Way, dwellings, roads, railway infrastructure as well as aviation receptors (see the executive summary contained within C6.3.16.1 ES Appendix 16.1 Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study [APP-140]).</p> <p>Where glint and glare effects are predicted to be of “Moderate” or higher impact (see paragraph 16.8.2 of C6.2.16 ES Chapter 16 Glint and Glare [APP-051] embedded mitigation has been implemented as part of the landscape plans (see C6.4.8.16.1 to C6.4.8.16.10 Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Figures 8.16.1 to 8.16.10) [APP-305 to APP-315]).</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>given were the B1398 and A1033.</p> <p>Some comments refer to air/aviation and river traffic being affected by glint and glare as well.</p>	<p>C6.2.16 ES Chapter 16 Glint and Glare [APP-051] has considered the impact upon aviation operations and infrastructure associated with the nearby airfields through sections 3.1 to 3.3 of C6.3.16.1 ES Appendix 16.1 Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study [APP-140] and concludes through paragraph 16.8.3 of C6.2.16 ES Chapter 16 Glint and Glare [APP-051] that "Minor/Negligible Adverse effects are predicted in respect of aviation receptors."</p> <p>The findings of the report were shared with the major airfields to seek their opinion on the impact of the Scheme. All airfields' safeguarding teams have agreed with the conclusion of the report as noted in paragraph 16.7.12 of C6.2.16 ES Chapter 16 Glint and Glare [APP-051].</p>
GG-03	RR-079	Health	<p>Glare and low pitched humming from solar farm substations and generators causing health problems.</p>	<p>Glint and glare effects from the Scheme are not predicted to result in direct health problems. Glint and glare impacts upon nearby receptors is assessed in detail within the C6.3.16.1 ES Appendix 16.1 Glint and Glare Assessment [APP-140] and summarised in C6.2.16 ES Chapter 16 Glint and Glare [APP-051]. The details of the Scheme and its impacts have been shared with the key consultees. Their responses are set out in Table 16.1 [APP-051]. For those receptors that are predicted to experience a "Moderate" impact the Applicant is committed to implement mitigation to reduce the effects to acceptable levels, these are set out in Section 16.6 and 16.8 [APP-051], and in Table 3.5 of C7.16 Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [APP-353], as secured by Requirement 14 of Schedule 2 in the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>The likely impacts of noise and vibration have been assessed in Section 15.7 of C6.2.15 ES Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration [APP-050]. The Scheme has been designed so that the noise and vibration effects are not anticipated to be significant.</p>

Applicant's Response to Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage themed issues.

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
HY-01	RR-175	Erosion	Belief that the construction of Solar Panels on this scale will result in increased erosion.	<p>During the construction stage the proposed development will be managed by a Construction Environmental Management Plan which will include provision for the management of the soils to ensure no increased erosion. The Applicant confirms in Table 3.17 of C7.1_A Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.1_A] that "measures to mitigate effects on agricultural land during construction, including soil storage methodology, will be set out in a Soil Management Plan (SMP)". Provision for a detailed CEMP has been secured by Requirement 13 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>During the operational phase, as stated in section 4.0 and paragraph 5.3.4 of the C6.3.10.1 ES Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy Report [APP-090], in order to mitigate against potential erosion, the existing intensively managed agricultural land will be replaced by planted wildflower and grassland below the solar panels. The planted surface will act as a level spread / energy dissipater to promote low erosivity sheet flow during the operation of the solar farm.</p>
HY-02	RR-154	Flood Risk	Concern about surface water run off from the colossal surface area of glass panels being suggested. Area in question with heavy	<p>The panelled areas are not expected to increase surface water runoff from the Sites as the grassland beneath them still exists and will be brought back to a more natural state than it is currently in. Soil and surface management is considered in section 4.0 and paragraph 5.3.4 of the C6.3.10.1 ES Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy Report [APP-090].</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>clay soil and in an area prone to flooding- Only last year, Stow was cut off from all 4 access routes due to severely flooded roads. The increased frequency and severity of storms caused by climate change is already resulting in more incidents of flooding. The solar project would most certainly exacerbate these issues due to the colossal scale of this project.</p>	<p>The proposed drainage strategy is detailed within Section 5.0 of C6.3.10.1 ES Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy Report [APP-090].</p> <p>It is considered that the panelled areas will not alter the existing surface water run-off regime and will therefore not be formally drained. Areas of increased hardstanding such as smaller areas of hardstanding formed as footings for electrical infrastructure will utilise sustainable drainage (SuDS) principles and attempt to mimic the existing surface water run-off regime as existing.</p> <p>The energy storage (BESS) area within the Scheme is considered within an area specific drainage strategy included within Section 3.0 of C6.3.10.4 ES Appendix 10.1 Annex D 10.1.3 Cottam 1 West [APP-093].</p> <p>The drainage strategy and detailed drainage design will be developed during the detailed design process. As secured by Requirement 11 in Schedule 2 of the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] "No part of the authorised development may commence until written details of the surface water drainage scheme and (if any) foul water drainage system for that part have been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority."</p>
HY-03	RR-057; RR-079; RR-173; RR-175; RR-180; RR-185; RR-236; RR-249; RR-277; RR-281; RR-371; RR-427; RR-452; RR-455	Flood Risk	<p>Flood Risk</p> <p>Belief that water run off from the panels may cause a flood risk.</p>	<p>The panelled areas are not expected to increase surface water runoff from the Site as the grassland beneath them still exists and will be brought back to a more natural state than it is currently in. Soil and surface management is considered in section 4.0 and paragraph 5.3.4 of</p>

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				<p>the C6.3.10.1 ES Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy Report [APP-090].</p> <p>The proposed drainage strategy is detailed within Section 5.0 of C6.3.10.1 ES Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy Report [APP-090].</p> <p>It is considered that the panelled areas will not alter the existing surface water run-off regime and will therefore not be formally drained. Areas of increased hardstanding such as smaller areas of hardstanding formed as footings for electrical infrastructure will utilise sustainable drainage (SuDS) principles and attempt to mimic the existing surface water run-off regime as existing.</p> <p>The energy storage (BESS) area within the Scheme is considered within an area specific drainage strategy included within Section 3.0 of C6.3.10.4 ES Appendix 10.1 Annex D 10.1.3 Cottam 1 West [APP-093].</p> <p>The drainage strategy and detailed drainage design will be developed during the detailed design process. As secured by Requirement 11 in Schedule 2 of the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] "No part of the authorised development may commence until written details of the surface water drainage scheme and (if any) foul water drainage system for that part have been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority."</p>

Applicant's Response to Landscape and Visual Impact themed issues.

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
LAN-01	RR-074; RR-104; RR-236; RR-237; RR-239; RR-298; RR-313; RR-314; RR-343; RR-350; RR-387; RR-400; RR-416; RR-430; RR-432; RR-434; RR-437; RR-438; RR-486; RR-488; RR-522; RR-534; RR-539	Proximity to Residential Properties	<p>Proximity of Scheme to Residential Properties</p> <p>Opposition to the scheme as properties will be surrounded by the panels.</p> <p>Some comments refer to a lack of action IGP have taken to address this.</p> <p>Some comments refer to panels being built in close proximity to local properties and the Scheme will be an additional problem in this nature.</p>	<p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') considers both the landscape and visual effects of the Scheme, including the proximity to people's houses to ensure the impacts and effects on the views and visibility are taken into account (paras. 8.4.28 to 8.4.32). This includes singular buildings, groups of buildings and towns or villages. Table 8.15 of the LVIA sets out the selection of initial residential receptors for the purpose of the assessment and the reason for their selection are those receptors within the 1km Study Area for the Scheme and the 0.5km Study Area from the outer boundary of the Cable Route Corridor (para. 8.4.12). The detailed analysis is set out at C6.3.8.3 ES Appendix 8.3 Assessment of Potential Visual Effects [APP-075].</p> <p>Mitigation, including offsets and planting, has been proposed to address and minimise adverse effects on the character of the landscape and promote wildlife conservation. This is in line with the agreed methodology and the hierarchy of approach advocated by the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition and matters agreed with Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) at a series of workshops set out in C6.3.8.4 ES Appendix 8.4 Consultation [APP-076].</p> <p>For example, the assessment has taken account of the 50m off set from residential properties to ensure the best possible fit with their setting. The photography and photomontage information at ES Figures 8.14.1 [APP-199] to 8.14.90 [APP-288] shows how the proposed landscape mitigation will play a key role in making sure the panels are comfortably accommodated. For example, ES Figure 8.14.49 [APP-247] shows the</p>

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				<p>fencing and panels set back from the approach to the residential property and also from the existing hedgerows to allow for their proposed thickening and growth. The photomontage also shows how the planting mitigation has been designed to enhance the approach to the property with new native tree and shrub planting, improvements to existing hedgerows and new hedgerows.</p> <p>There has been individual engagement with residents close to the Sites, and this has led to changes to the Scheme's design to reduce landscape and visual impacts. For example, voluntary consultation with individual property owners was undertaken throughout the duration of the Scheme development and the preparation of the ES, which included a number of meetings and visits to introduce the Scheme, take forward discussions and retain engagement on detailed matters. This also included discussion over bespoke mitigation relevant to the individual properties</p>
LAN-02	RR-090; RR-092; RR-093; RR-096; RR-129; RR-139; RR-152; RR-157; RR-165; RR-171; RR-180; RR-181; RR-196; RR-197; RR-201; RR-204; RR-205; RR-206; RR-221; RR-249; RR-250; RR-251; RR-253; RR-269; RR-273; RR-276; RR-296; RR-312; RR-322; RR-362; RR-366; RR-371; RR-373;	Visual Impact	<p>Loss of Historical Views</p> <p>Concern that there will be a loss of local historical views due to the Scheme.</p> <p>Some comments refer to the historic interest and value known as the Lincoln Cliff / Jurassic Ridge</p>	<p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') takes account of the visibility of the Scheme from public vantage points including vistas from the Lincoln 'Cliff' over to Nottinghamshire and across the Trent Valley. The assessment also considers vistas experienced from transport routes, public footpaths, permissive footpaths and green lane network where the proposed landscape mitigation measures will provide planting, which will include new native hedgerows and tree cover, and this will help enhance local views towards historical features in the landscape. This mitigation is aimed to benefit the views for the community as a whole as well as tourists, visiting walkers, local residents, ornithologists and cyclists. The</p>

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	RR-391; RR-398; RR-403; RR-427; RR-431; RR-467; RR-475; RR-482; RR-503; RR-507; RR-519; RR-524		<p>with currently outstanding views across the Trent Valley.</p> <p>Some comments refer to the views from the B1398 Middle Street westwards over the Till Vale will be ruined.</p>	<p>LVIA (see paras. 8.5.65, 8.5.94, 8.5.96, 8.5.104, 8.5.114, 8.5.153, 8.5.183, 8.7.32, 8.10.21, 8.10.22 and 8.11.11) refers to these views from bridleways as being key features, especially where they offer a sequence of views to landmark churches and settlements as well as the power stations on the River Trent and eastward views to the scarp face of Lincoln 'Cliff'.</p> <p>Table 8.17 of the LVIA [APP-043] takes account of the visibility from Middle Street, Corringham and views over the Till Vale as a Transport Receptor [T046] in the initial selection of receptors. The LVIA (Table 8.18) then identifies that due to the distance, the intervening settlement of Corringham, the hedgerows as strong field boundaries, the riparian vegetation lining Corringham Beck and the small woodlands that the impacts and effects of the Scheme would not be significant and this receptor was therefore scoped out of the assessment. With regards to viewpoints VP29, VP30 and LCC-C-L, these are located just off the B1398 (Middle Street). The assessment has scoped out viewpoint LCC-C-L and for VP29 and VP30, no significant effects have been identified.</p> <p>All designated assets 'of the highest significance' within a 5km radius of each of the Sites were assessed for their potential to be impacted by the Scheme within C6.3.13.5 ES Appendix 13.5 Heritage Statement Part 1 of 4 [APP-125]. This included designated assets of the highest significance located along the Lincoln Cliff. A setting assessment was conducted, as set out in Section 3 of the Heritage Statement that included consideration of the visual relationship between designated assets of the highest significance and the Scheme. Assets considered to have intervisibility with the Scheme were taken forward for assessment within C6.2.13 ES</p>

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				Chapter 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048] . No significant effects to the designated assets of the highest significance located on the Lincoln Cliff were recorded. For the purposes of the heritage assessment, views were only considered where they constituted an element of the setting of a heritage asset. More general views from public vantage points were considered as part of the LVIA.
LAN-03	RR-064; RR-065; RR-081; RR-084; RR-089; RR-099; RR-105; RR-107; RR-123; RR-135; RR-140; RR-141; RR-148; RR-165; RR-180; RR-185; RR-200; RR-214; RR-223; RR-224; RR-226; RR-243; RR-269; RR-276; RR-281; RR-283; RR-292; RR-358; RR-366; RR-371; RR-376; RR-389; RR-398; RR-401; RR-403; RR-412; RR-417; RR-418; RR-426; RR-431; RR-436; RR-443; RR-444; RR-453; RR-454; RR-458; RR-463; RR-488; RR-489; RR-491; RR-496; RR-503; RR-507; RR-516;	Visual Impact	Negative Views of the Countryside Concern that views of the countryside will be detrimentally impacted. Comments refer to the site and/or security fencing looking like an industrial site/sea of glass etc.	The effects on the countryside have been taken into consideration in the assessment of both the landscape and visual effects, which is set out within C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA'). The detailed assessment information can be found within the individual receptor sheets at C6.3.8.2 ES Appendix 8.2 [APP-074] and C6.3.8.3 ES Appendix 8.3 [APP-075] . The assessment has taken account of the individual elements of the Scheme such as the panels, fencing, battery storage, sub-stations and access arrangements to ensure the best possible fit with the landscape. The photography and photomontage information at C6.4.8.14.1 ES Figures 8.14.1 [APP-199] to 8.14.90 [APP-288] shows how these elements are comfortably accommodated. For example, C6.4.8.14.6 ES Figure 8.14.6 [APP-204] shows the fencing and panels set back from the receptors and also from the existing and proposed hedgerows to allow for their proposed thickening and growth. The photomontages also show how the planting mitigation has been designed to enhance the landscape character of this location with new native tree and shrub planting, improvements to existing hedgerows and new hedgerows.

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
	RR-521; RR-522; RR-527; RR-536; RR-543			<p>Fencing and other means of enclosure has been secured through Requirement 10 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] where it is stated that "No part of the authorised development may commence until written details of all proposed temporary fences, walls or other means of enclosure, including those set out in the construction environmental management plan, for that part have been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities."</p> <p>The effects associated with the security fencing have also been taken into consideration in the assessment of both the landscape and visual effects, which is set out within the C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA'). The detailed assessment information can be found within the individual receptor sheets at C6.3.8.2 ES Appendix 8.2 [APP-074] and C6.3.8.3 ES Appendix 8.3 [APP-075]. The assessment has taken account of the dimensional data such as heights and location and micro-positioned the fencing within the Scheme to ensure the best possible fit with the landscape. The photography and photomontage information at ES Figures 8.14.1 [APP-199] to 8.14.90 [APP-288] shows how the fencing is comfortably accommodated. For example, ES Figure 8.14.4 [APP-202] shows the fencing set back from the existing and proposed hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth and how the design is simply configured to reduce its prominence in the context of the panels and other infrastructure.</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
LAN-04	RR-057; RR-064; RR-076; RR-077; RR-088; RR-097; RR-105; RR-129; RR-152; RR-165; RR-172; RR-173; RR-180; RR-191; RR-192; RR-193; RR-194; RR-197; RR-199; RR-203; RR-204; RR-206; RR-215; RR-218; RR-221; RR-237; RR-248; RR-249; RR-251; RR-256; RR-266; RR-268; RR-270; RR-273; RR-277; RR-286; RR-296; RR-299; RR-303; RR-307; RR-312; RR-315; RR-322; RR-347; RR-352; RR-353; RR-358; RR-376; RR-388; RR-392; RR-395; RR-403; RR-406; RR-410; RR-418; RR-431; RR-439; RR-452; RR-455; RR-458; RR-465; RR-467; RR-474; RR-480; RR-482; RR-488; RR-490; RR-491; RR-492; RR-500; RR-503; RR-507; RR-515; RR-519; RR-524;	Visual Impact	<p>Visual Impact of the Panels</p> <p>The panels are visually intrusive and cannot be screened by mitigation (for example hedges).</p> <p>Some comments refer to the maximum height of the panels as a concern.</p> <p>Some comments label the size of the panels and fencing as an eyesore.</p> <p>Some comments refer to an extensive length of time for screening and mitigation (hedges) to grow.</p>	<p>With regard to the panels being visually intrusive, C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] considers that for some aspects of the Scheme (the construction phase in particular), the presence of the panels has been assessed to result in an adverse effect. Where impacts and effects are identified then landscape mitigation measures have been applied (para. 8.6.1) as embedded mitigation. This is also referred to as 'primary mitigation' and has been incorporated into the early evolution of the project as part of the iterative approach to the design of the Scheme. Additional mitigation is also applied as part of the assessments at the operation (Year 1) and operation (Year 15) stages of the Scheme (also referred to as 'secondary mitigation') in addition to the 'embedded mitigation' measures. Tertiary mitigation is also considered to address residual landscape and visual effects that could not be mitigated or 'designed out' as part of the Scheme. This is in line with the agreed methodology and the hierarchy of approach advocated by the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition and was agreed with Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) at a series of workshops, as set out in C6.3.8.4 ES Appendix 8.4 Consultation [APP-076]. The Sites have been informed by a series of design parameters and include offset distances as a result of needing to balance the functionality of the Scheme against the key environmental constraints (see paragraph 8.6.21 of C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043]).</p> <p>As set out in paragraph 4.5.7 of C6.2.4_A ES Chapter 4 Scheme Description Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.4_A], the maximum height of 4.5m is a maximum parameter for the tracker panels when at their greatest inclination (i.e., soon after sunrise and before sunset) whilst the</p>

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	RR-526; RR-529; RR-531; RR-538			<p>maximum height parameter for fixed panels is 3.5m. With regard to the maximum height of the panels as a concern, the Scheme comprises a series of separate areas of land or Sites (see Sections 3.3 to 3.6 of C6.2.3 ES Chapter 3_The Order Limits [APP-038]) which are set within a wider agricultural landscape. With large tracts of land between each of the Sites, each is set apart by their associated features such as robust hedgerows, woodland and tree cover, intervening settlements and road and rail infrastructure (see paragraphs 8.5.88, 8.5.106 and 8.5.124 of C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8_Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043]). These features that set the areas of land or Sites apart will help assist with the integration of the panels into the landscape.</p> <p>With regard to the size of the panels and 'the fencing as an eyesore', the effects associated with the panels and fencing have been taken into consideration in the assessment of both the landscape and visual effects, which is set out within ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA'). The detailed assessment information can be found within the individual receptor sheets at ES Appendix 8.2 [APP-074] and ES Appendix 8.3 [APP-075]. The assessment has taken account the heights and location of the fencing and suggested alternative locations to ensure the best possible fit with the landscape. The photography and photomontage information at ES Figures 8.14.1 [APP-199] to 8.14.90 [APP-288] shows how the fencing is integrated with the panels. For example, ES Figure 8.14.4 [APP-202] shows the fencing set back from the existing and proposed hedgerows to allow for proposed</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>thickening and growth and how the design reduces its prominence in the context of the panels and other infrastructure.</p> <p>With regard to screening and mitigation, the LVIA process has been iterative and as a result, the design of the Scheme has developed to respond to the findings of the assessment to ensure that landscape mitigation has been fully considered and incorporated as part of the Scheme. For example, within the Cottam 1 Site, the PRow bridleway (Fill/86/1) leads from Short Lane (at the settlement of Ingham) to join with PRow footpath (Ingh/17/1), then eventually joins with Willingham Road. As a result of the Scheme, the foreground of the view would change from a large, gently sloping arable field to an area of panels. This is set out in C6.3.8.3 ES Appendix 8.3 Assessment of Potential Visual Effects includes 8.3.1 - 8.3.5 [APP-075] on sheet [EN010133/APP/C6.3.8.3.5.2.1] Public Rights of Way Receptor – Fill/86 (Fill/86/1) and on sheet [EN010133/APP/C6.3.8.3.2.3.19]. In this instance (Sheet C6.3.8.3.5.2.1 page 1), the embedded mitigation would include panels set a minimum of 15m from the adjacent PRow. Existing hedges would also be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of the existing hedges at close range. Furthermore (Sheet C6.3.8.3.2.3.19 on page 3), in the middle distance, new and augmented hedgerows will provide a series of strong field boundaries both formally strengthening the existing and historical field pattern and also in creating a multi-layered landscape.</p>

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LAN-05	RR-084; RR-088; RR-097; RR-100; RR-104; RR-110; RR-112; RR-118; RR-136; RR-153; RR-159; RR-169; RR-171; RR-173; RR-179; RR-180; RR-182; RR-185; RR-190; RR-192; RR-193; RR-196; RR-199; RR-201; RR-204; RR-217; RR-220; RR-231; RR-241; RR-246; RR-251; RR-255; RR-256; RR-262; RR-263; RR-283; RR-286; RR-294; RR-300; RR-306; RR-310; RR-313; RR-322; RR-329; RR-338; RR-341; RR-342; RR-347; RR-354; RR-375; RR-382; RR-384; RR-387; RR-389; RR-392; RR-403; RR-410; RR-425; RR-428; RR-430; RR-438; RR-450; RR-454; RR-458; RR-461; RR-463; RR-464; RR-465; RR-466; RR-470; RR-472; RR-488; RR-491; RR-492; RR-495; RR-500; RR-504; RR-506;	Visual Impact	<p>Visual Impact to Local Lincolnshire Countryside/Environment</p> <p>Opposition to the scheme due to the visual impact caused to traditional countryside.</p> <p>Some comments expressed concern regarding the loss of traditional rural amenity and local environment.</p>	<p>The effects on the countryside and rural amenity have been taken into consideration in the assessment of both the landscape and visual effects, which is set out within C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA'). The detailed assessment information can be found within the individual receptor sheets at C6.3.8.2 ES Appendix 8.2 [APP-074] and C6.3.8.3 ES Appendix 8.3 [APP-075]. The assessment has taken account of the individual elements of the Scheme such as the panels, fencing, battery storage, substations and access arrangements to ensure the best possible fit with the landscape. The photography and photomontage information at ES Figures 8.14.1 [APP-199] to 8.14.90 [APP-288] shows how these elements are comfortably accommodated within their rural setting. For example, C6.4.8.14.6 ES Figure 8.14.6 [APP-204] shows the fencing and panels set back from the receptor to reduce the visual impact. The panels are also set back from the existing and proposed hedgerows to allow for their proposed thickening and growth to enhance the rural amenity of the landscape. The photomontages also show how the planting mitigation has been designed to enhance the rural landscape character of this location with new native tree and shrub planting. There are also improvements to existing hedgerows and new hedgerows are proposed to reduce the visual impact of the Scheme in views across the area.</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
	RR-508; RR-511; RR-515; RR-521; RR-523; RR-527; RR-528; RR-533; RR-535; RR-536; RR-538; RR-542; RR-543			

Applicant's Response to Noise and Vibration themed issues.

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
NOI-01	RR-515	Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)	Question regarding whether the batteries cause noise pollution.	<p>Battery units do emit low levels of noise and likely impacts of noise and vibration have been assessed in Section 15.7 of C6.2.15 ES Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration [APP-050]. These have been located away from receptors to the potential of noise and/vibration impacts. The noise and vibration effects are not anticipated to be significant.</p> <p>(See paragraphs 15.7.10 and 15.7.79 to 15.11.38 of C6.2.15 ES Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration [APP-050]).</p>
NOI-02	RR-073; RR-136; RR-371; RR-393; RR-403	Noise impact	<p>Concern regarding the impact caused by noise from the construction traffic and the Scheme.</p> <p>Some comments refer to the noise from converters which will be non-stop.</p>	<p>Impacts of the temporary construction noise and vibration for the construction of the solar panels and associated infrastructure and construction traffic noise has been included and the likely impacts of noise and vibration have been assessed in Section 15.7 of C6.2.15 ES Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration [APP-050]. Best Practical Measures (BPM) and a CEMP will be implemented. Construction traffic will be minimised at existing receptors using a CTMP. The noise and vibration effects are not anticipated to be significant.</p> <p>The Applicant confirms that the detail of protective measures will be set out in a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and a detailed Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) as secured by Requirements 13 and 15 respectively of Schedule 2 of the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>(See paragraphs 15.4.4 to 15.7.23 and 15.7.24 to 15.7.33, refer to 15.6.3 and 15.6.5 and 15.6.6 C6.2.15 ES Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration [APP-050]).</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
NOI-03	RR-212; RR-216; RR-242; RR-432	Noise impact	Concern re the impact on the village during installations, particularly noise, property/village access and the felling/removal of any trees/hedgerows in this period. Comments may refer to the damage caused by vibrations to properties and local infrastructure.	Impacts of the temporary construction noise and vibration for the construction of the solar panels and associated infrastructure and construction traffic noise has been included and the likely impacts of noise and vibration have been assessed in Section 15.7 of C6.2.15 ES Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration [APP-050] . Best Practical Measures (BPM) and a CEMP will be implemented. Construction traffic will be minimised at existing receptors using a CTMP. The noise and vibration effects are not anticipated to be significant. The Applicant confirms that the detail of protective measures will be set out in a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and a detailed Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) as secured by Requirements 13 and 15 respectively of Schedule 2 of the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] . (See paragraphs 15.4.4 to 15.7.23 and 15.7.24 to 15.7.33, refer to 15.6.3 and 15.6.5 and 15.6.6 of C6.2.15 ES Chapter 15_Noise and Vibration [APP-050]).
NOI-04	RR-239; RR-343	Vulnerable building structures	Many of the homes in the local area are very old cottages, and therefore do not have foundations, being built straight onto clay ground. Who will be responsible for the damage that will	Impacts of the temporary construction noise and vibration for the solar panels and associated infrastructure and construction traffic noise has been included and the likely impacts of noise and vibration have been assessed in Section 15.7 of C6.2.15 ES Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration [APP-050] . The noise and vibration effects are not anticipated to be significant and vibration levels are predicted to be considerably below the levels which could cause cosmetic and structural damage to buildings (See paragraphs 15.7.28, 15.7.31, 15.7.34, 15.7.37 and 15.7.39 of [APP-050]).

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>occur from the daily vibrations of all this traffic? So far Island Green Power have not responded to this question and have failed to provide information on ANY structural survey report, including that of the local Churches which will be impacted by the volume and proposed weight of the construction traffic.</p>	

Applicant's Response to Other Environmental Matters.

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
OEM-01	RR-494	Cancer Risk	Concern regarding the risks of cancer caused by Cadmium.	<p>The Applicant infers this relates to cadmium telluride (CdTe) PV panels.</p> <p>The type of PV panels to be used in the Scheme has not been specified in the DCO application, and will be selected prior to construction as part of the detailed design phase (see para. 4.5.4 and 4.5.5 of C6.2.4_A ES Chapter 4_Scheme Description Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.4_A]). However, due to market availability, the PV panels used for the Scheme are more likely to be crystalline silicon based than CdTe. As such, environmental effects from panel fires (see C6.2.17 ES Chapter 17 Air Quality [APP-052]) and waste handling (C6.2.20 ES Chapter 20 Waste [APP-055]) have been assessed based on crystalline silicon PV panels as this has been deemed the most appropriate panel material to assess for this Scheme. As such, crystalline silicon PV panels are considered to represent a reasonable worst-case scenario for the purposes of the EIA.</p>
OEM-02	RR-133	EMF Frequencies	Concern that EMF standards and radio spectrum pollution is very lax. Further concern the solar cells and their associated inverters cause interference to HF and VHF radio frequency services if they are not	<p>EMF standards are set by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) with regard to human health monitoring. This is set out in para. 21.2.3 of C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21 Other Environmental Matters [APP-056]. As there are not anticipated to be any health impacts as a result of EMF from the Scheme, assessment of the significance of effects was scoped out of the ES in Section 3.13 of C6.3.2.2 ES Appendix 2.2 EIA Scoping Opinion [APP-064].</p> <p>Electromagnetic fields attributed to power have a frequency of ~50Hz. Any resultant interference is therefore limited to this frequency and its harmonics, all which fall into the category of extremely-low or super-low</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
			adequately screened and correctly installed. Suggestion that Cottam Solar Project makes sure to avoid these forms of pollution, via where they source their materials and how they screen the Scheme.	frequency radio waves (<300Hz). Radio transmissions, telephone transmissions, and Wi-Fi signals are generally between 20kHz and 300GHz and so will not be adversely affected the Scheme. Further, the propagation of electromagnetic fields attributed to power is likely to be limited to within the Scheme extents and a narrow corridor around the cable route.
OEM-03	RR-535	EMF Frequencies	Concern that the batteries also give off harmful EMFs which may harm the local wildlife, land, and the people around them in our village and also the surrounding area.	Guidance for controlling levels of electromagnetic fields is restricted to human health, and as such, effects on animal and plant life has not been assessed. That notwithstanding, EMF generated by the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) is not anticipated to exceed ICNIRP monitoring levels detailed in para. 21.2.3 of C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21 Other Environmental Matters [APP-056] . Paragraphs 21.6.40 to 21.6.47 [APP-056] go on to conclude there is no significant risk of harm to human health due to the physical separation of the BESS compound from publicly accessible areas.
OEM-04	RR-100; RR-403	Fire risk	The local fire service has confirmed that it does not have a plan to cope with potential fires and chemical	The design of firefighting and fire suppression systems has been informed by consultation with both Lincolnshire's and Nottinghamshire's fire and rescue authorities throughout the pre-submission process. Furthermore, Lincolnshire County Council state they are "satisfied that

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
			hazards from the Battery storage facilities that are proposed at scale.	the details meet the requirements the Council set out in Fire Safety Position statement" [RR-001] . Paragraph 4.1.18 of C7.9 Outline Battery Storage Safety Management Plan [APP-348] explains that the design of the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) has integrated fire detection and suppression systems that will automatically operate to contain battery fires. Paragraph 5.3 [APP-348] states that if fire spreads to multiple units, external firefighting water facilities are available by means of 228,000 litre water storage tanks within the battery compounds.
OEM-05	RR-207	Local Risk to Property	Concern about the ongoing fire, flood and chemical risk to myself, my animals and my property from the storage facility and solar panels.	Section 21.5 of C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21 Other Environmental Matters [APP-056] summarises the anticipated effects on human health as a result of the Scheme. Table 21.5.4 demonstrates that no significant adverse effects to human health are anticipated from the Scheme, including from flooding, ground contamination, air quality, and major accidents and disasters. In addition, there is not anticipated to be any impact on animal health or risk of damage to property due to the physical separation of the onsite infrastructure to receptors.
OEM-06	RR-265	Mental Health	Belief that the Scheme is already taking its toll on very sick people as they will no longer be able to stroll around their villages and enjoy the peace and quiet,	The Applicant is cognisant of the significance of the countryside for physical and mental wellbeing and, as such, likely impacts on the desirability and use of recreational facilities in the countryside, such as public rights of way, have been assessed in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] . The greatest level of effect to access, desirability and use of recreational facilities has been assessed as moderate-minor adverse and is anticipated during construction (see para. 18.7.60-67) and

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			<p>listen to the birds sing, observe the Deer, Foxes, Badgers the many different species of bird life both overwintering and resident species as well as the flora and fauna on the verges which will be devastated as these great big lorries churn up the grass verges because the majority of these country lanes are narrow with blind bends and narrow verges.</p>	<p>decommissioning (see para. 18.7.143-153). These effects are not anticipated to be significant.</p> <p>This is re-iterated in Section 21.5 of C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21 Other Environmental Matters [APP-056].</p> <p>C6.3.9.12 ES Appendix 9.12 Biodiversity Net Gain Report [APP-089] sets out how a significant net gain for biodiversity has been calculated as a result of the Scheme, which will be secured throughout the operation life of the Scheme (see paragraph 8.1.2 of [APP-089]). The BNG Report shows that an anticipated net gain of 96.09% for habitat units, an anticipated 70.22% for hedgerow units and an anticipated 10.69% for river units will stand to be achieved through the Scheme.</p> <p>To secure the appropriate post-intervention habitat monitoring and management both C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] and C7.16 Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [APP-353] cover the minimum 40-year operational period. The detailed Management Plans, as secured by Requirements 7 and 14 of Schedule 2 respectively within C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], will be updated to ensure BNG is achieved by appropriate post-intervention habitat monitoring.</p> <p>An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been prepared to support the application within C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A]. This will be secured through Requirement</p>

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				<p>15 in C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>The outline CTMP provides a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements to and from the Scheme, to ensure that the effects of the temporary construction phase on the local highway network are minimised and made acceptable.</p> <p>Measure xxi of C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A] is for a road condition survey. This will ensure that any identified highways defects resulting from construction activities associated with the Site will be corrected to the satisfaction of the local highway authority.</p>
OEM-07	RR-491	Radiation	The WHO have looked in the impact of radiation given off by solar farms and the harm it does to the environment and peoples health.	<p>The WHO have published information and guidance surrounding electromagnetic fields¹ which recognises that "short-term exposure to very high levels of electromagnetic fields can be harmful to health", but that "despite extensive research, to date there is no evidence to conclude that exposure to low level electromagnetic fields is harmful to human health."</p> <p>The levels of EMF produced by the Scheme are very low level and are many thousands of times lower than the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) monitoring levels for human health impacts. This monitoring level is only exceeded along a very</p>

¹ World Health Organisation (2016). Radiation: Electromagnetic fields. Available at: <https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/radiation-electromagnetic-fields> [Accessed 31 May 2023].

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
				narrow strip along the Shared Cable Route Corridor (see para. 21.2.7 and 21.2.8 of C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21 Other Environmental Matters [APP-056]). It should be noted that while the ICNIRP monitoring level may be exceeded in this location, the level of EMF is not great enough to induce human health impacts.
OEM-08	RR-277; RR-281	Safety of lithium	Belief that there is currently no requirement for the HSE to review lithium ion battery storage although a bill is currently before Parliament to try to address this.	<p>The Applicant noted this comment.</p> <p>Whilst there is no requirement for planning permissions, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) (as well as local fire authorities) are statutory consultees for DCO applications, and have thus been consulted for this DCO Application.</p> <p>The HSE commented at the application at EIA Scoping stage (pp.96-97 of C6.3.2.2 ES Appendix 2.2 EIA Scoping Opinion [APP-064]) to which they reverted when commenting for PEIR. HSE has not made relevant representations to the DCO application.</p>

Applicant's Response to Planning Policy and Process themed issues.

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
PLA-01	RR-173	Cable Route	Belief that the planning process for cable route construction has never been fully consulted on.	<p>Throughout the consultation process the Applicant has welcomed feedback from a range of stakeholders, including communities, landowners and occupiers, on the Scheme proposals. The outcome of this consultation and engagement is evidenced in C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], which was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and accepted for examination.</p> <p>For example, Table 1.1 of Chapter 1 to C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], details how the cable route corridor for the Scheme has been refined through engagement and consultation with landowners and the community.</p> <p>Table 1.2 of Chapter 1 to C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], details how the Applicant provided consultation documents to Landowners to inform them regarding upcoming statutory consultation and methods to provide feedback.</p> <p>Chapter 7 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes the Applicant's approach to statutory consultation, including consulting with relevant authorities on a draft Statement of Community Consultation. Table 7.1 sets out the comments received from authorities on the Applicant's approach to consultation and how these were considered by the Applicant. Table 7.3 in Chapter 7 describes how the Applicant complied with commitments made in the Statement of Community Consultation when undertaking statutory consultation.</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>Chapter 8 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes how the Applicant undertook a six-week statutory phase two consultation on the Scheme, to provide communities, stakeholders and landowners a sufficient period of time to provide feedback. A Consultation Summary Report for this phase of statutory consultation was published on the dedicated Scheme website, shared with elected representatives and stakeholders and issued to over 9,000 properties within the vicinity of the Scheme, to help consultees understand how their feedback was being considered. A copy of the Phase Two Consultation Summary Report is provided as C5.7 Appendix 5.7: Phase Two Community Consultation Materials [APP-028].</p> <p>Chapter 11 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes the significant volume of responses received to Section 47 consultation (local community), including the issues raised and how these were considered by the Applicant. This is further evidenced by C5.10 Appendix 5.10: Consultation Report Appendix – Section 47 Applicant Response [APP-033].</p> <p>9 responses were received to the Section 42 consultation from Section 44 landowners. These can be further evidenced by C5.11 Appendix 5.11: Consultation Report Appendix – Section 42 Applicant Response [APP-033].</p>
PLA-02	RR-124	Consultation	Concern that the planning system is incorrect and allows the developer to	The Applicant considers it necessary to deploy specialists when making an application for an order granting development consent, as the application can only be accepted for examination if the Secretary of State concludes "that the application (including accompaniments) is of a

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			<p>employ specialists and legal teams to defend the Scheme, and not allow local community members to have a voice.</p>	<p>standard that the Secretary of State considers satisfactory" as per Section 55 (3)(f) of the Planning Act 2008.</p> <p>Invariably, the deployment of specialists is necessary in duly assessing the Scheme across a broad range of topics, via the Environmental Statement [APP-036 to APP-058], throughout the Scheme's lifetime from construction, through operation, and to and beyond decommissioning. The deployment of competent experts to prepare the environmental statement is a requirement of the EIA regulations 2017 (see Regulation 18 (5)(a)).</p> <p>Throughout the consultation process the Applicant has welcomed feedback from a range of stakeholders, including communities, landowners and occupiers, on the Scheme proposals. The outcome of this consultation and engagement is evidenced in C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], which was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and accepted for examination.</p> <p>For example, Chapter 4 to C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] details how the Applicant undertook early engagement with consultees. Table 4.1 details the early engagement meetings which took place between the Applicant and the relevant stakeholder. This table includes the date the stakeholder met representatives of the Applicant and a summary of what was discussed at the meeting. Table 4.2 details the meetings which took place between the Applicant and near neighbours to the Scheme. Included in this table are the date the stakeholder met representatives of the Applicant and a summary of what was discussed at the meeting.</p>

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				<p>Table 5.2 within Chapter 5 to C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] details the public information events which took place for the first phase of community consultation. The table includes the date, venue and number of attendees to each information event.</p> <p>Chapter 8 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes how the Applicant undertook a six-week statutory phase two consultation on the Scheme, to provide communities, stakeholders and landowners a sufficient period of time to provide feedback. A Consultation Summary Report for this phase of statutory consultation was published on the dedicated Scheme website, shared with elected representatives and stakeholders and issued to over 9,000 properties within the vicinity of the Scheme, to help consultees understand how their feedback was being considered. A copy of the Phase Two Consultation Summary Report is provided as C5.7 Appendix 5.7: Phase Two Community Consultation Materials [APP-028].</p> <p>This chapter further details the public information events which took place for the second phase of community consultation. The table includes the date, venue and number of attendees to each information event.</p> <p>Chapter 11 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes the significant volume of responses received to Section 47 consultation (local community), including the issues raised and how these were considered by the Applicant. This is further evidenced by C5.10 Appendix 5.10: Consultation Report Appendix – Section 47 Applicant Response [APP-033].</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
PLA-03	RR-525	Planning of the Scheme	Belief that there is a lack of harmony and joined up thinking and a rush to provide an 'urgent' solution with little regard to the local impact, or any evidence of long term intelligent planning.	<p>The Applicant notes this comment.</p> <p>The Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) process is a 6-stage process which typically takes in the region of 16 months and the Applicant therefore respectfully disagrees with the characterisation of the process as rushed.</p> <p>Impacts have been assessed under each topic heading of the Environmental Statement [APP-036 to APP-058] with appropriate mitigation to be implemented where necessary.</p> <p>Section 3.3 of document C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350], specifically paragraphs 3.3.2, 3.3.5 and 3.3.11, describes the Government's view that large capacities of low-carbon generation will be required to meet increased demand and replace output from retiring (fossil fuel) plants, and that "a secure, reliable, affordable, Net Zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar". This support for large scale solar as part of the 'answer' to net zero and energy security has been repeated in its recent policy documents published in March 2023.</p> <p>Section 7.5 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes how suitable locations for large-scale solar are identified and assessed. Paragraph 7.5.2 outlines the broad criteria for determining Site suitability.</p> <p>Figure 7.4 shows the level of photovoltaic power potential at the proposed location. Section 9 describes the advantages of connecting large-scale solar to the existing and robust National Electricity</p>

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				<p>Transmission System at the proposed Point of Connection at Cottam Power Station, and Paragraph 9.4.4 concludes that the Proposed Development will contribute to national system adequacy and decarbonisation targets.</p> <p>C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040] and its accompanying appendix C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] explain how the site was chosen in light of that need.</p> <p>Specifically, paragraph 2.1.10 of C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] explains the reasons why a site of the size proposed is required to meet the 600MW grid connection offer. The methodology used for the site selection process is considered reasonable and proportionate and complies with the requirements of NPS EN-1 4.4.3 as explained at Section 2.1 [APP-067].</p>
PLA-04	RR-180	Planning policy	With 250,000 hectares of commercial roof space available in the UK, along with many thousands of acres of decommissioned power station sites, ex airfields and airports in the area and the wider	<p>The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the statement that current and draft planning policy has not been followed.</p> <p>Paragraph 7.6.3 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] analyses the potential contribution of "brownfield" solar sites to the national need for solar generation. Brownfield sites, including rooftop and other community energy systems, are likely to grow in the UK and will make a contribution to decarbonisation of the UK energy system.</p> <p>However, C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] concludes in Section 7.6, that on their own, brownfield developments are unlikely to be able to meet the national need for solar. Paragraph 8.5.10 and Section 8.5 more</p>

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			<p>country, it is clear that current and draft Planning Policy has not been followed.</p>	<p>generally of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describe and express agreement with the Government's view that decentralised and community energy systems are unlikely to lead to the significant replacement of large-scale infrastructure. The Applicant therefore supports the Government's view that large scale solar must be deployed to meet the urgent national need for low-carbon electricity generation.</p> <p>The basis on which the Applicant has selected the Sites accords with the approach to the consideration of alternatives set out by paragraph 4.4.3 of NPS EN-1. The consideration of alternatives has been undertaken within C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040] and its accompanying appendix C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067]. Specifically, paragraphs 2.1.23 to 2.1.32 detail the consideration of brownfield land and roof tops and sets out why these were discounted as unsuitable.</p> <p>Paragraphs 3.2.14 to 3.2.17 of C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] summarise the assessment of the former RAF Scampton site. The assessment results for the Scheme are compared against RAF Scampton and other potential development areas at Annex E of [APP-067].</p> <p>The land required for the Scheme has been demonstrated within C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] to perform better than 8 of the assessed Potential Development Areas (PDAs) and equal to the remaining one following the site selection process. Consequently, paragraphs 4.1.1 to 4.1.8 conclude that there are no obviously more suitable locations for the Scheme within the Search Area.</p>

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				No better alternative sites on brownfield land or on lower grade agricultural land than the Scheme were identified. The Scheme therefore accords with paragraphs 5.10.8 and 5.10.15 of NPS EN-1, 2.48.13 and 2.48.15 of draft NPS EN-3 and with CLLP Policy LP19, DCLLP Policy S67, BDCSDMP Policy DM10 and emerging DBLP ST51.
PLA-05	RR-185; RR-396; RR-407; RR-429; RR-505; RR-539	Post Project Classification of Land	Question regarding the post-project classification of the land. Belief that the land will be permanently industrialised even after decommissioning.	<p>Paragraph 19.9.17 of C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A] states that land within the Sites can continue in agricultural production through the operational period, grazing livestock. Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) guidelines require that where any restriction to land grade will be removed by a third party, the land should be assessed as if that work had already been undertaken. The Sites will not stop being agricultural land or have the current ALC grade reduced.</p> <p>Additionally, paragraph 3.3.11 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] states that the operational life of the Scheme is anticipated to be 40 years with decommissioning to occur thereafter (see para 3.3.15). Upon decommissioning, the Sites will be reinstated (see paras. 3.3.20 to 3.3.26) after which arable production can resume.</p> <p>The Applicant confirms that the following is secured through Requirement 21 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]: "Within 12 months of the date that the undertaker decides to decommission any part of the authorised development, the undertaker must submit to the relevant planning authority for that part a decommissioning plan for approval" where "The decommissioning plan must be substantially in accordance with the</p>

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				<p>outline decommissioning statement." Details of the protection and restoration of soil during and post-decommissioning are set out in Table 3.1 of C7.2 Outline Decommissioning Statement [APP-338].</p>
PLA-06	RR-450	Post Project Classification of Land	Concern that houses will be built on the brownfield land left by the Scheme once decommissioned.	<p>The decommissioning of the Scheme will not result in any brownfield land being created.</p> <p>Paragraph 3.3.11 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] states that the operational life of the Scheme is anticipated to be 40 years with decommissioning to occur thereafter (see para 3.3.15). Upon decommissioning, the Sites will be reinstated (see paras. 3.3.20 to 3.3.26) after which arable production can resume.</p> <p>The Applicant confirms that the following is secured through Requirement 21 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]: "Within 12 months of the date that the undertaker decides to decommission any part of the authorised development, the undertaker must submit to the relevant planning authority for that part a decommissioning plan for approval" where "The decommissioning plan must be substantially in accordance with the outline decommissioning statement." Details of the protection and restoration of soil during and post-decommissioning are set out in Table 3.1 of C7.2 Outline Decommissioning Statement [APP-338].</p> <p>Any future use of the land for housing would be a matter for the Local authority to determine, but scope for this would seem unlikely given the restoration of the agricultural land as specified above. National and local</p>

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				planning policies do not currently support development of housing on unallocated sites in open countryside.

Applicant's Response to Planning Policy and Process themed issues.

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PD-01	RR-403	Batteries	Batteries used for the Scheme have not been governed by the Health and Safety Executive, and this was not addressed by IGP during consultation.	Human health and other environmental impacts resulting from plumes from potential battery fires have been assessed in C6.2.17 ES Chapter 17 Air Quality [APP-052] . Additional modelling assessment is being undertaken following further consultation with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) which will be carried out using AERMOD dispersion model software to determine pollutant levels of NO ₂ , Benzene, HCl, HF, and Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀ and PM _{2.5}) and their potential impacts. Further modelling assessment will be undertaken following consultation with the UK Health Security Agency regarding potential Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) fires. The risk to human health as a result of fires or unconfined explosions within the BESS compound is set out in paragraphs 21.6.40 to 21.6.47 of C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21 Other Environmental Matters [APP-056] which concludes that there is no significant risk of harm to human health due to the physical separation of the BESS compound from publicly accessible areas.
PD-02	RR-403	CCTV	Intrusion of CCTV on such a scale not seen	In paragraph 4.5.59 of C6.2.4 Scheme Description [APP-039] it is stated that CCTV around the perimeter of the Scheme will be internally facing.

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			in countryside settings.	
PD-03	RR-478	Communication from Developers	I wish to strongly object to these proposals as the parties involved have not listened to our protests about the significant financial impact these plans will have upon myself and my wife. Their threats of CPO and DCOs forcing this through are well in advance of any such agreement or approval by the UK Government. The language they use fails to acknowledge the rights of the landowners and appear to be 'scare tactics' to coerce people to comply.	<p>Throughout the consultation process the Applicant has welcomed feedback from a range of stakeholders, including communities, landowners and occupiers, on the Scheme proposals. The outcome of this consultation and engagement is evidenced in C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], which was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and accepted for examination.</p> <p>For example, Table 1.1 of Chapter 1 to C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], details how the cable route corridor for the Scheme has been refined through engagement and consultation with landowners and the community.</p> <p>Table 1.2 of Chapter 1 to C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], details how the Applicant provided consultation documents to Landowners to inform them regarding upcoming statutory consultation and methods to provide feedback.</p> <p>Chapter 7 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes the Applicant's approach to statutory consultation, including consulting with relevant authorities on a draft Statement of Community Consultation. Table 7.1 sets out the comments received from authorities on the Applicant's approach to consultation and how these were considered by the Applicant. Table 7.3 in Chapter 7 describes how the Applicant complied with commitments made in the Statement of Community Consultation when undertaking statutory consultation.</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>The additional development proposals for the road through our quiet village is poorly thought through and completely impractical. Even a basic survey of this route would show them that and there are already weight and vehicle limits for this route which they seem to be ignoring.</p>	<p>Chapter 8 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes how the Applicant undertook a six-week statutory phase two consultation on the Scheme, to provide communities, stakeholders and landowners a sufficient period of time to provide feedback. A Consultation Summary Report for this phase of statutory consultation was published on the dedicated Scheme website, shared with elected representatives and stakeholders and issued to over 9,000 properties within the vicinity of the Scheme, to help consultees understand how their feedback was being considered. A copy of the Phase Two Consultation Summary Report is provided as C5.7 Appendix 5.7: Phase Two Community Consultation Materials [APP-028].</p> <p>Chapter 11 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes the significant volume of responses received to Section 47 consultation (local community), including the issues raised and how these were considered by the Applicant. This is further evidenced by C5.10 Appendix 5.10: Consultation Report Appendix – Section 47 Applicant Response [APP-033].</p> <p>9 responses were received to the Section 42 consultation from Section 44 landowners, including the issues raised and how these were considered by the Applicant. These can be further evidenced by C5.11 Appendix 5.11: Consultation Report Appendix – Section 42 Applicant Response [APP-034].</p> <p>An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been prepared to support the application within C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan</p>

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				<p>[EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A]. C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], provides (in Requirement 15 of Schedule 2) that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a construction traffic management plan for that part has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities". It further provides that "The construction traffic management plan must be substantially in accordance with the outline construction traffic management plan."</p> <p>The outline CTMP submitted as part of the DCO application provides a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements to and from the Scheme, to ensure that the effects of the temporary construction phase on the local highway network are minimised and made acceptable.</p> <p>By example, measure xxi of C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A] is for a road condition survey. This will ensure that any identified highways defects resulting from construction activities associated with the Site will be corrected to the satisfaction of the local highway authority.</p> <p>The Transport Assessment within C6.3.14.1 ES Appendix 14.1 [APP-134] provides an assessment of the transport effects of the Scheme and concludes, through paragraphs 11.1 to 11.11, that the Scheme is acceptable from a transport perspective.</p>

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				<p>With respect to the comments made around including compulsory acquisition powers in the DCO, the Applicant's preference is to enter into voluntary agreements with all landowners within the Order limits. The Applicant has entered into voluntary agreements with the landowners for each of the Sites and negotiations are ongoing with landowners for the Cable Route Corridor. Negotiations and consultation with landowners on the Sites and Cable Route Corridor have been undertaken throughout the pre-application process, as detailed in paras. 9.1.24-9.1.34 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] and Appendix B of C4.1_A Statement of Reasons Revision A [AS-013]. That notwithstanding, compulsory acquisition powers are being sought to ensure the deliverability of this nationally significant infrastructure project where voluntary land agreements are not able to be secured. The justification for the use of compulsory acquisition powers is set out within sections 7 and 8 of the C4.1_A Statement of Reasons Revision A [AS-013]. The Applicant considers the use of compulsory acquisition powers to be necessary and proportionate.</p> <p>In addition to the extensive pre-application consultation process, the DCO application will be subject to examination by the Examining Authority prior to a recommendation being made to the Secretary of State who is ultimately responsible for granting or refusing development consent for the Scheme.</p>
PD-04	RR-055; RR-057; RR-065; RR-066; RR-067; RR-073; RR-074; RR-079; RR-080;	Cumulative Impact	Cumulative Impact of Multiple Schemes	The Applicant notes this comment and seeks to assure the Parties that a cumulative effects assessment has been prepared for the Application within the Environmental Statement [APP-036 to APP-058] .

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
	RR-091; RR-094; RR-096; RR-097; RR-100; RR-109; RR-113; RR-114; RR-118; RR-126; RR-129; RR-131; RR-132; RR-135; RR-140; RR-146; RR-147; RR-148; RR-150; RR-152; RR-156; RR-159; RR-165; RR-170; RR-173; RR-176; RR-180; RR-181; RR-183; RR-185; RR-191; RR-193; RR-194; RR-197; RR-199; RR-201; RR-203; RR-204; RR-206; RR-210; RR-216; RR-217; RR-218; RR-225; RR-226; RR-228; RR-234; RR-236; RR-238; RR-240; RR-241; RR-243; RR-244; RR-245; RR-249; RR-250; RR-251; RR-253; RR-256; RR-266; RR-268; RR-269; RR-270; RR-273; RR-274; RR-275; RR-276; RR-277; RR-281; RR-284; RR-288; RR-294; RR-296; RR-307; RR-312; RR-315; RR-319; RR-328;		Opposition to the Scheme due to the cumulative impact of four solar projects in the same area (cited as being a total of 10,000 acres of development).	<p>Cumulative effects assessments for each topic are set out in each of the ES Chapters and include the assessment of the impacts of the Scheme cumulatively with the NSIPs identified by West Lindsey District Council (WLDC) (Gate Burton Energy Park, West Burton Solar Project and Tillbridge Solar Project) (see paragraph 2.5.9 of C6.2.2 ES Chapter 2 EIA Process and Methodology [APP-037]).</p> <p>This assessment has been undertaken in accordance with Schedule 4 of the 2017 EIA Regulations and PINS Advice Note 17. The mitigation measures set out across the ES therefore account for anticipated cumulative effects.</p> <p>Whilst it has not been possible for the Scheme to avoid all significant adverse residual impacts, these have been identified within the Environmental Statement [APP-036 to APP-058] and have been minimised, where possible, through careful and sensitive design and detailed mitigation strategies. The Environmental Statement [APP-036 to APP-058] has considered cumulative effects throughout.</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
	RR-330; RR-333; RR-335; RR-337; RR-338; RR-347; RR-356; RR-358; RR-359; RR-362; RR-365; RR-370; RR-371; RR-377; RR-379; RR-380; RR-381; RR-382; RR-393; RR-396; RR-401; RR-402; RR-403; RR-409; RR-411; RR-412; RR-418; RR-425; RR-426; RR-427; RR-431; RR-434; RR-436; RR-439; RR-448; RR-450; RR-451; RR-453; RR-455; RR-458; RR-459; RR-460; RR-461; RR-465; RR-467; RR-474; RR-475; RR-480; RR-482; RR-485; RR-486; RR-488; RR-493; RR-495; RR-497; RR-502; RR-516; RR-519; RR-521; RR-525; RR-527; RR-531; RR-533; RR-538; RR-539; RR-543			
PD-05	RR-500	Cumulative Impact	Belief that this proposal does not adequately consider the impact of	The Applicant notes this comment and seeks to assure the Party that a cumulative effects assessment has been prepared for the Application within the Environmental Statement [APP-036 to APP-058] .

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			currently approved solar farms, those going through the planning process, and proposed solar farms.	<p>Cumulative effects assessments for each topic are set out in each of the ES Chapters and include the assessment of the impacts of the Scheme cumulatively with the NSIPs identified by WLDC (Gate Burton Energy Park, West Burton Solar Project and Tillbridge Solar Project) (see paragraph 2.5.9 of C6.2.2 ES Chapter 2 EIA Process and Methodology [APP-037]).</p> <p>This assessment has been undertaken in accordance with Schedule 4 of the 2017 EIA Regulations and PINS Advice Note 17. The mitigation measures set out across the ES therefore account for anticipated cumulative effects.</p> <p>Whilst it has not been possible for the Scheme to avoid all significant adverse residual impacts, these have been identified within the Environmental Statement [APP-036 to APP-058] and have been minimised, where possible, through careful and sensitive design and detailed mitigation strategies. The Environmental Statement [APP-036 to APP-058] has considered cumulative effects throughout.</p>
PD-06	RR-065; RR-066; RR-082; RR-337; RR-419	Funding/Costs	<p>Query regarding whether the land will be restored.</p> <p>Some comments refer to whether there will be a future bill for the Scheme- and if so who will pay</p>	<p>C7.2 Outline Decommissioning Statement [APP-338] sets out the principles of decommissioning and environmental considerations (see paras. 2.1.1 to 2.1.8) and provides a summary of potential mitigation and management measures during decommissioning through Table 3.1. It also sets out how roles, responsibilities and actions required in respect of implementation of the mitigation measures will be managed, along with principles for monitoring and reporting. By example and as contained within Table 3.1, provision is made that <i>"Infrastructure such as PV panels and battery storage units will be removed and recycled as far as practical and in accordance with legislation and guidance applicable at the time"</i>.</p>

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			for it (company or taxpayer/councils).	<p>Funding for the decommissioning of the Scheme will be the responsibility of the operator/ undertaker of the Scheme at the end of the operational phase.</p> <p>Further details will be provided in the final DEMP and DTMP submitted for approval prior to decommissioning. The commitment for the final DEMP and DTMP to be substantially in accordance with the Outline Decommissioning Statement is secured by Requirement 21 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>
PD-07	RR-285; RR-290	General Comments	General concern regarding the short and long term effects on personal property and wider community.	<p>Property value is not a consideration for decision making in DCOs. As such, impacts on property values are not assessed. Nonetheless, there is no strong evidence to show solar farms negatively affect nearby property value, and it is more likely that other (including opposing) factors are more significant to changes in property value.</p> <p>Impacts on the local socio-demographic environment across the Scheme's construction, operation, and decommissioning have been assessed in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]. This includes assessment of the existing resident demographic profile, access to primary healthcare, population health and wellbeing, deprivation levels, and skills and qualifications. Subject to mitigation and enhancement measures as set out in Section 18.8 [APP-053], the Scheme is not anticipated to have any significant adverse impacts on the socio-demographic environment. The Scheme is however anticipated to have significant beneficial effects on</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>access to employment (para. 18.8.12) and education (para. 18.8.13) as measured indices of deprivation during construction.</p> <p>The Applicant is committed to providing a Community Benefit Fund – see paragraph 4.8.1 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A]. This fund will be available for community-based benefits throughout the lifetime of the Scheme. The provision of the Community Benefit Fund itself does not form a part of the DCO Application, and therefore will be agreed separately between the Applicant and the fund's beneficiaries.</p>
PD-08	RR-351	General Comments	Plans for future food need & production should be considered side by side with energy need and production when allocating land use.	<p>As noted in Table 19.2 and paragraph 19.5.3 of the ES [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A] claims regarding food security are not a material planning consideration. The UK annual balance of domestically produced food is sensitive to non-planning factors including weather and markets. The relevant assessment for policy purposes (and therefore decision-making purposes under the Planning Act 2008) is one that is based on the grade of the agricultural land, rather than its current use and the intensity of that use. In terms of key threats to UK food security, the Defra UK Food Security Report highlights that a key threat is climate change.</p> <p>The selection of the Scheme's location has followed a systematic step-by-step process as set out in detail within C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067]. This took a sequential approach to the consideration of potential sites in terms of agricultural land classification. As a result, the Scheme maximises the utilisation of low grade, non best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land with 95.9% of the land being classified as non BMV land.</p>

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				In addition, Section 3.3 of document C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes the Government's view that "a secure, reliable, affordable, Net Zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar". This support for large scale solar as part of the 'answer' to net zero and energy security has been repeated in its recent policy documents published in March 2023.
PD-09	RR-132; RR-229; RR-311; RR-318; RR-336; RR-391; RR-393; RR-417; RR-420; RR-447; RR-458; RR-514; RR-538; RR-542	General Comments	Belief that the Scheme will disproportionately negatively impact the community.	<p>The Applicant is committed to providing a Community Benefit Fund (see paragraph 4.8.1 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A]). This fund will be available for community-based benefits such as (but not limited to) community-led energy related projects.</p> <p>With regard to local employment and the local economic environment, it is acknowledged that the majority of employment and economic benefit will be experienced in the construction industry (see para 4.6.4 [APP-341]). That notwithstanding, there are wider anticipated benefits through indirect employment and spending which will benefit local manufacturers, suppliers, maintenance workers, and induced employment and spending which will benefit the wider local economy through increased spending by employees of the Scheme and its supply chains (see paras. 4.6.1 to 4.6.6). The full assessment of the extent of these likely effects is set out in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053].</p> <p>Impacts on the local socio-demographic environment across the Scheme's construction, operation, and decommissioning have also been assessed in Section 18.7 [APP-053]. This includes assessment of the existing resident demographic profile, access to primary healthcare,</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>population health and wellbeing, deprivation, and skills and qualifications. Subject to mitigation and enhancement measures as set out in Section 18.8 [APP-053], the Scheme is not anticipated to have any significant adverse impacts on the socio-demographic environment. The Scheme is however anticipated to have significant beneficial effects on access to employment (para. 18.8.12) and education (para. 18.8.13) as measures indices of deprivation during construction.</p> <p>Section 5 of C7.10 Skills Supply Chain and Employment Plan [APP-349] demonstrates what additional measures are being pursued as part of the Scheme to provide local economic benefits. These include providing additional skills training (paras. 5.2.1 to 5.2.12), maximising local recruitment and enhancing opportunities for local procurement (paras. 5.3.1 to 5.4.6).</p> <p>The Applicant confirms that a Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan is secured by Requirement 20 of Schedule 2 to C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>More widely, whilst the Scheme has not been able to avoid all significant residual adverse impacts, when considered against the community benefits (as above and explained in full through Section 4.6 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A], the Applicant does not consider that the Scheme will disproportionately impact the local community.</p>
PD-10	RR-180	Ground Works	Belief that ground works for cabling over this extended	The environmental assessment work has resulted in amendments to produce the final Order Limits for the Scheme including the cable route and has influenced the layout of infrastructure within the Sites. The

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			<p>distance would cause unnecessary and extensive environmental damage.</p>	<p>design evolution of the Scheme is set out within C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040]. See Section 5.9 (alternative cable routes) for the changes made to the Scheme, e.g. "Amendments to ecology offsets to hedgerows and trees were embedded in the design parameters following onsite detailed ecology surveys. Access tracks and strategy reformulated following detailed environmental surveys including removal where possible from ecology offset areas." (Table 5.8: Stage 3 - PEIR and Statutory Consultation (June-July 2022) C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040]).</p> <p>Based on the nature of the Cable Route Corridor comprising linear infrastructure, the works involving the ground are temporary, with the land returned to former use at the end of the construction period. Significant impacts from cable connections will be avoided or minimised through use of suitable construction techniques.</p> <p>For example, C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] assesses that the Willingham to Fillingham Road Verges LWS located adjacent to Cottam 1 is vulnerable to temporary damage from the trenching involved in cable installation. In this case, Horizontal Directional Drilling will be adopted in relation to the installation of the two cables within proximity to the LWS, thereby avoiding the need to cause direct damage to it via opening a trench. The Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy (EPMS) [APP-356] (as secured by Requirement 8 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]) provides precautionary measures in relation to using HDD in proximity to sensitive sites.</p>

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				Furthermore, where significant impacts do occur, such as the anticipated cumulative moderate adverse effect to the Trent Valley Way long distance recreation route (refer to para. 18.10.31 in C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18_Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]), these are short- to medium-term temporary effects during construction only.
PD-11	RR-107	Land Use	Question regarding whether the land between the panels can be used in any way.	<p>Section 4.7 of the C7.3 Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) Outline Plan [APP-339] (as secured by Requirement 7 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]) sets out the proposed measures for beneath panel habitat. It notes (para. 4.7.2) that <i>"Considerable opportunities for the enhancement of these fields' ecological value compatible with a solar array, as well as their use by hunting raptors and mammals such as brown hare, are possible."</i></p> <p>Diverse grassland will be created within the solar array. This can have a significant benefit to biodiversity but can also benefit surrounding agricultural land through offering an increase in pollinator species. Management would be in the form of a "haycut" between late July and September and/or grazing by sheep (aftermath grazing). Provision for a detailed LEMP is secured through Requirement 7 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>
PD-12	RR-522	Location of Energy Generating Facility	Concern that there is a notice of application of Development Consent Order next to individual's	The Scheme itself is the electricity generating facility and as such, this description can be applied to the solar panels themselves and associated infrastructure.

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			property for the construction of a Electricity Generating Facility. Further questions as to where is this facility and why are you not showing the exact location.	<p>The Applicant points the Party to the most notable aspects of the generating facility (being Works no 1, 2, 3 and 4) as outlined on C2.4_A Works Plan Revision A [AS-007] where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work No. 1 reflects “a ground mounted solar photovoltaic generating station”; • Works Nos. 2 & 3 reflect “the energy storage facility” (being the BESS which is associated development to the solar photovoltaic generating station); and • Work No. 4 reflects “works in connection with onsite substations”.
PD-13	RR-238	Motives for the Scheme	Please see these proposals for what they are. In my opinion the start of a very flawed dash for solar farms in this country.	<p>In relation to this application, the Applicant seeks a Development Consent Order for the Cottam Solar Project only.</p> <p>Any future planning applications for other solar farms will be considered on their own merits at the time of their submission with cumulative impacts taken into account.</p> <p>Section 3.3 of document C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350], specifically paragraphs 3.3.2, 3.3.5 and 3.3.11, describes the Government's view that large capacities of low-carbon generation will be required to meet increased demand and replace output from retiring (fossil fuel) plants, and that “a secure, reliable, affordable, Net Zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar”. This support for large scale solar as part of the ‘answer’ to net zero and energy security has been repeated in its recent policy documents published in March 2023.</p>

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PD-14	RR-286; RR-340; RR-387	Motives of Developer/ Decision Process	<p>Belief that get rich quick organisations don't care one bit about the impact this will have on the proposed development areas. All they are interested in is how big their bank balance becomes. They will spin the positives at the expense of the negatives and the affected people. This is supposed to be a democratic country so local people close to the developments should be the decision makers.</p>	<p>Section 3.3 of document C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350], specifically paragraphs 3.3.2, 3.3.5 and 3.3.11, describes the Government's view that large capacities of low-carbon generation will be required to meet increased demand and replace output from retiring (fossil fuel) plants, and that "a secure, reliable, affordable, Net Zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar". This support for large scale solar as part of the 'answer' to net zero and energy security has been repeated in its recent policy documents published in March 2023.</p> <p>Whilst it has not been possible for the Scheme to avoid all significant residual adverse impacts, these have been identified within the Environmental Statement [APP-036 to APP-058] and have been minimised, where possible, through careful and sensitive design and detailed mitigation strategies.</p> <p>Residual adverse effects from the Scheme are summarised and appraised in Section 6 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A], and have been considered in the planning balance against the benefits of the Scheme in Section 7. Assessment of the accordance with national policy is set out in Appendix 3, with local policy in Appendix 4 [APP-341].</p> <p>Additionally, Section 6 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] demonstrates that when considered against national planning policies, the Scheme accords with the relevant policies. With regard to specific policy tests, the substantial benefits of the Scheme are considered, on balance, to outweigh its limited number of significant</p>

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				<p>residual adverse impacts. Therefore, it is considered that development consent for the Scheme should be granted.</p> <p>As stated in paragraph 5.2.2 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A], the Scheme is defined as an NSIP under Sections 14(1)(a), 15(1) and 15(2) of the Planning Act 2008.</p> <p>As such, under Section 103 of the Planning Act 2008, the Secretary of State has the function of deciding an application for an order granting development consent.</p> <p>Local Authorities have a statutory role across the DCO process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) notes that the Applicant must consult with each local authority, as prescribed within Section 43 of the PA2008. • Section 56 of the PA2008 notes that the Applicant must give notice to each local authority, as prescribed within Section 56A, where the Secretary of State accepts an application for an order granting development consent. • Section 60 (2) of the PA2008 where the Secretary of State must give notice in writing to each local authority, as prescribed within Section 56A, inviting them to submit a local impact report. <p>"Advice Note One: Local Impact Reports" which was republished in April 2012 on the Planning Inspectorate's website notes the importance of Local Impact Reports and that <i>"in coming to a decision, the Secretary of State must have regard to any LIRs that are submitted by the deadline"</i>.</p>

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PD-15	RR-403	Operation of Scheme	Query that the Scheme is not temporary and 40 years cannot be classified as temporary.	<p>Once the Scheme ceases to operate, it will be decommissioned. A 40-year period for the operational phase of the Scheme has been assessed in the EIA and reported the ES (see paragraph 2.4.9 of C6.2.2 ES Chapter 2_EIA Process and Methodology [APP-037]).</p> <p>Decommissioning is estimated to be no earlier than 2066 (see paras. 3.3.15 to 3.3.18 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A]). Decommissioning is expected to take between 12 and 24 months. A 24-month decommissioning period has been assumed for the purposes of a worst-case assessment in the ES, (See paragraph 4.3.6 of C6.2.4_A ES Chapter 4_Scheme Description Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.4_A]).</p>
PD-16	RR-518	Planning for Installation	Belief that the solar panels are well needed, as long as it isn't at the expense of losing usable agricultural land to support the project. Planned panel installations must also not be intrusive for dwellings in the area, and that the construction/installation work required in order to install all	<p>The Applicant agrees that solar panels are well needed.</p> <p>Section 3.3 of document C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350], specifically paragraphs 3.3.2, 3.3.5 and 3.3.11, describes the Government's view that large capacities of low-carbon generation will be required to meet increased demand and replace output from retiring (fossil fuel) plants, and that "a secure, reliable, affordable, Net Zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar". This support for large scale solar as part of the 'answer' to net zero and energy security has been repeated in its recent policy documents published in March 2023.</p> <p>The site is predominantly ALC Grade 3b, not "best and most versatile" agricultural land (see para 19.8.5 of C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A]). Agricultural land is not lost to the Scheme and can remain in productive use through the operational period, being grazed by livestock. As a worst-case scenario, the ES</p>

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			<p>these panels is considerate of local people and the local environment.</p>	<p>assumes a small area of permanent loss associated with substation housings and associated infrastructure, although it is anticipated that these facilities will be removed, and the land restored to agriculture on decommissioning (See para 19.7.7 of C6.2.19_A ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A]).</p> <p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') looks to provide landscape mitigation that will enhance the landscape character of the Study Area and reduce the visibility of the Scheme from residential properties and other public vantage points including transport routes, public footpaths, permissive footpaths and green lane network. This mitigation is aimed to benefit the community as a whole as well as enhancing green infrastructure (see paras. 8.1.1 and 8.8.3). Public consultation has also taken account of landscape and visual matters (see paras. 8.2.8 and 8.4.20). The landscape mitigation measures seek to provide new planting to mitigate the potential impacts and effects of glint and glare (see paras. 8.2.10, 8.4.44, 8.8.8, 8.9.19 and 8.9.20).</p> <p>C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] sets out the extensive findings of all ecological investigations undertaken within the Order Limits together with an appraisal of the relative importance of each species or species group, habitat or designated site. A comprehensive package of mitigation measures has been identified, in tandem with embedded mitigation established through the ecologically sensitive design of the Scheme (such as the wide buffering of all field boundaries and the use of existing hedgerow gaps for accesses). These measures are further detailed within C7.19 Outline Ecological Protection and</p>

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				<p>Mitigation Strategy [APP-356] (as secured by Requirement 8 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]) and C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A] (as secured by Requirement 7 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]) which will ensure that all identified impacts are minimised as far as possible. In many cases, the reversion from intensive agriculture to pasture or meadow grassland with additional hedgerow, scrub, tree and wetland habitat creation will bring about beneficial effects for wildlife. In particular, terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates, botanical diversity, small mammals and many species of bird all stand to benefit.</p>
PD-17	RR-180; RR-490	Scheme Operation	<p>40 years is a very significant period in my lifetime during which the development would seriously detract from the landscape character and visual amenity of over 30 neighbouring communities. Furthermore, on-going works and decommissioning periods mean that</p>	<p>As captured within C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] para. 3.3.11, the operational life of the Scheme is anticipated to be 40 years. Once the Scheme ceases to operate, it will be decommissioned. A 40-year period for the operational phase of the Scheme has been assessed in the EIA and reported in the ES.</p> <p>Decommissioning is estimated to be no earlier than 2066 (see paras. 3.3.15 to 3.3.18 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A]. Decommissioning is expected to take between 12 and 24 months. A 24-month decommissioning period has been assumed for the purposes of a worst-case assessment in the ES, (See paragraph 4.3.6 of C6.2.4_A ES Chapter 4_Scheme Description Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.4_A].</p> <p>The Scheme, in the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], secures through Requirement 21 of Schedule 2 that "Within 12 months of the date that the undertaker decides to</p>

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			<p>the time frame will be extended by many years.</p>	<p>decommission any part of the authorised development, the undertaker must submit to the relevant planning authority for that part a decommissioning plan for approval."</p> <p>With regards to landscape character, the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) contained within C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] takes into account the effects on the landscape character in detail, from the national scale, through regional, county district and local scales to the landscape character areas within the 5km Study Area. For further information, please refer to C6.3.8.2 ES Appendix 8.2 Assessment of Potential Landscape Effects includes 8.2.1-8.2.12 [APP-074]. These associated appendices provide a detailed assessment of landscape effects on each landscape receptor.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that there will be change to the character of the landscape at Site level and within parts of the Regional Scale Landscape Character Area – Profile 4a: Unwooded Vales (defined within the East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment) during the construction and operation phase of the Scheme. For further information, please refer to ES Appendix 8.2 [APP-074]. These associated appendices provide a detailed assessment of landscape effects on each landscape receptor including the character areas from the East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment.</p> <p>The mitigation associated with the landscape receptors for the Scheme is set out in C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A], C6.4.8.16.1 to C6.4.8.16.10 Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Figures 8.16.1 to 8.16.10)</p>

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				<p>[APP-305 to APP-315] and secured by Requirement 7 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]. The LVIA considers the delivery of landscape mitigation to landscape character by addressing biodiversity net gain through the enhancement of existing habitats and green infrastructure. The Outline LEMP [APP-339] also prescribes how the landscape and ecology mitigation measures identified and proposed would be implemented and managed to ensure the effectiveness and certainty in achieving the objectives.</p> <p>With regards to visual amenity of neighbouring communities, the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment contained within C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') takes into account the effects on visual amenity and public vantage points from the neighbouring communities are considered. These vantage points comprise for example, viewpoint VP01 from Scampton, VP09 from Sturton by Stow, VP24 from Cammeringham, VP26 from Ingham, VP31 from Fillingham, VP39 from Willingham by Stow, VP48 from Corringham and VP62 from Blyton.</p> <p>The effects are set out in more detail at ES Appendix 8.3 Assessment of Potential Visual Effects [APP-075]. For example, with viewpoints VP09, VP24, VP26 and VP31, these are scoped out of the assessment due to distance from the Scheme and due to the screening effects of intervening topography, built form and vegetation. For viewpoints VP01 and VP48, there are no potential significant adverse effects at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning phases, since these</p>

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				<p>locations capture views across an expansive landscape where the Scheme occupies only a small portion of the view, and where the layering of the hedgerows provides screening. With viewpoint VP62, there are potential significant adverse effects at the construction phase, however with no significant adverse effects at the operation (Year 1 and Year 15) phases of the Scheme. With viewpoint VP39, there are potential significant adverse effects at the construction and operation (Year 1 and Year 15) phases of the Scheme.</p> <p>The LVIA aims to provide landscape mitigation that seeks to enhance the visual amenity of the Study Area and to reduce the visibility of the Scheme. This mitigation is aimed to benefit the neighbouring communities and the wider public as a whole as well as improving green infrastructure, as set out within the LVIA (paras. 8.1.1 and 8.8.3). Public consultation has also taken account of landscape and visual matters (see paras. 8.2.8 and 8.4.20) in relation to these communities.</p>
PD-18	RR-503	Sourcing of Materials	Belief that sourcing materials from China is a case of the UK outsourcing its carbon footprint.	<p>The Applicant notes this comment and refers the Party to paragraph 7.5.4 of C6.2.7 ES Chapter 7 Climate Change [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.7_A] where it is anticipated that the PV panels will be sourced from China or a country of similar distance from the UK. Therefore, the Applicant has noted and accounted for the sourcing of panels within its assessment and that the manufacture and transport of products will likely be the largest sources of GHG emissions from the Scheme.</p> <p>In respect of Climate Change, paragraph 7.10.2 of C6.2.7 ES Chapter 7 Climate Change [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.7_A] states 'Overall, the Scheme itself will provide major beneficial impacts and a net reduction in GHG'.</p>

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PD-19	RR-213	Support of Scheme	Belief that the proposed solar project would be a good use of this poor quality land to produce much needed low carbon electricity for the national good.	<p>The Applicant agrees with this comment.</p> <p>Section 3.3 of document C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350], specifically paragraphs 3.3.2, 3.3.5 and 3.3.11, describes the Government's view that large capacities of low-carbon generation will be required to meet increased demand and replace output from retiring (fossil fuel) plants, and that "a secure, reliable, affordable, Net Zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar". This support for large scale solar as part of the 'answer' to net zero and energy security has been repeated in its recent policy documents published in March 2023.</p> <p>The selection of the Scheme's location has followed a systematic step-by-step process as set out in detail within C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067]. This took a sequential approach to the consideration of potential sites taking into account agricultural land classification. As a result, paragraph 3.3.22 states that the Scheme maximises the utilisation of low grade, non best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land with 95.9% of the land being classified as non BMV land.</p>

Applicant's Response to Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation themed issues.

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STR-01	RR-064; RR-399; RR-476	Community Benefit	Belief that cheaper energy bills for local community should be offered.	<p>The Applicant has committed to providing a Community Benefit Fund (see para. 4.8.1 in C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A]), although this falls outside the remit of the DCO Application.</p> <p>Section 10.2 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes how the deployment of solar generation assets will reduce the traded price of power in the UK and thus the economic benefits of solar energy within the UK electricity system.</p>
STR-02	RR-172; RR-272; RR-487	Community Benefit	Concern that there are little to no community benefits.	<p>The Applicant respectfully disagrees with this statement.</p> <p>Section 4.6 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] details the 'Other Benefits of the Scheme', beyond the national benefits as described through Sections 4.2 to 4.5 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A].</p> <p>Paragraph 4.6.2 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] states that the Scheme will result in a significant Net Gain for biodiversity (96.09% in habitat units, 70.22% in hedgerow units and 10.69% in river units).</p> <p>Paragraph 4.6.3 goes on to explain that a new permissive path from Stow village to Stow Pastures will be in place during the operational phase of the Scheme, thus improving local amenity and contributing to the wider network of footpaths in the area to facilitate greater public access to the countryside.</p>

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				<p>Paragraph 4.6.6 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] goes on to explain that a Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan, as secured through Requirement 20 in Schedule 2 of the C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], will be in place prior to construction and will set out the measures that the Applicant will implement to advertise and promote employment and training opportunities associated with the Scheme in construction and operation locally.</p> <p>Whilst not a part of the DCO Application, paragraph 4.8.1 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] explains that the Applicant is committed to providing a Community Benefit Fund.</p> <p>C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] states that the Scheme is anticipated to lead to a maximum loss of approximately 17 full-time equivalent (FTE) agriculture jobs (see para. 18.7.15), whilst the Scheme is estimated to employ 10 full-time equivalent employees from the local area during operation (Table 18.16 [APP-053]). The net changes to employment, and to economic Gross Value Added (GVA) in the local area (defined as West Lindsey and Bassetlaw districts) are:</p> <p>For construction: +661 FTE jobs (para. 18.7.23 [APP-053]), +£30.9 million per year (para. 18.7.52 [APP-053]);</p> <p>For operation: -2 FTE jobs (para. 18.7.79 [APP-053]), +£2.2million per year (para. 18.7.97 [APP-053]);</p>

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				For decommissioning: +509 FTE jobs (para. 18.7.125 [APP-053]), minor beneficial impact to GVA (para. 18.7.135 [APP-053]).
STR-03	RR-273	Deprivation	Island Green Power has placed this scheme in an area of higher deprivation. We question this?	<p>The Applicant recognises the area (Bassetlaw and West Lindsey districts) as being more likely to be deprived of employment, education and skills, and suitable incomes (see para. 18.5.30 in C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]). This has not been a contributing factor to the site selection process.</p> <p>The Scheme, through the measures set out in Section 5 of C7.10 Skills Supply Chain and Employment Plan [APP-349], has the ability to improve local access to employment, and improve local education and skills attainment across the lifetime of the Scheme. These measures are anticipated to bring significant beneficial effects during construction, as assessed in para. 18.8.11-13 in C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053].</p> <p>The Applicant confirms that a Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan is secured by Requirement 20 of Schedule 2 to C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>
STR-04	RR-053	Economic Benefits	The scheme will be of no economic benefit as electricity prices are driven by market forces.	Section 10.2 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes how the deployment of solar generation assets will reduce the traded price of power in the UK and thus the economic benefits of solar energy within the UK electricity system.
STR-05	RR-099	Financial Incentives	The Scheme is unfair on the local	The land covered by the Scheme covers 4 farm businesses, all of which are owner occupiers of the land within the Sites. This is detailed in full in

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			community as landowners who do not live in the area and have sold off their land for financial incentives while agricultural land is lost.	<p>para. 7.1.1-17 of C6.3.19.1 ES Appendix 19.1 Agricultural Land Quality Soil Resources and Farming Circumstances [APP-145].</p> <p>The Scheme, inclusive of the BESS, will be decommissioned in full and as such, there will not be a permanent loss of the agricultural land resource (see paragraph 19.7.7 of C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A]).</p>
STR-06	RR-226	Financial Incentives	There should be funding, incentives, help to buy, long term payback schemes and I'm sure more people would then be inclined to put solar on their homes and businesses. These energy companies could even install them on rooftops for free. They are paying landowners to rent their land. If they offered free solar	<p>Paragraphs 2.1.23 to 2.1.32 of C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] detail the consideration of brownfield land and roof tops and sets out why these were discounted as unsuitable for electricity generation of this scale.</p> <p>Section 3.3 of document C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350], specifically paragraphs 3.3.2, 3.3.5 and 3.3.11, describes the Government's view that large capacities of low-carbon generation will be required to meet increased demand and replace output from retiring (fossil fuel) plants, and that "a secure, reliable, affordable, Net Zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar". This support for large scale solar as part of the 'answer' to net zero and energy security has been repeated in its recent policy documents published in March 2023.</p> <p>Paragraph 7.6.3 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] analyses the potential contribution of "brownfield" solar sites to the national need for solar generation. Brownfield sites, including rooftop and other community energy systems, are likely to grow in the UK and will make a</p>

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			panels on my roof I would take it.	<p>contribution to decarbonisation of the UK energy system. However, C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] concludes in Section 7.6, that on their own, brownfield developments are unlikely to be able to meet the national need for solar.</p> <p>Paragraph 8.5.10 and Section 8.5 more generally of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describe and express agreement with the Government's view that decentralised and community energy systems are unlikely to lead to the significant replacement of large-scale infrastructure. The Applicant therefore supports the Government's view that large scale solar must be deployed to meet the urgent national need for low-carbon electricity generation</p> <p>Section 7.5 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes how suitable locations for large-scale solar are identified and assessed. Paragraph 7.5.2 outlines the broad criteria for determining Site suitability.</p> <p>Figure 7.4 shows the level of photovoltaic power potential at the proposed location. Section 9 describes the advantages of connecting large-scale solar to the existing and robust National Electricity Transmission System at the proposed Point of Connection at Cottam Power Station, and Paragraph 9.4.4 concludes that the Proposed Development will contribute to national system adequacy and decarbonisation targets.</p> <p>C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040] and its accompanying appendix C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection</p>

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				<p>Assessment [APP-067] explain how the site was chosen in light of that need.</p> <p>Specifically, paragraph 2.1.10 of C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] explains the reasons why a site of the size proposed is required to meet the 600MW grid connection offer. The methodology used for the site selection process is considered reasonable and proportionate and complies with the requirements of NPS EN-1 4.4.3 as explained at Section 2.1 [APP-067].</p> <p>The Applicant has committed to providing a Community Benefit Fund (see para. 4.8.1 in C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A]), although this falls outside the remit of the DCO Application.</p>
STR-07	RR-273	Health Systems	We are also concerned that our local health system is overstretched and cannot cope with the influx of people constructing the sites. There seems to be an assumption that medical services will be provided. It is unfair to expect our already stretched medical system to	<p>The assessment of impact on access to primary healthcare is based on GP Practice data from August 2022 (para. 18.5.21 in C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]), which shows a near-to or above national average number of GPs per population in the Local Impact Area.</p> <p>The impact of population uplift from construction workers is set out in para. 18.7.30 [APP-053] which does not assess there will be a significant adverse impact to existing access to primary healthcare (GP practices). Impacts on other healthcare providers, hospitals, and emergency care have not been assessed as these have not been identified as areas to be assessed by relevant health consultees such as the UKHSA or Lincolnshire CCG (refer to Tables 18.1 and 18.2 [APP-053]).</p>

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			take on extra work without adequate resources and increased work force.	
STR-08	RR-064; RR-065; RR-075; RR-079; RR-103; RR-105; RR-116; RR-128; RR-214; RR-242; RR-253; RR-306; RR-316; RR-322; RR-339; RR-353; RR-384; RR-387; RR-403; RR-416; RR-427; RR-429; RR-485; RR-506; RR-520; RR-521; RR-522; RR-534; RR-542	House Prices	Property Devaluation Opposition to the Scheme due to anticipated devaluation of local property values.	Property values are not a material consideration for decision making in DCOs. As such, this should not be considered by the Secretary of State in making a decision as to whether to grant development consent for the Scheme. Nonetheless, there is no strong evidence to show solar farms negatively affect nearby property values.
STR-09	RR-398	Levelling Up	Belief that the Scheme is a case of the south-east taking advantage of the north and if the Government were serious about levelling up, they would stop this.	Section 3.3 of document C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] , specifically paragraphs 3.3.2, 3.3.5 and 3.3.11, describes the Government's view that large capacities of low-carbon generation will be required to meet increased demand and replace output from retiring (fossil fuel) plants, and that "a secure, reliable, affordable, Net Zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar". This support for large scale solar as part of the 'answer' to net zero and energy security has been repeated in its recent policy documents published in March 2023.

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				<p>Section 7.5 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes how suitable locations for large-scale solar are identified and assessed. Paragraph 7.5.2 outlines the broad criteria for determining site suitability.</p> <p>Figure 7.4 shows the level of photovoltaic power potential at the proposed locations. Section 9 describes the advantages of connecting large-scale solar to the existing and robust National Electricity Transmission System at the proposed Point of Connection at Cottam Power Station, and paragraph 9.4.4 concludes that the Proposed Development will contribute to national system adequacy and decarbonisation targets.</p> <p>C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040] and its accompanying appendix C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] explain how the Sites were chosen in light of that need.</p> <p>Specifically, paragraph 2.1.10 of C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] explains the reasons why sites of the size proposed is required to meet the 600MW grid connection offer. The methodology used for the site selection process is considered reasonable and proportionate and complies with the requirements of paragraph 4.4.3 of NPS EN-1 and is explained at Section 2.1 [APP-067].</p> <p>The Scheme is anticipated to bring direct, indirect, and induced employment and economic benefits to the Local and Regional Impact Area as set out in Section 18.7, 18.8, and 18.10 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]. The net changes</p>

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				to employment, and to economic Gross Value Added in the local area (defined as West Lindsey and Bassetlaw districts) are: For construction: +661 FTE jobs (para. 18.7.23 [APP-053]), +£30.9 million per year (para. 18.7.52 [APP-053]); For operation: -2 FTE jobs (para. 18.7.79 [APP-053]), +£2.2million per year (para. 18.7.97 [APP-053]); For decommissioning: +509 FTE jobs (para. 18.7.125 [APP-053]), minor beneficial impact to GVA (para. 18.7.135 [APP-053]).
STR-10	RR-094; RR-095; RR-098; RR-106; RR-109; RR-116; RR-129; RR-131; RR-140; RR-154; RR-165; RR-180; RR-182; RR-190; RR-194; RR-201; RR-203; RR-207; RR-220; RR-222; RR-236; RR-241; RR-250; RR-251; RR-256; RR-269; RR-276; RR-286; RR-312; RR-318; RR-319; RR-322; RR-330; RR-332; RR-342; RR-350; RR-353; RR-367; RR-381; RR-382; RR-385; RR-391; RR-397; RR-401; RR-403; RR-412; RR-416; RR-418; RR-427; RR-465; RR-480; RR-482; RR-491; RR-508;	Mental Health	<p>Mental health</p> <p>Concern that living in an area surrounded by solar panels will be a significant detriment to individual and community mental health/wellbeing.</p> <p>Some comments refer to parts of the Scheme causing this, examples being the construction phase or the operation phase.</p> <p>Some comments refer to feeling</p>	<p>The Applicant is cognisant of the significance of the countryside for physical and mental wellbeing and as such, likely impacts on the desirability and use of recreational facilities in the countryside, such as public rights of way, have been assessed in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]. The greatest level of effect (moderate-minor adverse) to access, desirability and use of recreational facilities is anticipated during construction (see para. 18.7.60 to 18.7.67) and decommissioning (see para. 18.7.143 to 18.7.153). These effects are not anticipated to be significant.</p> <p>This is re-iterated in Section 21.5 of C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21 Other Environmental Matters [APP-056] which identifies no significant adverse effects to human health (including mental health).</p>

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	RR-516; RR-524; RR-530; RR-531; RR-532; RR-533		demoralised and depressed due to the developments.	
STR-11	RR-307	Personal Effect from the Scheme	I object to the Cottam Solar Project which is one of four giant solar farm proposals in West Lindsey, Lincolnshire. Our family home of 20 years and the personally funded wildlife project we have been developing would be totally dominated by these imposing alien developments on the surrounding beautiful and productive farmland. Our life choice was to move into the countryside build a house and raise a family. My husband has put	<p>The Scheme comprises a series of separate parcels of land or Sites (see Sections 3.3 to 3.6 of C6.2.3 ES Chapter 3_The Order Limits [APP-038]) which are set within an extensive agricultural landscape. With large tracts of land between each parcel, each is set apart by their associated features such as robust hedgerows, woodland and tree cover, intervening settlements and road and rail infrastructure (see paragraphs 8.5.88, 8.5.106 and 8.5.124 of C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043]).</p> <p>The Sites have been informed by a series of design parameters and include offset distances as a result of needing to balance the functionality of the Scheme against the key environmental constraints (see paragraph 8.6.21 of C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043]).</p> <p>The LVIA considers that for some aspects of the Scheme (the construction phase in particular), the presence of the panels has been assessed to result in an adverse effect. Where impacts and effects are identified then landscape mitigation measures are applied to offset or remedy any adverse effects.</p> <p>Voluntary consultation with individual property owners was undertaken throughout the duration of the Scheme development and the preparation of the ES including discussion over bespoke mitigation relevant to individual properties. A number of meetings and visits to North Farm</p>

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			<p>every spare minute and every penny into our home, we have forsaken foreign holidays, new cars and other mainstream luxuries to pursue this lifestyle. Our home is our life and this would all change with these industrial solar farm proposals that are to be all around our property, these haphazard solar panel parcels would be visible in every direction. this is not just one or two fields, it is thousands of acres on rolling countryside. Our B&B plans and retirement income routes would be ruined.</p>	<p>have therefore taken place, including initial contact by Lanpro to introduce the Scheme and take forward discussions in February 2022. The residents of North Farm were then visited by Lanpro on 13 June 2022 to retain engagement and prepare the detailed assessment relating to North Farm, which is set out at C6.3.8.3 ES Appendix 8.3 Assessment of Potential Visual Effects [APP-075]. This detailed assessment concludes that the visibility of the panels is mainly focussed from first floor windows of the main farmhouse to the south overlooking Willingham Road. To the south, the panels are offset by at least 240m within a landscape that supports a good network of hedgerows and tree cover, which assist with their integration. Visibility to the north towards the panels is curtailed by existing woodland and to east, the panels are distanced at 870m, with the panels distanced at approximately 380m to the west.</p> <p>With regard to the cumulative effects of the Scheme, C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') assesses the impacts of the Scheme alongside the proposed Gate Burton, West Burton and Tillbridge Solar proposals and shows that significant adverse effects would not occur on landscape character and visual amenity over an extensive area.</p> <p>With regard to Gate Burton, this is illustrated on C6.4.8.15.2.6 ES Figure 8.15.2.6 Cottam 1, 2 and 3 Gate Burton Cumulative Development Augmented ZTV [APP-300], as being located to the west of the settlements of Willingham by Stow, Kexby and Upton. The conclusion is that the cumulative effects of these projects would therefore not occur due to the significant distance between them. The LVIA concludes that</p>

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				<p>with Regional Character Areas (paras. 8.10.12 to 8.10.16) and Individual Contributors to Landscape Character (paras. 8.10.17 to 8.10.25), there is potential for cumulative effects, but that these would be Not Significant.</p> <p>With regard to West Burton, this is illustrated on C6.4.8.15.2.9 ES Figure 8.15.2.9 Cottam 1, 2 and 3 West Burton Cumulative Development Augmented ZTV [APP-303], as being located to the west and south west of the settlements of Sturton by Stow, Bransby and Broxholme. The conclusion is that the cumulative effects of these projects would therefore not occur due to the significant distance between them. The LVIA concludes that with Regional Character Areas [paras. 8.10.12 to 8.10.16] and Individual Contributors to Landscape Character [paras. 8.10.17 to 8.10.25], there is potential for cumulative effects, but that these would be Not Significant.</p> <p>With regard to the Tillbridge proposals, this is illustrated on C6.4.8.15.2.8 ES Figure 8.15.2.8 Cottam 1, 2 and 3 Tillbridge Solar Cumulative Development Augmented ZTV [APP-301], as being located to the west and east of the settlement of Springthorpe and situated between the settlements of Heapham, Hemswell Cliff and Glentworth. The Cottam 1 and Cottam 2 Sites and Tillbridge boundaries are located adjacent to each other. Cumulative effects resulting from these three proposals have been identified, for example in relation to land use. At the construction phase and operation phase (Year 1) of the Scheme, there are potential significant effects predicted of the adverse type. Whereas, at the operation phase (Year 15) of the Scheme, the type of effect would change from adverse to neutral with no significant effects predicted. This is set</p>

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				<p>out in more detail at C6.3.8.2.3.1 and C6.3.8.2.3.2 and C6.3.8.2.3.3 ES Appendix 8.2 Assessment of Potential Landscape Effects [APP-074].</p> <p>Impacts on the accommodation sector, tourism and recreation have been assessed across the Local Impact Area (Bassetlaw and West Lindsey districts) as a whole in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]. Individual cases of impacts on rural businesses nearby to the Scheme, particularly businesses that have not commenced, are therefore not assessed separately.</p> <p>The Scheme has been designed to enhance and retain the existing landscape pattern and features that give the Sites and the 5km Study Area their unique character. Effects on landscape character will be experienced at the local level and it is recognised that some features, such as land use, open character and the local highway network will undergo change, but the majority of the key characteristics will not be altered.</p>
STR-12	RR-063; RR-066; RR-089; RR-118; RR-131; RR-152; RR-185; RR-193; RR-236; RR-246; RR-266; RR-275; RR-292; RR-294; RR-322; RR-327; RR-340; RR-358; RR-398; RR-408; RR-418; RR-422; RR-436; RR-452;	Profits from the Scheme	<p>Developer motives and profits from the Scheme</p> <p>Concern that the business model means investors and developers are making profits at the</p>	<p>Section 3.3 of document C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350], specifically paragraphs 3.3.2, 3.3.5 and 3.3.11, describes the Government's view that large capacities of low-carbon generation will be required to meet increased demand and replace output from retiring (fossil fuel) plants, and that "a secure, reliable, affordable, Net Zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar". This support for large scale solar as part of the 'answer' to net zero and energy security has been repeated in its recent policy documents published in March 2023.</p>

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	RR-458; RR-467; RR-485; RR-488; RR-540		expense of the local community.	<p>Section 6.2 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A] sets out how the Scheme will meet the compelling need for renewable energy in accordance with relevant national planning policies. In summary, the Scheme and the Applicant would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver a large amount of renewable generation capacity (35,590,658 MWh over the estimated 40-year assessed lifetime) to deliver the Government's energy objectives and legally binding net zero commitments in line with the requirements of paragraph 1.1.1 of NPS EN-3, paragraph 3.3.21 of draft NPS EN-1, section 3.4 of NPS EN-1 and the National Infrastructure Strategy 2020 (para. 6.2.32); • Deliver a reduction of 5,974,155 tCO₂e over the lifetime of the Scheme compared to if it did not go ahead which would make a significant contribution towards reducing carbon emissions as required by paragraph 1.1.1 of NPS EN-1, paragraph 2.3.2 of Draft NPS EN-1, the National Infrastructure Strategy 2020 and the Energy White Paper: "Powering our net zero future" (para. 6.2.35); • Deliver in a timescale that is short in the context of the delivery of other forms of energy generation in line with the urgent need to decarbonise set out in paragraphs 3.3.5, 3.3.15 and 3.4.5 of NPS EN-1, Paragraph 2.3.2 of Draft NPS EN-1 and the National Infrastructure Strategy 2020 (paras. 6.2.1, 6.2.4 and 6.2.8); • Enable all consumers to benefit from the effect of low-marginal cost solar generation by reducing market prices, in line with the aim to provide affordable energy for consumers set out at Paragraph 2.3.2,

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				<p>Paragraph 2.3.5 and 3.3.21 of Draft NPS EN-1 (para 6.2.8, 6.2.9, and 6.2.10);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help ensure security and reliability of energy supply in line with Paragraph 2.3.2 and 2.3.5 of the Draft NPS EN-1 (para 6.2.8 and 6.2.9). <p>In relation to the scale of the Scheme, paragraph 2.1.10 of C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] explains the reasons why a site of the size proposed is required to meet the 600MW grid connection offer. The methodology used for the site selection process is considered reasonable and proportionate and complies with the requirements of NPS EN-1 4.4.3 as explained at Section 2.1 [APP-067].</p>
STR-13	RR-308	Quantity of Solar in Local Area	It is like a gold rush in this area - an area which relies on farming and an increasing tourism due to its natural beauty, history and heritage. The effect on the physical and mental health of the folk who live in this area must not be underestimated.	<p>With regard to tourism, C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') considers both the landscape and visual effects of the Scheme on the local environment and any recognised associations with the visitor offer, including taking account of views across the low-lying Till Vale and the 'Big Skies' as the baseline situation. The LVIA (para 8.5.152, 8.5.14, 8.5.21, 8.5.31 and 8.5.152) recognises the importance of these big expansive skies playing a part in the views across the Study Area along with other vertical elements such as water towers, power stations and wind turbines.</p> <p>The LVIA includes a suite of 67 viewpoints that cover long range views across the Till Vale encompassing the big expansive skies, for example viewpoints VP01, VP24, VP25, VP26, VP27 and VP29 for Cottam 1, VP44, VP47, VP52, VP55 and VP56 for Cottam 2 and VP64 and VP65 for Cottam 3. There are also an additional 25 viewpoints at the request of Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) that were agreed at the LVIA</p>

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				<p>Workshops held prior to application submission that also include these long-range views, for example LCC-C-E and LCC-C-L for Cottam 1, LCC-C-Q for Cottam 2 and LCC-C-W and LCC-C-X for Cottam 3. The visual effects for the long-range views are set out in C6.3.8.3 ES Appendix 8.3 Assessment of Potential Visual Effects [APP-075].</p> <p>The effects on the countryside, rural amenity and natural beauty have also been taken into consideration within the LVIA. The detailed assessment information can be found within the individual receptor sheets at C6.3.8.2 ES Appendix 8.2 [APP-074] and C6.3.8.3 ES Appendix 8.3 [APP-075]. The assessment has taken account of the individual elements of the Scheme such as the panels, fencing, battery storage, substations and access arrangements to ensure the best possible fit with the natural beauty of the landscape. The photography and photomontage information at C6.4.8.14.1 ES Figures 8.14.1 [APP-199] to 8.14.90 [APP-288] shows how these elements are comfortably accommodated within their rural setting. For example, C6.4.8.14.6 ES Figure 8.14.6 [APP-204] shows the fencing and panels set back from the receptor to reduce the visual impact. The panels are also set back from the existing and proposed hedgerows to allow for their proposed thickening and growth to enhance the rural amenity of the landscape. The photomontage also shows how the planting mitigation has been designed to enhance the rural landscape character of this location with new native tree and shrub planting. There are also improvements to existing hedgerows and new hedgerows are proposed to reduce the visual impact of the Scheme in views across the area and enhance the natural beauty.</p>

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				<p>6.2.13 ES Chapter 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048] provides an assessment of potential impacts caused by the Scheme to the historic environment. Potential impacts to heritage within the area surrounding the Scheme have been assessed within C6.3.13.5 ES Appendix 13.5 Heritage Statement [APP-125-128].</p> <p>The Applicant recognises the significance of the agricultural and tourism industries in the local economy and has assessed the direct impacts on local agriculture in C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A] and the economic impact of the Scheme to both the agriculture sector and tourism and recreation sector in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]. The impacts on agriculture employment and the industry economy is no greater than long-term moderate-minor adverse at any point during the Scheme's lifetime. The worst case impact on the tourism and recreation sector is a long-term minor adverse impact during the Scheme's operation and decommissioning. Neither of these industries are anticipated to experience significant adverse effects.</p> <p>The Applicant is cognisant of the significance of the countryside for physical and mental wellbeing and as such, likely impacts on the desirability and use of recreational facilities in the countryside, such as public rights of way, have been assessed in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053], with the exception of a The worst-case impact from the Scheme tourism and recreational facilities in the countryside is anticipated to be a short-term temporary moderate adverse impact to local landscape attractions during</p>

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				<p>the Scheme's construction. There are no significant effects anticipated to be experienced by any other receptor during construction, nor to any receptor during the Scheme's operation and decommissioning.</p> <p>The cumulative impacts from the proposed NSIPs on socio-economic, tourism and recreation receptors has been assessed in para. 18.10.1 78 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]. Public Rights of Way and long distance recreational routes are at worst anticipated to experience a significant cumulative adverse effect during the joint construction phase of the Scheme and nearby NSIPs. This however is temporary and short- to medium-term only.</p>
STR-14	RR-183	Recreational Impact of Scheme	Footpaths and greenspaces will become places of danger and anyone owning or riding horses will not be able to use the bridleways there.	<p>The Applicant is cognisant of the significance of the Public Rights of Way network for recreational activity and its importance to physical and mental wellbeing. The likely nature and significance of effect of the Scheme on the recreational use of public rights of way for all users has been assessed in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]. The greatest level of effect (moderate-minor adverse) to the use of bridleways and byways is anticipated during construction (see Table 18.15 [APP-053]) and decommissioning (see paras. 18.7.143 to 18.7.149 of [APP-053]), which is not considered to be a significant adverse effect.</p> <p>Construction impacts on Public Rights of Way are as a result of temporary closures or diversions where necessary to facilitate the construction of the Scheme. These closures and diversions are temporary, and all affected Public Rights of Way are proposed to be re-opened following the completion of the Scheme's construction and kept open during the</p>

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				operational lifetime of the development. Efforts have been made to ensure the number of closures and diversions are minimised. A Public Rights of Way Management Plan will be implemented during the construction phase of the Scheme as secured by Requirement 18 of Schedule 2 in C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] . This Plan must be in substantial accordance with the submitted outline C6.3.14.3 ES Appendix 14.3 Public Rights of Way Management Plan [APP-136] .
STR-15	RR-130	Socio-Economics	Belief that the proposed project would be extremely detrimental to the Lincolnshire countryside views for not only residents but also visitors and tourists too. The aesthetic value of open green fields is greatly underestimated.	<p>With regard to the Lincolnshire countryside views and tourism, C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') considers both the landscape and visual effects of the Scheme on the local environment and any recognised associations with the visitor offer, including taking account of views across the low-lying Till Vale and the 'Big Skies' as the baseline situation. The LVIA (paras 8.5.152, 8.5.14, 8.5.21, 8.5.31 and 8.5.152) recognises the importance of these big expansive skies playing a part in the views across the Study Area along with other vertical elements such as water towers, power stations and wind turbines.</p> <p>The LVIA includes a suite of 67 viewpoints that cover long range views across the Till Vale encompassing the big expansive skies, for example viewpoints VP01, VP24, VP25, VP26, VP27 and VP29 for Cottam 1, VP44, VP47, VP52, VP55 and VP56 for Cottam 2 and VP64 and VP65 for Cottam 3. There are also an additional 25 viewpoints at the request of Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) that were agreed at the LVIA Workshops held prior to application submission that also include these</p>

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				<p>long range views, for example LCC-C-E and LCC-C-L for Cottam 1, LCC-C-Q for Cottam 2 and LCC-C-W and LCC-C-X for Cottam 3. The visual effects for the long-range views are set out in C6.3.8.3 ES Appendix 8.3 Assessment of Potential Visual Effects [APP-075].</p> <p>The Applicant is cognisant of the significance of the countryside for tourism and recreation, and as such, likely impacts on the desirability and use of tourist attractions and recreational facilities in the countryside have been assessed in paras. 18.7.54 to 18.7.68, 18.7.99 to 18.7.113, and 18.7.138 to 18.7.154 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053].</p>
STR-16	RR-104	Socio-Economics	Concern that these developments simply feed the pockets of the developers and councils, and satisfy the wishes of those who simply want to move as they 'fancy a change'.	<p>Section 3.3 of document C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350], specifically paragraphs 3.3.2, 3.3.5 and 3.3.11, describes the Government's view that large capacities of low-carbon generation will be required to meet increased demand and replace output from retiring (fossil fuel) plants, and that "a secure, reliable, affordable, Net Zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar". This support for large scale solar as part of the 'answer' to net zero and energy security has been repeated in its recent policy documents published in March 2023.</p> <p>Section 7.5 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes how suitable locations for large-scale solar are identified and assessed. Paragraph 7.5.2 outlines the broad criteria for determining site suitability.</p> <p>The selection of the Scheme's location has followed a five-stage systematic step-by-step process where as set out in C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067]. Resultingly, the land required</p>

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				<p>for the Scheme has been demonstrated within C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] to perform better than 8 of the assessed Potential Development Areas (PDAs) and equal to the remaining one following the site selection process. Consequently, there are no obviously more suitable locations for the Scheme within the Search Area.</p> <p>One of the main goals of the Scheme is to enable all consumers to benefit from the effect of low-marginal cost solar generation by reducing market prices, in line with the aim to provide affordable energy for consumers set out at paragraph 2.3.2, paragraph 2.3.5 and 3.3.21 of Draft NPS EN-1 (see paragraphs 6.2.8, 6.2.9, and 6.2.10 of C7.5_A Planning Statement [EN010133/EX1/C7.5_A]).</p> <p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043] (the 'LVIA') takes into account the effects on residential receptors and this includes singular buildings, groups of buildings and towns or villages. Table 8.15 of the LVIA sets out the selection of initial residential receptors for the purpose of the assessment, the reason for their selection being that the receptors are all within the 1km Study Area for the Scheme and the 0.5km Study Area from the outer boundary of the Cable Route Corridor.</p>
STR-17	RR-080; RR-129; RR-165; RR-173; RR-179; RR-183; RR-193; RR-216; RR-263; RR-269; RR-273; RR-276; RR-277; RR-281; RR-304; RR-312; RR-319; RR-333;	Socio-Economics	<p>Jobs, Livelihood and Skills Loss</p> <p>Concern that jobs and skills and economic benefits in agriculture will be</p>	<p>The Applicant recognises the significance of the agricultural industry in the local economy and has assessed the economic impact of the Scheme in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] and the direct impacts on local agriculture in C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A].</p>

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	RR-337; RR-359; RR-371; RR-382; RR-395; RR-403; RR-406; RR-431; RR-442; RR-455; RR-490; RR-497; RR-498; RR-519; RR-524; RR-543		<p>affected or lost by the scheme.</p> <p>Comments may refer to government statistics on crop yield to indicate financial output of Lincolnshire in this sector.</p> <p>Comments may refer to tenant farmers losing their livelihoods.</p>	<p>The Scheme is anticipated to lead to a maximum loss of approximately 17 full-time equivalent agriculture jobs (para. 18.7.15 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]), whilst the Scheme is estimated to employ 10 full-time equivalent employees from the local area during operation (Table 18.16 [APP-053]). The net change in employment in the local area (defined as West Lindsey and Bassetlaw districts) during its operational life is a loss of approximately 2 full-time jobs, once consideration of direct, indirect and induced employment, and impacts on the tourism and recreation industry are considered (para. 18.7.79 [APP-053]). Overall, the economic benefit to the local area is estimated to be £2.2million per year (para. 18.7.97 [APP-053]).</p> <p>The overall employment and economic benefit to the local area from the two-year construction period is anticipated to be 661 full-time equivalent jobs (para. 18.7.23 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]), generating £30.9 million Gross Value Added per year (para. 18.7.52 [APP-053]).</p> <p>The land covered by the Scheme covers 4 farm businesses, all of which are owner occupiers of the land within the Sites, and none of which are anticipated to be closed in their entirety. This is detailed in full in para. 7.1.1-17 of C6.3.19.1 ES Appendix 19.1 Agricultural Land Quality Soil Resources and Farming Circumstances [APP-145].</p>
STR-18	RR-099	Socio-Economics	Respondent owns a local farm bordering a large industrialised solar proposal and	The Environmental Statement has sought to identify adverse effects to the surrounding area where it can be reasonably assessed. Impacts on the agricultural industry are assessed in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] and

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			<p>have been told categorically that such losses cannot be predicted, and yet, the absentee landowners so called "losses" have been very well predicted and paid for. Belief that the Proposals on this scale should be fair to everyone affected and everyone affected should have been consulted right from the start, but they were not.</p>	<p>the direct impacts on local agriculture in C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A]. Together, these assessments do not identify any significant adverse impacts to farm businesses neighbouring the Scheme with regard to economic performance or agricultural circumstances.</p> <p>The Applicant is confident that the level of consultation undertaken and information presented throughout the pre-application stage is in accordance with the Planning Act 2008 and associated guidance. This has been evidenced in C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], which was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and accepted for examination.</p> <p>Throughout the consultation process the Applicant has welcomed feedback from a range of stakeholders, including communities, landowners and occupiers, on the Scheme proposals. The outcome of this consultation and engagement is evidenced in C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], which was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and accepted for examination.</p> <p>For example, Table 1.1 of Chapter 1 to C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], details how the cable route corridor for the Scheme has been refined through engagement and consultation with landowners and the community.</p> <p>Table 1.2 of Chapter 1 to C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], details how the Applicant provided consultation documents to Landowners to inform them regarding upcoming statutory consultation and methods to provide feedback.</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>Chapter 2 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021], describes how the Applicant undertook two phases of community consultation to share information and invite feedback at different stages of Scheme development.</p> <p>Chapter 7 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes the Applicant's approach to statutory consultation, including consulting with relevant authorities on a draft Statement of Community Consultation. Table 7.1 sets out the comments received from authorities on the Applicant's approach to consultation and how these were considered by the Applicant. Table 7.3 in Chapter 7 describes how the Applicant complied with commitments made in the Statement of Community Consultation when undertaking statutory consultation.</p> <p>Chapter 8 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes how the Applicant undertook a six-week statutory phase two consultation on the Scheme, to provide communities, stakeholders and landowners a sufficient period of time to provide feedback. The Applicant presented consultees with environmental information sufficient for consultees to understand the potential likely significant effects of the Scheme in a Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR). A non-technical summary was published to accompany the PEIR, with public information events and free-to-use communications channels open to help aid accessibility and understanding of the Scheme. A Consultation Summary Report for this phase of statutory consultation was published on the dedicated Scheme website, shared with elected representatives and stakeholders and issued to over 9,000 properties within the vicinity of the</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>Scheme, to help consultees understand how their feedback was being considered. A copy of the Phase Two Consultation Summary Report is provided as C5.7 Appendix 5.7: Phase Two Community Consultation Materials [APP-028].</p> <p>Chapter 11 of C5.1 Consultation Report [APP-021] describes the significant volume of responses received to Section 47 consultation (local community), including the issues raised and how these were considered by the Applicant. This is further evidenced by C5.10 Appendix 5.10: Consultation Report Appendix – Section 47 Applicant Response [APP-033].</p> <p>9 responses were received to the Section 42 consultation from Section 44 landowners, including the issues raised and how these were considered by the Applicant. These can be further evidenced by C5.11 Appendix 5.11: Consultation Report Appendix – Section 42 Applicant Response [APP-034].</p>
STR-19	RR-277	Socio-Economics	There is likely to be very limited use of local resources (materials and labour) during construction, hence minimal economic benefit to the local communities.	<p>The use of local minerals/materials has not been assessed as this will be dependent on availability and supply chains set up in preparation for the Scheme's construction.</p> <p>With regard to labour, paras 18.5.40 to 18.5.44 in C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] demonstrate that 64.2% of workers in West Lindsey and Bassetlaw are residents within these two districts, and as such, this figure has been used to assess the proportion of employment and economic benefit generated by the Scheme that will be retained in West Lindsey and Bassetlaw. The net</p>

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				<p>changes to employment, and to economic Gross Value Added (GVA) in this area are:</p> <p>For construction: +661 FTE jobs (para. 18.7.23 [APP-053]), +£30.9 million per year (para. 18.7.52 [APP-053]);</p> <p>For operation: -2 FTE jobs (para. 18.7.79 [APP-053]), +£2.2million per year (para. 18.7.97 [APP-053]);</p> <p>For decommissioning: +509 FTE jobs (para. 18.7.125 [APP-053]), minor (0.1%-1%) beneficial impact to GVA (para. 18.7.135 [APP-053]).</p> <p>Section 5 of C7.10 Skills Supply Chain and Employment Plan [APP-349] furthermore demonstrates what additional measures are being pursued as part of the Scheme to provide local economic benefits. These include providing additional skills training (paras. 5.2.1 to 5.2.12), maximising local recruitment and enhancing opportunities for local procurement (paras. 5.3.1 to 5.4.6).</p> <p>The Applicant confirms that a Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan is secured by Requirement 20 of Schedule 2 to C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]. This requirement states that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a skills, supply chain and employment plan in relation to that part has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority for that part or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities."</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
STR-20	RR-181	Socio-Economics	Furthermore, with the recent announcements regarding the possible use of Scampton Airbase as an immigration centre and not a hub for Economic Regeneration as proposed by Lincolnshire County Council and West Lindsey District Council, the area and nation will suffer great economic harm both in the short and long term if all these schemes are approved.	<p>The proposed use of RAF Scampton as accommodation for asylum seekers has not been included in the cumulative assessment of socio-economic effects due to the limited available information regarding the proposed level of occupancy and on-site services at the point of the DCO Application being submitted (January 2023). Nonetheless, the Applicant is cognisant of the emerging information regarding the site and as such will seek to ensure the cumulative impacts from this site are understood as the examination progresses.</p> <p>The anticipated Gross Value Added generated by the Scheme has been calculated in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]. This assesses the GVA uplift across the UK from the Scheme is £51.5 million per year during construction (Table 18.14 [APP-053]), £2.9 million per year during operation (Table 18.19 [APP-053]), and approximately £41 million per year during decommissioning (para. 18.7.128 and 18.7.135 [APP-053]). The ES chapter furthermore assesses the cumulative anticipated Gross Value Added of the developments listed in Table 18.24 in Section 18.10 [APP-053]. The assessed peak GVA uplift in the Local Impact Area alone from the Scheme is £120.3 million during the construction peak (para.18.10.25 [APP-053]), £5.7 million per year during operation (para. 18.10.49 [APP-053]), and an approximate peak of £70.3 million during decommissioning activities (para. 18.10.75 [APP-053]).</p>
STR-21	RR-273; RR-322; RR-403; RR-422; RR-431; RR-453; RR-454	Tourism	Concern that the Scheme will impact	The Applicant recognises the significance of the tourism industry in the local economy and has assessed the employment and economic impact of the Scheme to the tourism and recreation sector in Section 18.7 of

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
			tourism in Lincolnshire.	<p>C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053].</p> <p>The impacts from the Scheme on the tourism and recreation industry in the Local Impact Area (of which West Lindsey in in Lincolnshire) have been assessed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During construction, both employment in (para. 18.7.21) and economic performance of (para. 18.7.50) the tourism and recreation industry are anticipated to experience a negligible adverse effect. • During operation, the worst case impact on employment in (para. 18.7.78) and economic performance of (para. 18.7.95) the tourism and recreation industry is anticipated to be a minor, long-term adverse effect. • During operation, the worst case impact on employment in (para. 18.7.122) and economic performance of (para. 18.7.133) the tourism and recreation industry is anticipated to be a minor, medium-term adverse effect. <p>None of these effects are therefore significant.</p>
STR-22	RR-255	UK GDP	Belief that more food imports will create a loss of GDP; equals a greater reduction in the national balance of payments.	Changes to national GDP as a result of impacts on food exports/imports have not been assessed as they go beyond the scope of assessment for the Environmental Statement (as agreed by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State – see C6.3.2.2 ES Appendix 2.2 EIA Scoping Opinion [APP-064]). That notwithstanding, the anticipated Gross Value Added generated by the Scheme has been calculated in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and

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				<p>Recreation [APP-053]. This assesses the GVA uplift across the UK from the Scheme is £51.5 million per year during construction (Table 18.14 [APP-053]), £2.9 million per year during operation (Table 18.19 [APP-053]), and approximately £41 million per year during decommissioning (para. 18.7.128 and 18.7.135 [APP-053]).</p>

Applicant's Response to Soils and Agriculture themed issues.

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
SAA-01	RR-051; RR-054; RR-057; RR-061; RR-062; RR-063; RR-064; RR-065; RR-066; RR-068; RR-069; RR-070; RR-072; RR-073; RR-074; RR-075; RR-076; RR-077; RR-078; RR-079; RR-080; RR-081; RR-082; RR-083; RR-085; RR-086; RR-087; RR-090; RR-092; RR-093; RR-094; RR-096; RR-098; RR-099; RR-100; RR-101; RR-102; RR-103; RR-104; RR-105; RR-106; RR-108; RR-109; RR-113; RR-114; RR-116; RR-117; RR-118; RR-120; RR-121; RR-122; RR-123; RR-125; RR-128; RR-130; RR-131; RR-132; RR-134; RR-135; RR-136; RR-137; RR-139; RR-140; RR-141; RR-142; RR-143; RR-144; RR-147; RR-148; RR-149; RR-150; RR-152; RR-153; RR-155; RR-156;	Agricultural Land	<p>Agricultural Land Use</p> <p>Opposition to the Scheme due to a loss of agricultural land.</p> <p>Some comments refer to this loss of land having a negative impact on UK food security.</p> <p>Some comments refer to the war in Ukraine exacerbating food security issues.</p>	<p>The Scheme, inclusive of the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), will be decommissioned in full and as such, there will not be a permanent loss of the agricultural land resource (see paragraph 19.7.7 of C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A]). Food security is not a material planning consideration. The balance of UK domestically produced food is sensitive to weather and markets, not land use planning.</p> <p>Section 3.3 of document C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350], specifically paragraphs 3.3.2, 3.3.5 and 3.3.11, describes the Government's view that large capacities of low-carbon generation will be required to meet increased demand and replace output from retiring (fossil fuel) plants, and that "a secure, reliable, affordable, Net Zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar". This support for large scale solar as part of the 'answer' to net zero and energy security has been repeated in its recent policy documents published in March 2023.</p> <p>Section 7.5 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] describes how suitable locations for large-scale solar are identified and assessed. Paragraph 7.5.2 outlines the broad criteria for determining Site suitability.</p> <p>Figure 7.4 shows the level of photovoltaic power potential at the proposed location. Section 9 describes the advantages of connecting large-scale solar to the existing and robust National Electricity Transmission System at the proposed Point of Connection at Cottam</p>

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	RR-157; RR-158; RR-159; RR-161; RR-162; RR-163; RR-165; RR-166; RR-169; RR-170; RR-172; RR-173; RR-174; RR-175; RR-177; RR-178; RR-179; RR-180; RR-181; RR-183; RR-184; RR-185; RR-186; RR-187; RR-190; RR-191; RR-193; RR-194; RR-195; RR-198; RR-199; RR-200; RR-201; RR-202; RR-203; RR-204; RR-205; RR-206; RR-207; RR-208; RR-209; RR-210; RR-211; RR-212; RR-214; RR-215; RR-216; RR-217; RR-221; RR-223; RR-224; RR-225; RR-226; RR-228; RR-230; RR-231; RR-233; RR-234; RR-235; RR-236; RR-238; RR-240; RR-241; RR-242; RR-243; RR-244; RR-246; RR-248; RR-249; RR-250; RR-251; RR-252; RR-254; RR-255; RR-256; RR-257; RR-258; RR-259;			<p>Power Station, and Paragraph 9.4.4 concludes that the Scheme will contribute to national system adequacy and decarbonisation targets.</p> <p>C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040] and its accompanying appendix C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] explain how the Sites were chosen in light of that need.</p> <p>Specifically, paragraph 2.1.10 of C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] explains the reasons why sites of the size proposed are required to meet the 600MW grid connection offer. The methodology used for the site selection process is considered reasonable and proportionate and complies with the requirements of paragraph 4.4.3 in NPS EN-1 and as explained at Section 2.1 [APP-067].</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
	RR-261; RR-262; RR-263; RR-266; RR-267; RR-268; RR-269; RR-270; RR-271; RR-272; RR-273; RR-275; RR-276; RR-277; RR-279; RR-281; RR-282; RR-283; RR-284; RR-286; RR-287; RR-288; RR-290; RR-291; RR-292; RR-294; RR-295; RR-296; RR-297; RR-298; RR-299; RR-300; RR-301; RR-302; RR-306; RR-310; RR-312; RR-313; RR-314; RR-315; RR-316; RR-319; RR-320; RR-321; RR-323; RR-324; RR-325; RR-326; RR-328; RR-329; RR-330; RR-331; RR-332; RR-334; RR-335; RR-336; RR-337; RR-339; RR-340; RR-342; RR-348; RR-349; RR-350; RR-352; RR-353; RR-354; RR-355; RR-356; RR-357; RR-358; RR-359; RR-361; RR-362; RR-363; RR-365; RR-366; RR-368; RR-369;			

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
	RR-371; RR-373; RR-375; RR-376; RR-378; RR-379; RR-380; RR-382; RR-383; RR-385; RR-387; RR-388; RR-389; RR-391; RR-392; RR-394; RR-395; RR-397; RR-398; RR-401; RR-403; RR-404; RR-405; RR-406; RR-407; RR-408; RR-409; RR-410; RR-411; RR-413; RR-414; RR-416; RR-419; RR-420; RR-421; RR-422; RR-423; RR-427; RR-428; RR-429; RR-431; RR-433; RR-434; RR-435; RR-436; RR-437; RR-438; RR-439; RR-440; RR-441; RR-442; RR-443; RR-444; RR-445; RR-446; RR-448; RR-450; RR-451; RR-452; RR-453; RR-454; RR-455; RR-458; RR-459; RR-461; RR-462; RR-464; RR-465; RR-466; RR-467; RR-469; RR-472; RR-473; RR-474; RR-480; RR-481; RR-483; RR-484;			

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	RR-485; RR-486; RR-487; RR-488; RR-489; RR-491; RR-493; RR-494; RR-495; RR-496; RR-497; RR-499; RR-500; RR-501; RR-502; RR-503; RR-504; RR-505; RR-506; RR-507; RR-508; RR-510; RR-511; RR-513; RR-517; RR-518; RR-519; RR-520; RR-521; RR-524; RR-525; RR-526; RR-527; RR-528; RR-529; RR-530; RR-531; RR-532; RR-533; RR-534; RR-536; RR-538; RR-539; RR-540; RR-541; RR-542; RR-543			
SAA-02	RR-064	Grading of Land	Belief that farmland is of lower grade due to man-made pesticides- it should be left alone to recover for biodiversity reasons and not be blocked	Paragraph 2.1.1 of C6.3.19.1 ES Appendix 19.1 Agricultural Land Quality Soil Resources and Farming Circumstances [APP-145] notes that the "MAFF ALC system of grading land quality for use in land use planning purposes divides farm land into five grades according to the degree of limitation imposed upon land use by the inherent physical characteristics of climate, site and soils." As such, ALC grading is made with reference to physical characteristics of the land and not nutrient status or the use of pesticide.

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			<p>from sunlight by solar panels.</p>	<p>As noted within paragraph 19.3.4 of C6.2.19_A ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A], sufficient light will continue to pass through and between the panels to maintain a grass sward.</p> <p>Some benefits of improved soil health (such as those set out in paragraph 19.9.13 to 19.9.16 in C6.2.19_A ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A]) will be delivered through the operational fallow of the Sites. For instance, improved topsoil structural stability (gained through a recovery of soil organic matter) will facilitate adoption of regenerative agriculture management such as direct drilling. Achieving the same degree of improved soil health through arable management which alone would require a longer period of time than fallow alone.</p> <p>C6.3.9.12 ES Appendix 9.12 Biodiversity Net Gain Report [APP-089] sets out how a significant net gain for biodiversity has been calculated and will be secured via Requirement 9 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] for the life of the Scheme alongside the implementation of the LEMP C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_A], as secured by Requirement 7 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B]. The BNG Report [APP-089] shows an anticipated net gain of 96.09% for habitat units, an anticipated 70.22% for hedgerow units and an anticipated 10.69% for river units is anticipated to be achieved through the Scheme. The LEMP allows for regular ecological monitoring and</p>

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				adaptation of the management prescriptions in response to changing conditions within the Order Limits so as to ensure the long-term achievement of its aims and persistence of net gain.
SAA-03	RR-127	Site Quality	Concern that the site is not on poorer land unlike the Tillbridge solar farm. Belief that it is better to leave the site to give it some rest and let farmers grow things on it.	<p>The suspension of cultivation for the duration of the solar farm operations will enable a recovery of soil health where it has been depleted by repeated cultivation for arable production.</p> <p>An effective and assumed 40-year fallow period, for the purpose of the Environmental Impact Assessment, is anticipated to be beneficial for soil health, enabling a recovery of soil organic matter depleted through repeated cultivation (See paragraph 19.9.14 of C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [APP-054]).</p>
SAA-04	RR-270; RR-273; RR-281; RR-288; RR-488	Soil Grading	<p>Belief that the soil surveys taken place were incorrect and the land is high quality (not 3b land).</p> <p>Some comments refer to a request for independent tests to take place.</p> <p>Some comments refer to West Burton 4 sequential testing</p>	<p>Detailed Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) assessment work has been undertaken for the Sites with the site data and results presented in the ES (See C6.3.19.1 ES Appendix 19.1 Agricultural Land Quality Soil Resources and Farming Circumstances [APP-145]). This assessment has been reviewed by Natural England [RR-037] with no concern raised that any survey work was incorrect.</p> <p>Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey results for the Sites are presented at C6.3.19.1 ES Appendix 19.1 Agricultural Land Quality Soil Resources and Farming Circumstances [APP-145]. This ALC assessment work has been undertaken in compliance with Natural England's guidance and has been peer-reviewed ahead of their submission in support of the DCO Application.</p>

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			showed Grade 3a and the proposed fields were withdrawn from the project.	
SAA-05	RR-175; RR-180; RR-204; RR-216	Soil Quality	Belief that the construction of Solar Panels/cable route on this scale will result in soil compaction.	<p>An Outline Soil Management Plan has been prepared for the Application (See C6.3.19.2 ES Appendix 19.2 Outline Soil Management Plan [APP-146]). The OSMP includes measures to avoid soil compaction (see paragraphs 8.1.2 and 8.7.3 of C6.3.19.2 ES Appendix 19.2 Outline Soil Management Plan [APP-146]).</p> <p>A Soils Resource Management Plan, substantially in accordance with C7.18 Outline Soil Management Plan [APP-355] will be submitted and approved prior to the commencement of development as secured by Requirement 19 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>
SAA-06	RR-202	Soil Quality	Belief that the land is falsely being labelled as poor quality and instead is of good quality. Further belief that with the right care and attention, would be great for growing crops and food.	<p>Detailed Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) assessment work has been undertaken for the Sites with the site data and results presented in the ES (See C6.3.19.1 ES Appendix 19.1 Agricultural Land Quality Soil Resources and Farming Circumstances [APP-145]). This work has been reviewed by Natural England [RR-037] with no concern raised that any survey work was incorrect.</p> <p>An effective and assumed 40-year fallow period, for the purpose of the Environmental Impact Assessment, is anticipated to be beneficial for soil health, enabling a recovery of soil organic matter depleted through</p>

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				repeated cultivation (See paragraph 19.9.14 of C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A]).
SAA-07	RR-187; RR-194; RR-283; RR-307	Soil Quality	Concern regarding soil quality in the long-term and whether the land can be returned to farming use.	Following the decommissioning of the Scheme, landowners will be able to return to their current agricultural land management options including cultivation for arable production (see paragraphs 19.9.20 to 19.9.29 of C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A]).
SAA-08	RR-351	Soil Quality	General concern regarding soil health reducing due to the Scheme.	An effective and assumed 40-year fallow period, for the purpose of the Environmental Impact Assessment, is anticipated to be beneficial for soil health, enabling a recovery of soil organic matter depleted through repeated cultivation (See paragraph 19.9.14 of C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [EN010133/EX1/C6.2.19_A]).
SAA-09	RR-142	Soils	Concern that UK weather patterns seem to get more extreme with environmental experts predicting hotter drier summers, UK food production will become more difficult. Unlike many parts of the country,	The Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), through paragraph 4.9.2, notes that hotter and dryer summers are predicted, as are wetter winters. The land is predominantly limited to grade by soil wetness and workability, whereby there are limited opportunities to cultivate clayey and poorly drained land in the spring and autumn without causing soil degradation (See paragraphs 5.1.2 and 5.1.3 of C6.3.19.1 ES Appendix 19.1 Agricultural Land Quality Soil Resources and Farming Circumstances [APP-145]). Climate change predictions heighten the dominant limiting factor (soil wetness) for ALC grade within the Sites. Under current climate change predictions farmers of land in the Sites will have reduced opportunity to successfully establish crops in autumn and spring as increased rainfall leaves the clay rich soil in a

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			<p>soil in the area of the proposed solar development is a mix of very moisture retentive clay and non-clay and so retains more water during dry spells, enabling crops to withstand the dry summers.</p>	<p>plastic consistence (which is unsuitable for cultivation, carrying livestock or driving over) for an extended period.</p>

Applicant's Response to Transport and Access themed issues.

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
TRA-01	RR-115; RR-119	Access Routes	<p>Concern regarding Green lane linking Ingham road to Coates lane should not be used as an access route.</p> <p>Further concern that the lane is still to be used by maintenance vehicles.</p>	<p>As detailed in Table 4.2 of C6.3.14.1 ES Appendix 14.1 Transport Assessment [APP-134], the Green Lane will only be used for operational vehicle access and not during construction of the Scheme. Access is only required a handful of times per month to check on equipment (see paragraph 5.22 of [APP-134]). This will be undertaken by a LGV (car or van) and not by HGVs.</p>
TRA-02	RR-057; RR-123; RR-237; RR-293; RR-354; RR-400; RR-438; RR-542	Construction	<p>The construction period will be a great inconvenience to local communities and the surrounding environment.</p>	<p>An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been prepared to support the application within C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A]. C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], provides (in Requirement 15 of Schedule 2) that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a construction traffic management plan for that part has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities". It further provides that "The construction traffic management plan must be substantially in accordance with the outline construction traffic management plan."</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
				The outline CTMP submitted as part of the DCO application provides a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements to and from the Scheme, to ensure that the effects of the temporary construction phase on the local highway network are minimised and made acceptable.
TRA-03	RR-071	Construction of Scheme	We live on a single track lane, will be affected during building project. Public footpath that we use will be affected.	<p>The Applicant is cognisant of the significance of the countryside for physical and mental wellbeing and as such, likely impacts on the desirability and use of recreational facilities in the countryside, such as public rights of way, have been assessed in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053].</p> <p>An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been prepared to support the application within C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A]. C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], provides (in Requirement 15 of Schedule 2) that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a construction traffic management plan for that part has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities". It further provides that "The construction traffic management plan must be substantially in accordance with the outline construction traffic management plan."</p> <p>The outline CTMP submitted as part of the DCO application provides a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements to</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>and from the Scheme, to ensure that the effects of the temporary construction phase on the local highway network are minimised and made acceptable.</p> <p>Public Rights of Way may be subject to short-term temporary diversions or closures to facilitate cable laying as set out in para 3.13 of C6.3.14.3 ES Appendix 14.3 Public Rights of Way Management Plan [APP-136]. All Public Rights of Way are to remain open during construction where feasible, and all existing Public Rights of Way are to be retained during the Scheme's operational lifetime. These measures will be secured through Requirement 18 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>
TRA-04	RR-094	Construction Traffic	Belief that the Scheme will take 4 years of construction work, huge lorries pounding along our country lanes day and night. Some of these lanes will have to be widened.	<p>It is forecast that construction of the Scheme will take two years in total.</p> <p>The outline CTMP submitted as part of the DCO application provides a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements to and from the Scheme, to ensure that the effects of the temporary construction phase on the local highway network are minimised and made acceptable. C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A] covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction methodology; • Site access; • Construction vehicle trip generation; • Construction vehicle routing;

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abnormal load movement; and <p>Mitigation and management measures.</p>
TRA-05	RR-051; RR-064; RR-067; RR-073; RR-075; RR-094; RR-106; RR-115; RR-118; RR-128; RR-157; RR-173; RR-180; RR-183; RR-193; RR-200; RR-203; RR-204; RR-207; RR-208; RR-210; RR-216; RR-231; RR-241; RR-242; RR-250; RR-253; RR-256; RR-262; RR-271; RR-274; RR-277; RR-280; RR-282; RR-297; RR-308; RR-316; RR-328; RR-332; RR-334; RR-337; RR-342; RR-358; RR-363; RR-367; RR-371; RR-378; RR-384; RR-389; RR-403; RR-408; RR-415; RR-420; RR-432; RR-451; RR-452; RR-471; RR-473; RR-485; RR-490; RR-515; RR-516; RR-519; RR-529; RR-531; RR-535; RR-538; RR-543	Existing Road Infrastructure	<p>Road Capacity to Facilitate HGV Traffic</p> <p>Country roads do not have infrastructure to facilitate HGV construction traffic.</p> <p>Some comments refer to a negative impact to local country/single track roads and traffic by HGV vehicles if the Scheme were to go ahead.</p> <p>Some comments refer to funding for road improvements at decommissioning stage.</p> <p>Some comments refer to ALV's causing</p>	<p>The outline CTMP submitted as part of the DCO application provides a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements to and from the Scheme, to ensure that the effects of the temporary construction phase on the local highway network are minimised and made acceptable. C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A] covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction methodology; Site access; Construction vehicle trip generation; Construction vehicle routing; Abnormal load movement; and Mitigation and management measures. <p>By example, Measure xxi of C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A] is for a road condition survey. This will ensure that any identified highways defects resulting from construction activities associated with the Sites will be corrected to the satisfaction of the local highway authority.</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
			a risk of accidents and will need widening of narrow country roads.	
TRA-06	RR-239; RR-343	Highway Safety	Ingham Road is a designated Safe walking route for School children, as stated by Lincolnshire County Council, however once construction traffic starts to use this - even if it is the construction workers themselves in their own cars, will be a major hazard and mean the road is unsafe for children to walk. There are no footpaths or street lighting or verges that can be used.	<p>Construction traffic associated with the Cottam 1 West will use a small section of Ingham Road to reach Access 8. Construction traffic will travel to this access from the east, via the A15, and Stow Lane. They will not travel through the villages of Sturton by Stow and Stow. As set out in Table 6.1 of C6.3.14.1 ES Appendix 14.1 Transport Assessment [APP-134], on an average day, there will be two HGV movements and 12 LGV movements on Ingham Road associated with the construction of the Site.</p> <p>A detailed Construction Traffic Management Plan is provisioned and secured through Requirement 15 in C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
TRA-07	RR-378	PRoW	All public footpaths and bridleways in the area needs to remain open and accessible throughout.	Public Rights of Way may be subject to short-term temporary diversions or closures to facilitate cable laying as set out in para 3.13 of C6.3.14.3 ES Appendix 14.3 Public Rights of Way Management Plan [APP-136] . All Public Rights of Way are to remain open during construction where feasible, and all existing Public Rights of Way are to be retained during the Scheme's operational lifetime. These measures will be secured through Requirement 18 in Schedule 2 of C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] .
TRA-08	RR-538	Road Infrastructure	The damage to roads which local residents will have to pay for through increased council tax or be subject to roads left in dangerous conditions.	An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been prepared to support the application as set out in C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A] . C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] , provides (in Requirement 15 of Schedule 2) that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a construction traffic management plan for that part has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities". It further provides that "The construction traffic management plan must be substantially in accordance with the outline construction traffic management plan." The outline CTMP submitted as part of the DCO application provides a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements to and from the Scheme, to ensure that the effects of the temporary

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
				<p>construction phase on the local highway network are minimised and made acceptable.</p> <p>By example, measure xxi of C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A] is for a road condition survey. This will ensure that any identified highways defects resulting from construction activities associated with the Site will be corrected to the satisfaction of the local highway authority.</p>
TRA-09	RR-239; RR-343	Road Safety	<p>The impact of the actual construction process will affect our ability to safely walk along Ingham Road, the road width and transport infrastructure is not sufficient to cope with the weight or the volume of the traffic. Ingham Road especially has already seen many vehicle accidents as it is so narrow and is not suitable for the volume or weight of</p>	<p>Construction traffic associated with Cottam 1 west will use a small section of Ingham Road to reach Access 8. They will travel to this access from the east, via the A15, and Stow Lane. They will not travel through the villages of Sturton by Stow and Stow. As set out in Table 6.1. of C6.3.14.2 ES Appendix 14.2 Construction Traffic Management Plan [APP-134], on an average day, there will be two HGV movements and 12 LGV movements on Ingham Road associated with the construction of the Site.</p> <p>The outline CTMP submitted as part of the DCO application provides a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements to and from the Scheme, to ensure that the effects of the temporary construction phase on the local highway network are minimised and made acceptable. C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A] covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction methodology; • Site access; • Construction vehicle trip generation;

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
			the traffic outlined in the proposals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction vehicle routing; • Abnormal load movement; and • Mitigation and management measures. <p>A detailed Construction Traffic Management Plan is provisioned and secured through Requirement 15 in C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>
TRA-10	RR-346	Road Safety-Specific to Cottam Village	<p>I live at High Mount in the village of Cottam . I am objecting to the road widening through Cottam Village for heavy large construction traffic. At present it is a single track road in a quiet village . The road has an 18 ton weight limit . It is a linear village with houses right on the edge of the road and footpath one side. There are mature trees on the other side of the road full of</p>	<p>The outline CTMP submitted as part of the DCO application provides a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements to and from the Scheme, to ensure that the effects of the temporary construction phase on the local highway network are minimised and made acceptable. C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A] covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction methodology; • Site access; • Construction vehicle trip generation; • Construction vehicle routing; • Abnormal load movement; and • Mitigation and management measures. <p>Only a small number of HGVs associated with the Cable Route Corridor will travel through Cottam Village. No road widening is proposed except for at the field access points.</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>wildlife . Most of the houses like mine are very old and subject to movement and vibration when anything heavy passes, as built on sand with old style footings . There is a 90 degree blind bend by the pub in the village that can't be widened due the close proximity of buildings , large traffic struggles to get round it now . It would far better in my opinion to put a road in during construction across fields at the back of the village next to the route that the cables will be taking .</p>	<p>A detailed Construction Traffic Management Plan is provisioned and secured through Requirement 15 in C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>Impacts of the temporary construction noise and vibration for the construction of the solar panels and associated infrastructure and construction traffic noise has been included and the likely impacts of noise and vibration have been assessed in Section 15.7 of C6.2.15 ES Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration [APP-050]. The noise and vibration effects are not anticipated to be significant.</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
TRA-11	RR-351	Road Safety-Specific to Stow Lane	In the plan Stow Lane is an access road for construction. If used by heavy vehicles up to 36 times a day during construction the road would quickly become unusable for normal traffic due to erosion and volume of traffic at 'the narrows'. There is no footpath and it would become unsafe for walkers, runners and cyclists.	<p>An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been prepared to support the application within C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A]. C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B], provides (in Requirement 15 of Schedule 2) that "No part of the authorised development may commence until a construction traffic management plan for that part has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority or, where the part falls within the administrative areas of multiple relevant planning authorities, each of the relevant planning authorities". It further provides that "The construction traffic management plan must be substantially in accordance with the outline construction traffic management plan."</p> <p>The outline CTMP submitted as part of the DCO application provides a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements to and from the Scheme, to ensure that the effects of the temporary construction phase on the local highway network are minimised and made acceptable.</p> <p>By example, measure xxi of C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A] is for a road condition survey. This will ensure that any identified highways defects resulting from construction activities associated with the Site will be corrected to the satisfaction of the local highway authority.</p>
TRA-12	RR-515	Traffic Concerns	Belief that the increase in the	Impacts of the temporary construction noise and vibration for the construction of the solar panels and associated infrastructure and

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>amount of traffic will also mean raised levels of noise and air pollution. Hardly conducive to a village with a high elderly population.</p>	<p>construction traffic noise has been included and the likely impacts of noise and vibration have been assessed in Section 15.7 of C6.2.15 ES Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration [APP-050]. The noise and vibration effects are not anticipated to be significant.</p> <p>Potential impacts in relation to Air Quality, resulting from the vehicle movements associated with the construction phase of the Scheme have been considered in C6.2.17 ES Chapter 17 Air Quality [APP-052]. The vehicle movements associated with the Scheme, are below the industry standard screening thresholds published by the Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM).</p> <p>The outline CTMP submitted as part of the DCO application provides a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements to and from the Scheme, to ensure that the effects of the temporary construction phase on the local highway network are minimised and made acceptable. C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A] covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction methodology; • Site access; • Construction vehicle trip generation; • Construction vehicle routing; • Abnormal load movement; and • Mitigation and management measures.

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
				A detailed Construction Traffic Management Plan is provisioned and secured through Requirement 15 in C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B] .
TRA-13	RR-437	Traffic Measurements	Concern that the traffic censuses were carried out in the middle of covid lockdown, and thus are incorrect evaluations of local traffic.	There were no Covid-19 restrictions in place when the traffic surveys were undertaken.
TRA-14	RR-303; RR-333	Transport	The long installation will be along many single track roads disrupting people's lives and leisure activities.	The outline CTMP submitted as part of the DCO application provides a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements to and from the Scheme, to ensure that the effects of the temporary construction phase on the local highway network are minimised and made acceptable. C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A] covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction methodology; • Site access; • Construction vehicle trip generation; • Construction vehicle routing; • Abnormal load movement; and

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mitigation and management measures. <p>A detailed Construction Traffic Management Plan is provisioned and secured through Requirement 15 in C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>
TRA-15	RR-350	Transport Routes	<p>The single country lane that their property is situated off and the unmade track that services solely their house is to be used by heavy and frequent construction traffic for 2 years. This would be extremely dangerous for them and others to negotiate and for this reason is totally unacceptable. This would make it hugely challenging to maintain free access to their own home and also for any</p>	<p>The outline CTMP submitted as part of the DCO application provides a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements to and from the Scheme, to ensure that the effects of the temporary construction phase on the local highway network are minimised and made acceptable. C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A] covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction methodology; Site access; Construction vehicle trip generation; Construction vehicle routing; Abnormal load movement; and Mitigation and management measures. <p>A detailed Construction Traffic Management Plan is provisioned and secured through Requirement 15 in C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
			<p>guests and visitors. The damage caused by this amount of extra traffic and mud from the bare fields would make this a living nightmare for them.</p>	
TRA-16	RR-227	Transport Safety	<p>Objection to the formation of a new right of way just past the bends coming out of Stow. There is often accidents around those bends and to put the right of way there is ridiculous and not safe. From the plans it seems you will go south from this new track to join Ingham road. Why not just use Ingham Road for the whole length from the crossroads</p>	<p>Table 5.9: Stage 4 – Design Updates up to DCO Submission (August-November 2022) of C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design evolution [APP-040] explains that the location of the permissive path was chosen following landowner input and ecological assessment to minimise openings in hedgerows and to minimise impact on BMV land. Furthermore, the permissive path connects Stow Village to Stow Pastures which will help to enhance connectivity within the Sites and pedestrian and cycle access.</p>

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
			in Stow instead of tearing up yet another agricultural field. I also think your idea to bring a large load through Stow village is really bad idea. The bends near the church are not suitable for that type of transportation vehicles. You are causing damage and disruption to a quiet peaceful rural area of Lincolnshire.	
TRA-17	RR-471	Use of Roads	With the proposal of industrial vehicles from IGAS oil wells in this proposal and the 10,000 acres of farmland industrial traffic that may come to fruition, the farmland traffic, the residents traffic, the	The outline CTMP submitted as part of the DCO application provides a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements to and from the Scheme, to ensure that the effects of the temporary construction phase on the local highway network are minimised and made acceptable. C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.14.2_A] covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction methodology; • Site access;

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
			horse riders, the cyclists and the pedestrians, how will these roads cope? Is this not an accident waiting to happen?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction vehicle trip generation; • Construction vehicle routing; • Abnormal load movement; and • Mitigation and management measures. <p>A detailed Construction Traffic Management Plan is provisioned and secured through Requirement 15 in C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p>

Applicant's Response Waste themed issues.

Applicant's Ref.	Relevant Representation(s) Reference	Issue	Summary of Issue Raised	Applicant's Response
WAS-01	RR-273	Cleaning of Panels	The panels will require cleaning.	The Applicant confirms this. Table 20.6 in C6.2.20 ES Chapter 20 Waste [APP-055] identifies an estimated requirement of 6,540-6,600m ³ of water per annum for washing panels. This is not considered to be a significant quantity, nor is it considered to have an impact on waste management as this water will run off panels and drain in the same manner as rainwater.
WAS-02	RR-109; RR-226; RR-335; RR-465; RR-467	Recycling capacity	Concern that the panels are not recyclable and will fill up landfill.	The panels are predominantly made from recyclable materials. The Applicant refers the parties to Table 20.7 in C6.2.20 ES Chapter 20 Waste [APP-055] which identifies estimated volumes of waste from decommissioning. Approximately 95% of the panel weight is made from glass and metal frames, which can easily be reused and recycled. The remaining silicon and electrical waste can be partially recycled at Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) facilities.
WAS-03	RR-101; RR-102	Waste of panels	Concern that fifteen years lifespan to the panels equates to tens of thousands of tons of toxic landfill, two or three times through the life of the project.	The lifespan of the solar panels to be used for the Scheme is approximately 40 years, with a "worst-case" estimated failure rate of 0.4% per year. This is shown in Table 20.6 in C6.2.20 ES Chapter 20 Waste [APP-055] which identifies an estimated volume of replacement PV modules of 175-176 tonnes per annum, the vast majority (approx. 95%) of which consists glass and metal frames, which are inert, and can easily be reused and recycled.

3 Appendix A

3.1 Cultural Heritage Summary of Consultation

3.1.1 The parties have been engaged in consultation since the beginning of the proposed development. A summary of the meetings and correspondence that has taken place between Cottam Solar Project and LHPT in relation to the Cultural Heritage for the Application is detailed in ES Chapter 13.9.1. Consultation relevant to the relevant representations, is outlined in **Table 1.1** below.

Table 1.1 - Record of Engagement

Date	Form Correspondence	Key topics discussed and key outcomes
09.06.2022	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 detailed in ES Chapter Appendix 13.9.1. 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> <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</i></p>

		<p>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.”</p> <p>“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.”</p> <p>“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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCC agreed that work could commence on trenching of sensitive locations identified by the geophysical survey; • Applicant committed to provide additional information on specific locations of intrusive works required for the Proposed Development; and • LCC and Applicant agreed to consider a staged approach for assessment of blank areas and works that could be delayed post consent.”
22.02.2023	Online meeting with LHPT and the Applicant.	<p>Meeting to discuss proposed mitigation strategy and establish a SoCG between the Applicant and LHPT. LHPT had not looked at the scheme application prior to the meeting, and so could not comment in detail about the proposed WSI (ES chapter 13.7).</p> <p>The Applicant provided a synopsis of the archaeological assessment works undertaken and the proposed mitigation. The Applicant stated a full suite of baseline information has been supplied to inform the mitigation strategy (desk-based research, Air photo and LiDAR mapping, Geophysical Survey, Geoarchaeological Assessment and Evaluation Trial Trenching targeting areas containing archaeological remains identified by baseline information and some blank areas), and detailed the proposed mitigation which included imbedded mitigation by design (i.e. no development areas and concrete feet) and additional mitigation by record (i.e. informative trenching, 'strip, map and sample' open excavation and archaeological watching brief).</p> <p>LHPT stated that in theory they were happy with mitigation either in the form of 'no development', 'strip, map and record' and open excavation.</p> <p>LHPT confirmed that they agreed with the proposed mitigation for the shared cable route corridor between Stowe Park Road and the Cottam Power Station, which is proposed to be used by the Gate Burton and West Burton</p>

		<p>Schemes. LHPT mentioned that they had agreed mitigation with the Gate Burton Scheme. The Applicant understood that this indicated that the LHPT were happy with the scope and extent of evaluation works that had been undertaken for the Gate Burton Scheme.</p> <p>The Applicant agreed to directly issue the proposed WSI to LHPT (also accessible from the PINS website) [APP-131] and establish a second meeting once LHPT had reviewed the document.</p>
22.03.2023	Online meeting with Historic England (HE), LHPT and the Applicant.	<p>Second meeting to establish a SoCG between the Applicant and LHPT.</p> <p>Three main topics were discussed within the meeting: baseline information, evaluation trial trenching, and mitigation strategy.</p> <p>No concerns raised 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). LHPT 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 of the opinion that a mitigation strategy cannot be achieved in areas that have 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 is insufficient information to understand the impact of the development and so the proposed mitigation strategy is considered inadequate by the LHPT.</p> <p>HE stated that the areas not subjected to evaluation trial trenching appeared to be quite large and so the project 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. Although the preference would be to undertake additional trenching pre-consent, a phase of additional trenching post-determination (but as far ahead of construction as possible) would be suitable to 'de-risk' areas that had not been subject to a programme of trenching.</p> <p>No issues 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.</p>
27.03.2023	Email from the Applicant to LHPT and HE	<p><i>"Dear all,</i></p> <p><i>Following the meeting last week, we have considered your points regarding proportionately managing risk and the requirement by Lincolnshire County Council Historic Places Team for further intrusive works to ensure sufficient archaeological mitigation is established.</i></p>

		<p><i>We would like to explore the option with you of completing a programme of conditioned post-determination trenching covering a 1% sample of the 'blank' areas i.e., areas where non-intrusive works have not identified a potential for archaeological remains to be present / evaluation trial trenching has not been undertaken. If you are in agreement with this approach, we will look to update the submitted mitigation strategy to have a phased approach beginning with a programme of trenching in 'blank' areas, which would be used to inform subsequent mitigation works. As part of this update, will look to append a trench plan that has been agreed the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Places Team.</i></p> <p><i>Given the discussion last week, this will hopefully be an appropriate solution that will result in all parties agreeing that all areas within the scheme have been suitably evaluated, enabling comprehensive archaeological mitigation to be achieved."</i></p>
30.03.2023	Email from the HE to the Applicant and LHPT	<i>"Thank you – please do explore this further with the local authority archaeologists."</i>
03.04.2023	Email from the LHPT to the Applicant and HE	<p><i>"We are pleased to see there is movement on this, however we cannot agree that 1% trenching would be sufficient or that the right time to do it would be post-consent.</i></p> <p><i>The relevant policies clearly state that sufficient baseline information is required to inform the EIA so we would agree to an immediate trenching programme of 2% with a 2% contingency to investigate the areas that haven't been looked at, including the cable route between the sites and that part of the corridor that hasn't yet been agreed for mitigation.</i></p> <p><i>As always we will turn around any proposed trenching plan and undertake our other curatorial responsibilities as quickly as possible to ensure the smooth functioning of the trenching schedule.</i></p> <p><i>The provision of sufficient baseline information to identify and assess the impact on known and potential heritage assets is required by Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (Regulation 5 (2d)), National Planning Statement Policy EN1 (Section 5.8), and the National Planning Policy Framework.</i></p>

		<p><i>As you've already submitted a trenching WSI which has been agreed, we would be happy for fieldwork to commence once the trench location plan has been agreed.</i></p> <p><i>The results can then supplement your DCO submission and will allow us to move towards a fuller agreement on your mitigation strategy.</i></p> <p><i>We look forward to hearing from you."</i></p>
04.04.2023	Email from the Applicant to LHPT and HE	<p><i>"Thank you for your response in which you reiterated your desire for a 2% trenching sample, together with an additional 2% contingency sample predetermination, for the whole of the Cottam Solar Site including cable areas.</i></p> <p><i>I understand from this that you have not moved from your original position of a high sample of pre-determination trenches in 'blank areas'. May I raise a couple of points for your consideration with regards to our previous proposal for a programme of post-determination trenching with a 1% sample on 'blank' areas that have not been subject to previous trenching, which we consider to be both proportionate and in line with the approach to archaeological mitigation taken on solar developments outside of Lincolnshire.</i></p> <p>Post-determination trenching</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During a meeting with the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) on the 09.06.2022, attended by Island Green Power, Low Carbon and Lincolnshire County Council regarding issues preventing commencement of the programme of evaluation trial trenching <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".</i> We would like to understand why you feel that post-consent archaeological works, as referenced by PINS at the Cleeve Hill and Triton Knoll projects are not suitable in the case of the Cottam Solar Project? (agreed minutes from the PINS meeting attached for reference)? • In the recent meeting on 22.03.2023 with Lanpro, Lincs CC and IGP, Historic England commented that <i>"although it is 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".</i> (See attached minutes). Can you confirm that you disagree with Historic England, that post-consent trenching is not acceptable?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In other counties where a blanket sample of trenching is being requested for solar development, we have identified numerous cases where it has been agreed that this could be completed post-determination (recent examples I have worked on include sites in Norfolk and County Durham). Can you confirm why Lincolnshire differs in approach to post-determination archaeological trenching on solar schemes from other local authorities, in which it has been assessed that there could be archaeological potential? <p>Trial Trenching 1% Sample in 'blank' areas where no intrusive works have previously been undertaken. In the recent meeting (22.03.2023), you mentioned you had agreed a mitigation strategy with the Gate Burton scheme. I presume this means the extent of evaluation works undertaken was considered sufficient?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Gate Burton scheme totals c.710ha. The evaluation trial trenching comprised 844no. of 50 by 1.8m trenches. This means the trenching totalled an overall 1.07% sample of the Gate Burton Scheme. It is also worth noting that it is evident from the Gate Burton trench plan that a higher sample of trenches were focused on areas where baseline information indicated a higher potential for archaeological deposits to be present. A 2% sample of evaluation trenching has already been completed over 17.5% of Cottam, concentrating on areas of archaeology identified by geophysical and other non-intrusive surveys. <p>As proposed, a further 1% sample of evaluation trenching across the remaining areas of the Cottam site, in which there is no evidence for archaeological remains based on geophysical survey results, would total 1.15% of the whole Cottam scheme, excluding areas that are not proposed for development (which total 0.02%). Therefore, the proposed 1% sample of the remaining scheme (excluding no development areas) would result in a greater trench sample (1.15%) compared with the Gate Burton Scheme (1.07%), which I presume was considered sufficient by Lincolnshire Historic Places Team. Can you confirm why a 1.07% trenching sample was considered suitable for the Gate Burton Scheme, but you are currently asking for a 2% trenching sample (plus 2% contingency) for the Cottam Solar Project?</p> <p><i>We consider the extensive archaeological investigation works (both non-intrusive and intrusive) already undertaken as part of this scheme are sufficient evidence to inform the EIA process and formulate an appropriate mitigation strategy.</i></p>
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		<p><i>We are, however, keen to agree a proportionate strategy with all parties so that any impacts to buried archaeological remains are suitably mitigated.</i></p> <p><i>Therefore, I hope based on the information above, that we will be able to agree a proportionate and appropriate mitigation strategy, inclusive of a programme of post-determination trenching with a 1% sample on 'blank' areas that have not been subject to previous trenching."</i></p>
05.04.2023	Email from the LHPT to the Applicant and HE	<p><i>"There is no need for the adversarial tone, you have asked our opinion on your proposed way forward and we have given our response which is consistent with what we have said is required throughout this project.</i></p> <p><i>Sufficient pre-determination evaluation has been accepted as a principle of the archaeological process since PPG16 well over thirty years ago.</i></p> <p><i>Timely proportional evaluation is essential for effective risk management, as [Historic England] stated in his edits to the minutes (red indicate the struck out words of his edit, blue for his edits): '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 good next-best option to de-risk 'blank' areas once the client has planning permission DCO/further funds.'</i></p> <p><i>As [Historic England] states, it would be preferable to address additional trenching pre-consent, the earlier in the programme the better in terms of managing your client's risk. Pre-consent trenching would then inform your EIA in accordance with the EIA Regulations and would inform your mitigation strategy at the appropriate time in your client's DCO submission. Currently you have undertaken trenching for 17.5% of Cottam so only 17.5% of your mitigation strategy could be agreed.</i></p> <p><i>We will not address specific issues regarding other schemes other than to state that Gate Burton removed some areas from ground disturbance impact within their redline boundary and we point out the presence of significant areas of woodland. That scheme moved forward effectively through the standard suite of archaeological evaluation, and we were confident that should any further reasonable work be needed it would be done and sufficient baseline evidence would be obtained.</i></p>

		<p><i>For your scheme, despite an agreed 2% contingency when we asked for additional trenches to get enough understanding to know what mitigation would be required in the next archaeological step we got a tremendous amount of pushback even though it was just ten trenches.</i></p> <p><i>As you know we initially asked for 3% with a 1% contingency following geophysical survey across the site, in the spirit of cooperation following the Planning Inspectorate meeting and your commencement of land parcel trenching plans, we agreed to 2% trenching with a 2% contingency, you know it isn't high and that percentage has been used across targeted and blank trenching in those areas you have done. You have said there are anomalies which have not been targeted and that you would undertake another phase of trenching so it is clear you understand that it is necessary archaeologically. We are just asking for the same again in the areas you haven't done.</i></p> <p><i>Undertaking the work before DCO determination would mean the Planning Inspectorate would receive your client's submission with the full extent of necessary archaeological baseline information to determine the impact of this scheme."</i></p>
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4 **Appendix B**

4.1 **Canal and Rivers Trust Proposed Protective Provisions**

PROTECTIVE PROVISIONS

FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE CANAL & RIVER TRUST

1. Interpretation

(1) For the protection of the Canal & River Trust the following provisions of this Part of this Schedule have effect, unless otherwise agreed in writing between the undertaker and the Canal & River Trust.

(2) In this Part of this Schedule—

“Code of Practice” means the Code of Practice for Works Affecting the Canal & River Trust (April 2023) or any updates or amendments thereto;

“construction”, in relation to any specified work or protective work, includes—

(a) the execution and placing of that work; and

(b) any relaying, renewal, or maintenance of that work; and “construct” and “constructed” have corresponding meanings;

“Canal & River Trust’s network” means the Canal & River Trust’s network of waterways;

“detriment” means any damage to the waterway or any other property of the Canal & River Trust caused by the presence of the authorised development and, without prejudice to the generality of that meaning, includes—

(a) any obstruction of, or interference with, or hindrance or danger to, navigation or to any use of the waterway (including towing paths);

(b) the erosion of the bed or banks of the waterway, or the impairment of the stability of any works, lands or premises forming part of the waterway;

(c) the deposit of materials or the siltation of the waterway so as to damage the waterway;

(d) the pollution of the waterway;

(e) any significant alteration in the water level of the waterway, or significant interference with the supply of water thereto, or drainage of water therefrom;

(f) any harm to the ecology of the waterway ; and

(g) any interference with the exercise by any person of rights over Canal & River Trust’s network;

“the engineer” means an engineer appointed by the Canal & River Trust for the purpose in question;

“plans” includes navigational risk assessments, sections, designs, drawings, specifications, soil reports, calculations, descriptions (including descriptions of methods of construction) and programmes;

“practical completion” means practical completion of all of the specified work notwithstanding that items which would ordinarily be considered snagging items remain outstanding, and the expression “practically complete” and “practically completed” is to be construed accordingly;

“protective work” means a work constructed under paragraph [] (below, approval of plans etc.)(3)(a);

“specified work” means so much of the authorised development as is, may be, or takes place in, on, under or over the surface of land below the water level forming part of the waterway; or may affect the waterway or any function of the Trust, including any projection over the waterway by any authorised work or any plant or machinery;

“the waterway” means each and every part of the River Trent and includes any works, lands or premises belonging to the Canal & River Trust, or under its management or control, and held or used by the Canal & River Trust in connection with the river.

2. Powers requiring the Canal & River Trust’s consent

(1) The undertaker must not in the exercise of the powers conferred by this Order obstruct or interfere with pedestrian or vehicular access to the waterway unless such obstruction or interference with such access is with the consent of the Canal & River Trust.

(2) The undertaker must not exercise any power conferred by this Order to discharge water into the waterway under article 16 (discharge of water) or in any way interfere with the supply of water to or the drainage of water from the waterway unless such exercise is with the consent of the Canal & River Trust.

(3) The undertaker must not exercise the powers conferred by article 19 (authority to survey and investigate the land) or section 11(3) of the 1965 Act, in relation to the waterway unless such exercise is with the consent of the Canal & River Trust.

(4) The undertaker must not exercise any power conferred by article 29 (temporary use of land for constructing the authorised development) or article 30 (temporary use of land for maintaining the authorised development) in respect of the waterway unless such exercise is with the consent of the Canal & River Trust.

(6) The undertaker must not exercise any power conferred by article 20 (compulsory acquisition of land), article 22 (compulsory acquisition of rights), 25 (acquisition of subsoil) or 31 (statutory undertakers) in respect of the Canal & River Trust's interests in the waterway.

(7) The consent of the Canal & River Trust pursuant to sub-paragraphs (1) to (5) must not be unreasonably withheld or delayed but may be given subject to reasonable terms and conditions.

3. Fencing

Where so required by the engineer the undertaker must, to the reasonable satisfaction of the engineer, fence off a specified work or a protective work or take such other steps as the engineer may require to be taken for the purpose of separating a specified work or a protective work from the waterway, whether on a temporary or permanent basis or both.

4. Survey of waterway

(1) Before the commencement of the initial construction of any part of the specified works and again following practical completion of the specified works the undertaker must bear the reasonable and proper cost of the carrying out by a qualified engineer (the “surveyor”), to be approved by the Canal & River Trust and the undertaker, of a survey to measure the depth of the waterway, the depth and composition of the sediment layer, the composition of the riverbed and land supporting the riverbed (“the survey”) of so much of the waterway and of any land which may provide support for the waterway as will or may be affected by the specified works.

(2) The design of, and methods proposed to be used for, the survey are to be approved by the Canal & River Trust and the undertaker.

(3) For the purposes of the survey the undertaker must—

(a) on being given reasonable notice (save in case of emergency, when immediate access must be afforded) afford reasonable facilities to the surveyor for access to the site of the specified works and to any land of the undertaker which may provide support for the waterway as will or may be affected by the specified works; and

(b) supply the surveyor as soon as reasonably practicable with all such information as they may reasonably require and which the undertaker holds with regard to the specified works or the method of their construction.

(4) Copies of the survey must be provided to both the Canal & River Trust and the undertaker at no cost to the Canal & River Trust.

5. Approval of plans, protective works etc.

(1) The undertaker must before commencing construction of any specified work including any temporary works supply to the Canal & River Trust proper and sufficient plans of that work, on the Canal & River Trust forms, having regard to the Canal & River Trust's Code of Practice and such further particulars available to it as the Canal & River Trust may within 20 working days of the submission of the plans reasonably require for the approval of the engineer and must not commence such construction of a specified work until plans of that work have been approved in writing by the engineer or settled by arbitration.

(2) The approval of the engineer under sub-paragraph (1) must not be unreasonably withheld or delayed, and if within 30 working days after such plans (including any other particulars reasonably required under sub-paragraph (1)) have been received by the Canal & River Trust the engineer has not intimated his disapproval of those plans and the grounds of his disapproval he is deemed to have approved the plans as submitted.

(3) An approval of the engineer under this paragraph is not deemed to have been unreasonably withheld if approval within the time limited by sub-paragraph (2) has not been given pending the outcome of any consultation on the approval in question that the Canal & River Trust is obliged to carry out in the proper exercise of its functions.

(4) When signifying approval of the plans the engineer may specify on land held or controlled by the Canal & River Trust or the undertaker and subject to such works being authorised by this Order or being development permitted by an Act of Parliament or general development order made under the 1990 Act—

(a) any protective work (whether temporary or permanent) which in the reasonable opinion of the engineer should be carried out before the commencement of a specified work to prevent detriment; and

(b) such other requirements as may be reasonably necessary to prevent detriment;

and such protective works must be constructed by the undertaker or by the Canal & River Trust at the undertaker's request with all reasonable dispatch and the undertaker must not commence the construction of a specified work until the engineer has notified the undertaker that the protective

works have been completed to the engineer's reasonable satisfaction such consent not to be unreasonably withheld or delayed.

(5) The undertaker must pay to the Canal & River Trust a capitalised sum representing the reasonably increased or additional cost of maintaining and, when necessary, renewing any works, including any permanent protective works provided under sub-paragraph (4) above, and of carrying out any additional dredging of the waterway reasonably necessitated by the exercise of any of the powers under this Order but if the cost of maintaining the waterway, or of works of renewal of the waterway, is reduced in consequence of any such works, a capitalised sum representing such reasonable saving is to be set off against any sum payable by the undertaker to the Canal & River Trust under this paragraph.

(6) In the event that the undertaker fails to complete the construction of, or part of, the specified works the Canal & River Trust may, if it is reasonably required in order to avoid detriment, serve on the undertaker a notice in writing requesting that construction be completed. Any notice served under this sub-paragraph must state the works that are to be completed by the undertaker and lay out a reasonable timetable for the works' completion. If the undertaker fails to comply with this notice within 35 days, the Canal & River Trust may construct any of the specified works, or part of such works, (together with any adjoining works) in order to complete the construction of, or part of, the specified works or make such works and the undertaker must reimburse the Canal & River Trust all costs, fees, charges and expenses it has reasonably incurred in carrying out such works.

6. Design of works

Without prejudice to its obligations under the foregoing provisions of this Part of this Schedule the undertaker must consult, collaborate and respond constructively to any reasonable approach, suggestion, proposal or initiative made by the Canal & River Trust on—

- (a) the design and appearance of the specified works; and
- (b) the environmental effects of those works; and must have regard to such views as may be expressed by the Canal & River Trust in response to such consultation pursuant in particular to the requirements imposed on the Canal & River Trust by section 22 (general environmental and recreational duties) of the British Waterways Act 1995 and to the interest of the Canal & River Trust in preserving and enhancing the environment of its waterways;
- (c) amendments or alterations to the construction environmental management plan, landscape and ecological management plan, ecological protection and mitigation strategy, operational environmental management plan, decommissioning plan (as may be approved pursuant to Schedule 2) in respect of a specified work or a protective work or otherwise in connection therewith.

7. Notice of works

The undertaker must give to the engineer 30 working days' notice of its intention to commence the construction of any of the specified works or protective works, or, in the case of repair carried out in an emergency, such notice as may be reasonably practicable so that, in particular, the Canal & River Trust may where appropriate arrange for the publication of notices bringing those works to the attention of users of the Canal & River Trust's network.

8. Construction of specified works

(1) Any specified works or protective works must, when commenced, be constructed—

(a) with all reasonable dispatch in accordance with the plans approved or deemed to have been approved or settled as aforesaid and with any specifications made under paragraph (5) (approval of plans etc)] and paragraph (6) (design of works) of this Part;

(b) under the supervision (if given) and to the reasonable satisfaction of the engineer;

(c) in such manner as to cause as little detriment to the waterway as is reasonably practicable;

(d) in such manner as to cause as little inconvenience as is reasonably practicable to the Canal & River Trust, its officers and agents and all other persons lawfully using the waterways, except to the extent that temporary obstruction has otherwise been agreed by the Canal & River Trust;

(e) in such a manner as to ensure that no materials are discharged or deposited into the waterway otherwise than in accordance with article 16 (discharge of water); and

(f) in compliance with the Code of Practice where relevant;

(2) Nothing in this Order authorises the undertaker to make or maintain any permanent works in or over the waterway so as to impede or prevent (whether by reducing the width of the waterway or otherwise) the passage of any vessel which is of a kind (as to its dimensions) for which the Canal & River Trust is required by section 105(1)(b) and (2) of the Transport Act 1968 to maintain the waterway.

(3) Following the completion of the construction of the specified works the undertaker must restore the waterway to a condition no less satisfactory than its condition immediately prior to the commencement of those works unless otherwise agreed between the undertaker and the Canal & River Trust.

(4) In assessing whether the condition of the waterway is no less satisfactory than immediately prior to the works pursuant to sub-paragraph (3), the Canal & River Trust and the undertaker must take account of any survey issued pursuant to paragraph (4) (survey of waterway) and any other information agreed between them pursuant to this Part.

9. Prevention of pollution

The undertaker must not in the course of constructing a specified work or a protective work or otherwise in connection therewith do or permit anything which may result in the pollution of the waterway or the deposit of materials therein and must take such steps as the engineer may reasonably require to avoid or make good any breach of its obligations under this paragraph.

10. Access to work – provision of information

(1) The undertaker on being given reasonable notice must—

(a) at all reasonable times allow reasonable facilities to the engineer for access to a specified work during its construction; and

(b) supply the engineer with all such information as the engineer may reasonably require with regard to a specified work or the method of constructing it.

(2) The Canal & River Trust on being given reasonable notice must—

(a) at all reasonable times afford reasonable facilities to the undertaker and its agents for access to any works carried out by the Canal & River Trust under this Part during their construction; and

(b) supply the undertaker with such information as it may reasonably require with regard to such works or the method of constructing them and the undertaker must reimburse the Canal & River Trust's reasonable costs in relation to the supply of such information.

11. Alterations to the waterway

(1) If during the construction of a specified work or a protective work or during a period of twenty four (24) months after the completion of those works any alterations or additions, either permanent or temporary, to the waterway are reasonably necessary in consequence of the construction of the specified work or the protective work in order to avoid detriment, and the Canal & River Trust gives to the undertaker reasonable notice of its intention to carry out such alterations or additions (which must be specified in the notice), the undertaker must pay to the Canal & River Trust the reasonable costs of those alterations or additions including, in respect of any such alterations or additions as are to be permanent, a capitalised sum representing the increase of the costs which may be expected to be reasonably incurred by the Canal & River Trust in maintaining, working and, when necessary, renewing any such alterations or additions.

(2) If the cost of maintaining, working or renewing the waterway is reduced in consequence of any such alterations or additions a capitalised sum representing such saving is to be set off against any sum payable by the undertaker to the Canal & River Trust under this paragraph.

12. Repayment of the Canal & River Trust's fees, etc.

(1) The undertaker must repay to the Canal & River Trust in accordance with the Code of Practice all fees, costs, charges and expenses reasonably incurred by the Canal & River Trust—

(a) in constructing any protective works under the provisions of paragraph (5) (approval of plans etc) sub-paragraph (4)(a);

(b) in respect of the approval by the engineer of plans submitted by the undertaker and the supervision by the engineer of the construction or repair of a specified work and any protective works;

(c) in respect of the employment during the construction of the specified works or any protective works of any inspectors, watchmen and other persons whom it is reasonably necessary to appoint for inspecting, watching and lighting any waterway and for preventing, so far as may be reasonably practicable, interference, obstruction, danger or accident arising from the construction or failure of the specified works or any protective works;

(d) in bringing the specified works or any protective works to the notice of users of the Canal & River Trust's network; and

(e) in constructing and/or carrying out any measures related to any specified works or protective works which are reasonably required by the Canal & River Trust to ensure the safe navigation of the waterway save that nothing is to require the Canal & River Trust to construct and/or carry out any measures.

13. Making good of detriment; compensation and indemnity, etc.

(1) If any detriment is caused by the construction or failure of the specified works or the protective works if carried out by the undertaker, the undertaker (if so required by the Canal & River Trust) must make good such detriment and must pay to the Canal & River Trust all reasonable expenses

incurred by the Canal & River Trust, and compensation for any loss sustained by the Canal & River Trust in making good or otherwise by reason of the detriment.

(2) The undertaker must be responsible for and make good to the Canal & River Trust all costs, charges, damages, expenses and losses not otherwise provided for in this Part which may be occasioned to and reasonably incurred by the Canal & River Trust—

(a) by reason of the construction of a specified work or a protective work or the failure of such a work; or

(b) by reason of any act or omission of the undertaker or of any person in its employ or of its contractors or others whilst engaged upon the construction of a specified work or protective work, the undertaker must effectively indemnify and hold harmless the Canal & River Trust from and against all claims and demands arising out of or in connection with any of the matters referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b).

(3) The fact that any act or thing may have been done by the Canal & River Trust on behalf of the undertaker or in accordance with plans approved by the engineer or in accordance with any requirement of the engineer or under the engineer's supervision or in accordance with any directions or awards of an arbitrator is not to (if it was done without negligence on the part of the Canal & River Trust or of any person in its employ or of its contractors or agents) excuse the undertaker from any liability under the provisions of this paragraph.

(4) The Canal & River Trust must give the undertaker reasonable notice of any such claim or demand as aforesaid and no settlement or compromise of such a claim or demand is to be made without the prior consent of the undertaker.

14. Arbitration

Any difference arising between the undertaker and the Canal & River Trust under this Part (other than a difference as to the meaning or construction of this Part) must be referred to and settled by arbitration in accordance with article 42 (arbitration) of this Order.

15. Capitalised sums

Any capitalised sum which is required to be paid under this Part must be calculated by multiplying the cost of the maintenance or renewal works to the waterway necessitated as a result of the operation of the authorised development by the number of times that the maintenance or renewal works will be required during the operation of the authorised development.

16. As built drawings

As soon as reasonably practicable following the completion of the construction of the authorised development, the undertaker must provide to the Trust as built drawings of any specified works in a form and scale to be agreed between the undertaker and the Trust to show the position of those works in relation to the waterway.

5 **Appendix C**

5.1 **Health and Safety Executive Section 56 Response Received**



FAO: Cottam Solar Park Team

CEMHD - Land Use Planning,
NSIP Consultations,
Building 1.2,
Redgrave Court,
Merton Road,
Bootle, Merseyside
L20 7HS.

HSE email: NSIP.applications@hse.gov.uk

By email only – info@cottamsolar.co.uk

Date: 24 March 2023

Dear Cottam Solar Park Communication Team

Section 56 Planning Act 2008: Statutory Consultation – Cottam Solar Park

Thank you for your letter of the 16 February 2023 regarding the proposed Cottam Solar Park Project.

HSE's land use planning advice

Will the proposed development fall within any of HSE's consultation distances?

Hazardous Substance Consent

HSE notes the Applicant's comments made in:

- i. *Table 21.6.2 of its Chapter C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21: Other Environmental Matters document, 'Major accident hazard sites and major accident hazard pipelines have been identified and preliminary offsets as required by easements and operator safety distances have been embedded in the Scheme design.', and*
- ii. *The comments provided on PDF page 366 of document Chapter C5.11 Consultation Report Appendix - Section 42 Applicant Response between the Applicant and Exolum Pipeline System Ltd.*

The Applicant is reminded that construction activities within the consultation zones related to Major Accident Hazard Pipelines require the Applicant to obtain permission for the work from the pipeline operator.

Explosives sites

HSE has no comment to make as there are no licensed explosives sites in the vicinity.

Electrical Safety

No comment from a planning perspective.

During this time, please send any further communication on this project directly to the HSE's designated e-mail account for NSIP applications at nsip.applications@hse.gov.uk. We are currently unable to accept hard copies, as our offices have limited access.

Yours sincerely,

Pp S Rance

Cathy Williams
CEMHD4 NSIP Consultation Team