

Cottam Solar Project

Applicant's Responses to ExA First Written Questions

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Issue Sheet

Report Prepared for: Cottam Solar Project Ltd.
Examination Deadline 2

Applicant's Responses to ExA First Written Questions

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Introduction

- 1.1.1 This report responds to the Examining Authority's (ExA) first written questions, issued on 31 October 2023 [PD-011]. It responds to each of the questions posed to the Applicant. The Applicant has not responded to questions posed to specific Interested Parties but will review those responses once available and may comment on those at Deadline 3.
- 1.1.2 Section 2 of this report is tabularised to include the ExA's questions and a response to each question as follows:
- The draft Development Consent Order and other consents
 - General and cross-topic matters
 - The need case, electricity generated and climate change
 - Other projects and cumulative effects
 - Landscape and visual, glint and glare, good design
 - Biodiversity and the Habitats Regulations Assessment
 - The water environment
 - Soils and agriculture
 - The historic environment
 - Transport and access, highways and public rights of way
 - Noise, vibration, air quality, and nuisance
 - Socio-economics, tourism, and recreation
 - Other planning matters
 - Compulsory Acquisition and related matters

1 The draft Development Consent Order and other consents

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
1.1.1	Applicant	The ExA notes the Applicant's view [REP-051] that the definition of 'authorised development' has precedent in both the Longfield Solar Farm DCO and the Little Crow DCO. However, the wording used in those made Orders is different to that included in the Applicant's dDCO. The definition adopted by the Applicant indicates there may be other development, in addition to that included in Schedule 1, which would be authorised by the Order. Please can the Applicant identify this and explain why it cannot be included in Schedule 1. The ExA considers the wording adopted in all of the made Solar DCOs provides greater certainty as to what is being consented. In order to remove ambiguity and in the interests of consistency, the Applicant is asked to amend the definition so that it aligns with the approach adopted in the made solar DCOs.	The Applicant has amended the definition of authorised development in the draft DCO submitted at Deadline 2 to be consistent with made solar DCOs.
1.1.2	Applicant	In response to ISH1 action point 2 [REP-051], the Applicant states that made it clear in ES Chapter 2: Process and	The Applicant refers to updated ES Chapter 23:Summary of Significant Effects C6.2.23_A submitted at Deadline 2 which sets out the conclusions of the Applicant's review of residual

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		<p>Methodology and ES Chapter 4: Scheme Description that the Applicant was not seeking a temporary or time limited consent and the EIA was undertaken on that basis.</p> <p>Please can the Applicant signpost where this is made clear in the abovementioned documents.</p>	<p>significant effects if the Scheme is in operation for 60 years before it is decommissioned. An explanation to support the conclusions presented in updated ES Chapter 23:Summary of Significant Effects [EN010133/EX2/C6.2.23_A] has been provided in the Review of Likely Significant Effects at 60 Years [EN010133/EX2/C8.2.7].</p>
1.1.3	Applicant	<p>Article 3(2) (Development consent etc granted by this Order) – Please can the Applicant explain why it considers the amount of flexibility being sought is necessary and proportionate for this particular project.</p>	<p>Article 3(2) requires each Work Number set out in Schedule 1 to be situated within the corresponding numbered area on the Works Plan [AS-007]. This ensures that each Work Number is carried out in the locations indicated on the Works Plans. It restricts the power in Article 3(1) which provides development consent for the authorised development to be carried out within the Order limits.</p> <p>The Applicant considers that the drafting contained in Article 3(2) to be standard drafting for energy DCOs and has been included in the Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023, the Little Crown Solar Park Order 2022 and the Cleve Hill Solar Park Order 2020.</p> <p>It should be noted that in constructing each Work Number the Applicant must also comply with the Concept Design Parameters and Principles [REP-040] pursuant to Requirement 5 in Schedule 2 to the draft DCO which further restricts the flexibility of the Applicant in respect of each Work Number.</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>The Applicant considers the flexibility to locate each Work Number anywhere within the corresponding numbered area on the Works Plans to be necessary and proportionate. For example, Work No. 6A relates to the Grid Connection and the Applicant has allowed for the Grid Connection cables to be micro sited anywhere within the solar array sites to ensure that they can be installed in the most appropriate location once the detailed design of the solar arrays has been determined.</p>
1.1.4	Applicant	<p>Article 4 (Operation of generating station) - The term 'generating station' is not defined in Article 2. The Applicant is asked to include a suitable definition.</p>	<p>The draft DCO will be a statutory instrument, made under the enabling legislation: The Planning Act 2008 (PA08). Expressions that are defined in the enabling legislation carry through the same meaning, without any further definition being required in the statutory instrument. The exception to this is where a different definition is used.</p> <p>In the case of 'generating station', the draft DCO uses the same definition as in the PA08. This is found in section 235 of that Act, and is defined as:</p> <p><i>"generating station" has the same meaning as in Part 1 of the Electricity Act 1989 (see section 64(1) of that Act);</i></p> <p>The benefit of this is certainty, and that any caselaw around the definition in the PA08 (and, in this case, the Electricity Act 1989), will also affix to the secondary legislation, here the draft DCO.</p> <p>As such, no separate definition of 'generating station' is required in the draft DCO, and adding one has the potential to cause</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			interpretation difficulties where the intention is that the definition should be identical to the PA08.
1.1.5	Applicant	<p>Article 6 (Application and modification of statutory provisions) -</p> <p>a) The Explanatory Memorandum (EM) [APP-017] explains in general the reasons for the disapplication and modification of the statutory provisions listed. However, it is unclear why it is necessary to exclude each specific provision for this particular development. Please can the Applicant explain why it is necessary to exclude each specific provision (e.g Sections 24 and 25 of the Water Re-sources Act 1991).</p> <p>b) Article 6(3) – Please can the Applicant provide a justification for the inclusion of this provision and explain why it is required for this development.</p>	<p>Article 6 provides (pursuant to section 120(5)(a) of the 2008 Act) for the disapplication in relation to the authorised development of certain requirements which would otherwise apply under general legislation. Section 120(5)(a) provides that an order granting development consent may apply, modify or exclude a statutory provision which relates to any matter for which provision may be made in the order.</p> <p>This article provides for the disapplication of various consents which would otherwise be required from the Environment Agency, internal drainage boards or a Lead Local Flood Authority, Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016, Highways Act 1980, the Water Resources Act 1991 or the Land Drainage Act 1991.</p> <p>The following provisions are disapplied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 23 of the Land Drainage Act 1991 prohibits the placing of obstructions in waterways which are not main rivers. Section 32 of the Land Drainage Act 1991 relates to the variation of awards. Consent under section 150 of the 2008 is required for section 23 of the Land Drainage Act 1991 (but not section 32). Consent is being obtain from the drainage authorities and protective provisions have been included in Part 8 of Schedule 16 to the draft DCO. The disapplication of these sections of the Land

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			<p>Drainage Act 1991 is required as cabling associated with the Scheme will need to be constructed across waterways and the Applicant requires certainty that the Scheme can be delivered. Any byelaws that may have been made under section 66 of the Land Drainage Act 1991 are also disapplied for the same reason.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sections 24 and 25 of the Water Resources Act 1991 place restrictions on abstraction and impounding of water. These provisions are disapplied as the Scheme includes construction on, over and around existing waterways. A consent under section 150 of the PA08 is required and discussions are ongoing with the Environment Agency as the appropriate agency (as defined in the Water Resources Act 1991). Protective Provisions for the benefit of the Environment Agency have been included in Part 9 of Schedule 16 to the draft DCO. Byelaws made or deemed to have been made under the Water Resources Act 1991 are also to be disapplied as Scheme includes construction on, over and around existing waterways. Consent under section 150 of the PA08 is required and discussions are ongoing with the Environment Agency as the appropriate agency. Section 118 of the Water Industry Act 1991 is disapplied to ensure that the Scheme may connect into the existing sewer network. Although it is not anticipated that any

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>mains foul water connection is likely to be necessary at any stage of the Scheme, (see Section 5.5 of the C6.3.10.1 Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy Report [APP-090]), it has been included to ensure deliverability of the Scheme in case it later proves to be necessary. Consent under section 150 of the PA 2008 is required and the Applicant and Anglian Water have signed a Statement of Common Ground confirm that the provisions in the draft DCO are agreed (submitted at Deadline 2).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The requirement for an environmental permit for the carrying on of a flood risk activity has been disapplied. Consent under section 150 of the 2008 is required and discussions are ongoing with the Environment Agency. This disapplication is required as the Scheme includes construction on, over and around existing waterways. <p>The disapplication in respect of the temporary possession provisions of the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 is required as the relevant sections of the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 have not been brought into force, subsidiary regulations to that Act have not yet been made, and there is therefore no certainty as to the requirements of the new temporary possession regime in respect of nationally significant infrastructure projects (NSIP). As such, this enables the temporary possession regime set out in Articles 29 and 30 of the draft DCO to apply. This approach has been accepted by the Secretary of State in DCOs following the</p>

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			<p>enactment of the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017, such as the A19/A184 Testo's Junction Alteration Development Consent Order 2018 (article 2(7)) and more recently the M42 Junction 6 Development Consent Order 2020 (article 49(1)).</p> <p>b) Article 6(3) in effect disappplies the Community Infrastructure Regulations 2010 by making clear that any building comprised in the authorised development is to be deemed to be of a type that does not trigger liability for payment of the Community Infrastructure Levy (for a recent precedent for the drafting, see article 3(2) of the Lake Lothing (Lowestoft) Third Crossing Order 2020 and the Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023). This is necessary to ensure clarity as to the non-applicability of the Community Infrastructure Levy. The Applicant notes that the relevant authorities are entitled to enter into s106 Agreements which are a more appropriate mechanism for funding relevant improvements to local infrastructure if required, given the broad ranging impacts and cross-boundary scope of NSIP projects such as the Scheme.</p>
1.1.6	Applicant	<p>Article 11 (Temporary stopping up of streets and public rights of way) –</p> <p>a) Please can the Applicant explain the difference between the terms temporarily 'stop up', 'prohibit the use of' and 'restrict the use of'.</p>	<p>a) The term 'stop up', without any caveat such as 'temporarily' (see below) refers to the permanent cessation of the right of way in a street or other public right of way (PRoW).</p> <p>'Prohibit the use of' refers to a total prohibition on the use of the way, but need not be permanent.</p> <p>'Restrict the use of' encompasses any restriction below total prohibition, and may, for example, include setting hours where</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		<p>b) Please can the Applicant explain the need to both temporarily stop up and divert public rights of way (as indicated in Article 11(3)(c)).</p> <p>c) The term 'stop up' has a specific meaning which indicates an element of permanence. Is it possible to temporarily stop up a public right of way?</p>	<p>the way will be accessible, or restricting it to only some forms of traffic (i.e. pedestrians) for a period.</p> <p>b) The temporary stopping up of a PRoW involves the extinguishment, on a temporary basis, of the public's right to use that way. The diversion is a separate step that provides a replacement routing for the way that has, for a given period, been extinguished. Temporarily stopping up the PRoW would not have the desired outcome of ensuring that the public may make their journey on a reasonable alternative route, secured under the DCO and available for the duration of the temporary stopping up.</p> <p>c) The Applicant agrees that "stopping up" is generally intended to mean permanent closure, and that the stopped up public highway is, after stopping up, no longer a public highway. The reference to "temporary stopping up of street" has been taken from the model provisions and is consistent with the approach taken in The Cleve Hill Solar Park Order 2020 and The Drax Power (Generating Stations) Order 2019.</p> <p>The Applicant considers that in the context of the whole article, the intention and scope of the power is very clear. However, the Applicant has amended the drafting in the draft DCO submitted at Deadline 2 to delete reference to "stopping up" (in line with the Immingham Open Cycle Gas Turbine Order 2020, the Little Crow Solar Park Order 2022 and the Thurrock Flexible Generation Plant Development Consent Order 2022, which</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			instead refer to temporary prohibition or restriction of use of streets, or temporary closure and diversion).
1.1.7	Applicant	Article 13 (Access to Works) - Please can the Applicant explain why this article does not include provision to restore any access that has been temporarily created. ⁴⁰	<p>Article 13 provides a specific power to the Applicant to create (a) new or improved permanent means of access; (b) temporary means of access; and (c) such other accesses or improvements to existing accesses that are agreed with the relevant planning authority.</p> <p>The requirement to restore any access that has been temporarily created has been added to the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EX2/C6.3.14.2_B].</p>
1.1.8	Applicant	Article 17 (Removal of human remains) - Please can the Applicant identify any known burial grounds within the Order limits. The Applicant's attention is drawn to paragraph 9.2 of the Secretary of State's (SoS) decision letter in the Longfield Solar Farm DCO.	<p>The Applicant notes that the definition of 'burial ground' is very broad, including land whether consecrated or not, set aside for the purposes of interment.</p> <p>Article 17 has been included to ensure that, in the event human remains are discovered during the construction of the Scheme, there is a clear, unified regime that identifies how this will be managed in order to avoid delay to the construction of the Scheme.</p> <p>Chapter 13: Cultural Heritage of the Environmental Statement [APP-048] notes that one possible Anglo Saxon burial ground was identified within the Order Limits in Field G4, Cottam 1 (see AR24 table 13.9). The Applicant refers to its response to LCC</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			12.12 in the Applicant's Response to Local Impact Reports submitted at Deadline 2.
1.1.9	Applicant	Article 18 (Protective works to buildings) - Paragraph 4.4.4 of the EM [APP-017] explains that this Article is required because there are buildings within, and in close proximity to, the Order land that might feasibly require surveys and protective works as a result of the Proposed Development. Please can the Applicant identify these buildings, explain why they might feasibly require protective works and provide details of any such works.	<p>The Applicant is not aware of any existing buildings within, or in close proximity to, the Order land that might require protective works.</p> <p>However, the Applicant notes that there is an extant planning permission for agricultural barns along the Grid Connection Route (plot number 16-328) and the land at Cottam Power Station is in the process of being decommissioned and redeveloped. The Applicant therefore considers it appropriate to include this power to ensure there is no impediment to the delivery of the Scheme.</p>
1.1.10	Applicant	Article 19 (Authority to survey etc the land) - a) There appears to be some overlap between this article and the 'permitted preliminary works' in Article 2. This should be addressed. b) Please can the Applicant explain why Article 19(6) is needed for this particular project.	<p>Article 2 defines the 'permitted preliminary works' to include, at (a), various surveys. Article 19 provides the Applicant with the power to enter land to carry out surveys, such surveys falling within the definition of the types of works that constitute permitted preliminary works.</p> <p>The role of the definition of permitted preliminary works is to provide clarity over what works will constitute the commencement of the Scheme for the purposes of the Requirements in Schedule 2 to the draft DCO.</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>Article 19(6) provides that section 13 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 applies. This section enables the Applicant to obtain a warrant to deliver entry to the land to the acquiring authority where access for surveys is refused. In the case of the draft Order, this represents a backstop position where a landowner may refuse access to their land for the purpose of surveying it, despite the Applicant having the proper power and authority to do so. In the absence of paragraph (6), the undertaker would not be able to compel access, and the power could be rendered ineffective by a landowner. This power is required to ensure the Scheme can be delivered without impediment.</p> <p>This provision has been included in the majority of recently made DCOs including the Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023, the Cleve Hill Solar Park Order 2020 and the Hornsea Four Offshore Wind Farm Order 2023.</p>
1.1.11	Applicant	Article 26 (Statutory authority to override easements etc) - Please can the Applicant explain the distinction between this Article and Article 23.	<p>Article 23 provides for the automatic extinguishment of private rights and restrictive covenants on land where the freehold is compulsorily acquired by the Applicant.</p> <p>Paragraph (2) then manages the interaction of existing rights and restrictive covenants on land where the Applicant has the power only to acquire new or existing rights. In this case, the existing rights and covenants are not extinguished, but are effective only insofar as they would not be inconsistent with the rights created compulsorily by the Applicant.</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>In all circumstances, the owner of the right that is extinguished or rendered ineffective in whole or in part, is entitled to compensation for the loss suffered.</p> <p>Article 26 applies to the whole Order land, as opposed to only those locations where the land or a right is being compulsorily acquired. It manages the practical circumstance where the activity of the Applicant interferes with a land right. This provision ensures that the Applicant is able to interfere with rights as is needed for the purpose of construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning, with liability being subject to the 1965 Act, rather than any other mechanism. The rights being interfered with are not altered in any way, unlike under article 23. Article 23 is therefore a process for managing the practical breach of existing land rights and compensation for the same, whilst the right itself remains in force in full.</p>
1.1.12	Applicant	<p>Article 29 and Article 30 (Temporary Possession) –</p> <p>a) The ExA notes that Article 29(1)(a)(ii) extends the power to take temporary possession to any Order land. Please can the Applicant justify the inclusion of this broad power and explain the steps that have been taken to alert all landowners/occupiers of land within the Order limits of this possibility.</p>	<p>a) The Applicant is keen to ensure that it compulsorily acquires only the minimum amount of land which is required to construct and operate the Scheme. The extension of the power to take temporary possession over any Order land is included in order to minimise the land or rights that must be acquired compulsorily.</p> <p>By way of example, the Applicant has the power to acquire rights over the whole Grid Connection Corridor. The corridor itself is wide enough to allow for the micro sitting of the cable to be determined as part of detailed design, to allow for ground conditions etc. If required, the Applicant will use the power</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		<p>b) Please can the Applicant justify the inclusion of 'buildings' in Article 27(1)(b).</p> <p>c) Please can the Applicant justify the 14-day period set out in Article 29(3).</p> <p>d) Please explain why an obligation to remove any equipment and vehicles from the land has not been included in this Article.</p> <p>e) Please can the Applicant explain why it considers only 28 days' notice should be required before entering on and taking possession of land under Article 30(3).</p>	<p>under article 29(1)(a)(ii) to take temporary possession of the land required to install the cable, and then seek to compulsory acquire permanent rights for the cable over a smaller area of land, being that required for the cable and relevant protection zones. In this way, the power in article 29(1)(a)(ii) reduces the exercise of compulsory acquisition powers and is of benefit to landowners.</p> <p>The Applicant's approach to the use of temporary possession powers is set out in more detail in section 5.5 of the Statement of Reasons [AS-014].</p> <p>This is similar to the approach proposed in the voluntary agreements being negotiated with landowners where the Applicant is seeking an Option with the grant of a licence to undertake the construction works and then a permanent easement being granted once the as-laid location of the cables has been determined.</p> <p>b) Article 29(1)(b) provides the Applicant with the power to remove buildings, agricultural plant and apparatus, drainage, fences, debris and vegetation from land that it takes possession of for the purpose of constructing the Scheme. This power, including the removal of buildings (such as agricultural buildings), is required to ensure that there is no physical impediment to the construction of the Scheme. The power to remove buildings is heavily qualified, however, by paragraph (2).</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>This limits the power to take temporary possession so the Applicant cannot enter any building that is occupied.</p> <p>Whilst the Applicant does not anticipate that any buildings will need to be demolished to facilitate the Scheme, this power is required in case any new buildings are erected within the Order land prior to construction of the authorised development.</p> <p>c) There are a number of precedents where 14 days' notice is provided for temporary possession, including Boston Alternative Energy Facility Order 2023 (article 33(2)), the A47 Wansford to Sutton Development Consent Order 2023 (article 34(2)), the Manston Airport Development Consent Order 2022 (article 29(2)) and the Cleve Hill Solar Park Order 2020. The Applicant also recognises there are a number of precedents where 28 days' notice is provided, including the Hornsea Four Offshore Wind Farm Order 2023 (article 28(2)), the Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023 (article 27(3)), and the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Development Consent Order 2022 (article (2)).</p> <p>The Applicant notes that the majority of the Order land is agricultural land and there are no residential properties. The Applicant notes that this is the minimum amount of notice required and typically the Applicant will give more notice. Compensation is payable for any damage caused (such as the removal of crops). A 14 day notice period is considered to be appropriate for the Scheme.</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>d) Paragraph (5) provides a general obligation for the Applicant to reinstate the land to the satisfaction of the landowner before giving up possession. This includes the removal of equipment and vehicles as, unless an exception listed in (a) to (e) applies, the land must be put back in the same condition it was in when possession was taken, i.e. without the Applicant's equipment and vehicles on it.</p> <p>e) The Applicant considers that 28 days' notice of temporary possession for the purpose of maintaining the Scheme is reasonable, proportionate and widely precedented. This balances the likelihood that the extent of possession for maintenance is likely to be less than is required for construction, but that it is harder for landowners to anticipate when a requirement for temporary possession may be required. The Applicant has checked the following recently made DCOs, finding that 28 days' notice is required for each:</p> <p>The Hornsea Four Offshore Wind Farm Order 2023, Article 29 The Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023, Article 28 The A47 Wansford to Sutton Development Consent Order 2023, Article 35 The Awely Môr Offshore Wind Farm Order 2023, Article 28 The A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Development Consent Order 2022, Article 38 The Manston Airport Development Consent Order 2022, Article 30</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
	Applicant	<p>Article 35 – Consent to transfer benefit of Order</p> <p>a) The Applicant's attention is drawn to paragraph 9.4 of the SoS's decision letter in the Longfield Solar Farm DCO where it was made clear that where a transfer is made to a holding company or subsidiary, the SoS would expect that company to be a holder of a licence under section 6 of the Electricity Act 1989 and as such considered a similarly worded exemption from the need for consent to be unnecessary.</p> <p>b) In light of the above, please can the Applicant provide a detailed justification for the inclusion of Article 35(3)(c).</p>	<p>The Applicant recognises that the transfer of the generating station would require any holding company or subsidiary transferee to hold a licence under section 6 of the Electricity Act 1989. However, article 35 applies to all of the authorised development, not just to the generating station.</p> <p>For example, it may be preferable for the Applicant to transfer the benefit of the powers required for construction of the habitat mitigation areas or permissive path to a subsidiary, meaning such a transfer would fall only within article 35(3)(c).</p> <p>The Applicant's preference is to retain article 35(3)(c) in order to retain flexibility within its company structure as to which entity is entitled to carry out parts of the authorised development.</p>
1.1.13	Applicant	<p>Article 42 (Arbitration) - Please can the Applicant add the Marine Management Organisation to Article 42(2) or otherwise justify its omission.</p>	<p>The Applicant has added the Marine Management Organisation to Article 42(2) in the draft DCO submitted at Deadline 2.</p>
1.1.14	Applicant	<p>Schedule 1 (Authorised Development) - Does the Applicant consider references in this Schedule to gross electrical capacity should specify alternating current in order to provide certainty.</p>	<p>Section 15 of the PA 2008, in which the threshold for a generating station is a capacity of more than 50MW, makes no distinction between alternating and direct current.</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>The Applicant considers that the draft DCO should be consistent with the enabling legislation under which the Order will be made.</p> <p>The Applicant notes that paragraph 3.10.44 of Draft NPS EN-3 (March 2023) states that the maximum combined capacity of the installed converters (measured in AC) should be used for the purposes of determining capacity for the purposes of the threshold in section 15 of the PA 2008. However, this policy is stated to only apply from the designation of the new EN-3.</p>
1.1.15	Applicant	Requirement 6 (Battery Safety Management) - Please can the Applicant explain how the consultees listed in sub paragraph (3) have been determined and explain the statutory responsibility of those bodies in this regard.	<p>The relevant consultees have been determined by considering their role in decision making that is relevant to battery storage.</p> <p>West Lindsey District Council and Lincolnshire County Council have requested that Lincolnshire Council should be the relevant planning authority for the purposes of approving the battery storage safety management plan.</p> <p>West Lindsey District Council has requested that it is consulted on the battery storage safety management plan. The Applicant has agreed to this request.</p> <p>Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue services are the two local fire services who might be called upon in the event of an incident at the Scheme.</p> <p>Finally, the Environment Agency (EA) has requested that it is consulted on the battery storage safety management plan having regard to the wider environmental concerns associated</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>with the safe storage and management of batteries. The Applicant has agreed to this request.</p> <p>The Applicant is not aware of any other bodies that should, or have requested, to be consulted.</p>
1.1.16	Applicant	Requirement 11 (Surface and foul water drainage) - Please can the Applicant confirm that the 'outline drainage strategy' referred to in this requirement is ES Appendix 10.1 [APP-090] (Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy).	<p>The Applicant confirms this is correct. Please refer to the definition of 'outline drainage strategy' in article 2(1), and the reference listed in Part 1 of Schedule 14, confirming Appendix 10.1 is to be the relevant certified document.</p> <p>That Applicant confirms that 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 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 draft DCO submitted at Deadline 2.</p>
1.1.17	Applicant	Requirement 13 (Construction Environmental Management Plan) - Should the restriction on commencement of development in sub paragraph (1)	<p>The Applicant does not consider that the Construction Environmental Management Plan needs to be approved for any remedial works in respect of contamination or adverse ground conditions. The Construction Environmental Management Plan</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		include remedial works in respect of any contamination or other adverse ground conditions as well as site clearance involving vegetation.	<p>will set out the process for encountering contamination as part of the construction works for the Scheme as set out in the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [REP-038 and updated at Deadline 2].</p> <p>In respect of site clearance involving vegetation removal, Requirement 7(4) requires the landscape and ecological management plan to have been approved for such works. The Applicant considers that the landscape and ecological management plan is the correct management plan to control vegetation removal.</p>
1.1.18	Applicant	Requirement 17 – Permissive Paths - Please can the Applicant explain why the provision of the permissive path is only linked to work 1A.	<p>The Permissive Path has been included in the vicinity of Stow to contribute to the wide network of footpaths in the area and facilitate greater public access to the countryside.</p> <p>The works to create the Permissive Path would be undertaken at the same time as the works for Work No. 1A given the distance between Work. 1B, 1C and 1D and Work No. 11.</p> <p>The Applicant has agreed the route of the Permissive Path with the landowner, who is also the landowner of the Cottam 1 Site (Work No. 1A) as part of an overall commercial agreement.</p>
1.1.19	Applicant	<p>Requirement 21 – Decommissioning and restoration.</p> <p>a) The ExA notes the Applicant's amendment requiring decommissioning to take place no later than 60 years</p>	<p>a) The Applicant notes that the EIA was undertaken on the basis that the Scheme would not have a time limit but would be decommissioned. The Applicant refers to updated ES Chapter 23:Summary of Significant Effects C6.2.23_A and the Review of Likely Significant Effects at 60 Years [EX2/C8.2.7] submitted at Deadline 2 which sets out the conclusions of the Applicant's</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		<p>following the date of final commissioning. While the inclusion of a timescale for decommissioning is welcomed, paragraph 4.3.2 of ES Chapter 4: Scheme Description makes clear that a 40-year period for the operational phase of the Proposed Development has been assessed in the EIA and reported in the ES. Please can the Applicant explain why it considers a 60-year operational period would not result in additional effects to those assessed in the ES.</p> <p>b) The ExA notes that the Outline Decommissioning Statement indicates (at paragraph 1.2.1) that approval and implementation of the Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) and the Decommissioning Traffic Management Plan will be secured through a requirement in the DCO. Please can the Applicant explain how the approval and implementation of these documents is secured in Schedule 2.</p> <p>c) Please can the Applicant clarify the references to the Decommissioning Plan</p>	<p>review of residual significant effects if the Scheme is in operation for 60 years before it is decommissioned. An explanation to support the conclusions presented in updated ES Chapter 23:Summary of Significant Effects C6.2.23_A has been provided in the Review of Likely Significant Effects at 60 Years [EX2/C8.2.7].</p> <p>b) Requirement 21(3) provides that the Applicant must provide the relevant planning authority with a decommissioning plan for approval. That decommissioning plan must, under sub-paragraph (5), be substantially in accordance with the outline decommissioning statement.</p> <p>The outline decommissioning statement is defined in article 2(1) as a certified document, listed in Schedule 12. The outline decommissioning statement includes the requirement for environmental management and traffic management to form part of the decommissioning plan. As the Applicant must comply with Requirement 21, creating a decommissioning plan that is substantially in accordance with the outline decommissioning statement, the Secretary of State can be confident that this will include environmental management and traffic management aspects. Separate plans are not provided as the method of decommissioning will need to comply with the guidance, regulations and requirements that govern the way the decommissioning is carried out at that point in time.</p> <p>c) Requirement 21(4) has been amended to refer only to the decommissioning plan. The erroneous reference to a</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		<p>and the DEMP in this requirement and review its drafting.</p> <p>d) Please can the Applicant explain why this Requirement does not address the matter of restoration</p>	<p>decommissioning <i>environmental management</i> plan has been removed.</p> <p>d) The decommissioning plan must be substantially in accordance with the outline decommissioning statement which includes provisions for how the land must be restored. The Applicant does not consider it necessary to refer to the restoration of the land within this Requirement as this would duplicate the obligation. However, the Applicant considers that it is helpful to refer to restoration in the title of the Requirement so that readers of the DCO are aware that restoration will be included in the decommissioning plan.</p>
1.1.20	Applicant	<p>General (Dust Management Plan) - Please can the Applicant explain how the Construction Dust Management Plan will be secured within the DCO.</p>	<p>The outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) [REP-038 and updated for Deadline 2] includes in Table 3.10 (Air Quality) a requirement to "<i>Develop and implement a Dust Management Plan (DMP)... approved by the relevant local planning authority and authorities</i>".</p> <p>The CEMP is secured by Requirement 13 of the draft Order. This requires the CEMP to be approved by the relevant planning authorities, that the CEMP must be substantially in accordance with the outline CEMP, and that all construction must be carried out as part of the CEMP.</p> <p>The DMP is therefore secured as it forms a part of the outline CEMP. The DMP is not provided in outline form, nor secured directly, due to the need for the DMP to reflect the detailed design and final construction programme. The outline CEMP</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>provides that the 'highly recommended measures' set out in the outline CEMP must form part of the DMP, however the remainder of the DMP is subject to the specific needs of the construction area(s) to which it applies.</p> <p>In this regard, as the CEMP is secured and the DMP forms part of the CEMP, the Secretary of State can be confident that dust management will be appropriately controlled by the DCO.</p>
1.1.21	Applicant	<p>Schedule 3 (Legislation to be Disapplied)</p> <p>a) Please can the Applicant explain why it is necessary to disapply the entirety of the various pieces of legislation listed in Schedule 3 as opposed to individual provisions.</p> <p>b) Please can the Applicant explain the effect of the disapplication of this legislation within the Order limits.</p>	<p>The Applicant notes that Article 6(1)(i) states that the legislation listed in Schedule 3 is only disapplied so far as the provisions are still in force and would be incompatible with the powers contained in the Order. Each item of local legislation listed in Schedule 3 has been identified as having a potential conflict with the Order that may make it harder, or impossible, to implement the Scheme. However, the legislation listed in Schedule 3 is historic and it is difficult to ascertain with certainty which powers are no longer relevant given the changes in statutory functions and bodies since the legislation was enacted. The statutory undertakers who typically have inherited the powers granted by these local Acts are then provided with Protective Provisions (in Schedule 16) which ensure that their rights and powers remain in force and protected.</p> <p>In each case, the legislation listed in Schedule 3 confers powers in respect of land that is, or appears to be, within the Order limits. The disapplication of these Acts ensures consistency with the terms of the Order, to the extent that any future exercise of</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>powers conferred by the Act were inconsistent with a provision of, or power conferred by, the Order.</p> <p>The majority of the local Acts being disapplied in Schedule 3 authorise railways and the Applicant understands that the position of Network Rail is that its standard protective provisions provide appropriate protection so that it may continue its statutory duties, irrespective of the status of these Acts. The effect of disapplication of the various Railway Acts is to ensure that there is no impediment to the exercise of the Order rights and powers in the vicinity of the railway.</p> <p>The remaining Acts being disapplied relate to waterways. In respect of the Trent (Burton on Trent and Humber) Navigation Act 1887, this provides the Canal & River Trust with its power to dredge the River Trent in the vicinity of the Scheme. This power continues to have effect in accordance with article 6(i). The Act is being disapplied in all other respects to ensure that there is no impediment to the exercise of the Order rights and powers in the vicinity of the relevant waterways.</p> <p>Finally, the Anglian Water Authority Act 1977 is disapplied, with protective provisions for Anglian Water provided at Part 7 of Schedule 16.</p> <p>In all cases, the disapplication provides greater certainty that the Order can be implemented as drafted, without conflicting with existing Acts of Parliament.</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
1.1.22	Applicant	Schedule 7 (Access to Works) - Please can the Applicant review the references to the 'access to works plan'. This document is referred to elsewhere in the dDCO as the 'access plan'.	Noted. The references to 'access to works plan' have been amended to refer simply to the 'access plan', as the defined term and document title in the version of the draft DCO submitted at Deadline 2.
1.1.23	All parties with protective provisions for their benefit included in Schedule 16 (Protective Provisions) of the dDCO.	Please provide an update on discussions regarding protective provisions, identifying any outstanding areas of disagreement.	Please refer to document C8.1.12 Schedule of Negotiations submitted at Deadline 2.
1.1.24	Applicant	Please comment on the concerns raised by EDF Energy (Thermal Generation) Limited in its Written Representation (WR) (paragraph 3.3 and 3.4) [REP-092] that the cable route poses a risk to the regeneration of the Cottam Power Station site and its proposed additional requirement.	Discussions regarding the cable route are regularly being undertaken with EDF, and the Applicant is working with them towards obtaining a signed voluntary agreement detailing the route of the cable and associated financial terms. It is anticipated that this will be agreed before the close of the examination period. The Applicant refers to the Change Application made on the Gate Burton Scheme, that also connects into Cottam Power Station by the same grid connection route. The Applicant anticipates making a similar Change Application in order to

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			address these concerns. A formal notification of the proposed change application has been submitted at Deadline 2.
1.1.25	Applicant	<p>Schedule 17 – Procedure for discharge of requirements</p> <p>a) Please can the Applicant explain how the various timescales for deemed consent or refusal have taken account of potential publicity requirements under the EIA Regulations.</p> <p>b) Please can the Applicant explain why there is no time limit for submitting an appeal.</p> <p>c) Please can the Applicant explain the insertion of the word 'forthwith' in 4(2)(b) and justify this departure from Appendix 1 of Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 15 (AN 15).</p> <p>d) Please can the Applicant explain the departure from the 20 business days in Appendix 1 of AN 15.</p> <p>e) Please can the Applicant explain the 30-day longstop for determination by the appointed person in 4(1)(e) and justify this departure from Appendix 1 of AN 15.</p>	<p>Regulation 24 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 where further information is required for a subsequent application. Regulation 24(2)(a) requires the relevant authority to issue a written statement to that effect and Regulation 24(2)(b) requires the relevant authority to suspend consideration on the subsequent application.</p> <p>In this scenario, the issue of the written statement and suspension would constitute the relevant planning authority's decision for the purposes of paragraph 2(2) or 2(3) of Schedule 17.</p> <p>It is noted that paragraph 2(5) requires the undertaker to include a statement as to whether the application will give rise to any new or materially different environmental effects to those in the environmental statement. The Applicant considers that this will ensure that the relevant planning authority is put on notice and will issue a written statement if required prior to the expiry of the deadline for a decision.</p> <p>b) This provision is based on the equivalent provision in the Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023, the Millbrook Gas Fired Generating Station Order 2019, the Abergelli Power Gas Fired Generating Station Order 2019, the Drax Power (Generating Stations) Order 2019 and the Eggborough Gas Fired Generating</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		<p>f) Please can the Applicant explain the departure from paragraph 4(12) of Appendix 1 of AN 15.</p> <p>g) Please can the Applicant explain the departure from paragraph 4(5) of Appendix 1 of AN 15. The ExA notes that the proposed 5-day time limit in Schedule 17 paragraph 4(3) would be before the receipt by the appointed person of WR under paragraph 4(2)(c).</p>	<p>Station Order 2018. Whilst the Applicant notes that a time limit of 42 days is common for the bringing of appeals, in the Applicant's view it would be a potential impediment to the implementation of the Scheme if the Applicant could only appeal a decision to refuse the discharge of a Requirement within a set time frame. For example, for a large Scheme over multiple sites and involving different relevant planning authorities for each Requirement, it may be more cost effective and efficient to await the outcome of other applications for discharge, before presenting a single appeal to the Secretary of State covering multiple Requirements.</p> <p>c) The use of 'forthwith' is taken from a number of precedent Orders, including those mentioned in (a) above. However, the Applicant agrees that this language is not compliant with current drafting standards and has amended it to 'as soon as is reasonably practicable' in the draft DCO submitted at Deadline 2.</p> <p>d), e) and g) The Applicant notes that these timescales are precedented in the Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023. Notwithstanding this, the Applicant has updated this paragraph in the draft DCO submitted at Deadline 2 to reflect the timescales contained in AN 15. However, the Applicant considers it appropriate for a decision on any appeal to be issued within 30 working days to ensure deliverability of the Scheme within the construction programme and to meet the grid connection date.</p> <p>f) Paragraph 4(12) of Appendix 1 to AN 15 provides that the reasonable costs of the appointed person are to be paid by the</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			undertaker, unless there is a direction otherwise. The draft Order provides at paragraph 4(10) that the costs of the appointed person are to be met by the undertaker, except where a direction otherwise is given. This wording includes all costs of the appointed person, rather than only those reasonable costs, and is preceded in the Little Crow Solar Park Order 2022 (Schedule 2, Part 2, Paragraph 21) and Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023 (Schedule 16, Paragraph 4). The Applicant's view is that the alternative drafting in the Order ensures greater coverage of the appointed person's costs and is therefore to be preferred over the drafting in AN 15.
1.1.26	Applicant	The ExA notes that the Applicant intends to submit an updated version of the EM at the final Examination Deadline. In order to assist everyone involved in the examination of the application, the Applicant is requested to submit an updated EM at Deadline 3.	The Applicant confirms that it will submit an updated EM at Deadline 3.

2 General and cross-topic matters

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
1.2.1	Applicant	Please update the application documentation in light of the NSIP Action Plan (Feb 2023), the revised Draft	<i>NSIP Action Plan (February 2023)</i> Nationally Significant Infrastructure: action plan for reforms to the planning process published in February 2023, sets out an extensive

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		<p>Consultation Energy National Policy Statements (dNPS) and Powering Up Britain Security Plan (March 2023). Please also specify the weight you consider should be attached to these documents.</p>	<p>plan to reform the planning process for nationally significant infrastructure projects (NSIPs). The actions are grouped under what are broad reform areas: setting a clear strategic direction, bringing forward operational reforms to support faster consenting, realising better outcomes for the environment, recognising the role of local authorities and strengthening community engagement with NSIPs and improving system-wide capacity and capability.</p> <p>It is considered that the proposed NSIP Action Plan does not alter the assessment of the Scheme presented in the Planning Statement [REP-047]. Given the early stages of the reform with the government's aim to publish consultation responses by Spring 2024, the NSIP Action Plan (February 2023) should be given limited weight at this stage.</p> <p><i>Draft National Policy Statements (March 2023)</i></p> <p>The revised Draft National Policy Statements (NPSs) were published for consultation in March 2023. It is considered that the changes made since the drafts published in September 2021 that are applicable to the Scheme are relatively limited.</p> <p>Tables 4 and 5 as set out in Appendix 3 of the Planning Statement [REP-047] assesses the Scheme against the Draft National Policy Statements for Renewable Energy March 2023. The assessment presented in the Planning Statement [REP-047] remains the same and it is therefore concluded that the Scheme fully accords with the Draft National Policy Statements.</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>The Applicant maintains its position that the Draft NPSs are important and relevant matters and should be given significant weight in the planning balance.</p> <p><i>Powering Up Britain Security Plan (March 2023)</i></p> <p>The UK Government's Powering Up Britain Strategy, Powering Up Britain: Energy Security Plan and Powering Up Britain: Net Zero Growth Plan sets out how the UK will achieve energy security, promote green growth and meet its net zero targets.</p> <p>Powering Up Britain was published in March 2023 to present the most up to date information on the Government's energy strategy. It recognises the huge potential solar generation can have in decarbonisation and emphasises the need to maximise the deployment of ground-mounted solar. This strategy (pages 37-38) states that the <i>"Government seeks large scale solar deployment across the UK, looking for development mainly on brownfield, industrial and low/medium grade agricultural land"</i>. The document reiterates the target set out in the British Energy Security Strategy (2022) to increase solar fivefold by 2035, up to 70GW, providing further certainty for support for solar.</p> <p>Powering up Britain emphasises that ground mounted solar is one of the cheapest forms of electricity generation is readily deployable at scale.</p> <p>On agricultural land, Powering up Britain states: <i>Government seeks large scale solar deployment across the UK, looking for development</i></p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p><i>mainly on brownfield, industrial and low/medium grade agricultural land. The Government will therefore not be making changes to categories of agricultural land in ways that might constrain solar deployment”.</i></p> <p>The clarification makes it clear that there is no intention to change the definitions of BMV land. It also states that it expects solar developments to take place on low/medium grade agricultural land.</p> <p>95.9% of the Site, utilises 'low' grade, non-best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land and is considered to be in a location supported by the Powering Up Britain Plan. Only 4.1% of the Site is located on best and most versatile land with clear justification for why these small areas remain within the scheme set out in Section 5.7 of ES Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040]. Given the reversible nature of the Scheme, BMV land will not be permanently lost and the Applicant therefore considers that the Scheme accords with this policy and should be given significant weight in the planning balance.</p> <p>The Scheme will make an important contribution in achieving the aims in Powering Up Britain, strengthening the case for the development.</p> <p>Appendix 3 of the Planning Statement [EX2/7.5_B] has been updated to refer to the above documents and has been submitted at Deadline 2.</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
1.2.2	Applicant	Please can the Applicant explain why Appendix 4 of the revised Planning Statement [REP-047] includes the superseded policies of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan 2012-2036?	<p>Policies of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan 2012-2036 were included in Appendix 4 for completeness as at the time of submission the draft Local Plan was yet to be approved.</p> <p>The Applicant acknowledges that the superseded Central Lincolnshire Local Plan 2012-2036 policies are no longer relevant in the assessment of the Scheme. The Planning Statement [EX2/C7.5_B] has been updated to remove reference to the superseded policies and has been submitted at Deadline 2.</p> <p>Nevertheless, the Scheme has been assessed against the adopted Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (April 2023) as set out in Table 1.2 within Appendix 4 of the Planning Statement [REP-047] and the previous inclusion of the superseded policies does not alter the overall assessment of the Scheme as set out in the Planning Statement.</p>
1.2.7	Applicant	Please explain on what basis the Neighbourhood Plans that are considered in the revised Planning Statement [REP-047] were included, and whether it includes all such policies of relevance to the Proposed Development in light of those detailed in the LIRs.	<p>The Scheme lies within the boundaries of the Neighbourhood Plans (NPs) as set out in Paragraph 5.9.3 of the Planning Statement [REP-047] and were therefore included in the assessment of the Scheme. Whilst it is acknowledged that there are other made Neighbourhood Plans in close proximity to the Scheme, these were not included in the assessment as the Site would not fall within the boundaries of these NPs. Nevertheless, it is acknowledged that the administrative areas outside of the Order Limits may experience impacts from the proposed development. The wider impacts of the Scheme are set out in various chapters of the Environmental Statement.</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response																																			
			In light of the Local Impact Reports, Section 2 of Appendix 4 contained within the Planning Statement [EX2/C7.5_B] has been updated to reflect all relevant policies contained within the NPs and has been submitted at Deadline 2.																																			
1.2.8	Applicant	Please explain which part(s) of the Proposed Development lie in each Neighbourhood Plan Area. This can be set out in a tabular form. Please also explain how the Proposed Development relates to the Policy/Proposals Maps for each Neighbourhood Plan.	<p>The table below sets out which parts of the development lie in a Neighbourhood Plan Area. Cottam 3a sits within Laughton Neighbourhood designated area. There is no neighbourhood plan document to view as of yet and the preparation of the neighbourhood plan is still at an early stage.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Neighbourhood Plan</th> <th>Cottam 1</th> <th>Cottam 2</th> <th>Cottam 3a</th> <th>Cottam 3b</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Corringham Neighbourhood Plan 2021-2036</td> <td></td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Glentworth Neighbourhood Plan 2018-2036</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hemswell & Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan [For Examination]</td> <td></td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan 2019-2036</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rampton & Woodbeck Neighbourhood Plan 2019-2037</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Treswell and Cottam Neighbourhood Plan Referendum Version</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>There are no specific policy designations relating to the proposed development as set out in the Corringham Neighbourhood Plan Parish Wide Proposals Map or policies maps as set out in Glentworth Neighbourhood Plan. Plan wide policies are assessed in Appendix 4 of the Planning Statement [EX2/C7.5_B], submitted at Deadline 2.</p> <p>Hemswell & Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan Map 5 sets out landscape character across West Lindsey District Council. There are a number of local character areas within the Scheme and Cable Route Corridor. The Scheme's impacts on the landscape areas are set out in</p>	Neighbourhood Plan	Cottam 1	Cottam 2	Cottam 3a	Cottam 3b	Corringham Neighbourhood Plan 2021-2036		✓		✓	Glentworth Neighbourhood Plan 2018-2036	✓				Hemswell & Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan [For Examination]		✓			Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan 2019-2036	✓				Rampton & Woodbeck Neighbourhood Plan 2019-2037	✓				Treswell and Cottam Neighbourhood Plan Referendum Version	✓			
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ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>Environmental Statement Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [EN010133/EX2/C6.2.8_A]. Plan wide policies are assessed in Appendix 4 of the Planning Statement [EX2/C7.5_B], submitted at Deadline 2.</p> <p>A small proportion of the cable corridor sits in close proximity to listed buildings as indicated in Sturton By Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan Heritage Map and in close proximity to Stow Protected Views as indicated in Policy Map 9.2. The Scheme's impacts on designated and non-designated heritage assets are set out in Environmental Statement Chapter 13: Cultural Heritage [APP-048]. Impacts on protected views are assessed in Environmental Statement Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [EN010133/EX2/C6.2.8_A]. Plan wide policies are assessed in Appendix 4 of the Planning Statement [EX2/C7.5_B], submitted at Deadline 2.</p> <p>A small proportion of the Scheme sits within Bassetlaw Landscape Character Areas as identified in Map 13 in Rampton & Woodbeck Neighbourhood Plan. The Scheme's impacts on the landscape areas are set out in Environmental Statement Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [EN010133/EX2/C6.2.8_A]. Plan wide policies are assessed in Appendix 4 of the Planning Statement [EX2/C7.5_B] and will be submitted at Deadline 2.</p> <p>Part of the Scheme sits within Flood Zones 2 and 3 as identified in Figure 3 in Treswell and Cottam Neighbourhood Plan. Environmental Statement Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage [APP-045] and Environmental Statement Addendum: Chapter 10: Hydrology,</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>Flood Risk and Drainage [REP-076] provide a detailed assessment of the likely significant effects of the scheme on flood risk. Plan wide policies are assessed in Appendix 4 of the Planning Statement [EX2/C7.5_B] and will be submitted at deadline 2.</p>
1.2.10	Applicant	<p>Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A full copy of the development plan policies, including the policy titles, and the supporting text for each policy that is set out in Appendix 4 to the revised Planning Statement [REP-047] and any other development plan policies that you now consider relevant, and the cover/title page for each development plan; and • The related proposals maps for the development plans (excluding the minerals local plans as they are shown on the submitted minerals resource plans, .so it is clear where the various allocations and designations that the Planning Statement refers to are located and how far they extend. <p>A full copy of the policies for the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (2023) do not need to be provided, as these are already in the submissions</p>	<p>Copies of development plan policies and proposals maps as set out in Appendix 5 of the Planning Statement [REP-047EX2/7.5_B], including additional relevant neighbourhood plan policies as set out in Appendix 4 of the Planning Statement [EX2/7.1_B] have been submitted at Deadline 2.</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
1.2.11	Applicant	Please can the Applicant explain why Appendix 2 of the revised Planning Statement [REP-047] does not include reference to permission (1/22/01031/CDM) at Cottam Power Station, as detailed in Nottinghamshire County Council's LIR.	Appendix 2 of the Planning Statement [REP-047] does include reference to permission 22/01031/CDM in Table 2.3. It is understood that the permission has been implemented. The Scheme is not considered to impact the underground foul water rising main as constructed.
1.2.12	Applicant	Appendix 2 of the revised Planning Statement [REP-047] now refers to the residential permission near to West Farm Cottages, which the ExA notes has also been referred to by Interested Parties. Please explain what the implications of the proposed cable route are for this permission (and vice versa).	<p>The Applicant became aware of the residential planning permission which was granted after submission of the DCO application for the Scheme. Through discussions with the landowner it was identified that there would still be enough room to site a cable, although the route became more of a 'pinch point' than it previously was, which could bring some access and engineering challenges. When taking into account the newly granted planning permission and also the comments from other neighbouring properties, an alternative cable route was investigated in this area.</p> <p>The cable route is to be subject to a proposed Change Application (notification has been submitted by way of C9.1 Change Request Notification [EN010133/CR1/C9.1] at Deadline 2) to divert the cable route to the south of these properties, following further consultation with landowners. As such, the cable route will be located no closer than 25m from any residential property.</p>
1.2.13	Applicant	Why does the Applicant consider that National Policy Statement (NPS) EN-3 is important and relevant to the determination of the application as solar generation is not covered by that NPS (see paragraph 5.4.9 of	The applicant has amended the Planning Statement [EX2/C.7.5_B] at Deadline 2 to clarify that adopted NPS EN-3, is not considered to be 'important and relevant' to the determination of this application.

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		<p>the revised Planning Statement [REP-047]). Please refer to the findings of the Examining Authority's Recommendation Report into the Little Crow Solar Park and Longfield Solar Farm projects and the Secretary of State's Decision Letters in that regard.</p>	
1.2.14	Applicant	<p>Paragraph 5.6.1 of the revised Planning Statement [REP-047] states that the Applicant expects the existing NPS will be attributed most weight. Please provide reasons.</p>	<p>NPS EN-1 is considered to be 'important and relevant' to the decision on this application because the Proposed Development is a generating station with a capacity of more than 50MW and the policies in NPS EN-1 are devised specifically for generating stations and energy infrastructure of this scale. NPS EN-1 also contains paragraphs that emphasise the national need for electricity and electricity infrastructure, including electricity storage.</p> <p>NPS EN-5 is considered to be 'important and relevant' to the determination of this application due to the inclusion of the proposed substation and the cabling associated with the operation of the generating station.</p> <p>The draft NPSs are considered to provide a good indication of the Government's preferred approach to ensuring that there will be a planning policy framework which can support the infrastructure required for the transition to net zero. The draft energy NPSs were updated in March 2023, after the submission of the DCO application for the Scheme. The revised drafts are an important and relevant consideration in the determination of this application under s105 of</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>the PA2008 and should be afforded significant weight albeit, as they are still drafts, they hold slightly less weight than the adopted NPSs.</p> <p>The draft NPSs relevant to the consideration of this DCO application are draft NPS EN-1 (Overarching Policy), draft NPS EN-3 (Renewable Energy Infrastructure) and draft NPS EN-5 (Electricity Network Infrastructure).</p>
1.2.15	Applicant	Please specify the weight that you consider should be attributed to the policies of the development plans and the NPPF.	<p>The development plans do not contain specific policies for NSIPs and are afforded less weight than the relevant NPSs and draft NPSs specified in the response to 1.2.24 above. They are nevertheless considered to be important and relevant to the determination of the application. Paragraph 4.1.5 of NPS EN-1 states that planning policies outside of the NPS can be relevant considerations to the Secretary of State's decision and that these may include development plan documents or other documents in the local development framework.</p> <p>The NPPF does not contain specific policies related to NSIPs. However, it does contain guidance on requiring good design; promoting sustainable transport; healthier communities; conserving and enhancing the natural and historic environment; and meeting the challenges of climate change. It sets out particular issues to take into account in determining planning applications and is considered to be an important and relevant matter in the determination of the application. It is considered to have less weight than the relevant NPSs and draft NPSs specified in the response to 1.2.14 above.</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
1.2.16	Applicant	Appendix 4 of the revised Planning Statement [REP-047] lists Policy ST51 of the Bassetlaw Local Plan 2020-2037 twice, yet provides different text each time. Please explain.	Appendix 4 of the revised Planning Statement [EX2/C7.5_B] (provided at Deadline 2) has been updated to correct this.
1.2.17	Applicant	Please explain the siting of Work No 3 (one of the 2 battery and energy storage facility options) on the Works Plans (Sheets 8 and 14) [AS-007], as this seems to be found in two separate locations (to either side of Works Nos 2 and 4A). Please can the Applicant explain why it is not a single location.	<p>The proposed energy storage facilities were chosen after a feasibility assessment was undertaken to identify suitable areas within the Cottam 1 site to host the infrastructure.</p> <p>The siting of the substation (Work No. 4A) was selected as being field G1 in March 2022 as demonstrated in Table 5.11 of C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040]. The primary location of the BESS (Work No. 2) was selected immediately adjacent to Work No. 4A due to its assessed suitability with regard to landscape, noise, human health impacts and its accessibility. Work No. 3 exists as an extension to Work No.2 and was therefore located as close as practicable in adjacent fields to ensure that environmental impacts were minimised. This is set out in Table 5.8 of C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040]. The resulting areas set out in C2.4_A Works Plan Revision A [AS-007] meet this requirement whilst responding to location specific constraints:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An underground gas pipeline bisects the western portion of Work No. 3, resulting in the western portion being split; and • Areas at higher risk of surface water flooding to both the east and to the west of Work Nos. 2 and 4A were avoided. These are shown in Figure 2 in C6.3.10.4 ES Appendix 10.1 Annex D 10.1.3 Cottam

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			1 West [APP-093], and have resulted in the western portion of Work No. 3 being separated from Work No. 2, and the eastern part of Work No.3 being located to the east of the existing ditch separating fields G1 from G2 and G3 (C6.4.3.1 - Figure 3.1 - Field Numbering Plans Cottam 1 [APP-149]).
1.2.18	Applicant	Some of the Works Nos. (e.g. Works Nos. 5 and 8) do not have parameters listed within the revised Concept Design Parameters and Principles [REP-039]. Can the Applicant comment on why these Works Nos. do not have stated maximum parameters.	<p>Work No.5 refers to works being undertaken within the operational Cottam National Grid Substation, and the design of the works will be determined by the National Grid to facilitate the connection of the Scheme to the electricity transmission network (see the Grid Connection Statement [APP-346]). A description of the proposed type of infrastructure required is available at para. 4.5.39 of C6.2.4_A ES Chapter 4 Scheme Description Revision A [REP-012]. Given the location of the works within the existing operational substation the Applicant did not consider it necessary to have included fixed parameters for these works.</p> <p>Works No.8 refers to temporary construction compounds and laydown areas on each of the Sites on the Scheme. No maximum parameters have been deemed to be necessary due to their temporary nature, and are restricted in scale to the area set out for Work No. 8 in C2.4_A Works Plan Revision A [AS-007]. In addition, the management of the temporary construction areas is set out in the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [REP-038 and updated at Deadline 2]</p>
1.2.19	Applicant	Can the Applicant explain the discrepancies between the topic Chapters and the revised Concept Design Parameters and Principles	The Applicant recognises the importance of the Concept Design Parameters and Principles [REP-039] being accurate and not beyond the Rochdale Envelope that has been assessed in the

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		[REP-039], confirm which of the maximum parameters are accurate, and update both the descriptions and any implications to the ES assessments accordingly. Eg ES Chapter 4: Scheme Description states that fibre communications chambers could be up to 2000m apart whereas the Concept Design Parameters states a maximum parameter of 1000m apart.	Environmental Statement. The Applicant is conducting a review of the parameters to ensure that they are consistent with the ES and any embedded mitigation secured by it. The Applicant will provide any such corrections to the ES and/or Concept Design Parameters and Principles as are necessary for Deadline 3.
1.2.20	Applicant	ES Chapter 2: EIA Process and Methodology [APP-037] and the relevant sections in the aspect Chapters do not state that agreement on the short list of cumulative developments to be assessed have been agreed with the Local Planning Authorities. Row 6.1 of 'Appendix 3.8.4.4 Workshop 3 Minutes' [APP-076], states that approval was needed "asap" from the LPAs regarding the cumulative schemes assessed. Many aspect Chapters assess cumulative effects only with other Solar Farm NSIP developments including Gate Burton, West Burton and Tillbridge. There is no evidence that cumulative effects resulting from the Proposed Development along with other types of plans and projects in the locality have been considered, nor is there any justification for this approach to	<p>The Applicant has set out the cumulative effects methodology in ES Chapter 2: EIA Process and Methodology [APP-037] in section 2.5. The Long List of Cumulative Schemes is included at Appendix 2.3 of the ES [APP-065]. This list has informed the short list presented within each technical chapter of this ES, which for each technical discipline is topic specific, and based on their own methodology and justification, including: a) The scale of the other developments; b) The developments that fall within the ZOI of each environmental aspect; and c) If there is the potential for any temporal overlap between the Scheme and other developments.</p> <p>The Applicant has discussed the developments on the long list with the relevant LPAs to obtain comments on the short list, and has used professional judgment in determining the final short list of developments for each chapter, based on the above criteria.</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		<p>cumulative effects assessment although other plans and projects are identified in the 'long list' of developments in Appendix 2.3 Cumulative Assessment Sites [APP-065].</p> <p>Can the Applicant explain how the developments assessed within each aspect Chapter have been identified and whether these developments have been agreed with the relevant LPAs.</p>	
1.2.22	Applicant	<p>Table 23.1, ES Chapter 23: Summary of Significant Effects [APP-058] identifies several residual significant adverse effects where no additional mitigation has been proposed. Can the Applicant provide an explanation as to why no additional mitigation measures have been proposed where residual significant adverse effects are reported.</p>	<p>Residual effects are those effects that have been identified after the consideration and application of additional mitigation. This is set out in paragraphs 2.6.7 to 2.6.9 of ES Chapter 2: EIA Process and Methodology [APP-037].</p>
1.2.23	Applicant	<p>Details of several of the monitoring requirements proposed in the revised outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) [REP-037] are limited with details due to be confirmed in the final CEMP. Please can the Applicant able</p>	<p><u>Climate change impacts</u></p> <p>Reasonable worst case assumptions have been used in the assessment of greenhouse gas emissions during the construction phase from construction traffic and equipment in the ES Chapter 7 Climate Change [APP-042] and have been shown to not be significant in line with the relevant IEMA guidance. Notwithstanding this, the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		<p>to provide further detail of the following monitoring requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change impacts such as greenhouse gas emissions from construction traffic and equipment and use of natural resources in construction materials. • Disruption to local residents, businesses, and community facilities; and • Increased traffic flows during construction. 	<p>(CEMP) [EX2/7.5_B] includes provisions in Table 3.1 that will be implemented throughout the construction phase to further reduce emissions, e.g. by reducing vehicle trip distances through travel plans and accommodation for workers and use of latest available technology to limit emissions.</p> <p>The monitoring requirements will depend on the precise measures that are included within the CEMP that is agreed with the relevant planning authority and it is therefore not possible to commit to specific monitoring in the outline CEMP. The relevant planning authority must agree to the final form of the CEMP and will therefore be able to ensure that appropriate and relevant monitoring is included in the final CEMP.</p> <p><u>Disruption to local residents, businesses and community facilities</u></p> <p>These impacts are anticipated to be limited by virtue of the Scheme's location on agricultural land outside settlements. Nevertheless, the measures set in place in Table 3.8 of the CEMP [EN010133/EX2/C7.1_B] provide a sufficient framework to mitigate undue levels of disruption.</p> <p>The precise impacts to local residents, businesses and community facilities may be affected by the timing of other schemes in the area, and the final CEMP may include the measures in the outline CEMP to a more or less significant degree based on the extent of the impacts that must be mitigated. The monitoring requirements will be specific</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>and proportionate to the measures in the final CEMP. <u>Increased traffic flows during construction</u></p> <p><u>The trip generation of the Scheme and the effects are set out in ES Chapter 14: Transport and Access [APP-049] and the C6.3.14.1 ES Appendix 14.1 Transport Assessment [APP-134]</u></p> <p>Table 3.9 of outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) [REP-037; submitted at Deadline 2] and Section 7 of the outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) [REP-016] includes provisions and measures that will be implemented throughout the construction phase to reduce the impact of construction traffic in the local area.</p> <p>The monitoring will be targeted and specific to the measures implemented in the final CEMP and final CTMP. Measures such as ensuring HGV deliveries are made within set hours will be monitored by the contractor to ensure that this takes place, but the method of doing so will be a matter of detail determined for the final CEMP and CTMP. Similarly, the measure to place signage that on-street parking is not permitted will be monitored and this may include checking how workers arrived on site, monitoring uptake of construction worker transport, responding to reports from local residents, or requesting delivery drivers advise of any on-street parking identified close to the site accesses.</p> <p>The method of monitoring will be determined once the detailed mechanisms for implementing the measures in the CEMP and CTMP</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>have been decided, ensuring that the monitoring is appropriate and relevant to the operations of the contractor.</p> <p>Both the final CEMP and final CTMP must be agreed by the relevant planning authority, who is therefore able to ensure that appropriate and relevant monitoring is included within the final management plans.</p>
1.2.24	Applicant	<p>Paragraph 4.6.2 of ES Chapter 4: Scheme Description [REP-012] states that a 5-year construction period has been adopted as a worst-case scenario to accommodate the potential sequential installation of Cottam, West Burton and Gate Burton solar projects. However, considering the proposed construction timeframes for each project, it is unclear why a 5 year period has been adopted (when there is potential for a 7 year sequential construction period). Please can the Applicant explain why a 5-year sequential construction period between these three projects captures an appropriate worst-case scenario?</p>	<p>The five year construction period was assessed as a worst-case because the latest grid connection date given to any of the four NSIP projects of Cottam, West Burton, Tillbridge and Gate Burton by National Grid is late 2029, i.e. by late 2029 all of the projects will be built and connected to the grid. The earliest that any of the projects will be able to begin construction is late 2024, hence the longest continuous time period that construction could occur is from 2024 to 2029, a five year period.</p>
1.2.25	Applicant	<p>Paragraph 4.2.3 of ES Chapter 4: Scheme Description [REP-012] states that a 40-year operational lifetime has been assessed in</p>	<p>The Applicant has reviewed and considered the implications of 60 year operational lifetime in the context of the EIA. Overall, the conclusions of the Environmental Statement would remain largely the</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		<p>the ES. At Deadline 1, the dDCO was updated to extend this operational lifetime to 60 years. The 40-year lifespan underpins a number of ES assessments during operation: ES Chapter 7 Climate Change, the Flood Risk Assessment (climate change projections), ES Chapter 18 Socio-Economics and ES Chapter 20 Waste. Please can the Applicant update the relevant ES assessments (and any supporting documents where required) to reflect a <i>worst case scenario of a 60 year operational lifetime and decommissioning at 60 years</i>. Can the Applicant explain if and how this has altered any assessments in the ES?</p>	<p>same. There would be no change to the conclusions of the topic assessments where the ES has assessed the operational effects as not being time limited but subject to decommissioning, plus an assessment of effects at decommissioning. The Applicant refers to updated ES Chapter 23: Summary of Significant Effects C6.2.23_A submitted at Deadline 2 which sets out the conclusions of the Applicant's review of residual significant effects if the Scheme is in operation for 60 years before it is decommissioned. An explanation to support the conclusions presented in updated ES Chapter 23: Summary of Significant Effects C6.2.23_A has been provided in the Review of Likely Significant Effects at 60 Years [EX2/C8.2.7].</p>
1.2.26	Applicant	<p>Paragraph 7.8.39 of ES Chapter 7: Climate Change [APP-042] states that it is assumed the half of the construction materials would come from China and half would come from Europe. However, paragraph 7.8.41 states that the PV panels are expected to be sourced from China. Can the Applicant comment on what basis the above assumption is made and explain how a worst-case-scenario has been assessed.</p>	<p>The calculation is based on an assumption of half of all on site materials coming from China and half of all on site materials coming from Europe. This includes both panels and batteries as well as mounting equipment and all other ancillary equipment. This is considered reasonable. As part of these calculations, it is expected that the solar panels will be sourced from China and the associated land and sea transportation emissions have been accounted for accordingly.</p> <p>The Applicant will make efforts to source materials from within the UK wherever possible so it is likely that the assumption that half of materials would come from Europe is an over-estimation of the</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			anticipated travel time. This conservative approach ensures that the worst-case scenario has been assessed.
1.2.27	Applicant	Please can the Applicant explain what factors will be used to determine whether tracking or fixed structures will be used and what effect a decision to opt for fixed or mounting structures would have on the overall generating capacity of the Proposed Development. Please can the Applicant also provide a comparison of hourly projections showing the likely energy output throughout the day/year for both fixed and tracking panels.	<p>PV solar panels continue to evolve the same fundamental technologies at a rapid rate. The ongoing improvements are twofold; the wattage of individual panels increases over time, and the efficiency with which the panels convert solar irradiance into electricity is improving. There are also occasional step changes in efficiency, for example the introduction of bi-facial panels that can receive irradiance on both sides a few years ago. This came from a relatively minor modification to panel design on the back of a panel so it has no bearing on the visual look of the panel or indeed how it would have been assessed within the Rochdale envelope.</p> <p>Panels mounted on tracking systems achieve a higher load factor thereby generating more electricity or in other words a higher yield, when compared to fixed mounting structures. In comparison, fixed systems are cheaper to install and allow a greater overall installed capacity on the same land area. The decision to select one over the other is therefore a function of the price of the panels and mounting structures at the time and predicted electricity prices. Higher predicted electricity prices in isolation would suggest present a better business case for trackers. In contrast if panels were particularly cheap at the point of ordering for construction then it may be favourable to install more panels on fixed structures. Either solution could deliver the most efficient overall output from the project, depending on market conditions at the time.</p> <p>A decision to opt for fixed or tracking mounting structures would not affect the overall export capacity of the Scheme, which is constrained</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>by the National Grid contract that restricts grid export capacity to a maximum of 600MW. The inverters within the conversion units control the maximum export capacity so as not to exceed the maximum export capacity.</p> <p>Hourly projections for the Scheme will depend on the detailed design and are not available at this stage in the process. The Applicant could provide generic data, based on current technology, at Deadline 3 if this would be of assistance..</p>
1.2.29	Applicant	<p>WLDC raise concerns in its LIR that the proposed development represents an inefficient use of land (see paragraph 6.1-6.2 and 6.4). Furthermore, the ExA notes the other solar schemes referenced by WLDC which utilise less land than that proposed by the Applicant to generate comparable amount of electricity. Can the Applicant explain how the generation of 600MW from a 1300ha (approx.) site represents an efficient use of land.</p>	<p>The Gate Burton Scheme has a 500MW grid connection export capacity compared with 600MW for Cottam, as set out at paragraph 1.1.8 of the Planning Design and Access Statement (EN010131/APP-005) for that project. It is normal for Schemes to include an element of 'over-planting' (See section 7.7 of Statement of Need [APP-350] hence paragraph 6.4 of the WLDC LIR refers to a 531MW generating capacity figure for Gate Burton. However, for site selection purposes, the directly comparable figures are 500MW for Gate Burton compared to 600MW for Cottam.</p> <p>The final Cottam Scheme measures 1,188.52 ha excluding Cable Route Corridors, means of access and the Cottam 1 permissive path as set out within paragraph 2.2.1 of the Planning Statement [APP-341]. The 1300ha figure referred to within the WLDC LIR was the initial land area sought by the Applicant as explained at paragraph 2.1.10 of the Site Selection Report [APP-067]. This area was later refined downwards as the Scheme design evolved as explained within ES Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040].</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>As explained at paragraph 2.1.10 of the Site Selection Report [APP-067], there needs to be a degree of flexibility in the amount of land required to generate each 50MW of energy. The precise area of land will be dependent upon individual site constraints, mitigation measures and also the amount of land set aside for landscaping and ecology. 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 Cottam Scheme. Each individual Scheme therefore has its own particular requirements and offers its own approach to landscape and biodiversity enhancements, but both Gate Burton and Cottam land areas are within the range of 75ha to 100ha per 50 MW set out at paragraph 2.1.10 of the Site Selection Report [APP-067].</p> <p>Furthermore, the site selection process for Cottam was successful in reducing the amount of best and most versatile agricultural land (BMV) within the Scheme to only 4.1% which contributes to the efficient use of land by enabling the continued use of BMV land within the local area for agricultural purposes.</p> <p>The Cottam scheme is, therefore, considered to represent an efficient use of land, balancing the generation of a significant amount of renewable energy against minimising the impacts of the Scheme through proposed ecological and landscape mitigation and enhancement areas.</p>
1.2.30	Applicant	Please explain how the 'network of sites' approach referred to by the Applicant in ES	The 'network of sites' approach was adopted as a result of the site selection process. In assessing potential development areas (as set out in Section 3 of C6.3.5.1 ES Appendix 5.1 Site Selection

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		<p>Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design represents 'good design'.</p>	<p>Assessment [APP-067] and Annex E, it was determined the 'network of sites' available at the Scheme's location worked favourably for reducing a number of environmental impacts, this complying with the principles of good design set out in Section 4.5 of Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1).</p> <p>C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040] details further how this approach allowed for a fine-tuning approach to the Scheme design to reduce impacts with regard to use of BMV land, heritage assets and archaeology, areas at risk of flooding, suitable access arrangements, as well as providing ample opportunity to utilise existing, and provide enhanced landscaping and vegetation. This demonstrates how the Scheme is sensitive and responsive to place. Aesthetically, the Applicant considers that the network of sites approach offers an acceptable alternative approach to a large single site, by reducing the visual impact on individual receptors and allowing for greater opportunities for landscape, noise, and ecological mitigation.</p> <p>Although the Scheme comprises a series of independent areas of land or Sites, they 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 the road and rail infrastructure. These independent areas of land provide more scope for the Scheme to be offset from all key receptors such as settlement edges, individual residential properties, PRow and transport routes which further assist with its integration and dispersion across the</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>landscape than if the Site were one composite whole. The discrete areas of land in the Scheme are placed so 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.</p> <p>The provision of a solar scheme with discrete areas of land can therefore offer a more favourable approach than having a single large site, as it allows for a distributed and less obtrusive deployment of the solar panels. 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> <p>Please refer to the ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [EN010133/EX2/C6.2.8_A], provided at Deadline 2, specifically Table 8.21 which sets out the strategic approach to the landscape design parameters that have been adopted in the process of developing the Scheme. These measures are particularly suited to a series of separate sites for the following reasons:</p> <p>Visual Buffers in Low-Lying Areas: The low-lying areas between the separate Sites are effective as visual buffers on a horizontal plane. This helps in reducing the visual impacts of the panels.</p> <p>Existing Vegetation Network: The intermediary areas between the separate Sites boast a strong network of existing vegetation providing structural benefits to the landscape. The existing vegetation also acts</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>as a backdrop for the panels and helps them integrate, particularly in views towards the horizon.</p> <p>Watercourse Integration: The watercourses are noted as distinct features in the landscape, and careful use of scattered tree and shrub planting helps reinforce their presence in a generous open context while setting panels back.</p> <p>New Planting and Green Infrastructure: A key policy objective is the incorporation of new planting and green infrastructure in all landscape mitigation measures. The receiving landscape is designed to allow space for such green infrastructure between areas.</p> <p>Open Character and Celebration of the Landscape: The areas between the separate Sites provide open character. Whilst this may not be a requirement in all locations, the character of these areas can be celebrated, emphasizing the importance of preserving these unique landscape qualities.</p> <p>Buffering of Public Rights of Way: Public rights of way are buffered, maintaining accessibility while minimising the impact of the panels along these routes.</p> <p>Scope for extended appreciation of the landscape: The areas between the Sites also provide scope for extended enjoyment of the landscape in these areas either through interpretation, access or exponentially, and</p> <p>Retaining and Enhancing Time Depth: The time depth within the landscape involves considering historical and cultural aspects such as the setting of settlements and the views of churches. The receiving</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>landscape between the Sites provides scope to preserve and enhance the time depth of the landscape.</p> <p>Section 6.4 of the Planning Statement [REP-047; revised at Deadline 2] shows that the Scheme has been subject to a detailed and sensitive iterative design process. This has taken account of the context and features of the land within the Order limits, nearby sensitive receptors and assets, information emerging from environmental surveys, feedback from stakeholders, and opportunities and constraints in order to develop a good design that balances the need to maximise the energy generation capacity of the Scheme, with the avoidance and mitigation of impacts, and provision of environmental and other enhancements, where practicable.</p>
1.2.31	Applicant	<p>WLDC, in its WR [REP-089] draws attention to apparent inconsistencies between the Applicant's consideration of the maximum viable distance to the Point of Connection (PoC) and that considered in other NSIPs currently in Examination.</p> <p>Please can the Applicant explain the apparent inconsistency and why considers a 20km distance between the Proposed development and the PoC is viable.</p>	<p>The Gate Burton applicant was able to find a site with willing landowners within 8km of the Point of Connection (POC). Paragraph 2.1.12 of the Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] explains that an initial search area was identified at a 5km radius from the 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 as explained within the Site Selection Assessment [APP-067]. The Applicant considers that the chosen sites are located close enough to the POC to provide a viable scheme. 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 (which was itself ruled out because it is immediately adjacent to High Marnham Power</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			Station where a grid connection was not preferred by National Grid at the time of site selection). Consequently, there are no obviously more suitable and available locations for the Scheme within the Search Area.
1.2.32	Applicant	<p>Please can the Applicant address the following apparent inconsistencies on the reporting of the same significant effects across the ES documents:</p> <p><u>Biodiversity:</u></p> <p>The Schedule of Significant Effects provided in Table 23.1 of ES Chapter 23: Summary of ES Significant Effects [APP-058] reports significant effects for some aspects but not for others despite significant effects being reported within the individual aspect chapters of the ES e.g. ecology and biodiversity (and LVIA). The Applicant is requested to update this table to align with the significant effects reported in the aspect chapters of the ES, including significant cumulative effects.</p> <p><u>Cultural Heritage:</u></p> <p>Please confirm whether paragraph 13.7.43 of ES Chapter: 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048] is correct in stating there would be</p>	<p><u>Biodiversity</u></p> <p>The noted inconsistencies have been acknowledged and Table 23.1 of ES Chapter 23 Summary of ES Significant Effects [EX2/C6.2.23_A] has been updated to capture them. This table is now in line with the residual effects detailed within ES Chapter 9 [APP-044].</p> <p><u>Cultural Heritage</u></p> <p>Cumulative Impact Assessment Tables [APP-132] and ES Chapter 23; Summary of Significant Effects [APP-058] are correct in their assessment of HLI156.</p> <p>The applicant acknowledges that paragraph 13.7.43 of ES Chapter: 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048] should state that there would be significant effects at five HLC units, not four, as HLI156 was inadvertently missed out of the discussion in this paragraph.</p> <p>If required by the Examining authority, a revision to C6.2.13 ES Chapter 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048] can be provided as appropriate for Deadline 3.</p> <p><u>Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation</u></p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		<p>significant effects at four HLC units in Cottam 1. Both the Cumulative Impact Assessment Tables [APP-132] and ES Chapter 23; Summary of Significant Effects [APP-058] also refer to HLI156 in this regard.</p> <p><u>Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation:</u></p> <p>Please confirm whether all of the significant residual effects reported in ES Chapter 18: Socio-Economics and Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] are included within Table 23.1: Schedule of Significant Effects) within ES Chapter 23: Summary of Significant Effects [APP-058].</p> <p>Can the Applicant provide an updated summary of residual effects as appropriate, ensuring that all significant effects are reported, update the revised Non-Technical Summary [REP-035] to ensure that it reported the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development and cite where Table 6.1 is taken from as regards Chapter 18: Socio-Economics and Tourism and Recreation.</p> <p><u>Waste:</u></p>	<p>The Applicant has identified that the peak cumulative moderate adverse impact on the Trent Valley Way has not been identified correctly as a significant effect with regard to long-distance recreation routes, rather than as an effect on Public Rights of Way, in Table 23.1 of the Summary of Significant Effects ES chapter. The Applicant also confirms that this error has been included in Table 18.29 in C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]. The Applicant stresses that the conclusion in text at para. 18.10.31 is correct. As such Table 23.1 of C6.2.23_A ES Chapter 23_Summary of Significant Effects Revision A [EN010133/EX2/C6.2.23_A] has been updated for Deadline 2. If required by the Examining authority, a revision to C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] can be provided as appropriate for Deadline 3.</p> <p>The Applicant can confirm that the "Significant Residual Post-Mitigation Effects" with respect to the Scheme in Table 6.1 of C6.5 B ES Non-Technical Summary Revision B [EN010133/EX2/C6.5_B] is sourced from the effects highlighted as significant in the "Post-Mitigation Residual Effects" column in Table 18.29 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18_Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053], and that both tables are consistent.</p> <p><u>Waste</u></p> <p>The Applicant seeks to clarify that the significant effect identified at para. 20.11.1 should be in relation only to the <i>cumulative</i> decommissioning phase. This error has also been copied into the Non-technical Summary, and Summary of Significant Effects ES chapter. As such, Section 6.15 of C6.5_B ES Non-Technical Summary</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		Please explain why paragraph 20.8.1 (sic) of ES Chapter 20: Waste [APP-055] states there would not be a significant effect, whereas paragraph 20.11.1 states there would be in relation to the Proposed Development.	Revision B [EN010133/EX2/C6.5_B] and Table 23.1 of C6.2.23_A ES Chapter 23_Summary of Significant Effects Revision A [EN010133/EX2/C6.2.23_A] are updated for Deadline 2. If required by the Examining authority, a revision to C6.2.20 ES Chapter 20 Waste [APP-055] can be provided as appropriate for Deadline 3.

3 The need case, electricity generated and climate change

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
1.3.1	All IPs	The ExA notes that since the Applicant prepared its Statement of Need [APP-350], the Government has published its response to the consultation comments on the dNPS, updated the dNPS documents and published its blueprint for the future of energy in the UK 'Powering Up Britain' (all dated 30 March 2023). All IPs are invited to comment on the implications of these documents on the Applicant's needs case.	<p>C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] provides, at Section 3.3, a synthesis of the 2021 draft National Policy Statements. The Applicant has reviewed the 2023 dNPS EN-1 and EN-3 and notes that they are substantially similar to the 2021 drafts in relation to substantiating the urgent need for the Scheme.</p> <p>The structure of the NPS suite has not changed in the latest draft documents dated March 2023. Draft Revised NPS (dNPS) EN-1 sets out the Government's policy for the delivery of major energy infrastructure, and dNPS EN-3 covers both onshore and offshore renewable electricity generation.</p> <p>The key points brought out in the 2023 edition documents are a clearer level of Government support for solar in EN-3, and an unequivocal acceptance that new network infrastructure will be needed to meet Net Zero in EN-5, as detailed below.</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>The Applicant notes that the Scheme is fully in line with Government policy set out in the dNPS because it is bringing forward for consent a large-scale solar Scheme which proposes to connect to an existing and available grid substation.</p> <p>The Applicant provides the following update to matters raised in Section 3.3 of the Statement of Need and in doing so references the updated dNPS documents.</p> <p>dNPS EN-1</p> <p>The fundamental need for the large-scale infrastructure, which dNPS EN-1 considers, has been updated versus the 2011 NPS suite, to recognise the UK's legal commitment to decarbonise to net zero by 2050 and so contribute to holding the increase in global average temperature due to climate change, to well below 2 degrees above pre-industrial levels. The dNPS states that:</p> <p><i>"Using electrification to reduce emissions in large parts of transport, heating and industry could lead to more than half of final energy demand being met by electricity in 2050, up from 17 per cent in 2019, representing a doubling in demand for electricity. Low carbon hydrogen is also likely to play an increasingly significant role."</i> [Para 2.3.7].</p> <p>The Government's direction is to develop an integrated energy system which relies on low-carbon electricity generation for a significant proportion of its supply. As a consequence: <i>"Demand for electricity is likely to increase significantly over the coming years and could more than double by 2050 as large parts of transport, heating and industry decarbonise by switching from fossil fuels to low carbon</i></p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p><i>electricity. The Impact Assessment for CB6 shows an illustrative range of 465-515TWh in 2035 and 610-800TWh in 2050.</i> [Para 3.3.3].</p> <p>Section 3.3 of dNPS EN-1 explains that large capacities of low-carbon generation will be required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that there is sufficient electricity to meet increased demand • Replace output from retiring plants • Ensure there is sufficient margin in our supply to accommodate unexpectedly high demand, and • Mitigate risks such as unexpected plant closures and extreme weather events <p>dNPS EN-1 concludes that there is an urgent need for new electricity generating capacity to meet our energy objectives and also articulates the prudence of planning infrastructure development on a conservative basis, including for scenarios in which the future use of hydrogen is limited [Para 3.3.10]. The Government maintains that its analysis shows that <i>"a secure, reliable, affordable, net zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar"</i> [Para 3.3.20].</p> <p>In noting the crucial national benefits of increased system robustness through new electricity network infrastructure projects, dNPS EN-1 also recognises the particular strategic importance in the next decade of the role of solar generation in the UK's generation mix.</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p><i>"As part of delivering [a secure, reliable, affordable, net zero consistent system in 2050], government announced in the British Energy Security Strategy an ambition to deliver up to 50GW of offshore wind by 2030 ... and the requirement in the Energy White Paper for sustained growth in the capacity of onshore wind and solar in the next decade." [Para 3.3.21].</i></p> <p>The siting of new solar capacity is therefore important and the location of points of connection to existing networks to enable that capacity to come forwards, are an important consideration. dNPS EN-1 goes on to provide that:</p> <p><i>"The case for a new connection or network reinforcement is demonstrated if the proposed development represents an efficient and economical means of: connecting a new generating station to the network; reinforcing the network to accommodate such connections; or reinforcing the network to ensure that it is sufficiently resilient and capacious (per any performance standards set by Ofgem) to reliably supply present and/or anticipated future levels of demand." [Para 3.3.75]</i></p> <p>dNPS EN-1 concludes that much of the electricity infrastructure to support net zero is anticipated to be required on a large-scale which will connect at the transmission level: <i>"Decentralised and community energy systems such as micro-generation contribute to our targets on reducing carbon emissions and increasing energy security. These technologies could also lead to some reduction in demand on the main generation and transmission system. However, the government does not believe they will replace the need for new large-scale electricity</i></p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p><i>infrastructure to meet our energy objectives. This is because connection of large-scale, centralised electricity generating facilities via a high voltage transmission system enables the pooling of both generation and demand, which in turn offers a number of economic and other benefits, such as more efficient bulk transfer of power and enabling surplus generation capacity in one area to be used to cover shortfalls elsewhere."</i> [Para 3.3.12]</p> <p>In relation to integration technologies, dNPS EN-1 states that: <i>"New generating plants can deliver a low carbon and reliable system, but we need the increased flexibility provided by new storage and interconnectors (as well as demand side response ...) to reduce costs in support of an affordable supply. Storage and interconnection can provide flexibility, meaning that less of the output of plant is wasted as it can either be stored or exported when there is excess production."</i> [Paras 3.3.5 & 6].</p> <p>dNPS EN-1 goes on to explain that storage is needed to reduce the costs of the electricity system and increase reliability by storing surplus electricity in times of over-supply, to provide electricity when demand is higher. The Statement of Need [APP-350] explains that storage can achieve the benefits set out in the dNPSs from stand-alone facilities or facilities co-located with renewable generation facilities.</p> <p>The local and national benefits which storage assets can provide are also referenced in dNPS EN-1 [Paras 3.3.6 & 27], being:</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximising the usable output from intermittent low carbon generation • Reducing the total amount of generating capacity required to meet peak demand • Reducing the need for new network infrastructure • Providing a range of balancing services to help operate the electricity system, and • Reducing constraints on the electricity network <p>The role of 'low-carbon hydrogen' is also signalled as likely growing in significance in the future GB energy system, and therefore supports the need for infrastructure which can generate low-carbon electricity to produce low-carbon hydrogen [Paras 2.3.5 - 2.3.7].</p> <p>dNPS EN-3</p> <p>dNPS EN-3 covers nationally significant renewable energy infrastructure which includes solar photovoltaic (PV) at >50 MW in England and >350MW in Wales [Para 2.6.1].</p> <p>dNPS EN-3 bolsters the support for solar development in the UK already drafted in the 2021 versions, now stating that it has <i>"committed to sustained growth in solar capacity to ensure that we are on a pathway that allows us to meet net zero emissions. As such solar is a key part of the government's strategy for low-cost decarbonisation of the energy sector"</i> [Para 3.10.1]</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>The dNPS goes on to re-iterate the contribution that solar generation is expected to make to achieving net zero targets and the energy security goals set out in the British Energy Security Strategy, of <i>"a five-fold increase in solar deployment by 2035 (up to 70GW)"</i> [Para 3.10.2]</p> <p>Because <i>"Solar farms are one of the most established renewable electricity technologies in the UK and the cheapest form of electricity generation,"</i> [Para 3.10.4], solar is also expected to bring forwards affordability benefits for consumers.</p> <p><i>"Solar farms can be built quickly and, coupled with consistent reductions in the cost of materials and improvements in the efficiency of panels, large-scale solar is now viable in some cases to deploy subsidy-free."</i> [Para 3.10.5]</p> <p>Grid connection, and in particular the likely proximity of schemes to suitable connection points on the transmission network, is also addressed: <i>"The connection voltage, availability of network capacity, and the distance from the solar farm to the existing network can have a significant effect on the commercial feasibility of a development proposal."</i> [Para 3.10.37]</p> <p><i>"To maximise existing grid infrastructure, minimise disruption to existing local community infrastructure or biodiversity and reduce overall costs applicants may choose a site based on nearby available grid export capacity."</i> [Para 3.10.38]</p> <p>dNPS EN-3 also lists irradiance and site topography as key inputs to site selection [Paras 3.10.10 & 11]</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>dNPS EN-3 suggests anticipated levels of land efficiency for solar generation, recognises both the land take which schemes such as this one requires, but also that evolution in the technology is anticipated and this may bring about efficiency benefits through the life of the Scheme:</p> <p><i>“Along with associated infrastructure, a solar farm requires between 2 to 4 acres for each MW of output. A typical 50MW solar farm will consist of around 100,000 to 150,000 panels and cover between 125 to 200 acres. However, this will vary significantly depending on the site, with some being larger and some being smaller. This is also expected to change over time as the technology continues to evolve to become more efficient.”</i> [Para 3.10.8]</p> <p>The degradation of solar efficiency over time is addressed in dNPS EN-3 [Para 3.10.46], suggesting that developers may need to account for the light-induced degradation effects on solar panels by overplanting solar panel arrays.</p> <p>The design life of solar panels should also be considered <i>“when determining the period for which consent is required. An upper limit of 40 years is typical, although applicants may seek consent without a time-period or for differing time-periods of operation.”</i> [Para 3.10.56].</p> <p>dNPS EN-5</p> <p>dNPS EN-5 (2023) covers new, non-exempt above ground electricity lines over 2km in length whose nominal voltage is expected to be 132kV or above and other kind of electricity infrastructure in</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>England which is constituted as associated development for which consent is sought along with an NSIP [Para 1.6.2].</p> <p>dNPS EN-5 (2023) acknowledges that the siting of new electricity transmission infrastructure is determined by <i>“the location of new generating stations or other infrastructure requiring connection to the network, and/or system capacity and resilience requirements determined by the Electricity System Operator”</i> [Para 2.2.2]. Further, that <i>“that significant new electricity networks infrastructure is required”</i> [Para 2.2.3].</p> <p>Therefore, dNPS EN-5 concludes that the UK’s Centralised Strategic Network Planning process identifies strategic investments intended to facilitate achieving net zero and decarbonisation targets, the Secretary of State should have regard to the need case for new electricity networks infrastructure set out in Section 3.3 of dNPS EN-1. [Paras 2.81 & 2.82].</p> <p>Powering Up Britain</p> <p>In March 2023, the Government published ‘Powering Up Britain’ https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/powering-up-britain which explains <i>“how the Government will enhance our country’s energy security, seize the economic opportunities of the transition [to renewables], and deliver on our net zero commitments”</i> [p6], and observes that <i>“The [Mission Zero] Review was unequivocal in its assessment that the plan set out in the Net Zero Strategy was the right one, whilst providing recommendations to strengthen delivery.”</i> [p16]</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>Powering Up Britain reaches the conclusion that <i>"We need investment at scale ... to rapidly rollout existing technologies ... at pace to meet our ambitions for decarbonising power and [lower] wholesale UK electricity prices."</i> [p9] and observes that <i>"a significant proportion of technologies we will need for 2050 are currently at the demonstration or prototype phase"</i> [p9]. This implies that while we should continue to strive for innovation, waiting for novel technologies to deliver comes with risk (as some technologies may not deliver) and therefore the Government's strategy to deliver a rapid rollout of existing technologies while continuing to invest in new technologies is of critical importance in the fight against climate change. Ground-mounted large-scale solar is a mature technology which is capable of delivering a reliable and rapid rollout once projects are consented.</p> <p>Powering Up Britain therefore concludes that accelerating deployment of renewables is critical to the delivery of Government's plans: <i>"Our goal is to develop up to 50GW of offshore wind by 2030 and to quintuple our solar power by 2035"</i> [p7], noting that 14GW of solar is already installed in the UK [p19].</p>
1.3.2	The Applicant, Interested Parties	Please comment on the implications for the Government's Net Zero and climate change commitments should the Proposed Development not be implemented.	The Net-Zero obligation is the UK's contribution to meeting the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change and there is a duty on government to ensure that these targets are met. Section 4.7 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] summarises the Committee on Climate Change (CCC's) 2022 review of Government progress towards its 2050 Net Zero commitments: the UK's emissions targets are compliant with the Paris Agreement and the Net Zero strategy

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>(and supporting strategies) to reach them are credible, however policies are not yet in place to drive the large programme of delivery required in the 2020s and tangible progress is lagging behind the policy ambition.</p> <p>The CCC's 2023 Progress Report to Parliament described a "lack of urgency in the delivery of decarbonisation in the UK". The summary, on page 14 of the report, was that the UK should stay firm on existing commitments to decarbonise, including a fully decarbonised electricity grid by 2035, and move to delivery.</p> <p>Figure 5.2 of the Statement of Need shows the results of an analysis by National Grid ESO of the carbon emissions associated with each of the four scenarios they modelled in the 2022 Future Energy Scenarios, in relation to carbon budgets CB4, 5 and 6. Carbon emissions are currently higher than they need to be to meet CB4 (2023-2027), and emissions will need to already be on a significantly downward trajectory through CB5 (2028-2032) in order to remain on track to achieve CB6 (2033-2037).</p> <p>The Government's position (as described in the Applicant's response to ExA Q1.3.1) is that solar will be part of the solution to decarbonising the electricity grid and Figure 5.1 of the Statement of Need shows the trajectories of installed solar capacity projected in each of National Grid's Future Energy Scenarios.</p> <p>Rising from c.15GW at the time of writing this submission, solar generation capacity in the UK will need to rise to between 25GW and</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>41GW by 2030 in scenarios which are compliant with a Net Zero future (Future Energy Scenarios, 2023, Table ES1)</p> <p>The same report includes pathways of between 36GW and 60GW solar capacity installed by 2035 for the UK to remain compliant with a Net-Zero future, but Government's view is now that even more solar must be delivered by 2035 to ensure that Net-Zero and energy security are both delivered in an affordable, efficient, pro-business and pro-enterprise way (as also referenced in ExA Q1.3.1).</p> <p>To achieve these targets and secure our Net Zero future, the equivalent of over 150 solar projects (600MW x 90 = 54GW, versus c.15GW installed solar capacity as at 2023) of a similar scale to the scheme will be required to come forwards in the next 12 years (i.e., in 2035 or earlier). The Applicant does not expect all of this capacity to be large-scale ground mounted solar but does expect that large-scale ground mounted solar will play a significant role in the delivery of Net Zero, for reasons set out in Section 7.6 of the Statement of Need.</p> <p>Section 7.5 of the Statement of Need describes how suitable locations for large-scale solar generation in the UK may be assessed and selected by developers. Highly suitable locations for large-scale solar will possess an attractive combination of available land, available points of connection to the electricity networks, and sufficiently high solar irradiation.</p> <p>However, grid connection capacity is relatively scarce (hence an acknowledgement in dNPS EN-5, referenced in answer to ExA</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>Q1.3.1, in that “significant new electricity networks infrastructure is required”).</p> <p>The Applicant presents the proposed location of the Scheme as a highly suitable location and one of the key benefits of the Scheme is that it makes use of existing grid connection capacity which facilitates a connection in the 2020s and therefore will, if consented, contribute to the UK’s decarbonisation and security of supply efforts in the important 2020s timeframe.</p> <p>If the Scheme is not implemented, then a critical opportunity will have been missed to deliver a significant capacity of low-carbon solar generation capacity onto the National Electricity Transmission System in the important 2020s.</p> <p>Firstly, this would have a multiplying effect on the criticality and scale of projects required to deliver in later timeframes to make up for the carbon emissions (and their associated global warming effect) which would otherwise have been avoided by the Scheme. Secondly, this would have an effect on the cost and timings associated with connecting the required capacities of low-carbon generation to meet Net-Zero.</p> <p>Unless a different low-carbon generation scheme came forward and was consented to connect at Cottam, connection capacity would need to be created elsewhere which would likely take more time (due to a more complex consenting, design and construction process associated with new infrastructure vs. using existing infrastructure), thereby increasing carbon emissions in the ensuing</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>period, and increase consumer costs (when compared to utilising an existing and available point of connection).</p> <p>Further, if no scheme was consented to connect at Cottam, existing and available grid infrastructure would be left unused, which is untenable given the requirement for much more large-scale solar schemes and a relative scarcity of grid.</p> <p>dNPS EN-1 is clear on the point of need, requiring the Secretary of State to assess all applications for development consent for the types on infrastructure covered by this NPS on the basis that the government has demonstrated that there is a need for those types of infrastructure which is urgent (paragraph 3.2.5). Draft EN-1 further states that the Secretary of State is not required to consider the specific contribution of any individual project to satisfying the need established within the NPS (paragraph 3.2.7). If the Scheme is not implemented, the benefit brought forward by the Scheme to Government's Net Zero and climate change commitments, and energy security aims would need to be delivered by as yet undefined, unconsented projects. The Applicant considers that this would significantly increase the risk of non-delivery of Government's legal obligations.</p>
1.3.3	Applicant, All IPs.	The ExA notes the Applicant's Statement of Need [APP-350] (paragraph 4.3.9) refers to the then unpublished 'Skidmore Review'. Following its publication on 13	Mission Zero was published in January 2023 by Rt Hon Chris Skidmore MP, Chair of government's Independent Review of Net Zero. The report was commissioned to ask how the UK might deliver its own net zero targets in a manner that was more affordable, more

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		<p>January 2023 as 'Mission Zero Independent Review of Net Zero', please comment on any implications you consider this review may have in the consideration of the Proposed Development.</p>	<p>efficient, and in a pro-business and pro-enterprise way. Mission Zero recognises the importance of taking action on net zero. It also recognises the fact that the energy transition is a new economic reality, particularly amid the global reality of the energy security crisis and rising gas and fossil fuel prices in 2022.</p> <p>Mission Zero reconfirms the global importance of the UK's commitment to achieve net zero and makes recommendations which should be taken forwards now, alongside other wider recommendations. It states that the UK should be proud of the steps it has taken so far to achieve net zero, and that climate change and the economy are intertwined.</p> <p>It also states that the UK must however move quickly, not only to protect and secure delivery of our national climate commitments but also to deliver the economic benefits of moving away from a carbon economy. The review finds that <i>"The benefits of net zero will outweigh the costs"</i> and believes that <i>"This is too important to get wrong"</i> [p8].</p> <p>Mission Zero makes the following recommendations which are relevant to the growing need for large-scale ground mount solar to be deployed in the UK:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Mission no. 2: <i>"Full-scale deployment of solar including a rooftop revolution to harness one of the cheapest forms of energy, increase our energy independence and deliver up to 70GW of British solar generation by 2035"</i>. Para 8.5.9 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] states that <i>"it is the Applicant's</i>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p><i>view that large-scale solar must be considered as additional to, as opposed to instead of, the need for continued development in distribution connected, smaller scale solar, and this includes the development of rooftop solar.”</i> The Applicant welcomes the inclusion of a ‘rooftop revolution’ in plans to decarbonise but such a revolution would not diminish the need for the scheme, for reasons described in Section 7.6 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Mission no. 8: <i>“Working towards gas free homes by 2035 [or earlier]”</i> and Recommendation 1 is to set a legislative target for gas-free homes and appliances. Although the legislative target is unlikely to be set under the current administration, the shift to low-carbon sources of heat in homes is clear. • Recommendation 15 is the swift delivery of Zero Emissions Vehicles and the ZEV mandate to apply from 2024. Powering Up Britain (see ExA Q1.3.1) remains ambitious and forward-thinking in its targets for the decarbonization of light road transport, but is less explicit in regard to associated timelines – noting the practical requirement to remain compatible (from a supply chain / industry change perspective) with the wider European position. On p27, Powering Up Britain states <i>“Between 2030 and 2035, new cars and vans will only be able to be sold if they offer significant zero emission capability”</i>. Where legislative targets for ZEVs have recently been pushed back, three manufacturers – Mini,

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) and Nissan – have already stood fast in their drives to become 100% electric brands from 2026, 2025 and 2030 respectively.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Mission 8 and Recommendations 1 and 15 add weight to the argument for rollout of solar and other renewable generation to meet the growing demand which will arise from their delivery. • Priority Mission no. 9 is to <i>“Embed nature and habitat restoration ... maximising co-benefits for climate and nature wherever possible.”</i> Ground mount solar can deliver on this Priority Mission through delivering biodiversity net gain as a result of development. • Recommendation 11 is to <i>“Set up taskforce and deployment roadmaps in 2023 for solar to reach up to 70GW by 2035.”</i> This Recommendation recognises that the current pipeline for solar projects in the UK, and the most ambitious industry projections for solar deployment, are not yet of sufficient scale to meet the Government’s ambition without undue levels of risk associated with the deployment of other technologies. <p>Mission Zero recognises the importance of local action and local plans to the achievement of net zero. People and places must be empowered to deliver net zero through a full alignment on a local level with a net zero future through the introduction of a ‘net zero test’. All local authorities will be required to play their part in</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			achieving carbon neutrality in the future. Ground-mounted solar (at both Nationally Significant infrastructure and local planning authority scale) is a leading deliverable low-carbon generation technology which will enable local authorities to deliver against plans to decarbonize on a local level.
1.3.5	Applicant	Please respond to the points raised by 7000 acres in its WR [REP-117] in relation to the Applicant's Statement of Need [APP-350].	<p>This response is set out at a summary level. Some specific points raised have been addressed in detail below, using the Chapter and Section numbering of REP-117 to assist the ExA in their review.</p> <p>Applicant's summary response.</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 draft NPS and Powering Up Britain, both published in March 2023.</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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			<p>Furthermore, paragraph 7.6.8 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] states that: <i>"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."</i> The Scheme, as is described in Chapter 4 of C6.2.4 ES Chapter 4_Scheme Description [APP-039], delivers a large-scale solar generation asset which is consistent with this range, . 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> <p>Figure 8.2 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] shows how solar is expected to work alongside other renewable and low-carbon assets to meet demand throughout the year. The inclusion of batteries as part of the Scheme will allow the Scheme to store energy when it is in abundance and release it to the grid when it is needed.</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] describes and expresses agreement with Government's view that</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>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>Section 1.1 - The Sixth Carbon Budget</p> <p>At Figure 5.2 of C7.11 Statement of Need, the Applicant presents a chart, produced by National Grid ESO, which assesses each of the four pathways set out in their Future Energy Scenarios 2022 report in relation to Carbon Budget targets. The conclusion is clear: the only pathways which are capable of meeting CB6 are those which include a rapid decarbonisation of the UK's electricity system. The Government's Energy White Paper (2020) confirms that "A low-cost, net zero consistent system is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar," these points together underpinning the essential contribution of solar generation to national decarbonisation plans and achieving future Carbon Budgets.</p> <p>Section 1.2 - UK Energy Policy Publications</p> <p>The Applicant notes that in none of the documents listed does Policy suggest either that large-scale solar is not required, or that rooftop or retrofit solar on their own will meet the need for solar capacity in the UK. Figure 7.1 of C7.11 Statement of Need and related text (Paragraphs 7.2.11 through 7.2.13) explains that the case for urgent decarbonisation increased massively with the commitment to net zero, made in 2019. Additional remarks have already been made in</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>answer to ExA Q1.3.1, Q1.3.2 and in the summary response section to Q1.3.5.</p> <p>Section 1.3 - National Policy Statements</p> <p>The Applicant set out its synthesis of the National Policy Statements in Chapter 3 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] and has updated this to consider the 2023 dNPS in response to ExA Q1.3.2.</p> <p>Section 1.4 - The Skidmore Review</p> <p>The Applicant has provided a review of Mission Zero in answer to ExA Q1.3.3. The Applicant notes the comments made by 7000 Acres in relation to the need for flexibility and refers to Chapter 11 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] and the Applicant's inclusion of a battery energy storage facility in order to provide capability to deliver flexibility as part of the Scheme.</p> <p>Section 2.1 - Solar Capacity</p> <p>The Applicant notes that 7000 Acres have identified that "One concerning point is the degree to which households are 'likely' to install solar panels in the next 5 years, which is below 25%", the Applicant sets out in Section 7.6 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] why it, like Government, does not consider rooftop or decentralised solar to be replacement for transmission-scale schemes.</p> <p>At Section 2.1.2, 7000 Acres cites a 2015 study on the German electricity system to illustrate that the UK grid is not suitable for solar. In response, the Applicant brings to the ExA's attention the</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>fact that Germany's cumulative solar capacity surpassed 77.67GW (77,670MW) at the end of September 2023 with goals to achieve 215GW by 2030. As the market evolves, other measures will facilitate the integration of solar and other renewable generation into the energy system. Chapter 8.8 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] discusses the system adequacy of solar generation and demonstrates that the 'Generation dependability' of a combined portfolio of wind and solar assets is improved versus a portfolio consisting of just one asset type.</p> <p>Section 2.1.3 - Curtailment</p> <p>In relation to comments on curtailment, the Applicant first directs the ExA to Section 7.1 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] which describes that, according to Government's Energy White Paper (2020), meeting a possible doubling of electricity demand by 2050 <i>"would require a four-fold increase in clean electricity generation with the decarbonisation of electricity increasingly underpinning the delivery of our Net Zero target."</i></p> <p>Figure 7-2 of the Statement of Need [APP-350] shows National Grid's projections of installed generation capacity in the UK by 2030 and 2050. Not only is renewable generation capacity expected to increase between now and 2030, but so is flexible capacity (shown as orange in that Figure).</p> <p>A significant increase in UK electricity generation capacity is required to meet growing demand and deliver security of supply under different weather conditions. Because the weather is uncontrollable,</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>more capacity is needed to ensure that demand can be met even when renewable output is low.</p> <p>7000 Acres point to curtailment as a disbenefit of the Scheme and incorrectly cites numbers from National Grid's Future Energy Scenarios document. The Applicant addresses these incorrect statements in three parts.</p> <p>Firstly, it is important to put in context, the current reasons for curtailment in the UK, and the prices paid to generators to curtail.</p> <p>Currently, curtailment is experienced on the UK's large-scale wind fleet. Much of this is due to transmission constraints: the transmission wires between the asset, where energy is generated, and the major points of consumption, do not have the capacity to transmit all of the generation. In the 12 months starting 1st October 2022 and ending 30th September 2023, National Grid data records metered wind to be 63TWh. Constraints due to location totalled 3.3TWh (5% of net generation) and constraints due simply to there being 'too much wind energy on the system' totalled 0.6TWh, or less than 1% of net generation.</p> <p>Chapter 9 of C7.11 Statement of Need describes that the Scheme proposes to connect to a well connected section of the NETS which has available transmission capacity and is unlikely to cause the Scheme to be curtailed. In the event that the Scheme was required to curtail, the inclusion of a BESS as part of the Scheme provides additional tools to the operator to store any excess generation for dispatch to the system when it is needed.</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>Secondly, put simply, without the build out of large capacities of renewable generation, the UK may not be able to meet demand at times of low renewable output, potentially causing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power cuts (contrary to Government's aim to ensure security of supply) • Price spikes (contrary to Government's aim to shield consumers from volatile energy markets), and/or • Stand-by fossil fuel assets to generate (contrary to Government's aim to decarbonise the electricity system by 2035) <p>The alternative approach, i.e. building out large capacities of renewable generation, meets the Government's aims and provides opportunities for market approaches to manage curtailment and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use curtailed energy to support security of supply when demand is high • Keep consumer costs down by capturing and storing energy when it is abundant (therefore cheap) and releasing it when it is needed • Displace stand-by fossil assets by using stored energy as a low-carbon "peaking" energy resource, further supporting the Government's aim for the electricity system to be operating with net zero carbon emissions from 2035.

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>Section 8.7 of the Statement of Need [APP-350] describes four ways of diversifying renewable generation sources to maintain adequacy and minimise curtailment. One of these is the development of Energy Storage Systems.</p> <p>Many different technologies are anticipated to be used for energy storage in the future, and National Grid's FES discusses in detail the prospect of electrolysed hydrogen offering an effective inter-seasonal storage solution (e.g. p192 of FES (2023) nationalgrideso.com/document/283101/download).</p> <p>The Applicant has included a proposal for a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) as Associated Development to the main solar development. One of the benefits of the BESS is that it will be able to work as part of the Scheme, and other energy storage systems elsewhere connected to the UK's electricity system, to reduce curtailment, both specifically at the Scheme, and as an additional benefit, more widely.</p> <p>Thirdly, 7000 Acres have misrepresented the level of curtailment in National Grid's FES pathways.</p> <p>Data from FES (2023) Table FL.18 shows that average curtailment in the years 2031 – 2040 ranges from 31TWh ('Leading the Way') to 46.8TWh ('System Transformation') however a deeper dive into the data (via Table ES1 of the same report) shows that curtailment of <i>solar</i> generation is anticipated to be much lower, with an average annual curtailment 2031-2040 ranging from 2.4TWh - 2.7TWh.</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>In summary, future curtailment, if/when it occurs, would be a 'good' problem for the UK power sector to have. It would show that large capacities of renewable generation have been built out to deliver low-carbon supplies to meet peak demand, delivering security of supply, meeting carbon reduction targets and reducing wholesale costs of energy. Further, the market signals associated with curtailment, will drive the development of consumer and/or supply side flexibility to make efficient use of abundant resource and drive further security of supply, decarbonisation and affordability benefits for consumers across the whole energy system.</p> <p>Section 2.2.1 - Balancing the Electricity Grid</p> <p>This section makes some observations on demand shape and levels in different seasons in the UK. The Applicant notes that 'security of supply' means 'keeping the lights on' and that is as important in the summer (when for example wind generation tends to be lower but solar generation tends to be higher) as it is in the winter (when wind generation tends to be higher and solar generation tends to be lower). A significant increase in UK electricity generation capacity is required to meet growing demand and deliver security of supply under different weather conditions. Because the weather is uncontrollable, more capacity is needed to ensure that demand can be met even when renewable output is low. Figure 8.2 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] provides an illustration of solar and wind generation together meeting demand through the different months of the year.</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>Section 2.2.2 - Flexible tariffs</p> <p>7000 Acres helpfully brings to the examination just one market integration measure – a ‘time of use tariff’ - which is incentivising consumers to shift demand to where supply is available. There are other measures coming forward, including forms of energy storage, which will continue to support the every-day balancing of supply and demand. The need for flexibility is set out in Chapter 11 of C7.11 Statement of Need and the Applicant and refers to the inclusion of a battery energy storage facility in order to provide capability to deliver flexibility as part of the Scheme.</p> <p>Section 2.3 Solar Generation Capability</p> <p>The Applicant has responded to the points raised in each of the sub-sections to this Section below.</p> <p>Section 2.3.1 - Solar to Power Households</p> <p>The Applicant refers to 6.2.7 ES Chapter 7_Climate Change Climate Change [REP-014] Para 7.8.62 which states that “Energy generation from the Scheme during the first year of operation is estimated to be 945,000 MWh.” This is based on the Applicant’s illustrative Scheme design and supports the calculations of power generated from the Scheme as expressed as equivalent annual household consumption.</p> <p>Section 2.3.2 - Impact of Solar on Market Price</p> <p>Solar will work with other technologies as part of a multi-technology energy system. Picking just one day from a history of data illustrates</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>the need for such a multi-technology approach. The Applicant explains how solar reduces the traded price of electricity in Section 10.2 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350]. Section 10.3 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] explains that solar generation is already among the cheapest generation technologies in the UK from a levelised cost perspective, it also has near-to-zero marginal costs and therefore will generate energy for consumers whenever it is available. This goes towards Government's aim to manage the affordability of energy.</p> <p>Section 2.3.3 - Solar gain and energy density</p> <p>The Applicant would be interested to understand from 7000 Acres, how the ExA should interpret the 'Energy Density' table presented in this section. If the Applicant was permitted to draw its own conclusions from the table, it would be simply that zero-carbon sources of energy are less dense than carbon emitting sources of energy, which is a statement of fact well understood by many but able to be influenced by none.</p> <p>Table 7.1 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] sets out, with sources, the range of electricity generation expected to be achieved per hectare of land, in the UK, by different technologies. The conclusion from this table is clear: that solar and onshore wind generate similar levels of energy per year per unit area of land, and this is significantly more than that produced by biogas.</p> <p>The Applicant recognises that solar is being developed in other countries which are sunnier than the UK but is conscious of the fact</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>that none of those developments reduce the need for solar in the UK, or make solar in the UK any less efficient or effective than the level supported by evidence which the Applicant has provided.</p> <p>Paragraph 8.9.5 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] quotes from the British Energy Security Strategy: <i>"If we're going to get 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"</i>. [p3]</p> <p>Figure 10.3 and 10.4 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] shows that solar in the UK, which by virtue of its carbon-and-cost free input fuel (sunlight) has a lower levelised cost of generation than all non-renewable technologies and is set to become the lowest cost form of renewable generation in the UK as well.</p> <p>2.2.4 - Solar and Decarbonisation</p> <p>It is accepted that some assumptions have been made in the course of calculating the decarbonisation within the Climate Change ES Chapter [REP-014].</p> <p>The CO₂e savings as a result of the crops produced on the land being used as biofuel has not been considered as this would also result in an assessment being required of carbon emissions generated from harvesting, transport and processing etc. of this source. It is considered that not calculating these potential changes in carbon emissions is reasonable and would not alter the conclusions of the Climate Change ES chapter that the solar scheme</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>would result in significantly fewer CO2e emissions when compared to fossil fuel use regardless of existing land-use.</p> <p>The calculations carried out for the Scheme are based on the annual projected energy generation. Assuming this projected energy generation is met, then any variation in energy production vs. demand is accounted for within the calculations. It is accepted that this approach is fairly high-level but it is considered that it still provides a useful indication of the decarbonisation offered by the Scheme.</p> <p>When solar generates, it will displace the marginal plant from the electricity system. This means the asset with the highest marginal cost of production, which in the UK is predominantly CCGT due to their requirement to buy gas and offset the carbon emissions associated with each incremental unit of energy produced. The carbon benefit associated with solar generation (and any other low-cost low-marginal carbon emission technology) is therefore the displacement of this carbon-intensive generation from the grid, rather than, as assumed by 7000 acres, the "CO₂ intensity ... according to the prevailing constitution of the electricity supply [at the time of generation]".</p> <p>Please also refer to the Applicant's response to comments made in Section 2.1.3 regarding curtailment.</p> <p>The inclusion of a BESS as part of the Scheme provides the opportunity to store low-carbon electricity when it is in abundance</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>and release it to the grid, thereby helping to reduce market prices, at times that it is needed.</p>
			<p>Section 3 Potential for Rooftop Solar</p> <p>The Applicant sets out at Section 7.6 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] why it considers rooftop (and other brownfield sites) as additional rather than a substitute for the Scheme.</p> <p>With reference to the analysis completed by 7000 Acres on the REPD and other registers, the Applicant also explains at Para 7.4.11 of Statement of Need and related paragraphs, that <i>"The inclusion of a project on a 'future project pipeline" - for example, a list of projects which have applied for a DCO, or the scoping / consents / construction pipeline included in Figure 5.1 does not indicate that the project will go ahead, or if it does, at a particular generation capacity. It is therefore not the case that the projections shown in Figure 5.1, Table 5.1 or Figure 7.1 are sufficiently secure to justify the de-prioritisation of pathways which include the development of alternative and complementary generation technologies."</i></p> <p>The Applicant agrees with the need for a 'rooftop revolution' as described in its answer to ExA Q1.3.4. For clarity, it observes that if new houses are developed with solar panels on any suitable roof space then the addition of that new house to the national housing stock will also increase demand for electricity. Therefore, although new houses with solar panels will place a lower burden on the UK electricity system than a house with no solar, any new capacity</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>developed on new roof space should not be considered as 'new' capacity to meet existing demand levels.</p> <p>Section 4: Connection of Solar to the Electricity System</p> <p>Sections 8.4 - 8.6 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] sets out the Applicant's position on the benefits of the Scheme connecting to the transmission network. In summary, these are the use of existing and available resource; the deployment of a large capacity of generation to meet the urgent national need; the economies of scale associated with the Scheme, which will be to the benefit of consumers; and the fact that transmission system connection enables an unencumbered and efficient transfer of bulk power across the country, in order to provide electricity to wherever and whenever it is needed.</p> <p>While the Applicant agrees with the need for a 'rooftop revolution' as described in its answer to ExA Q1.3.4, the connection of solar only to roof tops does not provide the benefits associated with a transmission connection asset, which are listed above. And therefore those benefits would need to be delivered by other measures if only distribution systems were used to connect low-carbon generation assets.</p> <p>In relation to 7000 Acres' point that "<i>massive aggregation of panels that the developers have pursued to match an unnecessary 500MW, 400kV grid connection capacity,</i>" the Applicant summarises their position as follows: it is the massive and urgent need for solar</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>generation, and the scarcity of connections to distribution and transmission systems across suitable parts of the country, which leads the Applicant to optimise, through its operational life, the low-carbon, low-cost electricity generated by the Scheme which it seeks to export through the existing and available connection at Cottam Power Station, for the benefit of UK decarbonisation, security of supply and affordability aims.</p> <p>Section 5 – Role of Battery Energy Storage Systems</p> <p>7000 Acres summarises this section with four bullet points and these will be addressed in turn below.</p> <p>Firstly, the need for flexibility is set out in Chapter 11 of C7.11 Statement of Need and the Applicant refers to the inclusion of a battery energy storage facility in order to provide capability to deliver flexibility as part of the Scheme. Table 11.1 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] sets out the potential contributions of storage assets within the GB electricity market, these are contributions over short delivery timescales (i.e. milliseconds to days) as is appropriate for the technology.</p> <p>Secondly, the Applicant has set out its position on curtailment above, and the other measures which are already in place to match supply with demand.</p> <p>Thirdly, the BESS will make a valuable contribution to providing flexibility and balancing supply and demand. Crucially, the BESS is not required to cross-subsidise revenues to the main solar development and therefore does not fail this test for associated</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>development. Section 3 of the Explanatory Memorandum [APP-017] outlines how the BESS constitutes associated development for the purposes of section 115 of the Planning Act.</p> <p>Further, 7000 Acres make claims which they do not substantiate on the '<i>not uncommon</i>' nature of '<i>spreads</i>' between £150/MWh and £400/MWh for BESS operation, and the Applicant would ask for this claim to be substantiated with evidence including the period of observation analysed and justification of why that period is appropriate in the context of their submission if it is to be considered in the round. For clarity, the Applicant (a) does not agree that spreads of these levels are common, and (b) does not consider this point to be relevant to the planning balance, whether the spreads are appropriate or not.</p> <p>Fourthly, the 2023 dNPS EN-1 sets out the emerging policy position in favour of electricity storage: "<i>Storage has a key role to play in achieving net zero and providing flexibility to the energy system, so that high volumes of low carbon power, heat and transport can be integrated.</i>" [Para 3.3.25]. Electricity storage requires an import and an export connection to deliver its benefits, and symmetrical connections (i.e. the same import as export) deliver the greatest opportunity to provide those benefits.</p> <p>The grid import capacity available at the Scheme matches the export capacity. If the import capacity was not used, it would be sterilised because it would not, on its own, support any form of flexible facility on the electricity system. The provision of system balancing and other ancillary services is important in the future energy system. As</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>described in ExA Q1.3.2 (EN-5), grid connections are scarce and not using an available and suitable existing connection is not consistent with actions required to meet the urgent need to decarbonise.</p> <p>No additional physical infrastructure is required at the Scheme to facilitate import power flows.</p> <p>Section 6 - Decision on Longfield Solar Farm</p> <p>The Applicant notes that the Longfield Solar Farm decision was the third consent for a solar development under the PA 2008 regime. The Applicant notes that 7000 acres is critical of the Secretary of State's decision in terms of consideration given to the matters that 7000 acres has raised in the throughout its submission. The Applicant has responded to the particular points raised (being efficiency of land use, contribution to electricity system and decarbonisation, rooftop solar as an alternative and solar irradiation in the UK) above to the extent that they apply to the Scheme.</p> <p>Section 7 - Cottam and West Burton Statements of Need</p> <p>The Applicant refers to its responses in the preceding sections, to the points raised by 7000 Acres in this section of their submission. In relation to comments made to Figure 8.1 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350], The Applicant makes the following response.</p> <p>The data for the graph at Figure 8.1 of C7.11 Statement of Need [APP-350] is sourced from National Grid's Demand Data and Actual Metered Generation files. These are large datasets which the</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>Applicant can provide if the ExA confirms that to be its preference. Two load factor series have been calculated: one for solar, and the other for the combination of metered and unmetered wind.</p> <p>Figure 8.1 of C7.11 Statement of Need shows the load factor series for each of wind and solar respectively as the blue and orange lines. The green dashed line is the weighted average load factor for the combined national portfolio of wind and solar i.e., (wind generation + solar generation) / (wind capacity + solar capacity). The analysis behind Figure 8.1 represents a national-level position covering micro wind, onshore wind and offshore wind as well as rooftop, commercial and larger scale ground mounted solar to a total combined portfolio of approximately 20GW of wind and 13GW of solar. The solar and wind generation facilities included in this portfolio are located throughout the UK.</p> <p>By virtue of the analytical methods employed, Figure 8.1 of the Statement of Need is an illustration of Generation Dependability. Future "actuals" will be dependent on weather conditions at the time, as well as updated estimates of installed generation capacity across the wind and solar sectors over different time periods.</p> <p>Figure 8.1 seeks to show that by combining two generation portfolios which are largely independent of each other (meaning, the level of solar generation in the UK at any time is not mathematically dependent on the level of wind generation in the UK at that time, and vice-versa) the variation of the combined portfolio of (solar + wind), when averaged over a period of time, is lower than the variation of each of the portfolios separately, although the</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>Applicant notes that not all individual days will always conform to this observation. The development of electricity storage facilities and other flexibility measures will support the balancing of variable low-carbon generation output and national levels of demand.</p> <p>The Applicant expects that insofar as solar and wind capacity both increase in the future in broadly similar proportion to each other as has been experienced historically, then the conclusions will remain valid in the future. The inclusion of batteries as part of the Scheme will allow the Scheme to store energy when it is in abundance and release it to the grid when it is needed.</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] describes and expresses 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>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<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 paragraph 4.4.3 in the currently adopted NPS EN-1</p> <p>The network of sites approach which has resulted from the Applicant's site selection process as detailed in the Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] has enabled the amount of BMV land utilised within the Scheme to be limited to only 4.1% of the land within the Sites. Section 6.4 of the Planning Statement which shows that the Scheme has been subject to a detailed and sensitive iterative design process. This has taken account of the context and features of the land within the Order limits, nearby sensitive receptors and assets, information emerging from environmental surveys, feedback from stakeholders, and opportunities and constraints in order to develop a good design that balances the need to maximise the energy generation capacity of the Scheme, with the avoidance and mitigation of impacts, and provision of environmental and other enhancements, where practicable. ES Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040] and the Design and Access Statement [APP-342] detail how the Sites were refined following detailed ALC assessment. The Design and Access Statement [APP-342] sets out design objectives for the Scheme and paragraph 4.3.1 sets how each</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			of the Scheme's design objectives are addressed through the proposed design measures, and how these measures will be secured in the DCO application. In addition, the Concept Design Parameters [REP-039] sets out design parameters and principles that apply across the sites.

4 Other projects and cumulative effects

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
1.4.1	Applicant	The Applicant's Report on the Interrelationship between NSIPs [REP-054] contains a number of typographical errors including two references to Table 1.3 and incorrect captions (e.g table 1.4 on page 6). Please can the Applicant review and make the necessary amendments.	These errors have been corrected in an amended version submitted for Deadline 2 [EX2/C8.1.8_A]
1.4.2	Applicant	The Applicant's Report on the Interrelationship between NSIPs [REP-054] indicates that the One Earth Solar Farm project has been scoped out as it is in its early stages and there is little information available. The Applicant is asked to keep this under review and update the report in the	The Applicant can confirm that the Inter-relationships report will be updated at each deadline as and when further information becomes available on the One Earth Solar Farm and any others which are within the early stages of development.

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		event that further information becomes available during the Examination.	
1.4.3	Applicant	Paragraph 8.10.23 and 8.10.25 of ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) [APP043] identify a minor beneficial effect to Nationally and Locally Designated Landscapes and Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations as a result of the Proposed Development and other cumulative developments. Please can the Applicant explain how it has reached this conclusion with reference to table 8.1.13 and 8.1.14 of ES Appendix 8.1.1: LVIA Methodology [APP-068].	<p>The Applicant notes these comments.</p> <p>With regard to Appendix 8.1.1 [APP-068], please also refer to the independent assessment sheets at Appendix 8.2 [REP-020] which provides more clarity as follows:</p> <p>For Nationally and Locally Designated Landscapes, assessment sheets C6.3.8.2.8.1 to C6.3.8.2.8.3 set out the key features of these local landscape designations; this being the striking variations in character and scenic appeal across the differing AGLV. This diversity is a key element of their value. However, in terms of receptor susceptibility and forces for change, the assessment recognises that recent land use trends are leading to homogenisation of the landscape and the loss of hedgerows in particular. The mitigation associated with the Scheme therefore brings forward significant opportunity to reinforce landscape character and build in more landscape diversity, especially improvements to hedgerows and the introduction of native species and the management of non-native species.</p> <p>For Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations, assessment sheets C6.3.8.2.10.1 to C6.3.8.2.10.3 set out the key features as being the fragmented woodlands that are distinct as visual features and which create a mosaic across the landscape. This structural component creates an important spatial function and is a key element of the value judgement. However, in terms of receptor susceptibility and forces for change the assessment recognises that these woodlands</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			are often just too small and too fragmented. The mitigation associated with the Scheme therefore brings forward the opportunity to bolster this fragmented network with new isolated areas of woodland and connecting hedgerows. This also, in turn, gives the scope to enhance the connections between semi-natural habitats to enable species movement.
1.4.5	Applicant	Please explain why the four landscape character areas identified by LCC in its LIR [REP-085] (paragraph 6.4) have not been included in the cumulative landscape assessment.	The Applicant notes this comment. GLVIA3 sets out matters on proportionality of the assessment process at pages 98,101 and 110. These four areas are scoped out of the assessment therefore and comprise 2b Planned and Drained Fens and Carrlands, 3a Floodplain Valleys, 4b Wooded Vales and 6a Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes. The reason for scoping out is set out in the assessment sheets at Appendix 8.2 [REP-020] 'Character Context' specifically sheets at C6.3.8.2.2.1 and being distance from the Study Area.
1.4.7	Applicant	Please explain why there are conflicting levels of impact of cumulative effects between the Proposed Development and the other nearby NSIPs. For example, please explain why no significant cumulative landscape and visual effects have been identified for the Proposed Development (in contrast to the findings of cumulative effects for Gate Burton and Tilbridge as indicated in	The LVIA [EN010133/EX2/C6.2.8_A] includes a cumulative effects assessment, which identifies significant effects with Gate Burton Solar, Tillbridge Solar and West Burton Solar. For the assessment of landscape effects, these effects would be moderate adverse at the construction and operation (Year 1). Please refer to ES Appendix 8.2 [REP-020] for the individual assessment sheets for Land Use, Topography and Watercourses, Communications and Infrastructure and for the Substation Sites. For the assessment of in-combination landscape effects there would also be the combined effects of the four substations at the construction and operation (Year 1) . Please refer to LVIA, paragraph 8.9.10 and ES Appendix 8.2 [REP-020]. For the

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		<p>Table 2.2 of the Report of the Interrelationship between NSIPs [REP-054].</p>	<p>assessment of in-combination visual effects, there would also be the combined effects of noise, dust and visual effects, of the individual topic areas and of the different works of the Scheme at the construction stage. Please refer to the LVIA, paragraphs 8.9.14 to 8.9.29. For the assessment of visual effects, these effects would be moderate adverse at the construction and operation (Year 1) . Please refer to the individual assessment sheet for the viewpoint LCC-C-D: Blackthorn Lane at Appendix 8.3 [EN010133/EX2/C6.3.8.2_A_A].</p> <p>In terms of conflicting levels of impact, each impact assessment is approached independently, and different impact assessments can reach different conclusions.</p> <p>This difference can be due to the specific characteristics of the Site for example with visual effects, the topography and vegetation cover can help with the visual integration of a development. This is set out in the LVIA at paragraphs 8.4.10 to 8.4.13 with regard to the study areas and at paragraphs 8.5.91, 8.5.104, 8.5.105, 8.5.251 and 8.7.17 how the field boundaries and associated tree cover will remain intact and help with the visual layering across the landscape for the Cottam 1 Site. With Cottam 1, this is predominantly arable and grazing land use separated by hedgerows with trees where the landform is generally flat or gently sloping. There are also geometric shelter belts and woodland plantations that assist in providing containment both visually and physically across the area.</p> <p>The difference in footprint is also a key factor where the Cottam Sites are situated within a series of land parcels across a large geographic area. Each Site is separated by large tracts of land where each parcel</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>is considered to be relatively isolated with limiting interconnecting landscape and visual effects and with mitigating elements present such as woodland, settlement and tree cover. There are however sequential effects of transport receptors where these are showing greater beneficial or adverse effects.</p> <p>The difference in the approach to mitigation for example, at Cottam 3a, where the main land parcels are located on the former airfield. The open character of the limestone plateau is a key feature in this location and the strengthening of hedgerows around the existing boundaries will strengthen the pattern and scale of the landscape and create additional ecological linkages. This approach will also retain this open context.</p>
1.4.8	Applicant	Please explain the alleged inconsistency identified by WLDC in paragraph 22.5 of its LIR.	The Applicant refers the ExA to response WLDC 22.5 in the Applicant's Response to Local Impact Reports [EX2/C8.1.16].
1.4.9	Applicant	Please respond to paragraph 22.16 of WLDC's LIR [REP-091] which notes that the period for the installation of the cables for all the schemes is considerably less in the Applicant's assessment than that predicted by the other nearby NSIP projects.	The Applicant refers the ExA to response WLDC 22.16 in the Applicant's Response to Local Impact Reports [EX2/C8.1.16].

5 Landscape and visual, glint and glare, good design

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
1.5.1	Applicant	Please can the Applicant explain how it has considered opportunities to demonstrate good design in terms of siting of the various elements of the Proposed Development in order to mitigate their effects on the landscape. How does it propose to ensure that both the panels and associated development will contribute to the quality of the area.	<p>The LVIA process has been 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 of design development. This has involved setting out the key elements of constraint within parameter plans and the Outline Landscape and Ecological Mitigation Plan [APP-339] as secured by Requirement 7 of Schedule 2 of Draft Development Consent Order [EX2/C3.1_C] and adopting the mitigation hierarchy in accordance with GLVIA3. The parameters and design principles for the Scheme are set out in C7.15_A Concept Design Parameters and Principles Revision A [REP-039], which is secured through Requirement 5 in Schedule 2 to the DCO. The Landscape Design Parameters which are incorporated into the Scheme's design are set out in Table 8.21 of the C6.2.8_A ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [EX2/C6.2.8_A].</p> <p>Although the Scheme comprises a series of independent areas of land or Sites, they 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 the road and rail infrastructure. These independent areas of land provide more scope for the Scheme to be offset from all key receptors such as settlement edges, individual residential properties, PRow and transport routes which further assist with its integration and dispersion across the landscape than if the Site were one composite whole. The discrete areas of land in the Scheme are placed so far apart that the Scheme</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>will not be perceived in its entirety and the solar panels are distributed 'in and amongst' the landscape features to assimilate them into the landscape.</p> <p>The provision of a solar scheme with discrete areas of land can therefore offer a more favourable approach compared to having a single large site, as it allows for a distributed and less obtrusive deployment of the solar panels. 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> <p>Section 6.4 of the C7.5_A Planning Statement Revision A [REP-047] shows that the Scheme has been subject to a detailed and sensitive iterative design process. This has taken account of the context and features of the land within the Order limits, nearby sensitive receptors and assets, information emerging from environmental surveys, feedback from stakeholders, and opportunities and constraints in order to develop a good design that balances the need to maximise the energy generation capacity of the Scheme, with the avoidance and mitigation of impacts, and provision of environmental and other enhancements, where practicable.</p> <p>C6.2.5 ES Chapter 5 Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040] details further how the 'network of sites' approach demonstrates good design by allowing for a fine-tuning approach to the Scheme design to reduce impacts with regard to use of BMV land, heritage assets and archaeology, areas at risk of flooding, suitable access</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			arrangements, and providing ample opportunity to utilise existing, and provide enhanced landscaping and vegetation. This demonstrates how the Scheme is sensitive and responsive to place.
1.5.2	Applicant	Paragraph 1.1.7 of ES Appendix 8.2.1 (Visual Assessment Methodology) explains that visual amenity from both ground and first floor windows were considered under steps 1-3 of the RVAA but that at step 4, only effects from ground floor windows were considered. Please can the Applicant explain why, under step 4 at Year 15, only effects from ground floor windows were considered.	<p>The Landscape Institute Guidance Technical Guidance Note 02/19' <i>'Residential Visual Amenity Assessment'</i> refers to the ground floor at page 16 in the context of forming the principle room of the property.</p> <p><i>'The principle room(s) of a residential property is a living room, or one fulfilling the same primary use role. In some properties this room may not be located on the ground floor, but on an upper storey. A conservatory may fulfil a living room/primary use role depending on the circumstances and the internal arrangement of the premises'</i>.</p> <p>The assessment in this instance has used the 'best estimate' of the likely visual effects as being the ground floor given that all the residential properties have not been visited and viewed internally. The ground floor rooms are where exposure is likely to be longer and where the consequences of any effects have the potential to be greater.</p>
1.5.3	Applicant	Paragraph 8.4.11 of ES Chapter 8: LVIA states that the 5km study area does not include assessment of either the battery storage or substation areas on the basis that effects are not expected to extend beyond the 2km radius. This justification is unclear considering the substation represents the worst-case parameter in terms of height (up to 13.2m) and the Augmented Zone of	<p>The justification for the 2km radius study area takes account of the full extent of the wider landscape where the battery storage and substations may influence in a significant manner. Beyond 2km it was considered that the size or scale of this infrastructure will have a limiting influence on landscape character or visual amenity and the effects will be expected not to extend beyond this.</p> <p>This approach and Methodology was agreed through consultation with representatives of LCC.</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		<p>Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) [APP-195] shows theoretical visibility of the substation (both alone and together with PV panels) up to the 5km study area boundary. Can the Applicant justify why the use of the 2km study area is sufficient for the assessment of landscape and visual effects from the battery storage and substation areas or update the assessment to include all elements of the Proposed Development within the 5km study area.</p>	<p>The Applicant has submitted additional cross section at DL2 as set out in C8.2.4 Indicative Landscape Section with Cottam 1 West Substation [EN010133/EX2/C8.2.4] which demonstrates that beyond 2km the size or scale of the substations will have a very limited influence on landscape or visual receptors.</p> <p>The cross section illustrates this limited influence and illustrates a bare earth scenario with landform shown and therefore without the benefit of the effects of existing trees and vegetation, built form and infrastructure (telegraph poles etc). This section shows that due to the relatively compact size of the substation and battery storage compound, the relatively low nature of the batteries and associated infrastructure and the light framework of the substation, visibility across a distance of 2 km would have a very limited influence on landscape or visual receptors. Once the effects of existing vegetation, built form and infrastructure are considered there would be either no effects or effects would be barely perceptible beyond a distance of 2km due to the nature of the receiving landscape.</p>
1.5.4	Applicant	<p>It is unclear whether the substations (Works Nos. 4A, 4B, 4C, and 4D) are included within the photomontages. The photomontage for Viewpoint 78 [APP-276] appears to include the busbars associated with the 400kV substation at Cottam 1. However, it is unclear whether the other photomontages</p>	<p>The substations are included within the photomontages, for example please refer to Viewpoint 78 (LCC-C-K) [APP-276] at Figure 8.14.78b.</p> <p>The C6.3.8.1.5 ES Appendix 8.1.5 Photography and Photomontage Methodology [APP-069 to APP-073] set out the layout information used for the 3D Model Construction and that at Appendix 1.2 this includes the substations.</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		<p>include the substations located at Cottam 2, 3a, or 3b. Can the Applicant confirm which components of the Proposed Development have been factored into the photomontages. Should elements of the Proposed Development, such as the substations, not be included within the photomontages, the Applicant is asked to provide updated versions to ensure the photomontages represent a worst-case scenario.</p>	<p>Although the substations are shown on all the photomontages they may not necessarily be visible due to the influence of intervening visual features such as the panels or foreground hedgerows.</p> <p>The Applicant has submitted an additional cross section at DL2 C8.2.4 Indicative Landscape Section with Cottam 1 West Substation [EN010133/EX2/C8.2.4] which demonstrate that beyond 2km the size or scale of the substations will have a very limiting influence.</p> <p>The cross section illustrates this limited influence and illustrates a bare earth scenario with landform shown and therefore without the benefit of the effects of existing trees and vegetation, built form and infrastructure (telegraph poles etc). This section shows that due to the relatively compact size of the substation and battery storage compound, the relatively low nature of the batteries and associated infrastructure and the light framework of the substation, visibility across a distance of 2 km would have a very limited influence on landscape or visual receptors. Once the effects of existing vegetation, built form and infrastructure are considered there would be either no effects or effects would be barely perceptible beyond a distance of 2km due to the nature of the receiving landscape.</p>
1.5.5	Applicant	<p>Paragraph 8.4.11 of ES Chapter 8: LVIA [APP-043] states that the 5km study area includes long distance views from high value receptors including Lincoln Castle and Cathedral and settlements with views from along the escarpment to the east (eg</p>	<p>C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment[EN010133/EX2/C6.2.8_A] (the 'LVIA') takes account of the intervisibility between the Scheme and Lincoln Castle and Lincoln Cathedral.</p> <p>Additional views suggested by Lincolnshire County Council and Nottinghamshire County Council that take account of locations where</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		<p>Grayingham) which are not within a 5km radius but are included in the assessment. However, it is not clear where in the ES long distance visual effects from these receptors are considered. Long distance viewpoints are not shown as visual receptors on Figures 8.11 to 8.13 [APP-196 to APP-198] nor are effects on viewpoints reported [APP-075]. Can the Applicant explain which receptors outside of the 5km study area have been included in the assessment and signpost where these have been assessed in the ES.</p>	<p>heritage assets may be affected are taken into account within the LVIA at Section 8.2 and 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 will 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 10.97km (Cathedral) and 10.83km (Castle) and even though their elevated position (approximately 65m AOD for Lincoln Cathedral and 67m AOD for Lincoln Castle) may reveal some intervisibility, the distance between the Scheme and these assets will 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 <i>"Specific location, well-used vantage point. Gateway from the south and one of the first opportunities to experience views over the agricultural landscape to NW of Lincoln. To the wider SE of Cottam 1."</i></p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<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> <p>The Applicant has submitted additional cross sections at DL2 [C8.2.5 Cross Sections of Lincoln Castle and C8.2.6 Cross Sections of Lincoln Cathedral] which demonstrate the intervisibility between Lincoln Castle and Cathedral and the Site/s.</p> <p>The cross sections illustrate a bare earth scenario with landform shown and therefore without the benefit of the effects of existing trees and vegetation, built form and infrastructure (telegraph poles etc). These sections show that due to the relatively low nature of the solar arrays and associated infrastructure, visibility across a distance of 10.97km (Cathedral) and 10.83km (Castle) would have a very limited influence and shallow field of view on landscape or visual receptors. Once the effects of existing vegetation, built form and infrastructure are considered there would be either no effects or effects would be barely perceptible at these distances.</p>
1.5.6	Applicant	Paragraphs 8.9.27 to 8.9.29 of ES Chapter 8: LVIA [APP-043] state that there is potential for likely significant visual effects at the construction phase. However, the	The Applicant has submitted an updated ES Chapter 8: LVIA [EX2/C6.2.8] to report the significant effects accurately with an Explanatory Note on Landscape and Visual Impact Submissions to explain the updates at Deadline 2 as set out in [EX2/C8.2.3].

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		supporting appendices (8.3.3.3, 8.3.4.2 and 8.3.5.2) and Supplementary Visual Effects Tables [REP-061] identify likely significant effects at year 1 of operation as well as construction. Can the Applicant update the ES to report the significant effects accurately so that appendices and Chapters align.	
1.5.7	Applicant	Considering significant landscape and visual effects alone from the Proposed Development are reported in the ES, can the Applicant explain their reasoning as to why this would not lead to cumulative effects with other development?	<p>The assessment of significant landscape and visual effects alone from the Scheme are reported in the ES.</p> <p>The cumulative and in-combination assessments are reported with the effects in isolation already taken into account. The cumulative and in-combination assessment therefore does not double count those isolated effects.</p> <p>As set out within the LVIA Methodology and agreed by representatives at LCC during consultation [APP-076] Cumulative Effects are 'the additional changes caused by proposed development in conjunction with other similar developments or as a combined set of developments taken together.' Please refer to LVIA Cumulative Assessment Methodology [APP-068]</p> <p>The agreed LVIA Cumulative Assessment Methodology was prepared in accordance with Landscape Institute Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 3rd Edition (GLVIA3) Chapter 7 as well as SNH 2012</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			Sections 4, 10 & 11: Assessing the cumulative impact of onshore wind energy development, Inverness: Scottish Natural Heritage 2012.
1.5.8	Applicant	Mitigation has been proposed for all adverse landscape and visual effects. However, there are a number of effects reported in Table 23.1 of ES Chapter 23 (Summary of Significant Effects) [APP-058] where the significance of effects is not reduced following the implementation of mitigation measures, suggesting mitigation is not effective for these effects. The effects are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape: Character of land use: All substation sites (moderate adverse). • Landscape: Character of the topography and watercourses: All substation sites (moderate adverse). • Visual: Transport receptors: Cottam 2 (T040, T045), Cottam 3a (T016), and Cottam 3b (T021) (moderate adverse). Can the Applicant comment on whether alternative mitigation measures have been considered to mitigate or reduce these adverse effects. 	<p>The LVIA's intention is to address residual landscape and visual effects that could not be mitigated or 'designed out' as part of the Scheme. These intentions are set out within the LVIA [EN010133/EX2/C6.2.8_A] at paragraph 8.4.1, 8.6.1, 8.6.2, 8.6.21, 8.8.1, 8.8.2, 8.8.3, 8.10.22 and 8.11.63.</p> <p>The Applicant has applied the mitigation hierarchy as required by guidance (GLVIA3) and policy [APP-077] and as set out in the LVIA chapter [EX2/C6.2.8_A, section 8.6] and the LVIA methodology [APP-068]. Due to the nature of some components of the Scheme, not all significant adverse effects can be fully removed, as set out within Section 8.8 of the LVIA, Residual Effects.</p>
1.5.9	Applicant	ES Chapter 8: LVIA [APP-043] states that at Year 15 there would be a review of the management prescriptions within the oLEMP [APP-339] to determine whether further	The LVIA's intention is to address management prescriptions in order to future proof the custody of the landscape and to reflect the drivers for change that are identified in the various published character assessments.

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		management is necessary to further reduce landscape and visual effects. This review is not secured in the LEMP, OEMP or the DCO. The Applicant is requested to explain why the ExA should be confident (i) that the review would be undertaken; and (ii) if the review were to take place, that any identified actions would be implemented.	The Applicant has updated the LEMP to make clear the commitment to undertake a review of the management prescriptions at Year 15. Please see C7.3_A Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [APP-339] Revision B [REP-045] , as secured by Requirement 7 of the Draft DCO [AS-012]

6 Biodiversity and the Habitats Regulations Assessment

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
1.6.1	Applicant	Paragraph 9.5.8 of ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] states that the study areas of 10km, 5km and 2km for international, national and local designated sites are 'standard distances' beyond which impacts are not anticipated to occur. However, it is unclear from where these standard distances have derived. Can the Applicant explain where these study areas derive from and why they are confident these distances are sufficient to capture the zone of influence of the Proposed Development?	<p>The determination of the ecological zone of influence of the Scheme when scoping designated sites as potential Important Ecological Features was made using professional judgment informed through guidance within the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's 2018 Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment. Section 2 of this document sets out how the zone of influence of a project may vary according to the baseline conditions within a site, the various construction and operation activities proposed, the presence of functional ecological linkages between the project site and designated sites, and the exact ecological features for which the sites are designated.</p> <p>The Applicant has taken a precautionary approach to setting the zone of influence. Distances of 10km, 5km and 2km are not prescribed in</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>any guidance but have been regularly adopted in ecological impact assessments for similar schemes and, owing to the scale of the proposed Scheme, are greater than those which might be adopted for impact assessing smaller housing, renewable energy or light industrial schemes (e.g. 5km, 2km and 1km, respectively). From the records of designated sites returned from the desk study data search, the individual sites can each then be assessed as being within or beyond the zone of influence of the Scheme according to the criteria and functional interrelationships outlined above. Following this exercise, it was not considered likely that zones of influence, or the search radii themselves, were inadequate. Furthermore, as demonstrated within the EIA Scoping Opinion document [APP-064], these distances were deemed acceptable by PINS, with the extension of the search distance for International designated sites (where qualifying features include migratory birds and bats) to 30km. Similarly, no objection to the use of these chosen distances was raised within EIA scoping or consultation correspondence with bodies including Natural England and the Local Planning Authorities.</p>
1.6.2	Applicant	<p>The Applicant responded to section 51 advice in April 2023 stating that the Humber Estuary Ramsar site is located 25km from the Proposed Development and therefore was not included on the Ecology and Nature Conservation Features Plan. The Inspectorate noted that this site is not specifically mentioned in ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044]. However,</p>	<p>The assessment contained in Chapter 9 of the ES [APP-044] and within the Information to Support a Habitat Regulations Assessment [APP-357] was limited to impacts upon Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) as it is these designated sites which are specifically listed in the Habitats Regulations which sets out the legal basis for their protection. However, it is acknowledged that Government policy has clarified that Ramsar sites should receive the same level of protection as SACs and SPAs.</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		<p>paragraph 9.5.11 states that the Humber Estuary Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is located approximately 15km from the Proposed Development and the boundary of this SAC is the same as the Humber Estuary Ramsar site. This has not been assessed in ES Chapter 9. Although the Inspectorate notes agreement with Natural England that the Proposed Development would not impact internationally designated sites [RR-037] for completeness, can the Applicant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) provide an update to the Information to Support a Habitat Regulations Assessment document [APP357] to include an assessment of the potential for significant effects on the Humber Estuary Ramsar site; (ii) explain why potential impacts to the Humber Estuary Ramsar site have not been assessed within ES Chapter 9 with reference to the potential for likely significant effects to occur. Should the potential for likely significant effects exist, can the Applicant 	<p>Having reviewed in detail the citation for the Humber Estuary Ramsar site, it is clear that it overlaps entirely in scope and extent with the Humber Estuary SAC, apart from its designation for Natterjack Toad which does not appear on the SAC citation. Consequently, and because the Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe dune slack habitats upon which the natterjack toad are not functionally linked to, and no impact pathway is present with, the Scheme, no significant impacts upon the Ramsar site are considered likely.</p> <p>It is intended that the Information to Support a Habitat Regulations Assessment [APP-357], and any other documents requiring similar update will be provided to reflect this assessment and conclusion for Deadline 3.</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		<p>update the assessment to assess this designated site; and</p> <p>(iii) consider whether other application documents (eg Planning Statement) require updating to refer to the Humber Estuary Ramsar site (and the Humber Estuary internationally protected sites more broadly) and update these accordingly.</p>	
1.6.4	Applicant	<p>ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044], paragraph 9.7.14 identifies a potential temporary impact to Willingham to Fillingham Road Verges LWS from construction traffic movements mounting the verges. ES Table 9.3 states that there would be a neutral residual effect (suggesting no impact) on this receptor following mitigation. However, the mitigation proposed (HDD for cables and no new accesses for traffic) does not address the potential impact of mounting the verges. Can the Applicant explain how a neutral impact on this site is concluded where there is potential for impact from construction</p>	<p>Section 9.7.21 of ES Chapter 9 [APP-044] states that the Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) contains information on the measures which will reduce the impact of vehicle over-run on the Willingham to Fillingham Road Verges LWS. Section 6.13 of the Construction Traffic Management Plan [EX2/C6.3.14.2_A] states that, "Where appropriate, the temporary laying of steel plates or timbers will be undertaken to protect verges and kerbs." This measure will therefore be employed in co-ordination with the Ecological Clerk of Works as required under Section 11 of the Outline Ecological Protection and Monitoring Strategy [APP-356]. The CTMP is secured in Requirement 15 of Schedule 2 of the draft DCO Revision C of C3.1 Draft Development Consent Order [EX2/C3.1_C].</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		traffic, identifying any relevant mitigation and explaining how it is secured.	
1.6.5	Applicant	Paragraph 9.7.113 of ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] states that the effects of the installation of solar panels on bat activity and the activity of their prey is largely unknown, in light of this please explain how confident the SoS can be that the purported beneficial effect would occur (paragraph 9.7.126).	<p>Little research has been conducted into the effects of solar farms on bat activity. This uncertainty was a major driver for the Applicant to adopt a precautionary system of large ecological buffer zones with likely bat activity a driver of increasing buffer width. This way, undeveloped corridors of up to 12m either side of hedgerows and other boundary features are preserved and will host habitat creation specifically for bats (and other wildlife). These corridors significantly enhance the existing hedgerow network in terms of connectivity, extent and ability to support prey species. When compared to the large arable fields, these boundary habitats are the most important habitats for bats within the Scheme alongside ponds, woodland and watercourses. In addition, invertebrate abundance is reasonably likely to result from the reversion of arable fields to permanent grassland which will be managed to achieve an increased species diversity.</p> <p>Considering the scale of habitat enhancement and creation, therefore, even in the absence of conclusive research, it is reasonable to conclude with moderate certainty that a residual beneficial effect (potentially significant at a district scale) would result from the Scheme.</p>
1.6.6	Applicant	As arable field habitats have been found to contain notable bird species of conservation concern, please explain why arable fields are considered to be of Site Importance only,	In order to avoid pseudoreplication of assessment for breeding birds (and, potentially, other ecological features), habitats were assessed in their own right for their own intrinsic ecological importance. In the case of terrestrial habitats such as arable fields, this importance is largely driven by their botanical interest. Consequently, arable fields

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		under paragraph 9.5.32 of ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044].	were assessed as being of Site Importance, while the breeding bird assemblage which is, in part, associated with this habitat was assessed as being of greater importance. This assessment is in accordance with Chapter 4 of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's 2018 Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in that the low rarity, naturalness and species diversity of the arable fields should be adequately reflected in its evaluation, whereas other ecological features should be assessed separately as appropriate.
1.6.7	Applicant	Paragraphs 9.7.57 to 9.7.71 of Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] sets out hedgerow effects. Please clarify the overall distance of hedgerow that would be lost.	<p>At the time of writing, it was assessed that between 36 and 78m of permanent hedgerow removal would be required to accommodate 12 new hedgerow gaps for construction and maintenance access into the development solar and BESS sites considering the range of gap widths required (between 3 and 6.5m each as set out in Section 9.6.9 of Chapter 9 [APP-044]).</p> <p>Within the Cable Route Corridor, it was assessed that approximately 60 instances of temporary hedgerow removal would be required, giving a range of between 180 and 420m considering the range of gap widths required (between 3 and 7m as set out in Section 9.6.9 of Chapter 9 [APP-044]).</p>
1.6.8	Applicant	Please explain why set aside habitat and wetland bird habitat is also not proposed on sites other than Cottam 1 (paragraph 9.7.174-5 of ES Chapter 9: Ecology and	The 4ha area of habitat to be created for turtle dove at Cottam 3a will be suitable for small numbers of birds such as skylark and yellow wagtail to nest and forage within since its objective is to create a low-growing sward in a suitably large field.

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		Biodiversity [APP-044]), as it seems there is evidence of the related bird species using these sites in smaller numbers.	Cottam 1 was chosen to receive the focus of the set aside and wetland habitat owing to it hosting the greatest concentration of wetland and ground nesting birds of conservation concern found within the Order Limits. Additionally, the greater sizes of available fields and the ability to site them relatively close to one another to obtain contiguous blocks of land for mitigation increases their likely effectiveness and simplifies access for maintenance. As Cottam 2 and 3b are smaller sites with, on the whole smaller fields, opportunities for meaningful and effective mitigation were more limited. Furthermore, the assessment of impact and residual effects consider the effect of the Scheme and the role of the mitigation proposed on the local population of these species as opposed to solely those individuals encountered within the Order Limits.
1.6.9	Applicant	Please explain why at paragraph 9.7.185 of ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044], it is said that mitigation for the lapwing would have the potential to bring about at least a beneficial effect given that it is stated (in paragraph 9.7.166) that this species would be displaced to a significant if not complete degree.	The significant beneficial effect predicted for lapwing is considered to come about due to the provision of 26ha of wetland habitat within the Scheme which is more than sufficient to accommodate all of the 14 displaced territories (see paragraph 9.7.178 of ES Chapter 9 [APP-044]). Consequently, there is a reasonable likelihood that numbers of lapwing could increase beyond baseline numbers as a result of the development since the habitat being provided is also enhanced in terms of suitability above baseline conditions.
1.6.10	Applicant	Why under section 9.8 of ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] are the significance of effects for the decommissioning phase not reported,	While ecological effects which may potentially arise during the decommissioning phase are described, and are predicted to be largely the same as those raised during the construction phase, their significance is not listed. This is driven by the difficulties in predicting

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		similarly for Table 23.1 of ES Chapter 23: Summary of Significant Effects [APP-058].	such significance owing to potential changes in prevailing biodiversity policy and legislation when taking into consideration an up to 60 year lifespan of the Scheme. Additionally, while a future baseline in terms of the extent and 'maturity' of the various ecological features can be predicted to a degree, predicting changes in the relative rarity or importance of these in a local, regional or national context over this timespan is more difficult and hampers an assessment of significance.
1.6.11	Applicant	What is the Applicant's level of confidence that certain areas of the site may be retained due to their value for wildlife on decommissioning, as is said in paragraph 9.8.3 of ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044]. Please explain how this will be secured through the DCO.	<p>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. After this point, the Applicant will not have control over the future use of the land. This is the basis on which the Environmental Statement has been prepared.</p> <p>Following decommissioning, the land will be the responsibility of the landowner. The commitment (as set out in the Outline Decommissioning Statement, paragraph 2.1.5) is to return the land to agricultural use rather than to retain the landscape benefits, however, the Applicant considers it likely that there will be benefits to the landowner of retaining the mitigation and enhancement measures and so they may be left in place. The features may also be protected by legislative or policy designations by the time the Scheme is decommissioned, which the landowner would have to comply with. However, it is reiterated that this is outside of the control of the Applicant, and there is no commitment to retain the benefits.</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
1.6.12	Applicant	<p>The reported cumulative effects reported within ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] do not include a definition of those which are considered significant. In addition, the justification for some of the conclusions remain vague e.g. paragraph 9.9.19 states there is potential for increased effects on species but does not explain what these are. Can the Applicant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) explain the methods used to define significant cumulative effects on ecological receptors; (ii) clarify the significance of the cumulative biodiversity effects reported; and (iii) provide an update to ES Chapter 9. 	<p>The significance of the cumulative ecological effects given in ES Chapter 9 [APP-044] have been reported within Joint Report on the Interrelationship with Other National Infrastructure Projects [EX2/C8.1.8_A] . The methodology used to define the significance of cumulative effects are the same as those used elsewhere within the ecological impact assessment (ES Chapter 9 [APP-044]), in that significance is expressed as the geographical scale at which the effect is felt. It is confirmed that an addendum to ES Chapter 9 [APP-044] will be produced to include the significance of the cumulative ecological effects in line with the Interrelationships Report [EX2/C8.18_A4].</p>
1.6.13	Applicant	<p>Is the approach to Biodiversity Net Gain considering solely enhancement, over and above the identified mitigation in ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044]? If it also incorporates the identified mitigation in ES Chapter 9, please provide figures which exclude this to provide a true 'net gain' figure.</p>	<p>The Biodiversity Net Gain assessment [APP-089] incorporates the embedded mitigation (see Section 9.6.9 of ES Chapter 9 [APP-044]), additional mitigation (such as specific habitat creation measures for mitigation of impacts on breeding birds) and all enhancement measures.</p> <p>This is in line with clarification contained within Defra's 2022 BNG Consultation (p72) which states that mitigation and compensation for protected species and protected sites can be counted within a</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			development's BNG calculation. The consultation document states that, "at least 10% of the gain should be delivered through separate activities which are not required to mitigate or compensate for protected species impacts". This means that at least 10% of the total (110+%) post-development biodiversity score should be from measures which are not undertaken to address impacts on protected species or protected sites. This is the case for the Scheme.
1.6.15	Applicant	The Biodiversity Net Gain Report [APP-089] indicates that the proposed development would result in an overall net gain of 96% of habitat units, 70% gains in hedgerow, and more than 10% in river units. These figures are referenced throughout the application including in the Planning Statement [REP-047 (and elsewhere), as some of the benefits which would be delivered as part of the scheme. Please confirm whether, and if so how, the above levels of BNG are secured in the dDCO. If they are not, please provide details of the amount of biodiversity net gain the Applicant considers should be taken into account when considering potential benefits.	<p>Requirement 9 of Schedule 2 to the draft DCO [EX2/C3.1_C] requires a BNG strategy to be submitted for approval and it must be in accordance with the habitat creation and management prescriptions contained within the Outline LEMP [EX2/C7.3_B] . The Applicant considers that the benefits of the measures set out in the Outline LEMP should therefore be taken into account when considering the potential benefits of the Scheme.</p> <p>However, as the detailed design of the Scheme has not yet been confirmed, and there is the potential for the metric to change prior to the commencement of the authorised development, the Applicant has not included a commitment to delivering specific percentages for habitat, hedgerow or river units in the draft DCO.</p>

7 The water environment

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
1.7.1	Applicant	Has ES Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage [APP-045] considered matters in relation to field drainage (and the effect of the Proposed Development on such systems)?	<p>Land drainage ditches along with Internal Drainage Board Watercourses, Ordinary Rivers and Main Rivers have been considered throughout the reports and master planning process.</p> <p>Protective provisions for the benefit of the Internal Drainage Boards are included in part 8 to Schedule 16 of the draft DCO [EX2/C3.1_C] which require that the IDB be consulted and approve any "specified works" within 9m of any of the IDB's drains or watercourses.</p> <p>Protective provisions for the benefit of the Environment Agency are included in part 9 to Schedule 16 of the draft DCO [EX2/C3.1_C] which require that the EA be consulted and approve any "specified works" within 8m of any of the EA's drains or watercourses.</p> <p>Subsurface land drainage is not mapped and therefore, it is not possible at this stage to consider all potential subsurface land drainage within the Scheme. During the construction stage, should subsurface land drainage be encountered it will be avoided or rerouted. Where it is damaged it will be reinstated as set out within the amended Construction Environmental</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			Management Plan[EX2/C7.1_B]. Generic protective provisions for the benefit of the of electricity, gas, water and sewerage undertakers are included in part 1 to Schedule 16 of the draft DCO [EX2/C3.1_C].
1.7.2	Applicant	Paragraph 10.5.14 of ES Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage [APP-045] sets out that a 0.1% annual probability surface water scenario has been used as a proxy for the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability and Climate Change fluvial event. Where the 0.1% annual probability surface water scenario has been utilised, please confirm whether this has included a Climate Change fluvial event.	<p>In the absence of modelled flood data, the 0.1% annual probability surface water flood scenario can be used as a proxy for the 1% AEP + Climate Change (CC) fluvial event. This was agreed in consultation with the Environment Agency.</p> <p>This methodology has been utilised on Cottam 1 North C6.3.10.3 ES Appendix 10.1 Annex C [APP-092] where the mapping indicates that the restricted areas where flooding is predicted, no flooding with a depth greater than 0.9 m is present across any of the Scheme and is therefore considered to be well within the operating parameters of the proposed panels.</p> <p>On two other parcels (Cottam 2 and Cottam 3a) this methodology is used C6.3.10.6 ES Appendix 10.1 Annex F C6.3.10.7 ES Appendix 10.1 Annex G 10.1.7 Cottam 3B [APP-097], no elevated risk is identified on the site.</p>
1.7.3	Applicant	Why does the 'Effects on Flood Risk and Drainage' section of ES	People and property are considered to be "More Vulnerable" within the NPPF Flood Risk

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage [APP-045] consider that the sensitivity of people and property only medium?	Vulnerability Classification and therefore, are considered a Medium sensitivity within C6.2.10 ES Chapter 10_Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage [APP-039]. Following the inclusion of the embedded mitigation measures detailed in Section 10.1 of C6.2.10 ES Chapter 10_Hydrology Flood Risk and Drainage [APP-045] all risks are considered to be negligible.
1.7.4	Applicant	Paragraph 1.4.1 of the Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy [APP-090] refers to Strategic and Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment documents of the host authorities. How have these been utilised in the Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy?	Local strategic flood risk documents have been considered throughout the C6.3.10.1 ES Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy Report [APP-090] and where pertinent information including flood risk details, mapping and local records of historical flooding are referred to.
1.7.5	Applicant	With regard to Section 2.6 of the Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy [APP-090], please explain if climate change allowances have been applied for peak river flow; peak rainfall intensity; sea level rise; offshore wind speed; and	Climate change allowances are considered within C6.3.10.1 ES Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy Report [APP-090]. The EA mapping and supporting hydraulic modelling considers the relevant climate change allowances for peak river flow;

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		<p>extreme wave height. Also please clarify if the flood depths, which are based on Environment Agency mapping are up to date and why maps showing the flood extent of the event are only provided in annexes C to F.</p>	<p>peak rainfall intensity; sea level rise; offshore wind speed; and extreme wave height.</p> <p>The Scheme is considered to be 'Essential Infrastructure' within the Witham Catchment of the Anglian River Basin District and therefore the higher central Climate Change (CC) allowance of 15% for the 2050s epoch should be utilised.</p> <p>The modelled depth information provided by the EA considered a 20% allowance for climate change which is in excess of the 15% higher central climate change allowance required in this region and therefore, the EA mapping utilised within C6.3.10.1 ES Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy Report [APP-090] and supporting Annexes C6.3.10.2 ES Appendix 10.1 Annex B 10.1.1 Cable Route [APP-091], C6.3.10.3 ES Appendix 10.1 Annex C 10.1.2 Cottam 1 North [APP-092], C6.3.10.4 ES Appendix 10.1 Annex D 10.1.3 Cottam 1 West [APP-093], C6.3.10.5 ES Appendix 10.1 Annex E 10.1.4 Cottam 1 South [APP-094], C6.3.10.6 ES Appendix 10.1 Annex F 10.1.5 Cottam 2 [APP-095], C6.3.10.7 ES Appendix 10.1 Annex G 10.1.6 Cottam 3A [APP-096], C6.3.10.8 ES Appendix 10.1 Annex H 10.1.7 Cottam 3B [APP-097],</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>depicts a scenario worse than the assessment event.</p> <p>For C6.3.10.2 ES Appendix 10.1 Annex B 10.1.1 Cable Route [APP-091] the cable will be almost entirely subsurface. Therefore, flood risk is not considered to be elevated and therefore the mapping was not provided. The EA's 'Flood Map for Planning' is reproduced as Figure 1 within the Annex.</p> <p>For C6.3.10.7 ES Appendix 10.1 Annex G 10.1.6 Cottam 3A [APP-096] is entirely within Flood Zone 1 and therefore, it was not considered necessary to include the EA's detailed fluvial flood data. The EA's 'Flood Map for Planning' is reproduced as Figure 1 within the Annex.</p> <p>For C6.3.10.8 ES Appendix 10.1 Annex H 10.1.7 Cottam 3B [APP-0967] is almost entirely within Flood Zone 1 and therefore, it was not considered necessary to include the EA's detailed fluvial flood data. The EA's 'Flood Map for Planning' is reproduced as Figure 1 within the Annex.</p>
1.7.6	Applicant	With regard to Section 5 of the Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy [APP-090], further detail on what SuDs	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].

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		<p>would be provided and their suitability is required. Please also clarify how the SuDS will be managed post-consent.</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. It is not considered appropriate at this stage to detail specific SuDS features for the footings for electrical infrastructure however, it is likely to take the form of surrounding 'French drain' features which will arrest lateral surface water flows and retain water within subgrade allowing local infiltration.</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</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			for that part have been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority.”
1.7.7	Applicant	Please clarify if flood storage is proposed, e.g. from surface water runoff under times of heavy rainfall.	<p>Where hardstanding areas are proposed surface water attenuation is proposed.</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.</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</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			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."
1.7.8	Applicant	Please explain why paragraph 5.3.8 of the Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy [APP-090] considers there would likely be betterment over the existing surface water runoff regime, in light of the site's existing predominant agricultural use.	<p>Compared to agricultural land use, a solar farm is likely to be inherently better for surface water drainage than a continuation of the existing use. The Scheme avoids the creation of extensive new hardstanding, includes mitigation for ancillary infrastructure, and will not alter the existing topography and therefore the Scheme will not change existing characteristics and should be a positive improvement even with no additional SuDS measures.</p> <p>As identified in section 4.0 'Soil Management' of C6.3.10.1 ES Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy Report [APP-090], the primary reason for this is the significant advantage from full year-round organically managed vegetated ground cover on a solar farm compared with intensive arable uses. Research undertaken by Cook and McCuen (2013) found that providing full vegetation cover beneath the solar panels is maintained, the change in runoff characteristics from solar farm</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>sites is likely to be insignificant and that ground cover has a much more important control over runoff.</p> <p>The panelled area with year-round ground coverage will provide improvement to surface water infiltration compared to the existing agricultural use where the ground is regularly bare or with only patchy vegetation tracked with heavy vehicles.</p>
1.7.9	Applicant	<p>With regard to Section 6.1 of the Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy [APP-090], please provide further and more detailed explanation on why it is considered that the Proposed Development passes the sequential test under NPS EN-1, the National Planning Policy Framework and local planning policy, given that parts of the Proposed Development would be in Flood Zones 2 and 3. Please utilise the wording of the test in your answer.</p>	<p>A more detailed explanation of the application of the sequential test and exceptions test for the Scheme is being prepared and will be submitted at Deadline 3.</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
1.7.10	Applicant	Section 2.1 of the Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy – Cable Route [APP-091] concerns tidal flooding. It is understood that the River Trent is tidal at this point. Does that have any bearing in relation to either the proposed cable route or the grid connection at Cottam Power station, or the nearest areas of arrays and associated development?	<p>The risk of coastal Tidal flooding is considered within:</p> <p>Section 2.1 of C6.3.10.2 ES Appendix 10.1 Annex B 10.1.1 Cable Route [APP-091], C6.3.10.3 ES Appendix 10.1 Annex C 10.1.2 Cottam 1 North [APP-092], C6.3.10.4 ES Appendix 10.1 Annex D 10.1.3 Cottam 1 West [APP-093], C6.3.10.5 ES Appendix 10.1 Annex E 10.1.4 Cottam 1 South [APP-094], C6.3.10.6 ES Appendix 10.1 Annex F 10.1.5 Cottam 2 [APP-095], C6.3.10.7 ES Appendix 10.1 Annex G 10.1.6 Cottam 3A [APP-096], C6.3.10.8 ES Appendix 10.1 Annex H 10.1.7 Cottam 3B [APP-097].</p> <p>Coastal flooding is considered to pose a negligible risk to the scheme.</p>
1.7.11	Applicant	The flood maps [APP-091 to 7] provided do not delineate flood risk zones 3a and 3b and the flood risk zone is just identified as flood risk zone 3. Can the Applicant provide a map identifying the Proposed Developments' location in relation to flood risk zones 3a and 3b.	<p>The Environment Agency 'Flood Map for Planning' does not delineate flood zones 3a and 3b. The Site is considered to be 'Essential Infrastructure', Table 3 of Planning Practice Guidance which determines works necessary for schemes in flood zones 3a and 3b and there is no difference in requirements for either flood zone for this type of scheme. Therefore it was, and is, not considered necessary to provide mapping delineating the flood zones in this way.</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
1.7.12	Applicant/ Environment Agency	Please provide an update on the position as regards the Flood Risk Activity Permit. Please also clarify whether an Environmental Permit will be required for flood risk and/or land drainage.	<p>Discussions are ongoing between the Applicant and the EA regarding the disapplication of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 and the drafting of the protective provisions for the benefit of the EA as stated within the C8.3.8 Environment Agency Statement of Common Ground (Draft) [REP-069].</p> <p>The Applicant directs the ExA to Relevant Representation – RR-026 and the SoCG [EX2/C8.3.13_A]. It has been agreed that it would be appropriate to disapply the requirement for a flood risk activity permit for works within 8m of non-tidal main rivers and 16m of tidal rivers subject to agreement on the wording of protective provisions for the Environment Agency which will regulate any flood risk activities.</p>
1.7.13	Applicant	Please clarify proposals for the Battery Energy Storage System, the extent to which this area would be impermeable, and how contaminated water would be dealt with regard to safeguarding both water supplies and flood risk, with	<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 risk of mobilisation of contamination through firewater is considered in section 3.11 of C6.3.10.4 ES Appendix 10.1 Annex D 10.1.3 Cottam 1 West [APP-093].</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		reference to the specific location of the battery storage.	
1.7.14	Applicant	Can the Applicant clarify if it has consulted with the Scunthorpe and Gainsborough Internal Drainage Board on Cottam 2 and 3a/3b, as suggested by the Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board in its RR (RR-045).	<p>Consultation with Scunthorpe and Gainsborough Internal Drainage Board is ongoing and the Applicant working towards a Statement of Common Ground. The most recent discussion with the IDBs was undertaken on 13/11/2023.</p> <p>Protective provisions for the benefit of the Internal Drainage Boards are included in part 8 to Schedule 16 of the draft DCO [EX2/C3.1_C] which require that the IDB be consulted and approve any "specified works" within 9m of any of the IDB's drains or watercourses. "The Board" is defined in the protective provisions as Scunthorpe and Gainsborough Internal Drainage Board, Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board or Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board.</p>
1.7.15	Applicant	With regard to paragraph 10.8.17 of ES Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage [APP-045], how does what is proposed through ES Chapter 14: Transport and Access [APP-049] address run off and spillage risk?	The Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [REP-038 and updated at Deadline 2] (OCEMP) forms part of the Environmental Statement. Please refer to Table 3.4: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage that sets out the key roles and responsibilities in managing the Scheme's surface water run-off and spillage risks. Production of the final CEMP, substantially

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			in accordance with the OCEMP, is secured through Requirement 13 of Schedule 2 to the DCO [EX2/C3.1_C].
1.7.16	Applicant	With regard to paragraph 10.8.24 of ES Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage [APP-045], how would a temporary drainage network address matters related to mud and debris blockages?	The Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [APP-337] (OCEMP) forms part of the Environmental Statement. Please refer to Table 3.4: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage that sets out the key roles and responsibilities in managing mud and debris blockages during the construction stage. Production of the final CEMP, substantially in accordance with the OCEMP, is secured through Requirement 13 of Schedule 2 to the DCO [EX2/C3.1_C].
1.7.17	Applicant	With regard to paragraph 10.8.27 of ES Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage [APP-045], please provide more detail on the construction mitigation guidance referred to, in relation to the temporary increase in impermeable area.	The Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [APP-337] (OCEMP) forms part of the Environmental Statement. Please refer to Table 3.4: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage that sets out the proposed temporary drainage measures required during the construction stage. The nature of the proposed temporary drainage measures will be provided during the provision of the final Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). Production of the final CEMP, substantially in accordance with the OCEMP, is secured through Requirement 13 of Schedule 2 to the DCO [EX2/C3.1_C].

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
1.7.18	Applicant	Please clarify where temporary drainage features during construction would be placed and the location of attenuation ponds.	The Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [APP-337] (OCEMP) forms part of the Environmental Statement. Please refer to Table 3.4: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage that sets out the proposed temporary drainage measures required during the construction stage. The nature of the proposed temporary drainage measures will be provided during the provision of the final Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). Production of the final CEMP, substantially in accordance with the OCEMP, is secured through Requirement 13 of Schedule 2 to the DCO [EX2/C3.1_C].
1.7.19	Applicant	With regard to paragraph 10.8.29 of Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage [APP-045], please provide more detail on the good practice standards and robust maintenance plan referred to, in relation to the blockages of networks.	Paragraph 3.10 and Annex O of C6.3.10.4 ES Appendix 10.1 Annex D 10.1.3 Cottam 1 West [APP-093] details maintenance of communal drainage features such as permeable surfacing. Following completion of the drainage design, a robust maintenance plan with roles and responsibilities and feature specific maintenance schedules will be produced. The Site owner will bear ultimate responsibility to ensure maintenance is undertaken.
1.7.20	Applicant	With regard to Table 10.7 of ES Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage [APP-045],	The row the ExA is referring to is a mitigation measure that is embedded into the Scheme as part of its design. The existing drainage regime

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		<p>please explain how the first item will be secured through design, as it would not be a DCO requirement</p>	<p>will be maintained through the design of the Scheme, specifically through the measures detailed in the drainage strategy. 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. It is not considered appropriate at this stage to detail specific SuDS features for the footings for electrical infrastructure however, it is likely to take the form of surrounding 'French drain' features which will arrest lateral surface water flows and retain water within subgrade allowing local infiltration.</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</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			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."
1.7.21	Applicant	Paragraph 6.10.40 of the Planning Statement [REP-047] states that drainage vehicles should be fitted with low pressure tyres to further reduce the impact on the underlying soil. How would this be secured and in relation to what type of vehicles.	
1.7.23	Applicant	Would the Proposed Development have impacts on private water supplies and water abstraction licences? Please identify and provide details of likely significant effects and mitigation, as appropriate.	West Lindsey District Council and Bassetlaw District Council have been contacted with respect to private water supplies. The information provided confirms that there are no private abstractions located within 250 m of the scheme boundary. As such, given the location and character of the proposed development, the risk to water supplies is considered very low. This has

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>been agreed with the Environment Agency as set out at line GC 002 of the Statement of Common Ground [REP-069]</p> <p>Page 1 of C7.17_A Crossing Schedule Revision A [REP-041] details the addition to the crossing schedule of two private water pipes owned by Uniper, that the Applicant became aware of since submission of the application. These would be crossed by the high voltage cable route and are associated with operations at Uniper's Cottam Development Centre at Cottam Power Station. Protective provisions for the protection of Uniper are included in Schedule 16 to the draft DCO [EX2/C3.1_C], and the Applicant is in discussions with them to agree the final form of these protective provisions. The construction of the cable route would then lead to no significant effects.</p>

8 Soils and agriculture

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
1.8.1	Applicant	What is the justification for using superseded national planning policy in the Farming circumstances assessment, as per	The Farming Circumstances guidance given in the former PPG7 was not maintained in subsequent national planning guidance statements or the subsequent NPPF. In the absence of any guidance that

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		paragraph 19.2.23 of revised ES Chapter 19: Soils and Agriculture [REP-010], as IEMA guidance is not national planning policy?	supersedes the 'Annex B' issues presented in the former PPG7 (maintained for many years subsequently in the DMRB) many EIA have continued to draw upon this old guidance. Prominent examples include HS2, Sizewell C and the Little Crow Solar Farm Order 2022.
1.8.2	Applicant	Please explain why Table 19.2 (How the Response has been addressed) and paragraph 19.5.3 of revised Chapter 19: Soils and Agriculture [REP-010] considers that food security is not a material planning considerations?	<p>The UK annual balance of domestically produced food is sensitive to non planning factors including weather and markets. Defra report on food security for the whole UK, and their December 2021 report (United Kingdom Food Security Report 2021, Updated October 2023 https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/united-kingdom-food-security-report-2021) notes several risk factors for UK food security. These are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil Degradation, • Drought and Flooding, • Disease, • Fuel and Fertiliser supply, and • Labour Markets <p>Land use, and land use change do not feature in the list of risks to UK food security.</p> <p>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"</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>agricultural land (see paragraph 19.8.5 of C6.2.19_A ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture Revision A [REP-010]).</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>NPPF Paragraph 174 highlights the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services, including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile land. While planning policies should seek to conserve this best and most versatile agricultural land resource, there is no role for planning in limiting or guiding how agricultural land is managed or if land is used for non food crops (industrial oils, fibres, energy crops). Planning also has no role to play in relation to agri-environmental measures such as arable reversion, where a farmer receives an annual payment for placing arable land under management as low input pasture.</p> <p>The Applicant is not aware of any planning guidance that would make valid and evidence based claims regarding food security a material planning consideration.</p>
1.8.3	Applicant	As there would be loss of agricultural land, including BMV, over the intended lifespan of the Proposed Development, and that previously developed land would not be utilised for the energy generation, please explain whether you consider the proposal would constitute an efficient use of land?	<p>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 [REP-010]. 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 [REP-010]).</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>As well as there being no permanent loss of agricultural land, there will be no degradation of agricultural land. No BMV land will be sterilised or downgraded to non 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 [REP-006]. The Applicant considers that the Draft DCO satisfactorily provides for the protection and restoration of agricultural land and BMV post decommissioning.</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>Additionally, the site selection process for the Scheme was successful in reducing the amount of best and most versatile agricultural land (BMV) within the Scheme to only 4.1% which contributes to the efficient use of land by enabling the continued use of BMV land within the local area for agricultural purposes.</p> <p>The Scheme is considered to represent an efficient use of land, balancing the generation of a significant amount of renewable energy against minimising the impacts of the Scheme through measures such as proposed ecological and landscape mitigation and enhancement areas.</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
1.8.5		Why do the Agricultural Land Classification Grade Distribution Figures 19.1 to 19.3 [APP-331 to 333] include land outside of the Order Limits?	Subsequent to the Agricultural Land Classification survey, the extent of the Order Limits was reduced from the original area of interest. This wider area of interest data is shown on the map but is not included in the Baseline Data described for the Order limits. ALC survey data that is available can show context beyond the boundary of the Order Limits, so has not been withheld.
1.8.6	Applicant	The WR of 7000 Acres on 'Agriculture & ALC' [REP-105] makes reference to BMV soil re-testing that took place at the West Burton 4 site at Clayworth. Please explain why retesting was not also carried out for Cottam.	Following a review of the Detailed ALC assessment of both the Cottam and West Burton sites, the reviewer recommended that a small number of additional soil samples, from specific locations, be sent for laboratory analysis to provide additional confidence for ALC grading, for instance in the limited instances where the sufficient presence of geogenic Calcium Carbonate in the topsoil could modify a soil wetness limitation. This was not re testing, just the targeted collection of additional data in specific and narrow circumstances. This additional sampling was completed on both Cottam and West Burton sites but the additional data led to a change in the ALC grading for land at the West Burton 4 site only, which is not relevant to this Scheme. The additional sampling for lab analysis is noted in paragraph 2.5 of Annex 1 to ES Appendix 19.1 [APP-145]
1.8.7	Applicant	7000 Acres also refer to purported anomalies and inconsistencies in the submitted agricultural land survey work/reporting. The Applicant's comments are sought on this matter.	In RR-041 the 7000 Acres state that they have no confidence in the Applicant's Agricultural Land Classification. However, they do not identify any specific deficiencies Natural England (NE) have specialists in ALC assessment and are the statutory consultee on matters relating to the agricultural land resource. In their comments of October 2023 [REP-098] NE note that they are satisfied that the detailed ALC survey undertaken across the order limits is appropriate.

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			The Applicant therefore considers that there is no justification for 7000 Acres request to conduct another ALC assessment of land within the Order Limits.
1.8.8	Applicant	Why is the agricultural land resource in revised Chapter 19: Soils and Agriculture not broken down by ALC grade for each of the Cottam sites? [REP-010]	Impact Assessment is across the Order Limits, not by individual components of the Order Limits. Breaking down ALC grade by each Cottam site would not inform the impact assessment. Annex 1 of C6.3.19.1 ES Appendix 19.1 Agricultural Land Quality Soil Resources and Farming Circumstances [APP-145] breaks down the extent of ALC grades by individual landowner parcels as these were surveyed. However the extent of the Order Limits now differs from that of the original study areas surveyed.
1.8.9	Applicant	Paragraph 19.3.9 of revised Chapter 19: Soils and Agriculture [REP-010] states there would be an anticipated limited impact of the Cable Route Corridor. However, paragraphs 19.3.7 and 8 set out, respectively, that the corridor has not been subject to soil survey assessment and that agricultural occupancy and land use information will need to be collected ahead of trenching work. Please explain how it can be said there would be an anticipated limited impact. If further information is now available on the Cable Route Corridor, please provide it including the amount of land which has not been assessed.	<p>It is anticipated that for the cable route corridor, there will be limited impact from the works on agricultural land, soils and farm businesses. This is because the works to install the cable will take place over a narrow strip of land, be short in duration and will be carried out in accordance with the embedded mitigation of the Soil Management Plan.</p> <p>Further soils information from site assessment is not yet available for the Cable Route Corridor as the land is not under the control of the applicant.</p> <p>Paragraph 4.1.1 of C6.2.19.2 Outline Soil Management Plan [APP-146] which is secured by Requirement 19 of Schedule 2 to the draft DCO submitted at Deadline 1 [REP-006] states that before construction work commences, additional soil surveys would be undertaken on the route of the grid connection works, to provide</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			detailed data on soil physical characteristics within the Cable Route Corridor
1.8.10	Applicant	Does diverging from the magnitude of change criteria with regard to the loss of land, as is set out in paragraph 19.7.7 of revised ES Chapter 19: Soils and Agriculture [REP-010] impact on the validity of the overall approach to considering significant effects for the impact assessment?	It is appropriate to apply the assessor's experience and judgement to the suggested significance and magnitude of change criteria. In this instance it would be inappropriate to apply the same magnitude of change criteria to a development with no loss of agricultural land, as to a permanent development where the agricultural land is sterilised.
1.8.11	Applicant	Why is there no mention of the effect on BMV land in the potential effects section (19.9) of revised ES Chapter 19: Soils and Agriculture [REP-010]?	<p>The potential effects section of revised ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [REP-010] considers BMV land under the topic of Agricultural Land Resource. Please see paragraphs 19.9.1 to 19.9.4.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that the small amount of BMV land within the Order Limits will be lost to or degraded throughout the lifetime of the Scheme. The presence of BMV land is noted in Section 19.9, but no harm will be caused to the BMV land resource.</p> <p>It is also noted that the agricultural land across 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 BMV agricultural land. The potential effect on BMV land is therefore fully addressed by ES Chapter 19.</p>
1.8.12	Applicant	Paragraph 19.9.17 of revised ES Chapter 19: Soils and Agriculture [REP-010] sets out that grass management below and between the	The Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [APP-339] includes for the reversion of the majority of the land beneath solar panels to permanent grassland from arable and for its management

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		<p>solar panels will need to be managed, including by livestock/grazing where appropriate. Please provide further details of how this would be managed, including through the DCO, and explain why such an approach is being taken as it is reported that the majority of the site is in arable rather than livestock/grazing use.</p>	<p>for the benefit of biodiversity. This objective can be achieved through either mechanical cutting, grazing or a combination of the two, subject to appropriately informed and ecologically-led management prescriptions and timings as set out in the oLEMP. At the time of writing, it is not clear to what proportions grazing or cutting will be applied across the Scheme and the document allows for revision and flexibility to this approach for logistical reasons including the availability of graziers and suitable machinery. All such revisions would be made with the input of an ecologist in order to ensure the objective of the document can still be met. The eventual finalised LEMP will be secured through Requirement 7 of Schedule 2 C3.1C of the DCO [AS-012AS012] .</p>
1.8.13	Applicant	<p>The application submission does not seek to substantively address the matter of the temporary loss of agricultural land over the intended timespan for the Proposed Development. Please set out your views on this with regard to use of agricultural land in particular.</p>	<p>Paragraph 19.7.7 of C6.2.19 ES Chapter 19_Soils and Agriculture [REP-010] explains that approximately 47.9ha of the land within the 1,100ha Scheme is required to house the substation, BESS and temporary access tracks. This land will not be available for continued agricultural use during the lifetime of the Scheme. Of this 4ha is BMV land, which will be used for temporary access track. 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 [REP-010]).</p> <p>Paragraph 19.9.14 of 6.2.19 Environmental Statement – Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [APP-057] notes that the extended fallow</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>period of the solar farm will benefit soil health. This is supported by Defra R&D project SP08016 (Best Practice for Managing Soil Organic Matter in Agriculture). The project makes clear that the reversion of arable land to pasture, as will occur across the majority of the Sites, reliably delivers both soil health and wider environmental benefits. As the development is temporary and the land benefits from an extended fallow, there is not <u>anticipated to be any</u> loss of agricultural land extent or quality.</p> <p>With regard to employment directly resulting from the temporary loss of agricultural land for the lifetime of the Scheme, this has been assessed in Section 18.7 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]. The assessed worst-case loss of 17 FTE agricultural jobs as a result of the Scheme is equivalent to 0.4% of the agricultural employment in the Local Impact Area, as set out in para. 18.7.15, 18.7.75, and 18.7.120. This amounts to a long-term moderate-minor adverse effect to the agricultural employment sector throughout the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Scheme. With regard to the agricultural economy, the assessed impact (para. 18.7.48, 18.7.94) is a minor adverse effect. Neither of these are considered a significant effect.</p>
1.8.14	Applicant	Further to comments made about the termination of a Countryside Stewardship arrangement due to end December 2022 in paragraph 19.8.22 of revised ES Chapter 19: Soils and Agriculture [REP-010], please confirm whether any of the land within the	The Farming Circumstances baseline detailed from paragraph 19.8.15 in C6.2.19_A ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture Revision A [REP-010] notes all Countryside Stewardship agreements or similar agri-environmental schemes within the Order limits. All such agreements are time limited and may not be available for renewal at the end of the agreed term. It is common for landowners entering option

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		Order Limits is the subject to such environmental stewardship arrangements.	agreements to not renew any schemes such as Countryside Stewardship to avoid incurring any financial penalty for terminating an agri-environmental payment agreement early.
1.8.15	Applicant	Please explain why the Applicant considers there would be a significant beneficial effect to farming circumstances in view of the amount of agricultural land that would be utilised (revised ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture paragraph 19.9.19). In light of the above, please can the Applicant also explain why it considers there would be a significant beneficial effect when the land returns to agricultural use following decommissioning (revised ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture, paragraph 19.9.29) [REP-010].	<p>For the operational phase, the farm business will have a new and substantial diversified enterprise that does not require capital investment, labour or machinery time from the farm business. This is noted in paragraph 19.9.18 of C6.2.19 A ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture Revision A [REP-010].</p> <p>Following decommissioning work the farm business will have the option to resume the former agricultural enterprises that utilised the land.</p> <p>Paragraph 19.9.29 of C6.2.19_A ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture Revision A [REP-010] notes that the impact of the opportunity to resume arable land management is Minor Beneficial and Not Significant.</p>
1.8.16	Applicant	Paragraph 6.7.15 of the revised Planning Statement [REP-047] refers to discussions with landowners to focus the scheme on land least agriculturally productive and most difficult to farm effectively. Please provide more details of these discussions.	As landowners would receive the same rent for solar regardless of the quality of the land for farming, they would typically prefer the Scheme to be sited on their least productive and valuable land. When originally identifying the potential solar sites as part of the initial discussions with landowners, the Applicant was only offered the land that the landowner was prepared to make available within the Applicant's search area after reviewing their landholding and considering its productivity.

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			Where the solar site consists of almost the entire agricultural landholding, identifying the least agriculturally productive land did not apply in that circumstance.
1.8.17	Applicant	What are the actual current yields in terms of arable, pasture and livestock and what is the estimated loss in yield due to the Proposed Development?	This information has not been sought as ALC grade is not determined by or subject to cropping or yield. Cropping and yield are not a material planning consideration, and so would not form part of the decision making process of the Secretary of State.
1.8.18	Applicant	Has the Applicant considered the effects of any displacement of food production that would be caused by the proposal? Please also provide a more detailed explanation over how the Proposed Development would support the farming enterprises whose land would be utilised.	<p>The Applicant has not considered the effects of any displacement of food production that might result from the Scheme. Food production, and its displacement, relates closely to food security. As such, the Applicant refers the ExA to the response to ExQ 1.8.2. It is also noted that the effects of any displacement of food production were not scoped into the EIA in the Scoping Opinion [APP-064].</p> <p>As noted for 1.8.15 above, the farm businesses will benefit from a substantial new farm enterprise that does not require farm labour, equipment or capital.</p>
1.8.19	Applicant	With regard to paragraph 19.3.10 of revised ES Chapter 19: Soils and Agriculture, will that the cable ducts are unlikely to be decommissioned have a bearing over the agricultural use of the land, post decommissioning? [REP-10]	Any cable ducts will be placed significantly below the maximum practical depth of cultivation, as is standard for all buried services. The presence of the cable ducts will therefore cause no impediment to agricultural land management or crop growth. Buried utilities infrastructure, including power lines, are commonly present in UK cultivated farmland and do not impede cultivation.
1.8.20	Applicant	With regard to the cables themselves, paragraph 4.8.7 of revised ES Chapter 4:	The Applicant is required to restore the land within the solar PV sites to agricultural use. Low voltage cabling within the solar PV sites may

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		<p>Scheme Description [REP012] states that 33kV, 132kV, and 400kV may be left in-situ rather than being removed during decommissioning. However, paragraph 19.9.20 of revised ES Chapter 19: Soils and Agriculture [REP-010] states that buried cables within the solar PV sites will be removed. The magnitude of impacts to agricultural land are deemed negligible on the basis that cables will be removed in Chapter 19: Soils and Agriculture, paragraph 19.9.22. Can the Applicant explain whether and where cables will be removed at decommissioning and whether this alters any ES conclusions and update the relevant Chapter assessments of the ES.</p>	<p>be buried more shallowing and therefore be required to be removed as part of restoring the land to be suitable for agricultural use. Where cables are made safe and left in situ such cables will have been buried sufficiently deep that they do not impede the use of the land for agriculture or crop growth.</p>
1.8.21	Applicant	<p>Please respond to Natural England's comments in its RR [RR-03] and its WR [REP-098] to the Outline Soil Management Plan [APP-146] including with regard to the restoration of the site following decommissioning.</p>	<p>Natural England wish to have a breakdown of ALC grades by elements within the Order Limits. This has been provided in the revised C6.2.19_A ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture Revision A [[REP-010] see paragraph 19.9.2 and 19.9.3.</p> <p>With regard to the Outline Soil Management Plan [APP-146], Natural England wish to see a commitment that no degradation of ALC grade will result from construction and decommissioning works. The Applicant is happy to agree to this (see C7.2 Outline Decommissioning Statement paragraph 2.1.6 [APP-338] and SoCG with Natural England</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			[EX2/C8.3.11]. Soil Health, is expected to improve as a result of the extended fallow period of the solar farm operation.
1.8.22	Applicant	Will the Outline Soil Management Plan [APP-146] be updated in line with Natural England's WR [REP-098]. If not, please explain why.	REP-098 reiterates the same point on retention of ALC Grade covered in RR-037, and is currently under discussion between the Applicant and NE. in REP-098 NE note the following response of the applicant – <i>"The oSMP will include the appointment of a suitably qualified soil scientist who will assess disturbed and undisturbed land within the sites for any degradation of the baseline ALC Grade and soil functionality. It should be noted that ALC assessment assumes a good standard of land management even if this is not apparent at a site. Remediation of any soil degradation will not be limited to only that needed to maintain the ALC Grade baseline, but will also ensure that a good standard of land management at the completion of the restoration works has been achieved. The oSMP will be updated to include this."</i>
1.8.23	Applicant	Please explain why section 19.11 of revised ES Chapter 19: Soils and Agriculture Revision A [RE1-010] has not been updated now that other schemes have been submitted and where there is now likely publicly available data, including ALC surveys, soil resources and farming circumstances.	The Cottam scheme will not result in loss of agricultural land extent, or loss of agricultural land grade. This is also the anticipated effect for all of the solar developments assessed in the cumulative assessment. There is therefore no change to the predicted cumulative effect if detailed ALC results are substituted for the original predictions based on published sources.
1.8.24	Applicant	The revised oLEMP [REP-045] states in paragraph 4.7.8 that mowing may replace grazing as a management practice underneath the panels. Revised ES Chapter 19 Soils and Agriculture [REP-010],	Under a worst case scenario where there is no grazing within the operational phase, the farm businesses still all benefit from the creation of the new substantial diversified enterprise – the rental income from a solar farm. The moderate beneficial effect from this

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		paragraphs 19.9.17 to 19.9.19 states that there would be a moderate beneficial significant effect on the premise that the farming enterprise would diversify (through income from panel placement) and that management can include grazing from livestock. The discussion does not explain how a worst-case scenario of a change in land use has influenced the conclusion of effects on farming circumstances during operation. Can the Applicant explain how the change in land use has influenced the conclusion of a moderate beneficial effect.	new enterprise is delivered by the solar farm diversification alone and is not dependant on the simultaneous grazing of the site.

9 The historic environment

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
1.9.1	Applicant	The Scoping Opinion [APP-064] explained that the heritage study area should be based on the views to and from the Proposed Development and on this basis, should align with the study area set out for the LVIA. This includes potential long-distance views. The study areas for designated and non-designated assets are	The 5km study area that was adopted for designated heritage assets 'of the highest significance' was in alignment with the study area set out for the LVIA, in accordance with The Scoping Opinion [APP-064]. Paragraphs 3.1.6-3.1.7 of the Heritage Statement [APP-125] explain the reasoning for adopting a smaller 2km study area for the less significant Grade II listed buildings, which was informed by Historic England's advice as set out in <i>The setting of Heritage Assets</i> (p.9) which seeks to ' <i>minimise the need for detailed analysis of</i>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		<p>different without explanation why. Can the Applicant explain the reasoning for applying different study areas for different receptors.</p>	<p><i>very large numbers of heritage assets</i>'. This smaller study area for Grade II listed buildings was proposed as part of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and no objection to this proposal was raised by the statutory consultees in their responses. For non-designated archaeological remains, a 1km study area was adopted for the archaeological desk-based assessments (DBAs), which is in accordance with standard professional practice in the production of archaeological DBAs in areas outside of dense urban contexts in England. For non-designated historic buildings, there is currently no Local List for Lincolnshire (though Heritage Lincolnshire is leading the Local Heritage List Campaign in partnership with Lincolnshire County Council). Consequently, an assessment was made of those non-designated historic buildings identified on the Historic Environment Record. A 250m study area was adopted for the assessment of these buildings for the reasons discussed in paragraph 13.5.20 of ES Chapter: 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048]. As the non-designated historic buildings were ascribed either a 'Low' or 'Negligible' value (based upon the attributes identified in Table 13.33 in ES Chapter: 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048]), 'significant' effects would only be possible where a 'Major' magnitude of change was likely to occur, and it was considered that a 250m study area was sufficient to identify any such impacts to the settings of these buildings.</p> <p>To adopt a 5km study area for the settings of Grade II Listed Buildings and non-designated heritage assets was considered to be</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			disproportionate to the significance of these assets and the negligible likelihood of significant impact.
1.9.2	Applicant	It is noted that the figures in the Heritage Statement [APP-125 to 128] show zones of theoretical visibility and observer points. It does not appear though that photomontages have been provided as regards heritage assets. If the Applicant is relying on photomontages provided elsewhere in the documentation in this regard this should be clarified and paper copies provided in the correct form as regards how those photomontages are to be viewed.	<p>The Heritage Statement was informed by numerous photomontages that were produced as part of the LVIA. These include the following:</p> <p>C6.4.8.14.51 - Figure 8.14.51 Viewpoint 51 Photography and Photomontage [APP-249], (in paragraph 3.1.20 of Heritage Statement [APP-125])</p> <p>C6.4.8.14.52 - Figure 8.14.52 Viewpoint 52 Photography [APP250], (in paragraphs 3.1.28 and 3.3.8 of Heritage Statement [APP-125])</p> <p>C6.4.8.14.47 - Figure 8.14.47 Viewpoint 47 Photography and Photomontage [APP-245], (in paragraphs 3.1.58 and 3.1.104 of Heritage Statement [APP-125])</p> <p>C6.4.8.14.46 - Figure 8.14.46 Viewpoint 46 Photography [APP-244], (in paragraphs 3.1.105 and 3.3.31 of Heritage Statement [APP-125])</p> <p>C6.4.8.14.18 - Figure 8.14.18 Viewpoint 18 Photography and Photomontage [APP-216], (in paragraphs 3.3.11 and 3.3.13 of Heritage Statement [APP-125])</p> <p>C6.4.8.14.6 - Figure 8.14.6 - Viewpoint 6 - Photography and Photomontage [APP-204], (in paragraphs 3.3.15 and 3.4.6 of Heritage Statement [APP-125])</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>C6.4.8.14.30 - Figure 8.14.30 Viewpoint 30 Photography and Photomontage [APP-228], (in paragraph 3.3.19 of Heritage Statement [APP-125])</p> <p>C6.4.8.14.1 - Figure 8.14.1 Viewpoint 1 Photography and Photomontage [APP-199], (in paragraph 3.3.27 of Heritage Statement [APP-125])</p>
1.9.3	Applicant	The Heritage Statement [APP-125] does not appear to cover non-designated heritage assets, yet ES Chapter: 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048] does. Please explain the relationship between the two documents in that regard as they are both part of the ES and where information can be found with regard to the significance of non-designated heritage assets.	<p>ES Chapter: 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048] is informed by several appendices which include Archaeological Desk based Assessments (DBAs) [APP-109], Archaeological Geophysical Survey Reports [APP-110 – APP-122], Geoarchaeological Desk-based Assessment [APP-123], Air Photograph and LIDAR Assessment Reports [APP-124] as well as the Heritage Statement [APP-125]. Whilst the Heritage Statement [APP-125] focusses specifically upon designated heritage assets, non-designated heritage assets (defined in the NPPF Glossary as '<i>assets identified by the local authority (including local listing)</i>') were identified through searches of the local planning authority's Historic Environment Record (in the absence of any confirmed Local Listing), the results of which are included in the Archaeological DBAs [APP-109]. The significance of these non-designated heritage assets is discussed in section 6 – <i>Assessment of Significance</i> in each of the DBAs, and the methodology for ascribing the value/significance to heritage assets (both designated and non-designated) can be found in paragraphs 13.4.13 to 13.4.17 and Tables 13.4 to 13.6 of ES Chapter: 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048]. For the non-designated historic buildings that were assessed solely within the ES chapter [APP-048] rather than within the standalone</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			Heritage Statement on designated assets [APP-125], the information regarding their significance can be found in in paragraph 13.5.21 and Table 13.22.
1.9.4	Applicant/Historic England/Host Authorities	Please confirm that the study areas identified in Section 13.4 of ES Chapter 13: Cultural Heritage [APP-048] have been agreed.	The 5km and 2km study areas for designated heritage assets identified in Section 13.4 of ES Chapter 13: Cultural Heritage [APP-048] were first proposed in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). In its response, Lincolnshire County Council stated ' <i>Section 13.4.7 - the proposed clustering of Grade II listed buildings is acceptable where they are for example part of the same settlement or estate. Given the proposal in 13.4.8 to reduce the assessment area of listed buildings from 5km to 2km [we] do not agree that individual listed buildings which do not exist in clusters should be assessed in clusters as the potential impact and any proposed mitigation maybe specific to that building.</i> ' Historic England, in its response stated, ' <i>We welcome the scope of the Historic Environment assessment set out in the PEIR and the ongoing assessment work currently underway</i> ' and also stated ' <i>We welcome a dynamic approach to setting assessment which is not overly constrained fixed radii</i> '. As there was no criticism of the proposed study areas in either of these responses, it was considered implicit that the proposed methodology was acceptable. In addition, the Draft Statement of Common Ground [REP-065] confirms Historic England's agreement that ' <i>The assessment of designated heritage assets within a Heritage Statement (ES Chapter Appendix 13.5 [EN010133/APP/C6.3.13.5]), which was used to inform ES Chapter 13 [EN010133/APP/C6.2.13] is considered proportionate</i> '.

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>The 500m study area adopted for the assessment of the settings of designated heritage assets along the cable route was not initially proposed in the PEIR, but the justification for this is presented in paragraphs 13.4.5, 13.5.2 and 13.5.18 of the ES [APP-048] (i.e., that any visual impacts would be relatively localised, temporary, short term and reversible, and therefore any such effects would be of a negligible significance, and would be unlikely to be discernible at distances greater than 500m).</p>
1.9.5	Historic England/Applicant	<p>Historic England's RR [RR-029] states that the application appears to have largely addressed the setting of designated heritage assets and earthwork monuments of equivalent importance apart from the Thorpe medieval settlement Scheduled Monument (SM). Does that include all of the other designated heritage assets that Historic England drew to the Applicant's attention at the pre application stage, as is set out at paragraph 13.4.2 of ES Chapter: 13 Cultural Heritage? [APP-048] The Applicant is also to provide listing and schedule descriptions and conservation area appraisal (if it exists) for those assets. This is not required for the Thorpe medieval settlement SM, as this has already been provided.</p>	<p>As agreed in the Statement of Common Ground with Historic England [REP-065], setting issues are considered appropriately mitigated for all designated heritage assets, excluding Thorpe in the Fallow Scheduled Monument (1016978).</p> <p>Listing and scheduling descriptions for the following designated heritage assets, which Historic England drew to the Applicant's attention at the pre application stage (not including Thorpe medieval settlement SM which has already been provided), are available in appendix A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Scheduled Site of college and Benedictine abbey of St. Mary, Stow (NHLE 1012976) • The Scheduled Medieval Settlement and moated site, Coates (NHLE 1016979) • Grade I listed Church of St. Mary, Stow (NHLE 1146624) • Grade I listed Church of St. Lawrence, Corringham (NHLE 1064162)

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade I listed Church of St. Edith, Coates by Stow (NHLE 1146742) • Grade II* listed Church of St. Andrew, Fillingham (NHLE 1359847) • Grade I listed Fillingham Castle (NHLE 1166045) • Grade II Registered Park and Garden at Fillingham Castle (NHLE 1000977). • Fillingham Conservation Area
1.9.6	Applicant	The difference in position with Historic England over the field boundary and the proximity of the Proposed Development to the Thorpe medieval settlement SM is noted from the draft Statement of Common Ground [REP-065]. Can the Applicant explain the likely reduction in energy generation that would result from the removal of the solar panels between the SM and this boundary.	The removal of the solar panels between the Thorpe medieval settlement SM and the former field boundary would result in the loss of approximately 4.725 MWp of installed capacity and 5.5 MWh/year energy generation loss, based upon the indicative layouts that the Environmental Statement was based upon. This figure is subject to change dependent upon future advances in technology. Furthermore, the generating capacity of the Scheme is not capped.
1.9.7	Applicant	Does the assessment on the Grade I Fillingham Castle and the associated Grade II Registered Park and Garden as set out at paragraphs 13.7.36 and 13.7.40 of ES Chapter: 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048]	The Applicant confirms that the elevated position of the Grade I Fillingham Castle and the associated Grade II Registered Park and Garden as set out at paragraphs 13.7.36 and 13.7.40 of ES Chapter: 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048] was taken into consideration. The assessment was informed by the production of a ZTV for an

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		have regard to the elevated position of these assets, which is described in the Heritage Statement [APP-125].	observer standing on the western terrace of Fillingham Castle (Heritage Statement Figure 13.5.22 [APP-128] which illustrates that from this location the nearest visible panels would be c.3.5km distant, and therefore not prominently visible.
1.9.9	Applicant	Paragraph 13.8.10 of Chapter 13; Cultural Heritage [APP-048] recommends that further consultation with Historic England is undertaken in the Examination Period with a view to identifying a design that would reduce the significant effect identified for the Thorpe medieval settlement SM (NHLE 1016978) to an acceptable level. Can the Applicant confirm whether an alternative design is being explored with Historic England and if so, how will this be presented into the Examination.	<p>Discussions were undertaken with Historic England during the pre-examination phase to identify if any impacts to aspects of the setting of Thorpe medieval settlement SM (NHLE 1016978) that contribute to the significance of the asset could be reduced.</p> <p>Details of these discussions are provided in the Statement of Common Ground [REP-065].</p> <p>As stated in paragraph 13.8.10 of ES Chapter: 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048], embedded mitigation to reduce the impacts on the setting of the SM comprises setting back the proposed solar panels 50m from the northern edge of the Scheduled Area.</p> <p>The option of setting panels back to a former historic east-west boundary recorded on the 1886 25-inch Ordnance Survey (OS) has been discussed with Historic England. While Historic England consider this to be necessary to preserve the transient historic landscape character that contributes to the setting of the scheduled medieval settlement (please see the Statement of Common Ground for full details), the Applicant considers that the former east-west field boundary belongs to a post-medieval landscape, and as such setting the panels back to this location would not contribute further to the significance of the scheduled medieval settlement. Neither does the Applicant consider that Historic England's proposed set</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>back would enhance the experience of the heritage asset or reduce the impact compared with what has already been achieved by the mitigation set out in paragraph 13.8.10 of ES Chapter: 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048].</p> <p>Full details are provided in the Statement of Common Ground [REP-065] and remain under discussion with Historic England.</p>
1.9.10	Applicant/ Historic England	<p>The potential for a direct physical impact to the Site of a college and Benedictine Abbey, St Marys Church, Stow is indicated in paragraphs 13.8.2 and 13.8.5 of ES Chapter: 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048], where mitigation is sought by way of a banksman to monitor the HGV where there is a requirement to mount the pavement in the village of Stow. Is a tracking plan available of such a vehicle at the point where it would need to mount the pavement? Please also clarify whether there would be the potential for an effect on the structural integrity of this asset, such as on the foundations, caused by abnormal loads or other forms of construction traffic. Historic England's views are also sought on these matters.</p>	<p>The Swept Path Assessment for the oversailing and mounting of the kerb adjacent to <i>Site of a college and Benedictine Abbey, St Marys Church, Stow</i> is provided with the submission in ES Appendix 14.1: Transport Assessment, in Appendix F, Appendix 2- Dwg no. 22-1062.SPAO2 [APP-134]. The mounting of the pavement and oversailing proposed is c.25m distant from the St. Mary's Church building at its nearest point and therefore the structural integrity of the church building would not be affected. However, the Swept Path Assessment states that '<i>caution is given due to minimal clearance expected between oversail and a churchyard retaining wall to the nearside</i>'.</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
1.9.11	Applicant	Please signpost in the submissions where there is a ZTV taken from the Site of a college and Benedictine Abbey, St Marys Church, Stow, including on a cumulative basis?	<p>The ZTVs included as part of the Heritage Statement [APP126-128] were produced to assess the likely extent of views from heritage assets where there was no public access. In the case of <i>Site of a college and Benedictine Abbey, St Marys Church, Stow</i>, it was possible to visit this scheduled monument to 'ground-truth' the views from within the scheduled area, and hence no ZTV was produced from this heritage asset. The 'ground-truthing' visit confirmed that views from the scheduled monument were constrained by the surrounding vegetation and built environment and therefore there would be no visual impact from the Scheme from within the monument or its immediate setting (i.e., the village of Stow). Longer distance views towards the church were also assessed from locations within the surrounding landscape to the west, but no key views towards the church that would include solar panels within the same arc of view were identified.</p> <p>ZTVs produced as part of the LVIA are included within the submission which illustrate the potential cumulative effects of the Cottam 1, 2 and 3 sites at the village of Stow [APP-290 to APP291]; cumulative effects of other developments at the village of Stow [APP294 and APP295]; and cumulative effects at the village of Stow from developments at Bumble Bee Farm [APP-298]; Field Farm [APP299]; Gate Burton [APP-300]; High Marnham [APP-301]; Tillbridge [APP-302] and West Burton [APP303].</p>
1.9.12	Applicant	ES Chapter: 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048], section 13.7 assesses the likely significant effects on cultural heritage receptors.	Impacts to Conservation Areas were assessed in general terms within the Heritage Statement [APP-125] alongside the Listed Buildings within them, and with reference to aerial images that

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		<p>Seven conservation areas are identified in Table 13.7 however, these are not included in the assessment in section 13.7. Can the Applicant explain why conservation areas are not assessed or update ES Chapter 13 to include an assessment of likely significant effects on conservation areas, or else cross reference with the Heritage Statement [APP-125] if that is being relied on this regard.</p>	<p>illustrate the enclosed nature of these designated areas. Each Conservation Area was visited as part of the assessment and no significant effects were identified. A more explicit discussion of each in turn is provided below, along with cross-referencing to relevant sections of the Heritage Statement where appropriate.</p> <p>Hemswell Conservation Area is 3.8km distant from the nearest proposed solar panels at Cottam 2 and occupies a low-lying position at the foot of the Lincoln Cliff. Photograph 30 in the Heritage Statement [APP-125] provides an aerial view of the Conservation Area, which illustrates the level of screening provided by the surrounding built environment and vegetation that would be likely to prevent any visibility of the Scheme proposals. It is concluded that there would be no visibility of the Scheme from within the Conservation Area and therefore no significant effects.</p> <p>Springthorpe Conservation Area is located in flat topography c.2km to the south of the nearest proposed panels at Cottam 2. Photograph 61 in the Heritage Statement [APP-125] provides an aerial view of the Conservation Area which illustrates the level of screening provided by the surrounding built environment and vegetation which would prevent any visibility of the Scheme proposals from within the Conservation Area. Photograph 62 in the Heritage Statement [APP-125] illustrates how this screening prevents views northwards in the direction of Cottam 2 from the northern edge of the Conservation Area where the Grade I listed Church of St. Lawrence is located. It is concluded that there would</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>be no visibility of the Scheme from within the Conservation Area and therefore no significant effects.</p> <p>Glentworth Conservation Area is discussed in paragraphs 3.1.116 - 3.1.117 of the Heritage Statement [APP-125] which highlights how the Conservation Area Appraisal discusses the way in which the village layout restricts views. Photograph 43 in the Heritage Statement [APP-125] provides an aerial view of the Conservation Area which also illustrates the level of screening provided by the surrounding built environment and vegetation which would be likely to prevent any visibility of the Scheme proposals. It is concluded that there would be no visibility of the Scheme from within the Conservation Area and therefore no significant effects.</p> <p>Fillingham Conservation Area is discussed in paragraphs 3.1.106 - 3.1.111 of the Heritage Statement which explains how the enclosed nature of the Conservation Area would prevent views out towards the Scheme proposals. Photograph 113 in the Heritage Statement [APP-125] provides an aerial view of the Conservation Area which illustrates the level of screening provided by the surrounding built environment and vegetation which would prevent any visibility of the Scheme proposals from within the Conservation Area. The assessment is further supported by photographs 87, 104 and 105 of the Heritage Statement [APP-125] which illustrate the level of screening from locations within the Conservation Area, and two ZTVs (Fig. App13.5-26 and Fig. App13.5-270) were also provided in the Heritage Statement [APP-125] which illustrate the limited</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>visibility out in to the surrounding landscape from the northern and western fringes of the Conservation Area.</p> <p>Ingham Conservation Area is discussed in paragraphs 3.1.118 - 3.1.120 of the Heritage Statement which explains how the enclosed nature of the Conservation Area would prevent views out towards the Scheme proposals. Photograph 114 in the Heritage Statement [APP-125] provides an aerial view of the Conservation Area which illustrates the level of screening provided by the surrounding built environment and vegetation which would prevent any visibility of the Scheme proposals from within the Conservation Area.</p> <p>Brattleby Conservation Area is discussed in paragraphs 3.1.96 - 3.1.120 of the Heritage Statement which explains how the enclosed and wooded nature of the Conservation Area would prevent views out towards the Scheme proposals from within it. Photograph 50 in the Heritage Statement [APP-125] provides an aerial view of the Conservation Area which illustrates the level of screening provided by the surrounding built environment and vegetation which would prevent any visibility of the Scheme proposals from within the Conservation Area.</p> <p>South Carlton Conservation Area is located c.5km to the south-west of the nearest proposed solar panels at Cottam 1, and it is considered that at this distance, even if elements of the Scheme were visible, they would have a negligible visual impact upon the setting of the Conservation Area. Paragraphs 3.1.96 - 3.1.120 of the Heritage Statement which explains how the enclosed and wooded nature of the Conservation Area would prevent views out towards</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>the Scheme proposals from within it. Photograph 101 in the Heritage Statement [APP-125] provides an aerial view of the Conservation Area which illustrates the level of screening provided by the surrounding built environment and vegetation which would likely prevent any visibility of the Scheme proposals from within the Conservation Area. Photographs 102 and 103 also illustrates the view to the north-west from Church of St John the Baptist and Monson Mausoleum at the northern edge of the Conservation Area showing how the layering effect of intervening hedgelines screens views in the direction of Cottam 1.</p>
1.9.13	Applicant	<p>From the information presented in ES Chapter: 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048] and supporting Appendices, it is difficult to determine the percentage of land anticipated to be/trial that has been trial trenched and therefore whether the 2% has been or will be achieved. Can the Applicant quantify the percentage of the total area of the Proposed Development that has been/will be trial trenched and provide supporting evidence of this.</p>	<p>As agreed with the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Team, a programme of evaluation trial trenching of a 2% sample (+2% contingency as required) of targeted fields where potential archaeological deposits had been identified through geophysical survey and other non-intrusive investigations (e.g. LiDAR and aerial photographic analysis, desk-based and cartographic research etc.) was undertaken within the main solar sites. To test the results of the geophysical survey, several 'blank' areas adjacent to concentration of archaeology were also assessed at a 2% sample (plus 2% contingency) within the main solar sites. It is estimated by the applicant that 17% of the Sites have been subject to evaluation trial trenching at a 2% (plus 2%) sample, which equates to an overall sample of 0.35% of land that has been subject to evaluation trial trenching. The quantity, location of and results of the evaluation trial trenching are detailed in C6.3.13.6 ES Appendix 13.6 Archaeological Evaluation Trenching [APP-129 to APP-130].</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>For the Shared Cable Route Corridor, which is proposed to be used for the West Burton Solar Project, Cottam Solar Project and Gate Burton Energy Park and runs between Till Bridge Lane and Cottam Power Station, the evaluation trial trenching targeted areas where archaeological remains had been identified, as well as a blanket sample of 'blank' areas. This slight difference in approach was a result of the high level of impact that would be caused to buried archaeological deposits as a result of the Scheme, and the sensitivity of archaeological remains in areas directly adjacent to the River Trent with particular consideration to the potential for paleoenvironmental deposits (i.e. alluvium, wind blow sands and waterlogged deposits). It is estimated by the Applicant that the evaluation trial trenching totalled a sample of c.0.73% for the section of the Shared Cable Route Corridor proposed to be used for the Scheme.</p> <p>It is estimated by the Applicant that an overall sample of 0.39% of land within the Order Limits has been subject to evaluation trial trenching. The quantity, location of and results of the evaluation trial trenching are detailed in C6.3.13.6 ES Appendix 13.6 Archaeological Evaluation Trenching [APP-129 to APP-130].</p> <p>Informative trenching comprising a sample of c. 0.02% (31 no. 2m by 30m and 2no. 2m by 50m trenches) aimed at testing geophysical anomalies and cropmarks identified as having an 'unknown' or 'uncertain' origin, has been proposed in C6.3.13.7 ES Appendix 13.7 Archaeological Mitigation WSI [APP-131], which is secured by</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>Requirement 12 of Schedule 2 to C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>No agreement was made with LHPT for areas that are considered to have a negligible/low potential i.e. where baseline information had not identified any possible buried archaeological deposits. 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 Applicant believes that an untargeted programme of blanket trenching is unjustified and does not pay regard to the baseline data, which has been proven to be of a highly reliable nature. Local and national guidance on the definition and purpose of an archaeological evaluation does not state untargeted blanket trial trenching as part of an archaeological evaluation is required, such as the Chartered Institute of Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2020), Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Handbook (2019) and Central Lincoln Local Plan (adopted 2023).</p> <p>The Applicant also considers that 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 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>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
1.9.15	Lincolnshire County Council/ Applicant	<p>As an alternative to an agreed % coverage area, are there specific areas of land within the Order Limits that could be the subject of the baseline characterisation?</p> <p>Lincolnshire County Council and the Applicant's views are sought on this. Please also signpost where such evidence in relation to these areas of land may be found within the application documentation.</p>	<p>The Applicant considers that all areas within the Order Limits have been subject to sufficient baseline characterisation. The Applicant believes they have taken a reasonable and consistent approach guided by national and local guidance that has enabled an appropriate and proportionate archaeological assessment. As detailed in C6.2.13 ES Chapter 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048] baseline information has been informed by 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 (DBA) [APP-123] and C6.3.13.4 ES Appendix 13.4 Air Photo (AP) and LiDAR Reports [APP-124]. These assessments have been used to successfully identify the absence/ presence/ extent of archaeological sites within the Order limits of the Scheme and an informed programme of C6.3.13.6 ES Appendix 13.6 Archaeological Evaluation Trenching [APP-129 and APP-130]. The programme of informed evaluation trial trenching verified the effectiveness of baseline information (in particular the non-intrusive evaluation techniques) for identifying the presence, absence and extent of concentrations of archaeological sites, as well as providing information regarding their character, preservation and archaeological significance.</p> <p>It is considered, based on the evidence of the range of non-intrusive investigations and targeted evaluation trenching, that there is low potential for otherwise unrecorded archaeological remains of greater than local significance to survive within the Sites, and that if</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>these were present, the impact of the solar mounts would have limited impact. Consequently the Applicant does not consider that further baseline characterisation is required to inform the DCO Application, and that there is sufficient information to inform the 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>
1.9.16	Applicant	<p>Lincolnshire County Council has stated in its RR [RR-001] that it is awaiting an overall evaluation plan for the Proposed Development. Can the Applicant confirm whether an overall evaluation plan will be submitted to the examination and if so, provide a submission date.</p>	<p>An overall plan of the Scheme's Order Limits was submitted to Lincolnshire Historic Places Team (archaeological advisors to Lincolnshire County Council) as part of the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the evaluation trial trenching on 03.05.2022 and 10.06.2022 (Figures 1 to 4). Individual trench plans were provided to LHPT as produced, and changes were made to the location of trenches as requested by LHPT.</p> <p>As requested by LHPT in an email dated 03.03.2023, an additional overall plan showing the location of evaluation trenches, as mitigation areas, was issued to LHPT on the 06.03.2023.</p> <p>Plans showing the location of the evaluation trenches were submitted as part of the DCO application submission in C6.3.13.6 ES Appendix 13.6 Archaeological Evaluation Trenching [APP-129 to APP-130] (see Figures 1 and 2 of each individual report for Cottam 1, 2 and 3).</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
1.9.18	Applicant	With regard to paragraph 13.7.15 of ES Chapter: 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048] and the 5th bullet point as regards the shared cable corridor, is a full evaluation of the results now available	<p>The results of the full evaluation are provided within the archaeological evaluation report for the Gate Burton Energy Park and Grid Connection Corridor, Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire (Pages 32 – 40 and Figures 60 to 96).</p> <p>The full evaluation trenching report will be submitted at Deadline 3.</p> <p>With regards to the caveat in the 5th bullet point in paragraph 13.7.15 of ES Chapter: 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048] and the uncertainty over the impact assessment scores for archaeological remains AR67-AR75 in Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Tables [APP-132], it can be confirmed that no further information has been presented in the final report that contradicts the information from the interim evaluation report as summarised in ES Chapter: 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048], Table 13.15. Consequently, there is still uncertainty over the significance of some of the putative archaeological remains (e.g., AR67-AR69), and as the precise design of the cable route has also not been finalised, the range of scores presented for archaeological remains AR67-AR75 in Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Tables [APP-132] is still considered to be valid.</p>
1.9.20	Applicant	ES Chapter 23: Summary of Significant Effects [APP-058] identifies several residual significant adverse effects for cultural heritage receptors where no additional mitigation has been proposed. Can the Applicant provide an explanation as to why	<p>These instances are where the impact derives from the effect of erecting panels within certain Historic Landscape Character units. In these instances, it is not possible to offer any additional mitigation measures, although it is acknowledged that the landscape mitigation proposals that should have reached maturity by year 15 would go some way to screen any effects from wider view in many instances. The Applicant also highlights the reversible nature of the</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		no additional mitigation measures have been proposed.	Scheme, and that existing landscape features will remain in situ. NPS EN-1 (paragraph 3.2.3) and draft NPS EN-1 (paragraph 3.1.2) both acknowledge that it will not be possible for nationally significant infrastructure projects to avoid all significant adverse effects, even with the implementation of mitigation. In considering any proposed development, the Secretary of State must weigh any adverse impacts against a project's benefits. It is the Applicant's position that the benefits of this Scheme clearly outweigh any residual adverse impacts that cannot be completely mitigated, as set out in C7.5 A Planning Statement Revision A [REP-047].
1.9.21	Applicant	With regard to the potential for beneficial effects to non-designated archaeological remains under paragraphs 13.7.33-4 of ES Chapter: 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048], how does this take account of the effect on earthworks associated with the proposal, such as in areas of ridge and furrow?	As discussed in Tables 13.9 to 13.15 [APP-048], ridge and furrow within the Order Limits has been identified at nine locations (AR03, AR04, AR05, AR13, AR21, AR34, AR36, AR51, AR58). At six of these, the AP and Lidar Assessment [APP-124] has confirmed that these former earthworks have now been levelled as a result of more recent agricultural activity. Only in three instances (AR21, AR34 and AR51) do earthworks survive, and in each instance, these are very low with a general height difference between the ridges and furrows of c.10-15cm. At AR21, there would no impacts to the ridge and furrow earthworks, as indicated by the Swept Path Assessment for the oversailing of this field provided with the submission in ES Appendix 14.1: Transport Assessment, in Appendix F, Appendix 2-Dwg no. 22-1062.SPA03 [APP-134]. This indicates some hedgerow removal and temporary plating of the footpath and verge but no impacts to the earthworks within the field. At AR34 and AR51 there is the potential for adverse impacts at the construction phase, but no further impacts are predicted during the operational phase,

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			except for the beneficial effect of their preservation <i>in situ</i> and protection from potential ploughing, which is discussed in paragraphs 13.7.33-4 of ES Chapter: 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048],. As these earthworks are barely distinguishable on the ground due to their diminutive height, and moreover, considering the Negligible Adverse magnitude of change that would be likely to occur during construction, (i.e., occasional puncturing of discrete areas of earthworks by the ground anchors for the solar panels) the Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Table 13.8-2 [APP-132] scores the construction phase impacts at these two blocks of ridge and furrow as 'Neutral'.
1.9.22	Applicant	Please explain with regard to paragraph 13.9.5 of ES Chapter: 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048] and the Heritage Statement [APP-125] why new planting would have a beneficial effect in relation to the significance of these assets?	This refers to an in-combination effect with the landscape topic whereby the reinforcement of existing woodland/scrub and hedgerows and the addition of new hedgerow trees would help to reinforce the historic landscape character of the wider rural setting within which the designated heritage assets are experienced.
1.9.23	Applicant	Paragraph 13.3.2 of ES Chapter:13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048] refers to the legislative framework but no particular conclusion is reached against that Act in the chapter or the revised Planning Statement [REP047]. Please clarify why this has not been done, also considering Part 3 of The Infrastructure Planning (Decisions) Regulations 2010 and the findings in ES	Section 13.3 of ES Chapter: 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048] details the national and local guidance, policy and legislative frameworks that the assessment has been prepared in adherence to or guided by in ES Chapter: 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048] and the various supporting appendices. The assessment is considered to have been compiled in accordance with applicable legislative framework detailed in Paragraph 13.3.2

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		Chapter 13: Cultural Heritage and Cumulative Impact Assessment Tables [APP-132].	and part 3 of The Infrastructure Planning (Decisions) Regulations 2010.
1.9.24	Applicant	Has Section 6.6 of the revised Planning Statement [REP-047] had regard in its findings to where ES Chapter: 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048] and the Cumulative Impact Assessment Tables [APP-132] has found slight adverse impacts to designated heritage assets. Please explain what level of harm under NPS EN1 and the National Planning Policy Framework has been attributed in this regard.	<p>The Applicant can confirm that Section 6.6 of the Planning Statement [EX2/C7.5_B] has had regard in its findings to where ES Chapter: 13 Cultural Heritage [APP-048] and the Cumulative Impact Assessment Tables [APP-132] has found slight adverse impacts to designated heritage assets. These effects were assessed to equate to less than substantial harm in accordance with the terminology used under paragraph 5.8.15 of NPS EN-1. In accordance with paragraph 5.8.2 of NPS-EN1, these less than substantial impacts on the significance of the designated heritage assets have been weighed against the public benefit of Scheme, recognising that the greater the harm to the significance of the heritage asset the greater the justification will be needed for any loss. In this instance the level of harm is considered to be at the lower end of the less than substantial harm scale.</p> <p>At the end of its operational life, the Scheme will be decommissioned in accordance with the principles set out in the Outline Decommissioning Statement [APP-338], which will be secured through Requirement 21 in Schedule 2 to the DCO. There will be no permanent loss of the significance of designated assets as a result of the Scheme, allowing future generations to retain an understanding of their settings.</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>The significant public benefits of the Scheme set out at section 4 of the Planning Statement [EX2/C7.5_B] clearly and demonstrably outweigh the reversible, low level, less than substantial harm to the designated heritage assets. The Scheme, therefore, passes the policy tests set out by NPS EN-1, Draft NPS EN-1, the NPPF in relation to its impact on designated heritage assets. The design of the Scheme has been carefully and sensitively developed to minimise harm to the assets and their settings.</p> <p>There is no accepted concordance between the 'significance of effects' scores in the Environmental Statement and the level of harm terminology used under paragraph 5.8.15 of NPS EN-1 and the NPPF. However, it is considered that slight adverse effects would equate with 'less than substantial harm' (at the lower end).</p>
1.9.25	Applicant	Where paragraph 6.6.7 of the revised Planning Statement [REP-047] refers to 'lesser weight' given to grade II listed buildings and a Registered Park and Garden, can this be explained in light of what the first sentence of paragraph 200 of the National Planning Policy Framework sets out. This should also be explained in relation to the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.	<p>While there is no mention of different grades of listing within the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, which can be inferred to mean legislation applies equally to all grades of listed building, paragraph 199 of NPPF and 5.9.25 of EN-1 states that <i>"when considering the impact of a proposed development on significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be)"</i>.</p> <p>Paragraph 200 of NPPF (paragraphs 5.9.26 to 5.9.28 of EN-1) stipulates that <i>"any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated</i></p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p><i>heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of:</i></p> <p><i>a) grade II listed buildings, or grade II registered parks or gardens, should be exceptional;</i></p> <p><i>b) assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, registered battlefields, grade I and II* listed buildings, grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional”</i></p> <p>These paragraphs enshrine the concept that different ‘weight’ should be applied depending upon the asset’s importance.</p>
1.9.26	Applicant	Please explain what public benefits Section 6 of the revised Planning Statement [REP-047] has taken account of in its section titled ‘harm policy test?’. This can be provided as a separate statement.	<p>The public benefits of the Scheme are set out at Section 4 of the Planning Statement [REP-047].</p> <p>In addition to meeting the urgent national need for secure and affordable low carbon energy infrastructure, the Scheme will deliver other benefits, many of which will be delivered as a result of the Scheme’s sensitive design, which has had regard to the receiving environment. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A significant Net Gain for biodiversity, with 96.09% gains provided in habitat, 70.22% gains in hedgerow and 10.69% gains in river units, in line with local and national planning policies. Post development, the Sites will comprise the following proposed landscaping habitats: enhancement of existing hedgerows and ditches, native hedgerow with

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			<p>trees, native shrub planting, woodland planting, native scattered trees, long term meadow creation (partially panelled), flower rich pollinator mix, tall herb mix, tussock mix, set aside, diverse meadow mix, proposed wildlife ponds, and enhancement of existing ponds. Please see the Biodiversity Net Gain Report [EN010133/EX1/C6.3.9.12_A] for the detailed assessment. The landscape and ecological measures that will secure the delivery of BNG as part of the Scheme are set out in the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan Revision A [REP-045] (secured through Requirement 7 of the DCO [EX2/C3.1_C] and the Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [APP-356] (secured through Requirement 8 of the DCO).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new permissive path from Stow village to Stow Pastures that will be in place during the operational phase of the Scheme, as shown as Work No. 11 on the Work Plans. This permissive path will contribute to the wider network of footpaths in the area and facilitate greater public access to the Countryside. The design and implementation of the permissive path is set out in the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan Revision A [EN010133/EX1/C7.3_AREP-045] and secured by a Requirement in the draft DCO. • The temporary employment generated by the Scheme's construction is assessed to be approximately 972 FTE jobs

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>per annum as set out within Section 18.7 of ES Chapter 18: Socio Economics, Tourism and Recreation [APP-053].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During its operational lifetime, the Scheme is anticipated to generate a modest quantum of labour, related to ongoing operational management and site management. It is projected that the Scheme will require a gross 51 FTE employees per annum as set out at paragraph 18.7.57 of ES Chapter 18: Socio economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]. • A Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan will be prepared prior to the commencement of construction. This will set out measures that the Applicant will implement to advertise and promote employment and training opportunities associated with the Scheme in construction and operation locally. It will be secured through requirement 20 included in the DCO for the Scheme. The Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan [APP-349] forms the basis for this.

10 Transport and access, highways and public rights of way

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
1.10.1	Applicant	Please explain how access would be taken from Ingham Road/Stow Lane to Willingham Road/Fillingham Lane, as it is not clear at the	A description of the Access Route for Cottam 1 North is set out in Chapter 6 of the C6.3.14.1 ES Appendix 14.1 Transport Assessment [APP-134]. A plan showing the route is set out in Figure 6.2 of the

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		resolution that the figure has been produced at, nor in attempting to relate it to features on the ground nor in attempting to relate it to features on the ground nor in the revised Construction Traffic Management Plan) [REP-016]	Transport Assessment. All vehicles associated with Cottam 1 North will use Access 03 on Ingham Lane to access the Site. An internal track will be constructed to allow vehicles to travel through this part of the Site from Stow Lane to Willingham Road. From here, vehicles will use Willingham Road to access the remaining land parcels that make up Cottam 1 North. This strategy means that HGVs do not have to travel through Fillingham to access the Site.
1.10.2	Applicant	Paragraph 14.4.33 of ES Chapter 14: Transport and Access [APP-049] mentions the effect of the Covid 19 pandemic. Please provide further details on the timings of the various surveys (including periods outside of the lockdowns) and whether these have a bearing on the survey results presented. Please explain how the latest Department of Transport's TAG uncertainty toolkit has been applied in this regard.	<p>As set out in Paragraph 2.15 of the C6.3.14.1 ES Appendix 14.1 Transport Assessment [APP-134], traffic surveys were undertaken between 2nd November 2021 and 8th November 2021. At the time, there were no Covid-19 restrictions in place. Covid-19 restrictions ended in July 2021.</p> <p>To get to a base year of 2025, which is considered a reasonable start time for construction, TEMPro growth factors, which have been adjusted in line with the National Traffic Model (NTM), have been applied to the observed traffic flows. This is an industry standard process adopted by the Department for Transport. The TEMPro software considers the changes in traffic flows associated with the Covid-19 restrictions. Therefore, the traffic flows are robust.</p>
1.10.3	Applicant	Please confirm if Table 14.9 of ES Chapter 14: Transport and Access [APP-049] is up to date in relation to accident data, given that it does not include accidents from 2022 or 2023.	At the time of writing the C6.2.14 ES Chapter 14_Transport and Access [APP-049], 2022 and 2023 accident data was not available from the local highway authority. Therefore, in line with standard practice, the most up to the date five-year period was obtained and analysed. This covered the period from 2016 to 2021.

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
1.10.4	Applicant	Please clarify whether it is ES Chapter 14: Transport and Access [APP-049] or the revised Construction Traffic Management Plan [REP-016] which provides the definitive list of construction vehicle routes, as the summary list in paragraph 14.7.20 of ES Chapter 14 does not entirely tally with those which are set out in the revised Construction Traffic Management Plan.	Section 5 of the C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [REP-016] includes the correct routes. The route description has been clarified within ES Addendum: Chapter 14: Transport and Access [EX2/C8.4.14] This does not affect any of the forecast traffic flows set out in the ES Chapter 14.
1.10.5	Applicant	Will the utilisation of the construction routes result in the removal of hedgerows other than at access points. If so, please provide details of the amount of removal and the location.	For the most part, existing field accesses are utilised for access to the Site, which will be formalised for the construction phase. There are some instances of new access being required. The environmental effects of the removal of hedgerows associated with access is considered in C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9_Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044]
1.10.6	Applicant	With regard to the consideration of the Cable Route Corridor under ES Chapter 14: Transport and Access [APP-049], why is a study area not defined and why is not the equivalent level of baseline conditions provided as for Cottam 1,2,3a and 3b.	As set out in Paragraph 4.14 of the C6.3.14.1 ES Appendix 14.1 Transport Assessment [APP-134], the cable route corridor will be built out in sections over a 24-month period. It has been estimated that each section will be approximately 4.4km with approximately four accesses. Each section will take approximately 90 working days to construct. The daily trip generation of the construction of the cable route corridor is set out in Paragraph 5.19 of the Transport Assessment. On an average day, there could be up to 16 HGVs, 16 LGVs spread across the four accesses. In addition, there could be up to 40 car arrivals spread over four accesses (assuming all workers drive in single occupancy cars, in reality the number will be lower than

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>this). Therefore, there could be 72 arrivals and 72 departures per day spread over four accesses (18 arrivals and 18 departures at each access of which just four are HGV). As stated, each access will only be in use for approximately 90 days.</p> <p>As there will only be around 18 arrivals and departures per access per day over a short, 90-day period, a detailed assessment within a defined study area has not been undertaken, including the provision of equivalent baseline conditions to Cottam 1, 2, 3a and 3b. It is unlikely that the addition of these trips will trigger the need for further assessment in line with the IEMA guidelines (10% change in traffic flows on sensitive road or a 30% on non-sensitive road). If the thresholds are breached, it would mean that baseline traffic flows are very low. This, in itself, would mean that the effects of traffic flows in relation to the construction of the Grid Connection Route would not be significant.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the above, a summary of likely effects, not in relation to baseline conditions, is set out from paragraph 14.7.68 of the C6.2.14 ES Chapter 14_Transport and Access [APP-049].</p>
1.10.7	Applicant	Paragraph 14.6.4 of ES Chapter 14: Transport and Access [APP-049] mentions works to enable abnormal load deliveries. Please explain what these would be.	<p>Further details on Abnormal Indivisible Loads movements are set out in Section 7 on the C6.3.14.1 ES Appendix 14.1 Transport Assessment [APP-134] and Section 6 of the C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [APP-135]. The abnormal indivisible loads summary report is included at Appendix F of the Transport Assessment.</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>Works include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor carriageway widening in places; • Tree pruning in various locations depending on growth at time of movement; • Obtaining movement permits and agreeing traffic management with the local highway authority and police, including street furniture removal, if necessary.
1.10.8	Applicant	Please clarify whether the figures presented in Section 14.9 of ES Chapter 14:Transport and Access [APP- 049], are still accurate as regards the cumulative effects, and if they have changed, please provide an update.	<p>Within the C6.2.14 ES Chapter 14_Transport and Access [APP-049] traffic flows for the cumulative schemes were based on the available data at the time of writing. For West Burton and Gate Burton, this was the associated PEIR documents. These both now have full ES chapters and technical appendices. These have been reviewed and minor changes are required. These have been provided within an addendum [EN010133/EX2/C8.4.10]. The changes do not change any conclusions of the Cottam ES Chapter.</p> <p>For the other cumulative schemes, no additional information is available in the public domain, and the flows remain unchanged.</p>
1.10.9	Applicant	<p>Please also provide further explanation of paragraph 14.9.5 of ES Chapter 14: Transport and Access [APP- 049] as regards the cumulative effects from the Cable Corridor Route and the various solar array schemes.</p> <p>Please signpost to where such a conclusion over the residual effect is drawn from as</p>	<p>As per the response to question 1.10.6, the traffic flows associated with the cable route corridor construction are low, and temporary (90 days per access). Full details of the trip generation associated with the construction of the cable route corridor is set out in Paragraph 4.14 and paragraph 5.19 of the C6.3.14.1 ES Appendix 14.1 Transport Assessment [APP-134].</p> <p>As set out in Table 4.3. of the C6.3.14.1 ES Appendix 14.1 Transport Assessment [APP-134], accesses 101-110 form part of the shared</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		regards the submitted evidence and if not, please provide further evidence over how this conclusion has been reached.	<p>cable route, which will be used by the Cottam, Gate Burton and, in part, West Burton schemes. There will be overlap between the Schemes for the construction of this section of cable route, reducing the cumulative effects. From access 111 the cable routes for the different schemes separate in different directions, and different accesses and construction routes are used (Access 111 to 132 as set out in Table 4.3 of the C6.3.14.1 ES Appendix 14.1 Transport Assessment [APP-134] are for Cottam only).</p> <p>Due to the low volume of traffic and temporary nature of the construction phase, per access, the residual cumulative effects are concluded to be temporary and not significant for the cable route corridor.</p>
1.10.10	Applicant	It is not clear from ES Chapter 14: Transport and Access [APP-049] and the associated transport documents whether the B1241 has been assessed from its junction with the A1500, along "High Street" through Sturton-by-Stow until it becomes Stow Road. Has this been considered, including the proximity of this construction route to the various services in this village.	<p>The C6.3.14.1 ES Appendix 14.1 Transport Assessment [APP-134] sets out the number of construction vehicles that travel to Cottam 1 West from paragraph 6.20-6.28. A small number of vehicles will use the B1241 to route to accesses 10 and 11 on Coates Lane. Table 6.3. of the Transport Assessment shows that, on an average day, there will be two HGVs and three cars/LGVs accessing Coates Lane which will also use the B1241, a total of 10 two-way movements. Paragraph 6.24 of the Transport Assessment confirms that smaller HGVs will be used to deliver equipment to these accesses to reduce the impact through the settlements of Stow and Sturton by Stow.</p> <p>During the construction of the cable route, there will be a 90-day period when a small number of additional vehicles will use the B1241 to route to access 114 and 115.</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>Surveys for the B1241 were not included as part of the ES Chapter. However, surveys were included as part of the Gate Burton DCO Transport Assessment (Table 1 of Document Reference EN010131/APP/ 3.3). This shows that there are 2,741 total vehicle movements on an average day, and 138 HGV movements on the B1241 north of the A1500. The addition of 10 two-way movements associated with the construction of the scheme relates to a 0.4% change in traffic flows, which do not meet the thresholds for full assessment based on the IEMA guidance.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this, the route has been reviewed through the Transport Assessment and measures set out in the C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [APP-135] apply.</p>
1.10.11	Applicant	Nottinghamshire County Council in its LIR [REP-086] expresses preference for the use of Cottam Road which it states is intending to be used by the Gate Burton project. Why therefore is the Proposed Development intending to utilise Torksey Ferry Road through the village of Rampton.	The C6.3.14.1 ES Appendix 14.1 Transport Assessment [APP-134] and C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [APP-135] has been updated for deadline 2. A change in route will be set out which avoids the village of Rampton and provides consistency with the Gate Burton route.
1.10.12	Applicant	Please clarify/explain if the assessment of likely effects in ES Chapter 14: Transport and Access [APP-049] includes the abnormal loads.	<p>Abnormal Indivisible Load (AIL) movements were considered when making judgements on the assessment of likely effects in the C6.2.14 ES Chapter 14_Transport and Access [APP-049]</p> <p>In addition, Abnormal Indivisible Load (AIL) Routes have been assessed in the detail through Section 7 of the C6.3.14.1 ES Appendix</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>14.1 Transport Assessment [APP-134] and Section 6 of the C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [APP-135]. The AIL summary report is included at Appendix F of the Transport Assessment.</p> <p>As outlined in Table 7.1 of the Transport Assessment, there will be a total of 10 AIL movements associated with the solar array element of the Scheme. The majority of vehicles will be 36m in length, with five movements for the largest transformers on vehicles of 70m in length. These movements be heavily managed and escorted to the Site. In transport and access terms, there will be temporary effects lasting a matter of hours per movement.</p> <p>For the grid connection corridor, cable drums will be brought on a 30 tonne Cable Reel Trailer. The vehicle will be 26m in length (vehicles over 18.65m are classified as 'abnormal'). As set out in paragraph 7.7 of the C6.3.14.1 ES Appendix 14.1 Transport Assessment [APP-134] there could be around 25 of these deliveries per access (one every 3-4 days during the 90-day period). Again, these movements will be heavily managed and will have temporary effects.</p>
1.10.14	Applicant	Why were the three particular Public Rights of Way (PRoW) chosen for surveys of those PRoW that run through the Order Limits, as set out in paragraph 4.5.10 of ES Chapter 14: Transport and Access [APP- 049]?	<p>The three PRoWs chosen for the survey were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridleway TLFe/312, • Bridleway Stow/83/1, and • Bridleway Pilh/20/1. <p>These PRoWs were selected as they either operate along on the accesses to the solar array element of the Scheme (in the case of</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>Bridleway Pilh 20/1) or operate through the solar array element of the Scheme and are likely to be crossed by internal vehicle tracks. Other PRoWs, which were not selected, are outside of the extent of the Order limits, or form the boundary.</p> <p>PRoWs that cross the cable route were not surveyed, as the effects are expected to be limited. As set out in paragraph 3.13 of the C6.3.14.3_A Appendix 14.3 Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan [REP-018], any works on the PRoW in short sections of the cable route corridor are anticipated to take place during a single overnight period.</p>
1.10.15	Applicant	<p>It is unclear how the effect on pedestrians and cyclists would be minor at worst under Section 14.7 of ES Chapter 14: Transport and Access [APP-049], if such road users came across HGVs, abnormal loads and the increased numbers of cars/LGV on the number of minor roads and Public Rights of Way that would provide access and cross the site.</p> <p>Please explain with regard to the safety implications for those users.</p>	<p>Conclusions for the C6.3.14.1 ES Appendix 14.1 Transport Assessment [APP-134] were based on likely pedestrian and cyclist flows, and construction traffic movements associated with the Scheme.</p> <p>Many of the minor roads that will be used by construction traffic have no walking or cycling infrastructure. They do not provide routes to key destinations that would be used by pedestrians and cyclists. Therefore, pedestrian and cyclist flows will be low on these roads.</p> <p>PROW surveys, shown at Table 14.6 of the C6.3.14.1 ES Appendix 14.1 Transport Assessment [APP-134] show PROW usage is low in the local area. The busiest PROW had 28 movements over seven days (four per day on average). Most of these movements came at the weekend when construction vehicle movements will be more limited.</p> <p>Section 6 of the C6.3.14.1 ES Appendix 14.1 Transport Assessment [APP-134] shows the construction vehicle movements by route. Table</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>6.6 of the Transport Assessment shows that Stow Lane is likely to have the highest construction vehicle flows with 27 HGVs and 116 car (construction worker) arrivals and departures on an average day. Assuming these arrive/depart across the day between 08:00-18:00, this relates to around 15 arrivals and 15 departures per hour or one arrival and one departure every four minutes. Other roads within the study area will have significantly less construction vehicle movement than this.</p> <p>Therefore, conclusions that the effects on pedestrians and cyclists will be minor is based on low pedestrian and cyclist numbers and low construction numbers over the course of a daily period.</p> <p>All effects will be temporary in nature.</p> <p>It is noted that the Gate Burton ES Chapter 13 reached similar conclusions for pedestrian delay and pedestrian amenity, stating that effects will either be minor or negligible.</p> <p>The C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [REP-016] and the C6.3.14.3_A Appendix 14.3 Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan [REP-018] sets out management measures to ensure the safety of all road users, including pedestrians and cyclists.</p>
1.10.16	Applicant	Further to the consideration of the likely effects on pedestrians and cyclists under ES Chapter 14: Transport and Access (APP-049), has this considered the potential effect of	As set out at paragraph 3.17 of the C6.3.14.3_A Appendix 14.3 Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan [REP-018], <i>"It is not anticipated that any temporary PRow diversions will be required for the Sites. However, in the unlikely case that a temporary diversion is required</i>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		diversions during the construction phase, as indicated on the PRow Plan [AS-008]?	<p><i>for health and safety reasons, areas within the Order Limits for a potential diversion have been identified.</i></p> <p>Paragraph 3.19 of the Public Rights of Way Management Plan states, <i>"In respect of the Sites, the Applicant will only exercise the power to temporarily stop up/divert a PRow in the event that the management measures are not considered sufficient to ensure PRow user safety and/or in the case of an emergency. Where a temporary stopping up or diversion is required this will only be put in place for as long as is reasonably necessary.</i></p> <p>With regards to the cable route corridor, paragraph 3.18 of the Public Rights of Way Management Plan states, <i>"where there is a requirement to temporarily close a PRow for the installation of underground cables, work will be undertaken overnight so far as is practicable to do so when there is unlikely to be any users"</i></p> <p>Therefore, diversions have been included only as a safeguard for unforeseen health and safety issues. However, if diversions are required, due to the low number of public rights of way users, the effects on pedestrian delay and amenity will remain as minor.</p>
1.10.17	Applicant	Where the Cable Route Corridor has been assessed under paragraph 14.7.68 of ES Chapter 14: Transport and Access [APP-049] has this had regard to the effect on users of the Trent Valley Way (which does not appear	As set out in paragraph 3.8 of the C6.3.14.3_A Appendix 14.3 Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan [APP-136], any works on the PRow (including the Trent Valley Way) in the cable route corridor will take place during a single overnight period. Therefore, effects will be limited.

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		to have been the subject of the PRow survey)?	
1.10.18	Applicant	Has ES Chapter 14: Transport and Access [APP-049] accounted for horse riders in relation to effects?	The ES Addendum: Chapter 14 Transport and Access [EX2/C8.4.14.1] , being submitted at Deadline 2, has considered horse riders in more detail.
1.10.19	Applicant	Why does ES Chapter 14: Transport and Access [APP-049] not consider the effects in particular from construction traffic on rail and water borne traffic, given the presence of rail lines through the red line boundary and the River Trent?	<p>Construction traffic associated with the Scheme will not significantly affect rail movement or water borne movement. Where construction traffic crosses the railway line via level crossings, rail traffic has priority. There may be a limited number of construction vehicle movements over the River Trent associated with the cable route corridor near to Cottam Power Station, which will not affect water borne traffic.</p> <p>Furthermore, construction traffic or works are not anticipated to have a direct impact on the recreational use of the River Trent. Paragraph 18.7.64 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] identifies a temporary, short-term moderate-minor adverse effect to the desirability of the river for recreational use, as a result of the placement of drilling rigs for horizontal directional drilling of the Grid Connection Cable. This is therefore not a significant effect.</p>
1.10.20	Applicant	Please confirm whether the summary of likely effects in paragraph 14.7.68 of ES Chapter 14: Transport and Access [APP-049] considers the effect at the bridge crossing points over the River Trent (A57 toll, A631).	<p>Paragraph 14.7.68 does not consider the effect at the A631 bridge as construction traffic associated with the scheme should not use that bridge.</p> <p>The summary of likely effects in paragraph 14.7.68 of the Transport and Access chapter consider the A57, including the vehicle crossing</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			points. There may be a limited number of construction vehicle movements over the A57 toll associated with the cable route corridor nearest to Cottam Power Station. See response to question 1.10.9 regarding the assessment of construction vehicles associated with the cable route corridor.
1.10.21	Applicant	Have full surveys of the River Trent been completed in order to inform the depth of horizontal direction drilling? If such surveys have already been submitted, please signpost.	Full surveys of the River Trent have not been completed for this Scheme but will be completed as a part of detailed design work prior to construction. This approach has been agreed with the Canal and River Trust.
1.10.22	Applicant	It appears from paragraphs 14.6.3 and 4 of ES Chapter 14: Transport and Access [APP-049] that the revised Construction Traffic Management Plan [REP-016] would attempt to control construction vehicle routing. As this involves public roads and vehicles/drivers who may not be under direct control of the Applicant, how will this be effectively adhered to?	<p>The C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) [REP-016] and its measures, including routing and a Construction Worker Travel Plan is secured through Requirement 15 of Schedule 2 of the draft DCO C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [EN010133/EX1/C3.1_B].</p> <p>The routing of vehicles will be part of the agreements/contracts set up between the contractor and suppliers.</p> <p>Compliance with measures in the CTMP will be monitored throughout construction as set out in the Outline CTMP.</p>
1.10.23	Applicant	Would any mitigation/management measures be put in place on the access roads that would be used that are the subject of weight limits?	<p>There are environmental weight limits on some roads that are proposed to be used for access. For example, Stow Lane has a weight limit of 7.5 tonnes 'except for access'. Therefore, HGVs associated with the Scheme are permitted along these routes to access the Site.</p> <p>Environmental weight limits are typically not in place due to structural</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>constraints, and are generally in place to reduce HGV movements through settlements.</p> <p>Measures set out within Section 7 of the C6.3.14.2_A ES Appendix 14.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [APP-135] will be applied to all construction vehicle movements, including those on roads that are subject to environmental weight limits.</p>
1.10.24	Applicant	<p>With regard to paragraph 14.7.12 of ES Chapter 14:Transport and Access [APP-049] and the Construction Worker Travel Plan [REP-016. Appendix D], please provide more information on how the shuttle bus will operate, including origins and destinations, and how workers will be incentivised to use the shuttle bus and car sharing. Please also explain how workers could utilise public transport.</p>	<p>It is anticipated that non-local workforce will be accommodated in nearby hotels. Shuttle buses will be provided to transport these workers from hotels to the Site.</p> <p>Through the Construction Worker Travel Plan, additional shuttle buses can be set up from local settlements for the local workforce, including Lincoln to transport workers to the Site.</p> <p>At this stage, the information on the exact location of hotels, and local workforce, which will dictate the shuttlebus routes is not known. Full information on the shuttle bus service will be provided to the local planning and highway authority as part of the final construction traffic management plans, secured through Requirement 15 of the DCO.</p> <p>Shuttle buses will be free for construction workers, which will encourage uptake.</p> <p>Due to the rural nature of the Site, it is acknowledged that wider public transport use by construction workers may be difficult. However, through the Construction Worker Travel Plan (which is contained in the Construction Traffic Management Plan [REP-016]),</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			information will be provided to construction workers on all available travel options available to them.
1.10.25	Applicant	Paragraph 14.7.75 of ES Chapter 14: Transport and Access [APP-049] refers to a Stage 1 Road Safety Audit and additional safety measures. Has such an audit been carried out?	At this stage, Road Safety audits have not been carried out. They will be carried out through the detailed design process for each access prior to construction.

11 Noise, vibration, air quality, and nuisance

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
1.11.1	Applicant	Please explain why moderate effects for the purposes of ES Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration [APP-050] have not been considered to be significant in terms of the EIA Regulations	The 'moderate' magnitude of effect level has been defined as the Significant Observed Adverse Effect Level (SOAEL) for each assessment phase. When combined with the sensitivity of the receptor in Table 15.12 of ES Chapter 15 [APP-050], for a high sensitive receptor the significance becomes 'Major/moderate', therefore the SOAEL threshold for a high sensitive receptor would be 'major/moderate'.
1.11.2	Applicant	Please explain what is meant by absolute noise levels with regard to the use of the alternative noise methodology in paragraph 15.4.40 of ES Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration [APP-050] as this is not defined in	The absolute noise level refers to the total noise level associated with the proposed noise sources.

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		Ap-pendix 15.2 Acoustic Terminology [APP-138].	
1.11.3	Applicant	The Applicant's comments are sought on the WLDC's LIR [REP-091] in respect of methodology, surveys, sources and assumptions (14.1.1 NV1 to NV11).	The Applicant acknowledges these comments and refers the ExA to response WLDC 14.1 in the Applicant's Response to Local Impact Reports [EX2/C8.1.16].
1.11.4	Applicant	Please confirm if the tonal correction set out at paragraph 15.7.73 of ES Chapter 15: Noise and Vibra-tion [APP-050] has been applied to all plant, or solely the battery storage.	The tonal correction has been applied to all items of plant.
1.11.5	Applicant	The Planning Practice Guidance: Noise states that "The subjective nature of noise means that there is not a simple relationship between noise levels and the impact on those affected" (paragraph 006). The countryside location of the site may therefore have a bearing in respect of the existing sound environment and how new noise sources may be perceived by local residents. How is this more qualitative aspect of noise reflected in the noise assessment work that has taken place?	A change in noise level assessment has been undertaken and presented in section 15.7 of Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration [APP-050] which indicates that changes in proposed noise levels are likely to be negligible (<3 dB) when added to the existing ambient noise climate at all sensitive receptors. As such at many receptors, noise from the site will be indistinguishable. Furthermore, it is anticipated that no tonal noise will be perceptible at nearby sensitive receptors. In terms of outdoor amenity, predicted noise levels are considerably below the guidance contained with BS 8233 and WHO.
1.11.6	Applicant	Paragraph 15.4.12 of ES Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration [APP-050] refers to horizontal directional drilling, but it is not clear why this	The noise associated with the breaking and excavating of ground was included in the assessment as the noise levels associated with the plant required for trenching and cable duct installation are higher

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		has not subsequently been considered as regards the effects of noise and vibration impacts (paragraph 15.4.13). Please explain.	than that of horizontal directional drilling. Horizontal directional drilling would only occur below ground level and therefore be further screened.
1.11.7	Applicant	Please confirm whether ES Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration [APP-050] has considered multiple effects at the same receptor (e.g. a receptor that would experience both noise from site construction and construction traffic noise).	No, a cumulative assessment of construction noise and construction traffic noise has not been undertaken. The specific noise levels associated with construction traffic at receptors nearby to the proposed Scheme, would be considerably below the threshold of 65 dB (the threshold of significance in accordance with BS 5228) and therefore any contribution to the overall construction noise experienced, would be negligible.
1.11.8	Applicant	Does the assessment of key effects under ES Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration [APP-050] address where noise may arise from construction activities outside of normal working hours	Paragraph 15.6.4 of Chapter 15 states that " <i>Working hours onsite are likely to be carried out Monday to Friday 07:00 – 18:00 and between 08:00 and 13:30 on Saturdays. However, some activities may be required outside of these times (such as the delivery of abnormal loads, night-time working for cable construction works in public highways or horizontal directional drilling activities). No noisy operations will take place during mobilisation/shut down, 1 hour before and after working hours.</i> " If night-time working does occur, the number of operational plant and its duration of use will be reduced to minimise any potential impacts. Best Practicable Means (BPM) will be implemented to reduce construction noise levels. This is secured in table 3.6 of the C7.1 Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan.

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
1.11.9	Applicant	Where paragraph 15.7.65 of ES Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration [APP-050] states that there would not be noise emission associated with the solar PV panels, has this assessment of effects had regard to the potential use of tracker panels and any 'hum' from the panels?	Tracker motors have been considered in the assessment as stated in paragraph 15.7.65 of C6.2.15 ES Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration [APP-050]. The solar panels themselves do not emit any significant levels of noise.
1.11.10	Applicant	Please explain why you consider the combined operational noise effect with Blyton Park Driving Centre would be negligible, in considering the proposal in combination with the operation of that site (paragraph 15.9.4 of ES Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration) [APP-050].	The worst-case common receptors assessed in C6.2.15 ES Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration [APP-050] are R04 (Blyton Grange) and R05 (Mount Pleasant Farm). Predicted daytime noise levels from the Scheme are 31.7 dB and 21.0 dB 1m from the façade of the receptors respectively. When these noise levels are combined with the specific noise levels from the Blyton Racetrack report, the combined noise level at the receptors is 35.3 dB and 29.9 dB respectively. The resulting noise levels are comfortably below the guidance criteria within BS 8233 and BS 4142.
1.11.12	Applicant	How has the effect on the navigational safety and land stability of the River Trent been considered as regards noise and vibration?	The potential for noise impacts on users of the river are not considered within C6.2.15 ES Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration [APP-050], due to short exposure time to noise and vibration. However, precautionary working methods will be implemented to minimise potential adverse effects associated with construction. These measures are outlined in the Outline CEMP [REP-037]. Protective provisions for the benefit of the Canal and River Trust have been agreed.

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
1.11.13	Applicant	Paragraph 2.4.1 of the revised outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [REP-037] sets out the days and times for construction activities. Please clarify if such activities are to be excluded from bank and public holidays.	The outline Construction Environmental Management Plan has been amended to confirm that there will be no construction activities on bank and public holidays. [EX2/7.1_B]
1.11.14	Applicant	Paragraph 15.6.10 of ES Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration [APP-050] refers to the use of acoustic barriers. To what extent are these proposed and what would their stated performance? Also, how will these be secured, including their specific design?	The barrier height and specification is stated in paragraph 15.6.10 of C6.2.15 ES Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration [APP-050] with locations indicated in Figure 15.35 .. Dimensions and design principles for the acoustic barriers are contained within Work No. 7 of the C7.15_A Concept Design Parameters and Principles Revision A [REP-039] which is secured through Requirement 5 in Schedule 2 to the DCO.
1.11.15	Applicant	How would the Best Practicable Means specifically deal with the major magnitude of change at the identified receptors as set out at paragraph 15.7.22 of ES Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration? [APP-050]	<p>Best Practicable Means are detailed in the Outline CEMP [REP-037], the following are ones that will ensure impacts are kept to a minimum:</p> <p>Ensuring that, where reasonably practicable, noise and vibration is controlled at source (e.g. the selection of inherently quiet plant and low vibration equipment), review of the construction programme and methodology to consider quieter methods, consideration of the location of equipment on-site and control of working hours;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of modern plant, complying with applicable UK noise emission requirements; • Hydraulic techniques for breaking to be used in preference to percussive techniques, where reasonably practicable; • Use of screening locally around significant noise producing plant and activities;

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All construction plant and equipment to be properly maintained, silenced where appropriate, operated to prevent excessive noise and switched off when not in use; - Provision of information to West Lindsey District Council, Lincolnshire County Council, Bassetlaw District Council, and Nottinghamshire County Council and local residents to advise of potential noisy works that are due to take place; • Monitoring of noise complaints and reporting to the Applicant for immediate investigation and action. A display board will be installed onsite, and a website will be set up. These will include contact details for the Site Manager or alternative public interface with whom nuisance or complaints can be lodged. A logbook of complaints will be prepared and managed by the Site Manager - Plant will always be used in accordance with manufacturers' instructions. Care will be taken to site equipment away from noise-sensitive areas. Where possible, loading and unloading will also be carried out away from such areas; Regular and effective maintenance by trained personnel will be undertaken to keep plant and equipment working to manufacturer's
1.11.16	Applicant	The UK Health and Safety Agency has stated in its RR [RR-044] that UK Air Quality Standards have not been used. Please explain why not.	The technical note issued on 14th Dec 2022 has addressed UKHSA concerns and the BESS fire impact assessment has been revised in November 2023 [EX2/C6.3.17.4_A] using burn test emission data from LFP battery modules that are typically integrated into BESS systems. The assessment methodologies have been approved by the UKHSA as presented in the "Statement of Common Ground with the UK Health Security Agency, June 2023, [REP-067].
1.11.17	Applicant	Table 17.1 of ES Chapter 17: Air Quality [APP-052] states that a worst case assessment has	The Air Quality Impact Assessment of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) Fire assessment has been revised using burn test emission

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		been undertaken. Please explain how this has been undertaken.	data from LFP battery modules (data were available in October 2023) that are typically integrated into BESS systems in November 2023 [EX2/C6.3.17.4_A]. The BESS fire location in the assessment has been purposely positioned closest to the sensitive residential receptor location to produce a worst-case assessment.
1.11.18	Applicant	With regard to paragraph 17.4.6 of Chapter 17: Air Quality [APP-052] and the scoping out of construction traffic, please explain whether this accounts for abnormal load movements and what the relevant criteria is as regards the IAQM document cited that has led to construction traffic being scoped out.	The traffic data included within Chapter 17: Air Quality [APP-052] is inclusive of abnormal load movements. IAQM Guidance within 'Land-use planning & development control: Planning for air quality, June 2016, states that detailed modelling can be scoped out if total vehicle movements in AADT are below 100 within an AQMA, or below 500 outside of an AQMA, and where HGV movements in AADT are below 25 within an AQMA, or 100 outside an AQMA.
1.11.19	Applicant	Paragraph 17.4.17 of ES Chapter 17: Air Quality [APP-052] utilises fire smoke exposure guidance that relates to wildland fires. Please explain its relevance given that paragraph 17.4.14 identifies the risk arises from solar panels, battery storage and sub-stations fire.	<p>There is limited information publicly available on a real solar panel fire, BESS fire and sub-station fire and the associated pollutant emissions data. In addition, a standardised set of emission factors for solar panel/BESS /substation are not currently available from the Environment Agency and, therefore, equivalent fire development and thermal runaway, smoke and heat release pollutant emissions data must be sourced from the research literature and fire test results.</p> <p>Both solar panel fire and BESS fire impacts have been assessed against the UK air quality standard. In addition, the solar panel fire has been assessed against the fire smoke exposure guidance.</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>The BESS fire risk assessment has been revised using the latest BESS fire test emission data from LFP battery modules that are typically integrated into BESS systems in November 2023 [EX2/C6.3.17.4_A].</p> <p>The substation fire risk assessment has been undertaken separately and presented in the revised BESS fire risk assessment report (November 2023) [EX2/C6.3.17.4_A] and good practice safety measures and National Grid's safety procedures has been identified and will be implemented in the case of a substation fire.</p>
1.11.20	Applicant	Please explain how the four air quality category zones have been identified under paragraph 17.7.15 of ES Chapter 17: Air Quality [APP-052].	<p>The zones have been identified based on the particulate matter levels (Equivalent Approximately PM2.5 1-3-hour average in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$):</p> <p>Good: 0-40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$</p> <p>Moderate/Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups: 41-175 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$</p> <p>Unhealthy: 176-300 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$</p> <p>Very unhealthy: 301 - 500 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$</p> <p>Hazardous: over 500 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$</p>
1.11.21	Applicant	Please explain why paragraph 17.7.17 of ES Chapter 17: Air Quality [APP-052] states there will not be adverse effects at the closest receptor points whilst paragraph 17.7.8 states there would be a low risk of adverse effects. Please also explain if other sources of risk such as solar panels and sub-	<p>Paragraph 17.7.8 discusses the Effects of construction dust impact and concludes there would be a low risk of adverse effects without the use of mitigation measures.</p> <p>While the paragraph 17.7.17 discusses the air quality impacts from a Battery energy storage system fire. This is a different impact to the construction dust impact.</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		stations (as per paragraph 17.4.14) have been considered.	
1.11.22	Applicant	Is the determination of effects as negligible with regard to the fire impact assessment of battery energy storage systems dependant on the actions of local residents, with regard to paragraphs 17.7.18 and 19 of Chapter 17: Air Quality [APP-052]. Please also explain the process of residents being informed and moved, as is proposed.	<p>In the case of a solar panel fire, the site manager/fire safety representative will need to assess the fire location(s), wind directions and surrounding receptors. The site manager/fire safety representative will take appropriate actions accordingly to have residents being informed and moved if required. The actions to be taken could include:</p> <p>(1) to inform any potentially affected residents, especially those that are located at downwind locations within 200 meters of the solar panel fire;</p> <p>(2) to cancel outdoor events and keep windows closed for any potentially affected residents, especially those that are located at downwind locations within 200 meters of the solar panel fire; and</p> <p>(3) to stop any farming activities and to move any farmers/workers at downwind locations within 200 meters of the solar panel fire to a cleaner air location."</p> <p>At the detailed design stage when a BESS system is selected for procurement, detailed test data will be provided which provides a wide range of thermal runaway test data, including toxic emissions. This will help inform first responder incident management strategies and any necessary alert protocols. An Emergency Response Plan (ERP) will be drafted in conjunction with LFRS and other key stakeholders</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>such as Local Resilience Forums and included in the final Battery Storage Safety Management Plan (BSSMP).</p> <p>A template of information likely to be included in the ERP (based on NFCC / NFPA guidelines) is included in the revised OBSSMP submitted at deadline 2.</p>
1.11.23	Applicant	With regard to cumulative effects, why are the AAWT and AADT related figures in paragraph 17.9.4 of ES Chapter 17: Air Quality [APP-052] the same as predicted to be for the proposed development on its own?	The traffic data included within Chapter 17: Air Quality [APP-052] is inclusive of abnormal load movements. IAQM Guidance within 'Land-use planning & development control: Planning for air quality, June 2016, states that detailed modelling can be scoped out if total vehicle movements in AADT are below 100 within an AQMA, or below 500 outside of an AQMA, and where HGV movements in AADT are below 25 within an AQMA, or 100 outside an AQMA.
1.11.24	Applicant	With regard to paragraph 17.7.13 of ES Chapter 17: Air Quality [APP-052] explain how following the implementation of the appropriate site-specific mitigation measures, included within the revised Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [REP-037], the significance of the effects from dust and PM10 emissions associated with the construction works is considered to be negligible	<p>It is not possible to guarantee that the dust mitigation measures will be effective all the time, which may result in nearby receptors experiencing occasional, short-term dust annoyance. However, the likely scale of this would not normally be considered sufficient to change the conclusion that with mitigation the effects will be 'not significant'.</p> <p>In accordance with the IAQM Guidance 'Guidance on the assessment of dust from demolition and construction', following the implementation of the site-specific mitigation measures, the effects associated with the construction works will be negligible. Dust mitigation measures will reduce the likely effects. For example, these include developing and implementing a Dust Management Plan, Increasing the frequency of site inspections by the person</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>accountable for air quality and dust issues on-site when activities with a high potential to produce dust are being carried out, using water-assisted dust sweeper(s) on the access and local roads, to remove, as necessary, any material tracked out of the Sites. These are included within the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EX2/C7.1B]</p>
1.11.25	Applicant	<p>ES Chapter 17: Air Quality [APP-052] refers to the IAQM Guidance on the Assessment of Dust from Demolition and Construction to determine the level of site-specific mitigation measures required based on the risk of impacts from the Proposed Development on air quality. Appendix 17.1 [APP-141] identifies the risk in table 4-3 in line with the IAQM guidance and sets out the appropriate mitigation measures in Tables 5-1 and 5-2.</p> <p>However, Table 3.10 of the revised Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [REP-037] does not reflect all of these measures. Can the Applicant explain this inconsistency or else update this Plan to reflect the identified appropriate mitigation measures.</p>	<p>Site specific dust mitigation measures are to be implemented on site where appropriate and available as outlined within the ES Chapter 17: Air Quality [APP-052] and the technical appendices.</p> <p>The OCEMP [C7.1_B] contains the site specific mitigation measures from the IAQM guidance, as outlined within the outlined within the Qualitative Dust Assessments, have been included within the OCEMP [C7.1_B].</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
1.11.26	Applicant	Are the mitigation measures that are set out in Section 17.8 of ES Chapter 17: Air Quality [APP-052] additional mitigation measures or part of the earlier described embedded mitigation.	The mitigation measures set out in Section 17.8 of ES Chapter 17: Air Quality [APP-052] constitute part of the embedded mitigation.
1.11.27	Applicant	Please explain whether the Updated Air Quality Impact Assessment of a Solar Panel Fire Incident [REP- 078} and Environmental Statement Addendum: Air Quality Impact Assessment of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) Fire [REP-079] have any bearing on ES Chapter 17: Air Quality [APP-052], which has not been updated.	<p>The conclusions in the Updated Air Quality Impact Assessment of a Solar Panel Fire Incident [REP- 078] remain the same as ES Chapter 17: Air Quality [APP-052] and the ES Chapter 17 is not required to be updated.</p> <p>The Air Quality Impact Assessment of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) Fire assessment has been revised using burn test emission data from LFP battery modules (data were available in October 2023) that are typically integrated into BESS systems in November 2023 [EX2/C6.3.17.4_A].</p> <p>The conclusions from the revised BESS fire assessment remain the same as ES Chapter 17: Air Quality [APP-052] that there is low risk of adverse effects at the closest receptors. Good practice safety measures which are detailed in the document Outline Battery Storage Safety Management Plan [EX2/C7.9_A] will be implemented immediately in the case of a fire. The ES Chapter 17: Air Quality [APP-052], is not required to be updated.</p>

12 Socio-economics, tourism, and recreation

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
1.12.1	Applicant	Why does the list of Neighbourhood Plan policies in paragraph 18.3.27 of ES Chapter 18: Socio-Economics and Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] not accord with that which is set out in policy accordance tables in the revised Planning Statement [REP-047], as regards socio-economics, tourism and recreation?	<p>The Applicant recognises the following neighbourhood plan policies are omitted from the policy accordance tables in C7.5_B Planning Statement Revision B [EN010133/EX2/C7.5_B]:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corringham Neighbourhood Plan CNP 10 • Corringham Neighbourhood Plan CNP 16 • Glentworth Neighbourhood Plan Policy 2 • Hemswell & Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan Policy 8 • Hemswell & Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan Policy 10 • Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan Policy 10 • Rampton & Woodbeck Neighbourhood Plan Policy 7 • Rampton & Woodbeck Neighbourhood Plan Policy 8 • Treswell and Cottam Neighbourhood Plan Policy 6 <p>These policies will be included and the accordance assessed at Deadline 3.</p>
1.12.2	Applicant	Paragraph 18.7.15 of ES Chapter 18: Socio-Economics and Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] refers to Chapter 19: Soils and Agriculture [REP-010] in relation to loss of agricultural sector jobs. That Chapter does not provide such a calculation, so please explain how this has been derived.	<p>To clarify, this instead should refer to C6.3.19.1 ES Appendix 19.1 Agricultural Land Quality Soil Resources and Farming Circumstances [APP-145], wherein at Section 7, agricultural employment rates on each of the farm business who occupy the Order Limits are detailed.</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
1.12.3	Applicant	<p>With regard to paragraph 18.7.17 of ES Chapter 18: Socio-Economics and Tourism and Recreation [APP-053], please explain why increasing accommodation occupancy rates would itself lead to an increase in Full Time Equivalent employees?</p> <p>As the construction phase at least appears to be displacing visitors, please also explain why the level of the respective beneficial or adverse effects would not be the same.</p>	<p>The assumption underlying the assessment at para. 18.7.17 is that the baseline occupation rates sustain the baseline quantum of accommodation industry employment. When the demand for services increases, a larger workforce is required to maintain the quality of service, meet guest expectations and manage the operational needs of the accommodation. Therefore, a substantive uplift in occupancy as a result of the use of temporary accommodation by construction workers would require an uplift in employment to meet the uplifted level of need to manage and operate these accommodation services.</p> <p>With regard to visitor displacement, the Applicant seeks to clarify that the neutral effect in para. 18.7.18 refers to the impact on the accommodation sector itself. This neutral effect is due to the loss of visitor occupancy being replaced by construction worker occupancy during the construction period. The impact of visitors being displaced, and the resultant loss of visitor spending to the tourism economy is assessed in para. 18.7.19-21 as having a negligible adverse effect.</p> <p>Furthermore, the respective beneficial versus adverse effects are not the same, as a result of the baseline unfilled capacity being occupied by construction workers before the point at which visitors would be displaced from accessing accommodation.</p>
1.12.4	Applicant	<p>Please explain what the difference is between calculating employment numbers in the Full Time Equivalent per Annum as a Result of Scheme Construction (Table 18.10</p>	<p>Table 18.10 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] presents the uplift of employment generated directly by the Scheme's construction, and the indirect</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		of ES Chapter 18: Socio-Economics and Tourism and Recreation, APP-053) and Overall Changes to employment per Annum (Table 18.11).	<p>and induced employment generated as a secondary factor from supply chains and employee spending.</p> <p>Table 18.11 provides the net employment uplift from the Scheme in the additional context of other anticipated changes to employment as a result of impacts of the Scheme's construction on agricultural, accommodation and tourism employment.</p>
1.12.5	Applicant	With regard to the predicted uplift in employment, please explain what types/numbers of employment would come from the Local Impact Area (LIA) in terms of skilled roles, or would those roles be likely filled from outside of the LIA, given the skills and qualification attenuation remarks that ES Chapter 18: Socio-Economics and Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] makes about the LIA, such as at paragraphs 18.5.27 to 29 and 18.7.39.	<p>The assessment of employment uplift has assumed 64.2% of the Scheme's employment will be generated by residents in the Local Impact Area. This is based on commuting patterns from the 2011 Census (in absence of any more up-to-date comparable information in the Local Impact Area).</p> <p>No specific assumption has been attributed to the proportion of skilled roles that are anticipated to be filled from within the Local Impact Area. Overall, it is estimated that 35.8% of the construction workforce will come from outside the LIA (para. 18.7.6 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]). Noting the assumptions on skills and qualification rates in the LIA made in the ES chapter at paragraphs 18.5.27-29 and 18.7.39, it is suitable to suggest that without mitigation or enhancement measures, a greater proportion than 35.8% of the skilled workers required for construction (as identified by skills requirements in Table 3.1 of C7.10 Skills Supply Chain and Employment Plan [APP-349]) will come from outside the LIA.</p> <p>Pre-determination of the DCO Application, the Applicant considers this sufficient detail at this stage. More detail on skills and supply</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			chains will be acquired prior to construction, and will be published for host local authority approval in the final Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan. This must be substantially in accordance with C7.10 Skills Supply Chain and Employment Plan [APP-349] which is secured through Requirement 20 of Schedule 2 to C3.1_C Draft Development Consent Order Revision C [EX2/C3.1_C].
1.12.6	Applicant	Please explain whether the effect on the agricultural sector at paragraph 18.7.48 of ES Chapter 18: Socio- Economics and Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] includes the effect on suppliers and the upward chain.	The assessed worst-case loss of 17 FTE agricultural jobs as a result of the Scheme is equivalent to 0.4% of the agricultural employment in the Local Impact Area, as set out in para. 18.7.15 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]. Potential for continuation of non-arable agricultural practices on the Scheme, and the ongoing continuation of arable agricultural in the surrounding areas demonstrates that it is unlikely that there will be any more than a low level of impact on agricultural supply chains, and therefore are not anticipated to experience significant effects, even when considered cumulatively with other NSIPs in the Till Valley area of West Lindsey. As a result, these were not scoped into the assessment in Section 3.20 of C6.3.2.2 ES Appendix 2.2 EIA Scoping Opinion [APP-064], and resultantly were not assessed in the chapter.
1.12.7	Applicant	Please clarify how the proposal would affect neighbouring agricultural businesses as regards access and boundary enclosure, and any other relevant matters [RR-034].	The Applicant anticipates there will be minimal impact on agricultural business that are adjacent to or nearby the Order Limits. With regard to those adjacent to the solar sites, no access to adjacent fields is anticipated to be obstructed by works relating to the Scheme, and boundary treatments are proposed as shown on C6.4.8.16.1_A-10_A ES Figures 8.16.1-10 Landscape and Ecology

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>Mitigation and Enhancement Plans Revision A [REP-024 to REP-034].</p> <p>With regard to the Cable Route Corridor, no specific boundary treatments are proposed except for temporary fencing required around temporary laydown areas or horizontal direction drilling pits. These are not anticipated to prejudice access of use of any part of agricultural fields not within the Order Limits. Where the proposed cable route crosses a field entirely, this can be managed through sequentially installing the cable trench across the field to allow continuous access for agriculture.</p> <p>With specific regard to the comments made in [RR-034] relating to land south of Torksey Ferry Road, the cable route is to be subject to a proposed Change Application (notification has been submitted by way of C9.1 Change Request Notification [EN010133/CR1/C9.1]) to divert the cable route onto the land in question, following further consultation with EDF and National Grid regarding access to the Grid Connection Point. As such, the land south of Torksey Ferry Road will be subject to cable laying works, and agricultural access will be managed as detailed earlier in this response. The Applicant does wish to clarify that all of these works will be temporary for the construction period, and will be fully returned to agricultural use once the cable laying works have been completed.</p>
1.12.8	Applicant	Please explain how Section 18.10 of ES Chapter: Socio-Economics and Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] and the revised	The Applicant is involved in ongoing negotiations with the operators of Blyton Park to ensure that safety requirements for the track are not impeded by the location of the Scheme. With specific

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		<p>Planning Statement [REP-047] has accounted for Blyton Park Driving Centre and the Automotive Research and Development Centre planning permission in relation to the economic impacts.</p>	<p>regard to its economic impacts, Blyton Park has been identified as a regionally important visitor attraction in para. 18.5.58 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] and therefore the economic impact of the Scheme on the business has been assessed as part of this group of receptors. The assessment of impacts on regionally important attractions has concluded that there is no more than a minor adverse effect during any point of the Scheme's lifetime (18.7.55, 18.7.100, 18.7.139). The assessment therefore concludes that following completion of decommissioning, regionally important attractions will experience a minor beneficial effect (18.7.139). When considered cumulatively, the level of effect is no greater (18.10.28, 18.10.52). As such, none of these effects are significant.</p> <p>Section 18.10 [APP-053] considers the permitted development at Blyton Park in Table 18.25, and Table 18.26. At the time of publication, the earliest construction timetable for the Automotive Research and Development Centre at Blyton Park was estimated to be 2023-2024. As such, it was not included in the assessment of the peak cumulative development year of 2026. The operational employment generated at Blyton Park, as well as potential employment generated by accommodation need and tourism and recreation spending, is included in the cumulative assessment of employment and economic impact assessments at para. 18.10.36-37 and 18.10.47-50.</p> <p>Planning permission ref 145015 for an Automotive Research and Development Centre is included within Appendix 1 Planning</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>Application history search of C7.5_B Planning Statement Revision B [EN010133/EX2/C7.5_B].</p> <p>CLLP Policy S42 within Appendix 4 of the Planning Statement [EN010133/EX2/C7.5_B] states that development proposals which result in the loss of facilities or attractions that support the visitor economy, including hotels and guesthouses, will not be permitted. It sets out that C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] includes an assessment of socio-economic impacts of the Scheme, including impacts upon tourism. It is not considered that the application scheme will result in the loss of Blyton Park Race Track, the operation of which will be able to continue. This is further confirmed by C8.4.16.1 ES Addendum Appendix 16.1 Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study [REP-077] which concludes that whilst some impacts have been identified on Blyton Race Track these are not considered to be significant subject to the implementation of proposed mitigation measures.</p>
1.12.11	Applicant	<p>Please explain the following in relation to the Priority Regeneration Area at the Cottam Power Station under the Bassetlaw Local Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why has this not been taken account of in Section 18.10 of ES Chapter 18: Socio-Economics and Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]; 	<p>The Priority Regeneration Area has not been included in the cumulative assessment at Section 18.10 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] due to the lack of information available at the time of publication of the ES. As such, there was no robust way to provide any meaningful estimations of employment creation, or economic uplift resulting from the construction of, or eventual use of, any proposed part of the Priority Regeneration Area.</p> <p>The cable route corridor is the only aspect of the Scheme which is captured by policy ST6. The location and means of construction for</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please explain in relation to the revised Planning Statement [REP-047] how the Proposed Development fares in relation to each criteria of draft Policy ST6 of the Bassetlaw Local Plan 2020- 2038?; and • How will it be ensured that the flexibility which is proposed for the Cable Route Corridor does not compromise the existing operations and the development of the regeneration area? 	<p>the Cable Route corridor will not prejudice the comprehensive redevelopment of the site as identified by this policy. Section 3 of the Joint Report on Interrelationship with Other Infrastructure Projects Revision A [EN010133/EX2/C8.1.8_A] explains the collaboration on the design of the shared grid connection corridor and associated mitigation, between the undertakers of the Gate Burton, Cottam and Tillbridge schemes and their engagement with EDF and Uniper in relation to the former Cottam Power Station site and access to the Cottam Substation.</p> <p>The applicants for the Gate Burton, Cottam and Tillbridge schemes have worked collaboratively to address the preferences raised by EDF and Uniper for the connections and accesses into it to be designed to minimise the impact on its future plans for the wider site. In order to facilitate this, the Applicant intends to make a Change Request to allow an extension to the Order Limits to include further land on and around Torksey Ferry Road which would allow the Scheme's cables to enter the Cottam Substation from the south and allow access to be routed along Torksey Ferry Road, anticipated to be submitted in December 2023. A similar change request in respect of the Gate Burton project has already been submitted and accepted into that examination.</p> <p>C7.5_B Planning Statement Revision B [EN010133/EX2/C7.5_B] sets out the Scheme's limited impact on the aspirations of Policy ST6 at para. 6.2.28, and in the Appendix 4 Policy Accordance Tables. Furthermore, and with regard to the specific criteria of policy ST6:</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>a) The cable route corridor has been agreed with EDF and Uniper to enable the phased reclamation of the site;</p> <p>b) The cable route corridor respects the significance and setting of affected heritage assets, including the Fleet Plantation Scheduled Monument. ES Chapter 13: Cultural Heritage [APP-048] confirms there will be no significant heritage impacts as a result of the cable route corridor in this location;</p> <p>c) The proposed cable route corridor within the Priority Regeneration Area will protect the biodiversity value of the Cottam Wetlands Local Wildlife Site and its buffer zone as evidenced by ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044];</p> <p>d) The location of the cabling within the Priority Regeneration Area is not within the vicinity of the River Trent and will not affect the water quality of the River;</p> <p>e) a flood management scheme which incorporates an appropriate Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS), including green/blue infrastructure measures, informed by a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA), a hydrology assessment and, a Surface Water Management Masterplan and Strategy is not necessary for the proposed cable route corridor within the Priority Regeneration Area due to the limited scale of the works. ES Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage [APP-045] has assessed the proposed development in this location and confirms there are no significant impacts upon flooding as a result;</p> <p>f) No significant impacts as a result of the proposed development within the Priority Regeneration Area either individually or</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>cumulatively have been identified. Other than construction traffic and occasional maintenance vehicles, which are assessed within ES Chapter 14: Transport and Access [APP-049] not to give rise to any significant impacts, the need to access the site by private vehicles, buses or cycling is not anticipated.</p> <p>g) the location of the cable route corridor as agreed with EDF and Uniper will ensure the continued operation of the Cottam Development Centre;</p> <p>h) The location of the cable route corridor will ensure wayleave access arrangements to on site third party infrastructure assets and to the River Trent are maintained and long term management and maintenance arrangements with EDF and Uniper are in place;</p> <p>i) ES Chapter 12: Minerals [APP-047] confirms that there will be no significant effects on minerals resources as a result of the proposed development within the Priority Regeneration Area. The requirements for non-minerals development in Minerals Safeguarding Areas in the Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan 37 have been met;</p> <p>j) The proposed location of the cable route corridor will not impact upon the Pulverised Fuel Ash North and South Lagoons, and slurry lagoon and will ensure their appropriate restoration and after care in line with relevant permissions.</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</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			continued operation of the relevant utility. Protective provisions for the protection of various named statutory undertakers, as well as general protective provisions, are included in Schedule 16 to the draft DCO [EX2/C3.1_C], and the Applicant is in discussions with various third parties to agree the final form of these protective provisions.
1.12.13	Applicant	Where paragraph 18.4.1 of ES Chapter 18: Socio-Economics and Tourism [APP-053] states that "Where applicable and practicable, additional fine-grain data at individual District level, or at District Ward level will be provided to determine the sensitivity of likely effected receptors and the magnitude of potential impacts upon them", please explain where this has been provided as regards the settlements nearest the Proposed Development, as well as the nearest town, Gainsborough.	<p>Data at an individual district level has been utilised when there is a notable difference between the baseline conditions in Bassetlaw District versus West Lindsey District, such as for access to healthcare (para. 18.5.21), deprivation (para. 18.5.30), income (para. 18.5.36-39), and employment sectors (para. 18.5.51). These have been used to determine the level of sensitivity of these receptors in the assessment in C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18: Socio-Economics and Tourism and Recreation [APP-053].</p> <p>Data at a settlement-level grain has been used to determine the sensitivity of receptors including indices of deprivation and access to primary healthcare. Although not identified explicitly, Gainsborough, for example, is an area within the Local Impact Area with very high rates of deprivation with regard to suitable income, access to employment, and education and skills attainment, which has contributed to the determination that the latter two of these are high sensitivity receptors (as referred to at paragraphs 18.7.38-39 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18: Socio-Economics and Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]).</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
1.12.14	Applicant	How does Section 18.5 Baseline Conditions of ES Chapter 18: Socio-Economics and Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] deal with population well-being?	Paragraphs 18.5.14-26 explore baseline conditions for a number of population health and wellbeing metrics. These are: rates of limited activity as a result of long-term disability, rates of PIP awards, physical inactivity in the adult population, self-assessment of health, health and disability and an index of deprivation, obesity, and prevalence of common mental disorders and disabilities. The selection of these criteria was based on EIA Scoping, and consultation responses received to EIA Scoping and PEIR, as set out in Tables 18.1 and 18.2 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18: Socio-Economics and Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]. The Applicant has recognised the level of nuance in how the Scheme may affect mental health and wellbeing, and as such, has designated deprivation, access to healthcare services as determinants of wellbeing for the purpose of the assessment, and has ensured significant effects to those have been highlighted in Section 21.5 of C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21: Other Environmental Matters [APP-056]. Furthermore, access to recreational spaces, including Public Rights of Way, has been considered as a determinant of wellbeing in our responses to Relevant Representations (C8.1.2 The Applicant's Responses to Relevant Representations [REP-049]).
1.12.15	Applicant	With regard to paragraph 18.7.37 of ES Chapter 18: Socio-Economics and Tourism and Recreation [APP- 053] please explain if this would have a potential effect on the housing stock in relation to maintaining an adequate supply and on local people	As identified in para. 18.5.10-11 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18: Socio-Economics and Tourism and Recreation [APP-053], the host district authorities demonstrate that they are able to achieve an excess of housing stock beyond identified local need to support projected population growth or housing need. This in turn demonstrates that the potential housing need arising for

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		<p>seeking accommodation who are not connected to the proposal.</p> <p>In addition, would such an effect be exacerbated by way of the cumulative effects (paragraph 18.10.17)?</p>	<p>construction workers is able to be accommodated within this surplus, and thus is not anticipated to negatively affect supply to local people not connected with the Scheme. The Applicant does confirm that the anticipated housing need arising for construction workers moving into the Local Impact Area set out at paragraph 18.7.37 is a worst-case scenario based on all potential workers living beyond the Local Impact Area to move to within for the construction period.</p> <p>The cumulative scenario assessed in para. 18.10.17 identifies that the cumulative need for housing for construction workers could also be accommodated within this surplus, and thus is not anticipated to negatively affect supply to local people not connected with the NSIPs in Local Impact Area.</p>
1.12.16	Applicant	<p>Please clarify whether it is the intention for any temporary accommodation to be provided during the construction and decommissioning phases, in particular as paragraph 18.10.12 of ES Chapter 18: Socio- Economics and Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] states that as regards cumulative effects the peak level of accommodation needed for temporary construction workers is likely to exceed accommodation stock.</p>	<p>Purpose-built temporary accommodation has not been considered during the construction and decommissioning phases as the embedded and additional mitigation measures to reduce cumulative impacts are considered sufficient to limit the significance of impacts on tourism and visitor accommodation, and local housing. These mitigation measures include utilising the embedded flexibility in the Scheme's construction programme to reduce peak construction accommodation needs and utilising alternative accommodation such as in private rental units if required. These measures are set out in Table 3.8 of C7.1_B Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan Revision B [EX2/C7.1_B] and are duly secured by Requirement 13</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			of Schedule 2 to C3.1_C Draft Development Consent Order Revision C[EX2/C3.1_C].
1.12.17	Applicant	Table 5.1 of the Equalities Impact Assessment [APP-351] sets out that ES Chapter 21: Other Environmental Matters [APP-056] includes assessment in respect of the general population and vulnerable groups. Please explain where this is the case as regards how the effect on the vulnerable groups, in particular where they have protected characteristics.	<p>Paragraphs 21.5.18-19 in C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21: Other Environmental Matters [APP-056] summarises the considerations made in respect of assessment in respect of the general population and vulnerable groups. Those protected characteristics deemed to be most vulnerable to impacts from the Scheme are age and disability. Other vulnerable groups are those affected by deprivation in access to suitable income, access to employment and access to education.</p> <p>The assessment of the impacts associated with the anticipated increase in residential population, demographic profile, impacts on primary healthcare, and secondary impact on sensitive receptors are set out in 18.7.27-32 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18: Socio-Economics and Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]. The assessment concludes that given the negligible magnitude of change to the socio-demographic structure of the population as a result of the Scheme, there will be no more than negligible to minor effects on any socio-demographic group in the Local Impact Area, including those with protected characteristics.</p>
1.12.19	Applicant	7000 Acres' Equality Impact Assessment WR [REP-107] has raised matters in relation to Article 8 of the Human Rights Act (1998). What are the Applicant's views by way of	Article 8 of the Human Rights Act 1998 protects private and family life, home and correspondence. Interference with this right can be justified if it is in accordance with law and is necessary in the

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		the application of this Act to the Proposed Development?	<p>interests of, among other things, national security, public safety or the economic wellbeing of the country.</p> <p>The C4.1 Statement of Reasons Revision A [AS-013] considers the interaction of the compulsory acquisition powers sought in the DCO, against the relevant articles in the Human Right Act 1998, including Article 8. In respect of Article 8, paragraph 9.1.9 of [AS-013] concludes that:</p> <p><i>"In relation to Article 8, the Order limits do not include, and the Scheme does not require, the outright acquisition of any residential dwelling-houses. Consequently, as dwelling-houses will not be directly affected, it is not anticipated that the Convention rights protected by Article 8 will be infringed. In the event that such rights were to be infringed, such interference would be justifiable on the basis that it would be lawful and in the public interest."</i></p>
1.12.20	Applicant	With regard to the socio-demographic impacts as set out in Section 18.7 of ES Chapter 18: Socio-Economics and Tourism and Recreation [APP-053], what would the demographic profile of the workforce be compared to the local population, and would this have potential effects in relation to the Equality Impact Assessment [APP-351] and the protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty?	<p>The demographic profile of the construction workforce is projected to be almost entirely of working age (16-64 years old), and is projected to be of a lower rate of limited activity due to long-term disability than the baseline population demographic profile, as a result of the physical working requirements for construction labour.</p> <p>Those parts of the workforce that are in "skilled trades occupations" or "process, plant and machine operatives" are also significantly more likely to have male as their assigned sex than female. Those parts of the workforce that are in "process, plant and machine operatives" roles are also significantly proportionally</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>more likely than the population to come from Gypsy or Irish Traveller, Roma or Other White ethnic backgrounds, and less likely than the population to come from Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh backgrounds (this was not considered in the ES as it is based on Census 2021 data published in March 2023, after the ES was published).</p> <p>It is not anticipated that any other group with protected characteristics will be substantially different between the local population and construction workforce.</p> <p>The assessment projects a worst-case 0.06% uplift to the population of the Local Impact Area as a result of additional construction workers moving into from elsewhere. Para. 18.7.27-32 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18: Socio-Economics and Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] assessed that given the negligible magnitude of this change, there will be no more than negligible to minor effects on any socio-demographic group in the Local Impact Area, including those with protected characteristics.</p>
1.12.21	Applicant	<p>In respect of socio-demographic impacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How has this considered the effect on population well-being, beyond identifying this as a receptor? • What do you consider the effect on local residents would be by way of how they perceive and appreciate their 	<p>Much like the term "health", the Applicant understands population "wellbeing" as a broad category under which individual constituent receptors are assessed. As such, the assessment of wellbeing in C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18: Socio-Economics and Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] includes the assessment of access to healthcare, the assessment of access to employment and education as indices of deprivation, fear and intimidation impacts on non-vehicular road users, and as a secondary effect from impacts on the use and desirability of public rights of way and</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		surroundings, as has been set out in the RRs and at the Open Floor Hearing?	<p>recreational facilities. The Applicant has recognised the level of nuance in how the Scheme may affect mental health and wellbeing, and as such, has designated deprivation, access to healthcare services as determinants of wellbeing for the purpose of the assessment, and has ensured significant effects to those have been highlighted in Section 21.5 of C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21: Other Environmental Matters [APP-056]. Furthermore, access to recreational spaces, including Public Rights of Way, has been considered as a determinant of wellbeing in our responses to Relevant Representations (C8.1.2 The Applicant's Responses to Relevant Representations [REP-049]).</p> <p>C6.3.8.2 ES Appendix 8.2 Assessment of Potential Landscape Effects [REP-020] (the 'LVIA') considers the impacts and effects on residential receptors as part of the assessment process. 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 [EN010133/EX2/C6.3.8.2_A]. 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</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>proposed landscape mitigation will play a key role in making sure the panels are comfortably accommodated.</p> <p>With regard to ES Chapter 18, the perception of local residents on their surroundings has been incorporated in the determination of sensitivity and qualitative assessment of impacts on the desirability and use of public rights of way and recreational facilities. The Applicant has also responded directly to local resident comments in this regard through C8.1.2 The Applicant's Responses to Relevant Representations [REP-049], and C8.1.10 Applicants Responses to Procedural Deadline A and Additional Submissions [REP-056].</p>
1.12.23	Applicant	<p>Please explain the rationale for the new permissive path between Stow and Stow Pastures, as is referred to in paragraph 18.6.9 of ES Chapter 18: Socio-Economics and Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]</p> <p>Also, explain the status of the permissive path as regards Policy 15 of the Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan, how it would connect into the existing recreational routes and what type of recreational users would be able to use it.</p>	<p>The permissive path between Stow and Stow Pastures has been proposed to provide an alternative route from Stow village to Stow Pastures for pedestrian users to avoid the use of Ingham Road up to Fleets Lane. This therefore reduces the distance pedestrian users have to share road space to access the unsurfaced Coates Lane, footpaths towards Coates (via Ingham Road), and footpaths towards Sturton by Stow (via Fleets Lane). This is anticipated to (and has been assessed to) resultantly improve the desirability of these for recreational use, and thus positively contribute towards the policy aspirations of Policy 15 of the Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan. The Applicant has not committed to the permissive path being open to cyclists or equestrian users following landowner input and ecological assessment to minimise openings in hedgerows and to minimise impact on agricultural activities.</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
1.12.24	Applicant	Please also confirm whether other permissive paths are proposed as paths in the plural is referred to in other application documentation such as the revised Planning Statement [REP-047] and the revised Draft DCO [REP-006]. Interested Parties have referred to the pre application stage in relation to the potential for a route following the banks of the River Till.	No other permissive path is proposed to that shown by Work No.11 on Sheets 10 and 15 of C2.4_A Works Plan Revision A [AS-007]. 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.' This included the suggested route following the River Till.
1.12.25	Applicant	Does Table 18.15 of ES Chapter 18: Socio-Economics and Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] reflect usage of the Public Right of Ways, in particular by way of the long distance recreational routes?	Usage of public rights of way have not been surveyed save for those discussed in the answer to question 1.10.14, and so the designation of their sensitivity is set out in para. 18.7.60 in C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18: Socio-Economics and Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]. Long-distance recreation routes have been identified through allocations in local plan documents or visitor strategies, appearances on OS maps, Sustrans, and identification by The Ramblers and the Long Distance Walking Association.
1.12.27	Applicant	Please explain why the baseline conditions do not concern heritage assets under tourism and recreation, where they may be tourist attractions?	Individual heritage assets have not been identified in the baseline conditions, but are referred to in general at para. 18.5.58 and 18.5.69 in C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18: Socio-Economics and Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]. The value of heritage assets as tourism attractions has been determined through professional judgement based on the overall outcomes of C6.2.13 ES Chapter 13: Cultural Heritage [APP-048], accessibility of those assets to the public, and the lack of explicit identification of individual heritage assets

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			nearby to the Order Limits in West Lindsey's Visitor Economy Strategy 2022.
1.12.28	Applicant	How does the conclusion reached at paragraph 18.7.59 of ES Chapter 18: Socio-Economics and Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] reflect the important landscape context to the recreational use of the land, as is acknowledged in paragraph 18.5.69.	<p>The conclusion reached in para. 18.7.59 of C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18: Socio-Economics and Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] is based on the overall impact on desirability to landscape and heritage tourism receptors in the Local Impact Area. The previous paragraphs 18.7.57-58 have identified targeted peak impacts, but the overall conclusion is formed by professional judgement based on the overall outcomes of C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [EN010133/EX2/C6.2.8_A], and C6.2.13 ES Chapter 13: Cultural Heritage [APP-048].</p> <p>The importance of the landscape context to the recreational use of the land, as is acknowledged in paragraph 18.5.69 [APP-053] has helped to define the sensitivity of recreation receptors such as public rights of way, waterways, and recreational facilities, as set out in para. 18.7.62-68 [APP-053].</p>
1.12.29	Applicant	Section 18.8 of ES Chapter 18: Socio-Economics and Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] relies in part on the Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan (APP-349). How can it be assured that the measures in this plan will become outcomes, beyond simply opportunities, and therefore can be relied on as regards	<p>The Applicant is confident that the outline measures presented in the outline C7.10 Skills Supply Chain and Employment Plan [APP-349] provide sufficient clarity at this stage to ensure the delivery of the future detailed plan will lead to beneficial outcomes. The provision of a detailed document substantially in accordance with C7.10 Skills Supply Chain and Employment Plan [APP-349] is secured through Requirement 20 of Schedule 2 to C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision C [EX2/C3.1_C].</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		where this plan has informed likely significant effects.	

13 Other planning matters

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
Waste			
1.13.1	Applicant	With regard to the Local Impact Area (ES Chapter 20: Waste, paragraph 20.4.2) [APP-055], why does this not include North Lincolnshire Council, given its proximity to Cottam 3a/b.	The scope of the waste assessment in the ES was agreed in Section 3.23 of C6.3.2.2 ES Appendix 2.2 EIA Scoping Opinion [APP-064], wherefrom the definition of the Local Impact Area as Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire for waste handling was derived, as these both were host local authorities to the Scheme. The assessment of the Scheme's impacts does not conclude any likely significant effects to waste handling in the Local Impact Area (refer to Section 20.8 of C6.2.20 ES Chapter 20 Waste [APP-055], and answers to Examiner's questions 1.13.8 and 1.2.32) and as such, no further geographic areas were subsequently assessed.
1.13.2	Applicant	Paragraph 20.5.15 of ES Chapter 20: Waste [APP-055] confirms that baseline estimates only cover up to 2038. How will reassessment beyond 2038 be dealt with	Monitoring requirements to ensure waste removal from the Order limits during the operational lifetime of the Scheme are set out in Table 3.13 of C7.16 Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [APP-353]. The measures therein are therefore secured by Requirement 14 of Schedule 2

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		regard to the EIA Regulations and by the revised draft DCO [REP-006]?	to C3.1_C Draft Development Consent Order Revision C [EX2/C3.1_C]. Should substantive changes to waste handling capabilities in the assessment area occur near to or after 2038, these would be assessed in accordance with the relevant regulations at that point in time.
1.13.3	Applicant	Why does Appendix 4 to the revised Planning Statement [REP-047] not concern itself with specific waste development plan policies, given that waste will be generated by the Proposed Development, is intended will make use of waste handling facilities and would result in a significant effect?	As stated in C7.5_B Planning Statement Revision B [EX2/C7.5_B] at para. 6.14.9 and 6.14.12, the specific policies in both the Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire waste development plan solely focus on the provision of new or extended waste facilities, rather than the management and operation of those facilities, and therefore are not considered explicitly relevant in the context of the Scheme.
1.13.4	Applicant	How are the destinations for construction waste in Table 20.5 of ES Chapter 20: Waste [APP-055] reflective of the waste hierarchy, given the number of references to landfill disposal and as most destinations are shown as recycling or landfill? Similarly, with regard to Tables 20.6 and Table 20.7, further explanation on how the waste hierarchy will be followed across the project is required and how	In each instance in Table 20.5, 20.6 and 20.7 of C6.2.20 ES Chapter 20 Waste [APP-055] , the preference to recycle waste arisings from the Scheme is preferable over recovery and landfill, in accordance with the Waste Hierarchy. The quantum of material assessed as being taken to landfill has been included as a worst-case scenario should waste arisings from the Scheme not be able to be recycled. In accordance with the Waste Hierarchy, it is preferable to prevent and reduce waste arisings, which would have to be managed in coordination with manufacturers and suppliers at the point that they are selected. This is addressed at paragraph 2.10.2, Table 3.1, and Table 3.12 of the C7.1_B Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan Revision B

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		this will be dealt with through the revised draft DCO [REP1-006]?	[EX2/C7.1_B] in co-ordination with suppliers identified through Section 5.4 of C7.10 Skills Supply Chain and Employment Plan [APP-349]. As such, these measures would be secured through the final versions of the Construction Environmental Management Plan, and final Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan as secured through Requirements 13 and 20 respectively in Schedule 2 of C3.1_C Draft Development Consent Order Revision C [EX2/C3.1_C].
1.13.5	Applicant	To what extent will the proposed solar panels be able to be recycled, re-used and recovered? Are such waste facilities available to deal with solar panels?	<p>The solar panels are predominantly made of recyclable materials (metal and glass). Subject to damage and material degradation, these materials are also suitable for reuse. Of that which cannot be reused, 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]</p> <p>The solar cells themselves will be treated as waste electrical or electronic equipment (WEEE) and will be handled as such at waste facilities identified by the host authorities as identified at paragraphs 20.5.7 and 20.5.12 of Chapter 20.</p> <p>While it is recognised that there are no facilities that specifically handle waste solar infrastructure in the host authority areas (although this may well improve in future given the emerging industry for recycling and reusing the internal fittings and electrical equipment within solar panels (para. 20.7.29)), the assessment of WEEE handling capabilities show that the host authority areas have sufficient capacity in their identified</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			facilities to handle the quantum of WEEE anticipated to be generated by the Scheme.
1.13.6	Applicant	Where ES Chapter 20: Waste paragraph 20.7.32 [APP-055] sets out that the assumption is that waste is handled proportionally between Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire, what does this mean and how is this addressed by the revised dDCO [REP1-006]?	Section 20.5 sets out the reported estimated capacity for waste handling facility types in both the host authorities. These therefore can be used (up to the end of the identified plan period) to identify the proportion of waste that can be allocated to each host authority so that the impacts across either of the two authorities can be managed. This is secured through the mitigation and monitoring measures set out in Table 3.12 of the C7.1_B Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan Revision B [EX2/C7.1_B], Table 3.13 of C7.16_A Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan Revision A [EX2/C7.16_A] and Table 3.1 of C7.2 Outline Decommissioning Statement [APP-338] in regard to waste. These documents are themselves secured through Requirements 13, 14, and 21 respectively in Schedule 2 to C3.1_C Draft Development Consent Order Revision C [EX2/C3.1_C].
1.13.7	Applicant	The Proposed Development includes a number of product types and materials that are deemed hazardous, in particular associated with the battery storage and the substations. How will these be dealt with in a safe manner, and how will this be addressed by revised dDCO [REP1-006]?	Safe handling of hazardous materials onsite fall under the remit of the responsible persons identified in paragraph 2.2.1, in tandem with the mitigation measures and responsibilities set out in Table 3.12 of C7.1_B Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan Revision B [EX2/C7.1_B], para. 6.1.2 and Table 3.13 of C7.16_A Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan Revision A [EX2/C7.16_A],

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>and para. 5.1.2 and Table 3.1 C7.2 Outline Decommissioning Statement [APP-338].</p> <p>Furthermore, the mitigation measures set out in the aforementioned documents identify that all waste including hazardous waste and WEEE is to be transported and handles by appropriately licensed waste handlers in accordance with the most up-to-date legislation and guidance applicable at the time.</p> <p>These documents are themselves secured through Requirements 13, 14, and 21 respectively in Schedule 2 to C3.1_C Draft Development Consent Order Revision C [EX2/C3.1_C].</p>
1.13.8	Applicant	<p>In light of that a significant effect on landfill waste handling in Nottinghamshire during the decommissioning period has been identified, please provide greater detail over the specific mitigation measures and how a bias towards Lincolnshire will impact on the landfill resource in that county.</p> <p>Please also provide further explanation over how this is seen to reduce the effect to not being significant (ES Chapter 20:</p>	<p>Section 20.5 sets out the reported estimated capacity for waste handling facility types in both of the host authorities. These therefore can be used to identify the proportion of waste that can be allocated to each host authority so that the impacts across the two authorities can be managed.</p> <p>At the time period identified in Nottinghamshire that there will be a deficit in landfill waste handling (from 2029), operational waste for landfill will be diverted towards facilities in Lincolnshire with suitable capacity. This scenario will be monitored through the measures set out in Table 3.13 of C7.16_A Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan Revision A [EX2/C7.16_A]. With these mitigation measures in place, this removes the direct impact on landfill</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		Waste paragraphs 20.8.2 and 1 (sic) [APP-055].	capacity in Nottinghamshire until such a time that suitable waste facilities are made available. This may also as needed be extended until the decommissioning stage of the Scheme. As such, the greatest level of effect would be reduced to a slight to moderate adverse effect as identified in para. 20.8.1(sic) of C6.2.20 ES Chapter 20 Waste [APP-055].
1.13.9	Applicant	<p>With regard to cumulative effects under ES Chapter 20: Waste paragraph 20.10.8 [APP-055], what does the assumption that waste is handled proportionally between Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire mean in practice across the 4 sites and if that was not the case, would the magnitude of impact change?</p> <p>It would assist to clarify if there have been discussions between the developers of each of the sites in this regard.</p>	<p>Para. 20.10.8 of C6.2.20 ES Chapter 20 Waste [APP-055] refers to annual rates of waste from the construction of the Scheme, and assumes that the proportion of waste to be handled by Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire is proportional to the comparable level of waste handling capacity across the two host authority areas. The cumulative rates of waste generated by the developments will reduce regional recycling handling and landfill void capacity baseline by 1-5% (see Table 20.3), and this remains within the same magnitude criteria (minor impact) as the Cottam Scheme assessed in isolation.</p> <p>At present there has been no express discussion between the developers of 4 NSIPs on waste, however, cumulative impacts have been identified in the C8.1.8_A Joint Report on Interrelationships between Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects Revision A [EX2/C8.1.8_A].</p>
1.13.10	Applicant	ES Chapter 20: Waste paragraph 20.10.13 [APP-055] appears to exclude some waste streams from the calculation. Could therefore the waste volumes set out in Table 20.10 (sic) be higher by	Table 20.10 (sic) of C6.2.20 ES Chapter 20 Waste [APP-055] assesses the same waste streams for the cumulative impacts of decommissioning of the NSIPs as Table 20.7 identifies for the assessment of the Cottam Scheme in isolation, albeit in a more condensed format. Therefore the higher waste volumes

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		including metal, etc, and approximately by how much?	associated with metal, concrete, rubble, building waste, and vegetation have been estimated accordingly.
1.13.11	Applicant	The embedded mitigation as set out in section 20.6 of ES Chapter 20: Waste [APP-055] includes a number of third party contractors in relation to the recovery, recycling and disposal of waste. Whilst it is noted that it would be the intention that this would be covered by the Decommissioning Statement [APP-338] and the Operational Environmental Management Plan [APP-353], how will it be ensured that third party contractors will adhere to it?	The identified control documents are subject to a final version required to be submitted at the appropriate time, as secured by Requirements 14 and 21 respectively in Schedule 2 to C3.1_C Draft Development Consent Order Revision C [EX2/C3.1_C]. The identified third party contractors would be required to comply with the measures set out in these documents by contract, and separately would be subject to compliance with the relevant waste handling legislation to them. The wording of requirements 14 and 21 states that these documents must be implemented as approved. Breaching a requirement of a DCO is an offence under the Planning Act 2008.
1.13.12	Applicant	ES Chapter 20: Waste paragraph 20.11.2 [APP-055] considers the impacts from the scheme can be sufficiently mitigated. How does this though relate to the cumulative effects, in particular with the significant effect on landfill waste handling in Nottinghamshire during decommissioning?	The Applicant recognises that there is potential for significant adverse effects to landfill handling in Nottinghamshire beyond the year 2029, and considers that the mitigation measures set out in Section 20.8 are sufficient to reduce the severity (and significance in EIA terms) of the impacts on Nottinghamshire for the Scheme in isolation. The Applicant confirms that the mitigation strategy for waste management is consistent across Cottam Solar Project and West Burton Solar Project. As such, the agreement of mitigation for this cumulative effect from these two projects can be secured through their individual DCOs.

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			As well as the cumulative effects assessment within Chapter 20, cumulative impacts have been identified and are set out in the C8.1.8_A Joint Report on Interrelationships between Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects Revision A [EX2/C8.1.8_A].
1.13.13	Applicant	Where there is reference at paragraph 6.14.7 of the revised Planning Statement [REP1-047] to the various related management plans being approved by the relevant Planning Authority, how will that be coordinated if waste from the site would potentially be dealt with by facilities outside that authority's boundaries?	As secured through Requirements 13, 14, and 21 respectively in Schedule 2 to C3.1_C Draft Development Consent Order Revision C [EX2/C3.1_C], a detailed Construction Environment Management Plan, Operational Environment Management Plan, and Decommissioning Statement are required to be approved by the relevant Planning Authority. Where waste streams are anticipated or required to be dealt with facilities outside the host authorities, it is anticipated that the recipient authorities would also receive the appropriate management plans for their review.
Land Contamination			
1.13.15	Applicant	Notwithstanding the Scoping Opinion that has been issued, why do the receptors and pathways set out in Table 11.5 of ES Chapter 11: Ground Conditions and Contamination [APP-046] not also apply to Cottam 3a/b, at least in part	As detailed in Chapter 10 of C6.3.2.1 ES Appendix 2.1 EIA Scoping Report Part 1 of 4 [APP-060] , potential sources of contamination, receptors and pathways have been considered for all three land parcels (Cottam 1, Cottam 2 and Cottam 3a/b). The assessment identified a minor to moderate/minor significance prior to mitigation. Following mitigation the potential impacts were considered negligible. Cottam 3a/3b were scoped out of the final Environmental Statement (ES)

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			Chapter following statutory consultation as detailed in Section 11.2 of C6.2.11 ES Chapter 11 Ground Conditions and Contamination [APP-046] .
1.13.16	Applicant	The first entry line in Table 11.5 of ES Chapter 11: Ground Conditions and Contamination [APP-046] refers to asbestos fibres. Why would workers, users and residents encounter this substance as regards the Proposed Development?	Asbestos is a common substance of concern that can be present in Made Ground materials. Made Ground materials are associated with previous construction, demolition and the deposition of controlled uncontrolled or waste (such as infilled ponds). Should these materials be identified on-Site they could be disturbed during construction, maintenance and decommissioning.
1.13.17	Applicant	With regard to the cable route corridor and Table 11.6, and paragraphs 11.7.5 and 11.7.6 of ES Chapter 11: Ground Conditions and Contamination [APP-046] has the location of the proposed grid connection within the power station site been considered? If so, please explain how.	The cable route corridor assessment is based on the boundary as detailed in C6.3.11.3 ES Appendix 11.4 - Geo-Environmental Risk Assessment Parts 1 – 4 [APP-105 – APP-108], Cottam Solar Project – Cable Corridor. This assessment includes the area surrounding the proposed grid connection.
1.13.18	Applicant	How would the proposed embedded mitigation measures as set out in paragraph 11.8.2 of ES Chapter 11: Ground Conditions and Contamination [APP-046] deal with effects on adjacent site users and residents?	As detailed in Table 11.5 and 11.6 of C6.2.11 ES Chapter 11 Ground Conditions and Contamination [APP-046], the magnitude of impact to adjacent site users and residents, for both Cottam 1 and 2 and the cable corridor is negligible (Contaminants found at very low concentrations, remediation not required). As such, the standard construction practises detailed in paragraph 11.8.2 would ensure that dust and vapour associated with construction, maintenance or

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			decommissioning is kept to a minimum, therefore breaking the contaminant linkage.
1.13.19	Applicant	How will the 'Discovery Strategy', as referred to in paragraph 11.8.2 of ES Chapter 11: Ground Conditions and Contamination (APP-046) be secured through the revised draft DCO [REP-006]?	The mitigation measures detailed in paragraph 11.8.2 of C6.2.11 ES Chapter 11 Ground Conditions and Contamination [APP-046], are in Table 3.11 of the C7.1_A Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan Revision A [REP-037]. This document is itself secured through Requirement 13 in Schedule 2 to C3.1_B Draft Development Consent Order Revision C [EX2/C3.1_C], as one of the requirements of the DCO.
1.13.20	Applicant	With regard to paragraph 11.8.2 of ES Chapter 11: Ground Conditions [APP-046] and Contamination, please clarify how potential leakage from fire water storage will be mitigated in order to prevent ground contamination.	<p>With reference to C7.9 Outline Battery Storage Safety Management Plan [APP-348], paragraph 5.5.4 details how the battery 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 areas drainage from the wider environment. The water contained by the valves can then be tested and either treated and released or tankered off-site as necessary and in consultation with the relevant consultees at the time.</p> <p>The potential release of stored water via leakage is not considered a potential source of contamination.</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			The outline Plan is secured through requirement 6 in Schedule 2 to the draft DCO [EX2/C3.1_C].
1.13.21	Applicant/ Environment Agency	Please clarify whether an Environmental Permit will be required for land contamination related matters	An Environmental Permit will not be required for land contamination matters relating to the Scheme.
Minerals			
1.13.22	Applicant	Table 12.1 of ES Chapter 12: Minerals [APP-047] refers to Tarmac quarries, named Sturton Le Steeple and Rampton. Please confirm if this is the same quarry, or they are separate (former) minerals workings.	<p>Sturton Le Steeple Quarry and Rampton Quarry are separate quarries.</p> <p>Sturton Le Steeple quarry lies approximately 3.8 km north of the Cottam Power Station site and 4.5 km north of the site of Rampton quarry. Sturton Le Steeple quarry is an extensive area of permitted sand and gravel reserves.</p> <p>The Rampton Quarry site lies to the south of Torksey Ferry Road and to the south east of the Scheme. It is an exhausted sand and gravel quarry with no remaining permitted reserves. The quarry site has been restored to provide a mix of conservation wetland habitats and agriculture.</p>
1.13.23	Applicant	Unlike other ES Chapters, Chapter 12: Minerals [APP-047] does not appear to express what level of effect or greater would constitute a significant effect in its Assessment Methodology and Significance Criteria.	A significant effect would be 1) the complete loss of a mineral deposit to the extent that the resource cannot be recovered or 2) that the minerals within the land occupied by the Scheme in either Lincolnshire or Nottinghamshire were so severely constrained that the exploitation of the resources was no longer possible. In the case of surface minerals, this would include there being insufficient minerals available to meet the

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		Please explain, or correct this omission.	<p>respective County's aggregate supply needs. Given how widely distributed sand and gravel resources are within both Counties, this second scenario is unlikely to occur. In terms of the first scenario, the Scheme's impact is limited to the surface and below ground disturbance is minimal and shallow. Therefore, the assessment has focused on the Scheme's impact on the planned aggregate provision in each County. A significant effect would be where the Scheme would inhibit aggregate supply. Please refer to the following paragraph within ES Chapter 2:EIA Process and Methodology [APP-037]</p> <p>"2.4.18: Following the classification of an effect, clear statements will be made within the topic chapters as to whether that effect is significant or not significant. As a rule, major and moderate effects are generally considered to be significant, whilst minor and negligible effects are considered to be not significant. However, professional judgement will be applied, including taking account of whether the effect is permanent or temporary, its duration / frequency, whether it is reversible, and / or its likelihood of occurrence. "</p>
1.13.24	Applicant	Paragraph 12.7.11 of ES Chapter 12: Minerals [APP-047] states that there is not a need for future reserves as regards the Area of Search for sand and gravel that includes the Cottam 3a site and the Cottam Power Station Cable Route	The current Lincolnshire Minerals Plan makes provision for an adequate supply of sand and gravel for aggregate uses for the period 2014 -2031. Whilst deposits occur across large parts of the County, historically sand and gravel production has been concentrated in three main areas. To ensure an adequate distribution of aggregate supply across Lincolnshire, the

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		<p>Corridor for at least 10 years. As the site would still be operational and not decom-missioned until well beyond 10 years, can you explain why you consider that it would seem highly unlikely (paragraph 12.7.16) that the sand and gravel reserve will need to be worked within the lifetime of the Proposed Development.</p>	<p>Minerals Plan identifies three production areas, these are Lincoln/ Trent Valley Area, in which the Scheme is located, Central Lincolnshire and South Lincolnshire. The latter 2 are unaffected by the Scheme. The use of 3 production areas is a long established policy in Lincolnshire which was used as the basis for the previous 1991 Lincolnshire Minerals Local Plan.</p> <p>The Lincolnshire Local Aggregate Assessment (reporting 2022 data) July 2023 reports the County has an adequate sand and gravel landbank. It identifies 4 quarries within the Lincoln/ Trent Valley Area of which 3 (Whisby, Swinderby and Norton Bottoms Quarries) are operational. These 3 sites are located to the south west of Lincoln within an area that has had a long association with mineral extraction within the Area of Search. The fourth Sudbrook Quarry (Ancaster) is currently not active. This site is located approximately 25 km south of Lincoln and outside the Area of Search.</p> <p>Lincolnshire's preferred spatial strategy is to secure the County's future supplies of sand and gravel from extensions to existing operational sites wherever possible. The County view extensions as having less environmental impacts than a wholly new proposal and having infrastructure already in place they can ensure continuity of production and the full recovery of the resource, thus avoiding the unnecessary sterilisation of the mineral. The Site Locations Document gives preference to extensions to existing workings.</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>The plan also designates three Areas of Search - one in each Production Area. In the Lincoln/Trent Valley Production Area of Search lies west of Lincoln and north/south of Gainsborough. The Areas of Search are based on the most viable sand and gravel resource based on a recent assessment of resources within the County carried out by the British Geological Survey (BGS) in 2010. Areas of Search cover extensive areas so there may be potential for replacement sites to either reduce transportation distances or facilitate more sustainable means of transport. For example, a new quarry in the Gainsborough area could provide locally sourced aggregate to the town for building projects and could potentially utilise the River Trent for transportation purposes.</p> <p>In the event of a shortfall in supply developing in a Production Area, planning permission for unallocated sites where the site is an extension to an existing quarry or a replacement for a quarry that is nearing exhaustion and is located within the appropriate Area of Search would be considered favourably.</p> <p>The Lincoln/Trent Valley Production Area of Search is a large area, extending 46 km northward from the village of Stapleford to the County's northern boundary (Stapleford is located approx. 8 km north east of Newark on Trent and 14 km south west of Lincoln). At the southern end, the area of search is approximately 14 km wide occupying all the land to the west and south west of Lincoln to the County boundary to the east.</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>This area includes the existing mineral workings and current allocations within the Lincoln/Trent Valley production area.</p> <p>North of Saxilby, the Area of Search narrows significantly and becomes much more closely related to the course of the River Trent. Around the village of Marton the area of search is around 1.5 km wide; north to south this is the thinnest point of the area of search. The cable route crosses the Area of Search almost at its narrowest point. In terms of potential disruption to sand and gravel extraction, this is the best place for the Scheme's cable route to cross as it affects the least amount of potential deposits. At this point it is considered the likelihood of sand and gravel extraction ever being proposed or permitted are remote. Not only is the deposit well away from existing areas of extraction, the cable route passes between Marton to the north and a small group of houses to the south and therefore at least part of the route is already constrained by the need to protect residential amenity. This length of the cable route is also crossed by 2 pylon lines which together with the Trent Valley IDB drain running to the Marton pumping station means there are already major constraints to future mineral extraction. Thus, whilst the cable route would provide a further constraint, it is located in an area already constrained by other development and therefore unlikely to be considered suitable for future mineral extraction, particularly when there are other alternatives available. Although both the River Trent and the A1500 provide potential mineral transport routes, the</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>area around Marton is not very proximate to any major aggregate markets (eg Lincoln or Gainsborough).</p> <p>North of Marton the Area of Search widens to approximately a 3.5 km wide strip into the County from the Trent as it approaches Gainsborough. The area of search includes the land to the north of Gainsborough to the County boundary and extends eastwards into the County to include the route of the A159.</p> <p>In terms of the Cottam 3a site, the area of search extends westwards across this site as far the line of the north south runway associated with the former RAF Blyton. The Area of Search in this location extends far beyond the mineral safeguarding area.</p> <p>In theory, if a replacement quarry was required to meet a shortfall in aggregate supply in the Lincoln/Trent Valley Production Area, the Cottam 3a area could meet the County's suggestion that a new quarry in the Gainsborough area could provide locally sourced aggregate. However, this is considered very unlikely, the area of Cottam 3a within the Area of Search, is right on the on the periphery of the Area of Search, beyond the mineral safeguarding area, therefore the sand and gravel deposit is much less likely to be of consistent quality or depth. It is in an area where there is no history of any significant commercial sand and gravel extraction. Therefore, although the British Geological Survey have identified a potential</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>mineral resource, it is not an area likely to be of commercial interest. With the exception of Gainsborough, the Cottam 3a site is far more remote from current markets than other parts of the Area of Search.</p> <p>Any workings within Cottam 3a would have to be part of the development of a new quarry, this would require the development of a new plant site and suitable access. This would be a significant investment requiring a large of sand and gravel deposit to be permitted to support it. Given the constraints of part of the Cottam 3a site within the Area of Search, this site is unlikely to prove suitable to accommodate a processing plant site. The proximity of Blyton and overhead power lines mean any plant site would have to be located elsewhere. Existing surface development makes the areas available for extraction relatively small and irregular in shape. The A159 isolates any mineral deposit in Cottam 3a from the larger part of the Area of Search.</p> <p>Whilst access to the A159 Laughton Road might be feasible, this road passes through residential areas associated with Blyton and Gainsborough and thus any significant increase in HGV movements could have an adverse amenity impact.</p> <p>In view of the above it is not considered that the Area of Search north of east of Blyton is likely to be chosen for the establishment of a new quarry during the lifetime of the Scheme, particularly when there are many other alternatives</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			available. The area of the Cottam 3a site within the Area of Search is negligible and its occupation by solar panels will have no impact on aggregate supply within Lincolnshire over the life of the Scheme.
1.13.25	Applicant	In relation to petroleum exploration and development, as per paragraphs 12.7.18 to 12.7.26 of ES Chapter 12: Minerals. [APP-047] has the Applicant consulted with PEDL licence holder(s) and/or the Oil and Gas Authority? If not, please explain why.	<p>Paragraph 12.7.26 of C6.2.12 ES Chapter 12 Minerals [APP-047] states: <i>"It is not considered that the proposed Scheme would have any implications for existing or proposed exploration and eventual exploitation of oil and gas resources. Solar arrays and associated development are not considered to be sensitive adjoining land uses to an oil well. Whilst together the solar array Sites occupy a large area, they are not a single block of land and are dispersed across a large area thus there is still scope for exploratory drilling across the PEDL. The method of petrochemical extraction involves limited surface development that could be located outside the solar array Sites and still allow extraction of the mineral beneath those Sites."</i></p> <p>The PEDL licence holders do not have any apparatus or proprietary interests within the Order limits and are not a prescribed consultee. PEDL licence holders are not statutory undertakers for the purposes of the PA 2008. Similarly, the Oil and Gas Authority (now called the North Sea Transition Authority) is not a prescribed consultee. The Applicant did not consult with the PEDL licence holders in respect of the Scheme and there was no requirement to do so.</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
1.13.26	Applicant	With regard to the mitigation measures that are set out in section 12.8 of ES Chapter 12: Minerals [APP- 047], how would these have a bearing on Cottam 3a and the Cottam Power Station Cable Route Corridor being located in the Area of Search for sand and gravel?	<p>The purpose of the proposed mitigation is to try to avoid the cable route becoming an additional obstruction to future mineral working. The cable itself would not sterilise any significant volume of minerals. However whilst operational, it has the potential to impose an additional operational constraint and therefore cost. The cables would either have to be worked around or relocated. It is likely to be more cost effective to work around the cables; it is not unusual for a mineral working to work around existing infrastructure. Once the cables are redundant, whether they are removed or not they would not present any significant constraint to future mineral extraction, they would simply be dug up and disposed of as part of the mineral working.</p> <p>During the operational life of the Scheme, any mineral resources would be temporarily sterilised by surface development. For the reasons set out in the answer to question 1.3.24, it is considered unlikely that mineral extraction would take place within in either the cable corridor or Cottam 3a. In any event, the minerals code has been incorporated via Article 48 of the draft DCO which provides a mechanism for calculating and compensating for any sterilisation of minerals as a result of the Scheme.</p>
1.13.27	Applicant	Please also explain how appropriate mitigation measures have been put in place as regards safeguarding mineral	The nature of the Scheme effectively incorporates any necessary mitigation. In this case the only identified surface minerals the Scheme affects are sand and gravel deposits. On

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		resources where the array sites lie within Minerals Safeguarding Areas.	<p>the basis that the Scheme does not require deep excavations and foundations are limited to galvanised steel poles driven into the ground, disturbance is limited to the surface layers rather than underlying deposits and the Scheme would not affect the long-term viability of working the identified sand and gravel resource.</p> <p>Once the Scheme is decommissioned at the end of its operational life, all above ground structures removed, and the Sites are restored, underlying minerals would still be available to exploit if required and consented.</p>
1.13.28	Applicant	Appendix 4 of the revised Planning Statement [REP-047] does not concern the same Lincolnshire minerals development plans and the associated policies that are set out in Chapter 12: Minerals [APP-047]. Please explain the different approach taken and if the policies for the Nottinghamshire minerals development plan policies are correct in the Planning Statement.	<p>Having examined Appendix 4 of the revised Planning Statement [REP-047] and the Development Plan policies set out in Chapter 12: Minerals [APP-047] these appear to be wholly consistent.</p> <p>In terms of minerals issues the relevant development plans and policies are</p> <p>Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan (March 2021) policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SP7 Minerals Safeguarding, Consultation Areas and Associated Minerals Infrastructure <p>Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Core Strategy and Development Management Policies (June 2016) policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M2 (Providing for an Adequate Supply of Sand and Gravel)

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M4 (Proposals for Sand and Gravel Extraction), • M11 (Safeguarding of Mineral Resources) and • M12 (Safeguarding of Existing Mineral Sites and Associated Minerals Infrastructure) <p>Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Site Locations (December 2017) policy,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy SL2 (safeguards specific mineral allocations) <p>Chapter 12: Minerals [APP-047] refers to the Review of the Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (Feb 2021). This is a review document required by Regulation 10A of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. This is not part of the development plan but will be used to inform the next replacement Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan.</p> <p>The reference in paragraph 12.3.21 of Chapter 12: Minerals [APP-047] was simply to note that the Minerals Planning Authority considers that Policy M11, in its current form, does not provide a practical or an efficient approach for safeguarding mineral resources and could be considered too extensive in terms of the areas covered. There is at this stage no alternative draft policy to refer to.</p>
1.13.29	Applicant	The planning application history that is set out in Appendix 1 to the revised Planning Statement [REP-047] includes	The planning application history relating to Rampton Quarry is set out in Appendix 2 to the revised Planning Statement [REP-047].

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		<p>the restoration of Rampton Quarry that is said to lie adjacent to the cable route. Please explain why you consider that no significant implications arise from the location of the scheme on this permission.</p>	<p>The Rampton Quarry site lies to the south of Torksey Ferry Road and to the south east of the Scheme. It is effectively an exhausted sand and gravel quarry which has now been restored to provide a mix of conservation wetland habitats and agriculture.</p> <p>The most recent applications relating to Rampton Quarry relate to extending the timetable for restoration works to be completed and amendments to the final restoration scheme. The restoration of the site is now largely completed.</p> <p>There is no overlap in terms of the Rampton Quarry permission area and the cable route. Rampton Quarry lies to the south east of the Scheme. The nearest part of the Rampton Quarry site lies 250 metres south east of the existing Cottam Power Station substation structures. The cable route approaches the substation from the north and west i.e. on the opposite site of the substation from Rampton Quarry.</p> <p>As an exhausted and closed sand and gravel quarry, the impact of the Scheme on this receptor has not been assessed as part of the mineral resource assessment ES Chapter 12: Minerals [APP- 047]; there is no mineral resource to assess. The impact of Scheme on the developing ecological interest being created as part of the restoration of Rampton Quarry has been assessed as part of ES Chapter 9_Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044].</p>
Electromagnetic Fields			

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
1.13.31	Applicant	<p>Please explain why paragraph 21.2.8 of ES Chapter 21: Other Environmental Matters [APP-056] considers that the transient use of Public Rights of Way crossing three 400kV circuits does not require any further investigation to exposure. ICNIRP reference levels in particular, would be exceeded (paragraph 21.2.7).</p> <p>Please refer to ICNIRP guidance, as appropriate.</p>	<p>The ICNIRP 1998 guidelines provide a reference level of 100µT (for magnetic field) for the general public to protect against indirect effects from Extremely Low Frequency EMF exposure. These guidelines were used to form the policy basis set out in EU Council Recommendation 1999/519/EC, which states at paragraph (9) that <i>"This recommendation has as its objective the protection of the health of the public and it therefore applies, in particular, to relevant areas where members of the public spend significant time in relation to the effects covered by this recommendation"</i>.</p> <p>UK exposure limits comply with the EU Recommendation in that the basic reference levels should be applied where the time of exposure is significant. The Department of Energy and Climate Change's 2012 <i>Code of Practice for Power Lines: Demonstrating compliance with EMF public exposure guidelines</i>, clarify that locations where time of exposure is significant practically refers to residential properties, other habitations such as hostels, and schools, crèches and nurseries. Furthermore, where the ICNIRP reference levels are exceeded, the Code of Practice recommends a calculation of measurement at the location of the closest property at which the exposure guidelines apply. In this instance, para. 21.2.7 of C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21 Other Environmental Matters [APP-056] estimates this to be 2.6µT if the nearest property is 25m from the centre of the Shared Cable Corridor.</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
1.13.32	Applicant	<p>Applicant: Why has the ES not considered the potential effects of electromagnetic fields on biodiversity interests, including the lamprey and therefore the potential for effects on the Humber Estuary Special Area of Conservation in this regard?</p> <p>Please also explain why the Information to Support a Habitats Regulations Assessment [APP-357] rules out the likelihood of significant effects, given that this document also acknowledges that this species may be found within the River Trent (paragraph 5.1.6).</p> <p>Your attention is directed towards the Environment Agency's WR [REP-093] in this regard.</p>	<p>The potential effects of electromagnetic fields were 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]). Furthermore, such impacts on ecological features were not identified during the scoping exercise carried out with PINS and consultation (pre-application and statutory) with bodies such as Natural England and the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust.</p> <p>With regard to the presence of lamprey in the River Trent and the potential linkage with the Humber Estuary SAC/Ramsar, it was considered that, on the basis the majority of the Humber lamprey population breed in rivers other than the Trent, the likelihood of significant effects arising from construction phase pollutions events was very low (paragraph 5.1.6 of APP-357).</p>
Utilities			
1.13.33	Applicant	<p>With regard to the Anglian Water entry in Table 21.5.2 of ES Chapter 21: Other Environmental Matters [APP-056], please explain where the ES deals with this point?</p>	<p>Impacts on potable water, sewage water, and water recycling facilities have been included in the overarching mitigation measures set out in Section 21.3 of C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21: Other Environmental Matters [APP-056] to ensure that potential impacts on existing utilities, including water infrastructure is minimised. Water services within or adjacent to the Order limits have been identified and any potential crossings have been identified in the C7.17_A Crossing</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			Schedule Revision A [REP-041]. The Applicant has agreed protective provisions for the protection of Anglian Water, which are included in Part 7 of Schedule 16 to C3.1_C Draft Development Consent Order Revision C [EX2/C3.1_C].
1.13.34	Applicant	Please explain how the cable corridor route has had regard to the necessary stand-off distances which are required by utilities providers, and with regard to residential properties, in particular West Farm Cottages, Normanby by Stow – including residential planning permission(s) in this area?	<p>Stand-off distances to services within or adjacent to the Order limits have been identified and any potential crossings have been identified in the C7.17_A Crossing Schedule Revision A [REP-041]. These are subject to protective provisions agreed with each utility provider which are included in C3.1_C Draft Development Consent Order Revision C [EX2/C3.1_C]. Please see the Schedule of Progress regarding Protective Provisions and Statutory Undertakers [EX2/C8.1.11_A] for the latest position on negotiations with various statutory undertakers.</p> <p>With specific regard to separation distances to permitted residential properties at West Farm Cottages, Normanby by Stow, the cable route is to be subject to a proposed Change Application (notification has been submitted by way of C9.1 Change Request Notification [EN010133/CR1/C9.1]) to divert the cable route to the south of these properties, following further consultation with landowners. As such, the cable route will be located no closer than 25m from any residential property.</p>
Lighting			

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
1.13.36	Applicant	Please clarify your position as regards lighting during the construction phase, as paragraph 21.4.2 of ES Chapter 21: Other Environmental Matters [APP-056] simply sets out that it is this phase when lighting im-pacts are most likely to occur.	Section 2.6 of C7.1_B Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan Revision C [EX2/C7.1_B] explains the how lighting will be controlled during the construction period, although notes that the type of lighting to be used has not yet been confirmed. Provision of a detailed CEMP substantially in accordance with the Outline CEMP is secured by Requirement 13 of C3.1_C Draft Development Consent Order Revision BC [EX2/C3.1_C].
1.13.37	Applicant	Can the Applicant ass and clarify when and where construction lighting will be used, where this is secured in the application and explain why a worst-case scenario (alone and cumulatively) would not lead to adverse effects as regards biodiversity.	<p>Section 2.6 of C7.1_B Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan Revision C [EX2/C7.1_B] explains the how lighting will be controlled during the construction period, although notes that the type of lighting to be used has not yet been confirmed. Provision of a detailed CEMP substantially in accordance with the Outline CEMP is secured by Requirement 13 of C3.1_C Draft Development Consent Order Revision C [EX2/C3.1_C]</p> <p>Measures to limit the use of lighting during the construction and operational phase will therefore be adopted (including the seasonal timing of works) and are expected to avoid harmful disturbance to bats (see paragraph 9.7.112 of C6.2.9 ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044]).</p> <p>Furthermore, Method Statement 4 within C7.19 Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [APP-356], which is secured by Requirement 8 of C3.1_C Draft Development Consent Order Revision C [EX2/C3.1_C]) gives more details on how construction phase lighting will be limited</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			to avoid impacts upon wildlife, including no artificial lighting being used between sunset and sunrise from the months of March to October inclusive, and no artificial lighting being employed during works to cross watercourses.
Human Health			
1.13.38	Applicant	With regard to the approach that ES Chapter 21: Other Environmental Matters [APP-056] takes with human health under Section 21.5, please explain how this approach addresses the potential for effects on pre-existing health conditions, such as those of residents who may live close to the proposal. Please respond to where this matter has been raised in relation to RRs and if this has a bearing on the Equality Impact Assessment [APP-351].	<p>Section 21.5 defers to C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] wherein the effects on pre-existing health conditions are identified in Section 18.7. No significant effects have been concluded in the assessment of physical and mental health conditions, and so these have not been included at Table 21.5.4 of C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21: Other Environmental Matters [APP-056]. As no significant effects have been concluded, there is no further bearing on the C7.12 Equality Impact Assessment [APP-351].</p> <p>Matters raised in Relevant Representations concerning physical and mental health conditions have been addressed as required in C8.1.2 The Applicant's Responses to Relevant Representations [REP-049] wherein comments and relevant responses fall under the remit of Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation, or Other Environmental Matters.</p>
1.13.39	Applicant	Please explain why in Table 21.5.4 of ES Chapter 21: Other Environmental Matters [APP-056], the two significant effects as regards ES Chapter 18: Socio-Economics and Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]	The significant effects identified in Table 21.5.4 of C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21 Other Environmental Matters [APP-056], correspond to the significant residual effects assessed in C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] that directly relate to health and

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		have been chosen (as opposed to others).	<p>wellbeing. Significant effects related solely to employment and economic performance are not included.</p> <p>Cumulative effects relating to health and wellbeing matters have been identified and described in summary in para. 21.5.37-43 in C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21: Other Environmental Matters [APP-056].</p>
1.13.40	Applicant	Where paragraph 21.5.16 of ES Chapter 21: Other Environmental Matters [APP-056] refers to that "all of these factors have been addressed in the ES and so there is no change to the scope of assessment as a result of comments made by the public", please explain in light of the concerns that continue to be raised by the public through the Relevant and WRs, in particular to the change to their local environment which might result from the Proposed Development?	<p>Health and wellbeing impacts relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • visual amenity have been assessed in C6.2.8 ES Chapter 8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [EN010133/EX2/C6.2.8_A]; • mental wellbeing and impacts on use of recreational spaces and routes have been assessed in C6.2.18 ES Chapter 18 Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053]; • impacts from electromagnetic radiation were scoped out of the ES but are summarised at Section 21.2 of C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21 Other Environmental Matters [APP-056]; • noise impacts have been assessed in C6.2.15 ES Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration [APP-050]; and • construction dust impacts have been assessed in C6.2.17 ES Chapter 17 Air Quality [APP-052]. <p>Matters raised in Relevant Representations concerning health and wellbeing have been addressed as required in C8.1.2 The Applicant's Responses to Relevant Representations [REP-</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			049], C8.1.10 Applicants Responses to Procedural Deadline A and Additional Submissions [REP-056], and C8.1.17 Applicants Responses to Written Representations and Other Submissions [EN010133/EX2/C8.1.17] and wherein comments and relevant responses fall under the remit of Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation, or Other Environmental Matters.
Major Accidents and Disasters			
1.13.41	Applicant	<p>Paragraph 1.1.7 of the Outline Battery Storage Safety Management Plan [APP-348] states that the LeBlock modular battery system by LeClanché has been used for assessment. Please provide the following information for this battery type:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • detailed Specification, Testing and Certification; • metal content in the batteries, type of wafer insulation and testing conditions, Manufacturers Warranties, specific failure rates; and • the lifecycle of battery, how often it would need to be changed and the associated procedure for this. 	<p>The Applicant has revised both the Outline Battery Storage Safety Management Plan (OBSSMP) [C7.9_A] and ES Appendix 17.4 BESS Fire Technical note [C8.4.17.2_A], and these documents have been submitted at Deadline 2. The generic system used for indicative planning purposes is a 750 KWh BESS "cabinet" system integrating two battery racks, this is a designation used by several BESS Original Equipment Manufacturers.</p> <p>The BESS design, technology and system chemistry type is still to be determined, but it will be a lithium-ion battery system. The popular types of this chemistry for BESS systems within the lithium-ion family are Lithium Nickel Manganese Cobalt Oxide (LiNiMnCoO₂) known as "NMC" or Lithium Iron Phosphate (LiFePO₄) known as "LFP". The final battery chemistry will be confirmed as part of the detailed design prior to the commencement of construction, as secured through Requirement 5 in schedule 2 to the DCO [EX2/C3.1_C].</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>For the purposes of the OBSSMP, a concept design has been considered that uses a BESS specification based upon several LFP BESS systems. This is considered to be a reasonable worst case for the purposes of the assessment in terms of BESS toxic gas emission potential (Hydrogen fluoride production) and explosion risk (significant levels of hydrogen produced during thermal runaway).</p> <p>At the detailed design stage the selected BESS system will be designed to address prevailing industry standards and good practice at a time of design and implementation. BESS system and components used to construct the facility will be certified to UL 9540 (2023) standards.</p> <p>As a minimum, the battery system will have completed unit or installation level UL 9540A testing, demonstrating that thermal runaway propagation will not spread between modules or between battery racks and the generation of explosive gases will not threaten container structural integrity. This offers a high level of protection against fire and explosion risk.</p>
1.13.42	Applicant	Why does Table 21.6.4 of ES Chapter 21: Other Environmental Matters [APP-056] not signpost the interruption to water supply and the location of the site within consultation zones of major accident sites and major accident hazard pipelines? These would appear relevant	<p>The Applicant is confident that considerations relating to impacts on water infrastructure and fuel and gas pipeline infrastructure are suitably covered under "Damage or severance of utilities" in Table 21.6.4 and paragraphs 21.6.52-53 of C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21: Other Environmental Matters [APP-056].</p> <p>Impacts on utilities were scoped out of assessment of the ES subject to the provision of suitable mitigation measures, as</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		considerations to major accidents and disasters effects.	<p>agreed in Section 3.24 of C6.3.2.2 ES Appendix 2.2 EIA Scoping Opinion [APP-064]. The required mitigation measures have been provided in C7.1_B Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan Revision B [EX2/C7.1_B] (as secured through Requirement 13 of Schedule 2 to C3.1_C Draft Development Consent Order Revision C [EX2/C3.1_C]. The location of these services and any likely interaction with these services are identified in C7.17_A Crossing Schedule Revision A [REP-041].</p> <p>Offsets for infrastructure on the Sites from pipelines are set out in C7.15_A Concept Design Parameters and Principles Revision A [REP-039]. This has been agreed through correspondence with the relevant utility operation and the Health and Safety Executive during EIA Scoping, and at Section 42 consultation.</p>
1.13.43	Applicant	Please clarify whether the identification and evaluation of likely significant effects for major accidents and disasters (paragraphs 21.6.37 to 21.6.55 of ES Chapter 21: Other Environmental Matters, APP-056) is assessing these effects solely with the embedded mitigation set out in paragraphs 21.6.34 to 21.6.36, or whether it is also considering additional mitigation (paragraphs 21.6.56 to 21.6.57).	The Applicant confirms that the identification and evaluation of likely significant effects for major accidents and disasters at para. 21.6.37-55 of C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21: Other Environmental Matters [APP-056] is assessed solely on the basis of the embedded mitigation. Residual effects accounting for further mitigation and cumulative effects is set out at para. 21.6.60, albeit identifying no further level of significance.

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
1.13.44	Applicant	With regard to paragraph 1.1.12 of the Outline Battery Storage Safety Management Plan [APP-348], please provide further information on how the BESS would deal with thermal runaway.	<p>The detailed design phase of the Scheme will consider the lifecycle of the battery system from installation to decommissioning. At the detailed design stage, risk assessment tools will be utilised together with detailed consequence modelling to provide a comprehensive site operations and emergency response safety audit.</p> <p>The battery system mitigation measures adopted in a final Battery Safety Management Plan, will reflect the latest BESS safety codes and standards applicable at that stage. Mitigation measures will be discussed and coordinated with Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS). Preparation and approval of the final Plan, substantially in accordance with the outline Plan is secured through requirement 6 in Schedule 2 to the draft DCO [EX2/C3.1_C].</p> <p>A Failure Modes and Effects Analysis (FMEA) of the BESS (BS EN IEC 60812) will be conducted to lay the foundation for predictive maintenance requirements and complement the fault indicator capabilities of the BMS data analytics system.</p> <p>Comprehensive Hazard Mitigation Analysis (HMA) will be conducted by a BESS specialist independent Fire Protection Engineer following NFPA 855 (2023) guidelines and recommendations.</p> <p>Additional risk assessments likely to be conducted at the detailed design stage are Fire Risk Analysis (FRA), Explosion Risk Analysis (ERA), Hazard and Operability Analysis (HAZOP). BESS 3rd Party risk analysis is sometimes automatically</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>provided by Tier one BESS manufacturers and / or BESS integrators.</p> <p>If the BESS system supplied differs from the specification considered for risk assessments and consequence modelling, then a full safety audit will be repeated for the new BESS system specification. These studies will be completed and signed off before construction commences.</p> <p>The BESS will be designed to address prevailing industry standards and good practice at a time of design and implementation. BESS system and components used to construct the facility will be certified to UL 9540 (2023) standards.</p> <p>As a minimum, the battery system will have completed unit or installation level UL 9540A testing, demonstrating that thermal runaway propagation will not spread between modules or between battery racks and the generation of explosive gases will not threaten container structural integrity. This offers a high level of protection against fire and explosion risk.</p> <p>NFPA 855 (2023) currently provides the most comprehensive guidelines for BESS design and site installation specifications. BESS design structural integrity will be demonstrated through full-scale fire and explosion testing or by integrating NFPA 69 (explosion prevention) and NFPA 68 (Explosion protection through deflagration venting) features.</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>A BESS fire suppression system, if integrated by the BESS OEM, will conform to NFPA 855 (2023) guidelines, and the suppression system should be tested to UL 9540A latest standard or significant scale 3rd Party fire and explosion testing. If a BESS enclosure is a container design (20 ft, 40 ft, 53 ft), a fire suppression system will probably need to be integrated. If the BESS enclosure is a walk-in design, a fire suppression system must be installed. As best practice, fire suppression system performance should be benchmarked against free burn testing and a minimum of three suppression tests should be conducted. An independent Fire Protection Engineer specialising in BESS should review all UL 9540A test results and any additional fire and explosion test data which has been provided and validate the suppression system design.</p> <p>NFPA 855 (2023) confirms water is the most effective battery fire suppression agent and, therefore if a BESS Fire Suppression System (FSS) is integrated, a water-based system will be considered for each BESS enclosure designed to control or fully suppress a fire without the intervention of the Fire and Rescue Service. The suppression system must be capable of operating effectively in conjunction with a gas exhaust/ventilation system to minimise deflagration risks. System design and water supply requirements must be fully agreed with the Fire and Rescue Service.</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			The BESS enclosure will be designed to withstand overpressures generated by the battery system during thermal runaway. An explosion prevention system to NFPA 69 standards and / or explosion protection system to NFPA 68 and EN 14797 standards will be integrated. Further, the BESS enclosure will have completed UL 9540A unit and / or installation testing or large-scale 3rd Party Fire and Explosion testing without pressure waves occurring or shrapnel being ejected. An independent Fire Protection Engineer specialising in BESS will review all UL 9540A test results and any additional fire and explosion test data which has been provided.
1.13.45	Applicant	Please explain where paragraph 21.6.59 of ES Chapter 21: Other Environmental Matters [APP-056] states that as regards cumulative effects and major accidents and disasters these schemes have been considered within this ES chapter in determining whether there would be significant effects from major accidents and disasters.	The Applicant clarifies that the intention of this statement was to demonstrate that the potential cumulative schemes identified within C6.3.2.3 ES Appendix 2.3 Cumulative Assessment Sites [APP-064] have been considered in respect of each of the major accident and disaster receptors identified in para. 21.6.37-55 of C6.2.21 ES Chapter 21: Other Environmental Matters [APP-056]. In doing so, it was determined that there were no significant cumulative impacts.
1.13.46	Applicant/ Lincolnshire County Council	Does the recent addition to the PPG: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy concerning battery energy storage systems have a bearing on this case, including the role of the Fire and Rescue Service?	The PPG guidance requires NFCC guidelines to be followed. These have been considered within the updated Outline Battery Safety Management Plan [C8.4.17.2] Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue will be fully consulted throughout post planning, consent, construction and decommissioning, in line with NFCC guidance.

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
1.13.47	Applicant/ Environment Agency	Will an Environmental Permit be required for any aspect of the battery energy storage systems?	There is at present no requirement for an Environmental Permit (Industrial Installation Permit) for the BESS.
1.13.50	Applicant	What engagement is the Applicant proposing with the Fire and Rescue service during the construction, operational and decommissioning stages in relation to the battery storage?	<p>The Applicant has engaged with Lincolnshire FRS (LFRS) as set out within Section 3 of the Outline Battery Safety Management Plan [C8.4.17.2] throughout the development of the Scheme and will continue to do so throughout the full life cycle.</p> <p>Specifically, the Applicant will work closely with LFRS to provide all necessary information regarding the installation of the Scheme, including site design features, to facilitate hazard and risk analysis studies. The Applicant will also assist in developing comprehensive Risk Management (RM) and Emergency Response Plans (ERP).</p> <p>Preliminary site designs will be shared with the LFRS for feedback during consultation. Any recommendations will be considered and incorporated into the proposed scheme's concept design, which will be submitted for planning consent.</p> <p>Throughout the submission, post-consent and detailed design stages, consultation with LFRS will continue to ensure all key stakeholders are satisfied with agreed mitigation and safety requirements prior to construction.</p> <p>During the detailed design stage, information about the BESS will be provided as early as possible to LFRS. This will allow for an initial assessment of the BESS, along with appropriate</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>evidence to support any claims made on its performance, and with the necessary installation standards cited. LFRS will be provided with this information.</p> <p>Such information should also be made available to FRSs for inclusion in their Site-Specific Risk Information (SSRI) records (in most cases there is a lead designated FRS station for incident response). UK legislation sets the requirement for site-specific assessment. Collating and disseminating SSRI involves several FRS tasks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Selecting premises to be inspected. 2. Assessing the nature and magnitude of the risk. 3. Considering a proportionate response. 4. Recording significant findings. 5. Making sure information is available in a usable form. 6. A site-specific assessment takes account of current legislation on inspection information and includes information on pre planning firefighting tactics. <p>A fire water management plan will include the containment, monitoring, and disposal of contaminated fire water. Infrastructure shall be provided for the containment and management of contaminated fire water runoff from the BESS. This can include bunding, sumps, and purpose-built impervious retention facilities. All process water used in the</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<p>system shall be prevented from contaminating potable water sources in accordance with local regulations through the use of check valves or other means as part of the system design.</p> <p>LFRS will be consulted to determine the location, volume storage, and flowrate of firewater.</p> <p>The Applicant will work with LFRS throughout the post-consenting detailed design stage. Preparation and approval of the final Battery Storage Safety Management Plan, substantially in accordance with the C7.9 Outline Battery Storage Safety Management Plan [APP-348], is secured through Requirement 6 in Schedule 2 to the draft DCO [EX2/C3.1_C]. Discussions have commenced with Lincolnshire County Council regarding how to secure a contribution by the Applicant to funding LFRS's involvement with battery safety management.</p>
1.13.51	Applicant	Applicant: Revised ES Chapter 4: Scheme Description [REP-012]], paragraph 4.5.55 refers Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) during construction. However, no emergency spill management plan has been submitted with the application. Can the Applicant explain how any accidental spills from HDD will be managed and where this is secured through the revised dDCO [REP-006]?	<p>Accidental spills are not something that happens often.</p> <p>All drills are meticulously planned on a site-specific basis.</p> <p>Prior to any HDD activities site specific surveys are undertaken, in general :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utility search • Land registry search • Topographical survey • Borehole survey • Bathymetric survey

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBR survey <p>On completion of these surveys a proposed design is then constructed. The design will also consider the launch and receive pit geographical area with any constraints if required as well as the trajectory of the drill. The design will also support the drill tool (head) to be achieved and the additives required for the proposed drill.</p> <p>The Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [APP-337] (OCEMP) has been updated for Deadline 2 to include information on how any accidental spills resulting from HDD activities will be managed: please see Table 3.11. Production of the final CEMP, substantially in accordance with the OCEMP, is secured through Requirement 13 of Schedule 2 to the DCO [EX2/C3.1_C].</p>

14 Compulsory Acquisition and related matters

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
1.14.1	Applicant	There are a number of plots identified in the BoR [REP-008] for which the owners are not known. Please provide an update on efforts to establish these owners/interests and details on what further steps will be undertaken to	The Applicant can confirm that there are no plots where they have not been able to identify a reputed legal or beneficial interest in the land. There are a number of unregistered plots where the Applicant has identified the owner(s) or the reputed owner(s) through diligent inquiry. The Applicant conducted diligent inquiry as described in the C4.1_A Statement of Reasons Revision A [AS-014] and for plots where unknown interests had been identified during

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		identify these owners prior to the exercise of CA powers.	Section 42 Consultation and at Section 56 Notification stage, site notices were erected and maintained. The Applicant will continue to undertake enquiries, including through contact with adjoining owners and their agents, and will continue to maintain the C4.3_B Book of Reference (submitted at Deadline 2) through Examination should any parties make themselves known.
1.14.2	Applicant	Please provide an update on discussions with Network Rail and identify any likely obstacles to reaching an agreement before the close of the Examination.	The Applicant has passed the property and technical clearance processes required by Network Rail and has agreed Heads of Terms for where the Grid Connection passes across Network Rail land. Part 10 of Schedule 16 to the draft Development Consent Order [REP-006; REP-007] provides protective provisions for the benefit of railway interests that will ensure that Network Rail's interests are protected in the event an agreement is not entered into. However, no obstacles are anticipated and the Applicant is confident that it will be able to reach agreement with Network Rail before Examination close.
1.14.4	Applicant	Annex C of the CA Guidance related to procedures for the compulsory acquisition of land indicates (at paragraph 4) that where it is necessary for the Land Plan to have more than one sheet, appropriate refer-ences must be made to each of them in the text of the draft order so that there is	<p>Within the draft DCO, wherever reference is made to specific plots of land, this reference includes the relevant sheet number.</p> <p>The land referencing is formatted as: [sheet number]-[plot number].</p> <p>As such, the reference "17-333" refers to sheet 17, and plot number 333.</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		no doubt that they are all related to the order. Please signpost where these can be found or include appropriate references in sub-sequent versions of the dDCO.	
1.14.5	Applicant	Paragraph 5.4.2 of the SoR [AS-013] explains that the exact location of the cable circuits within the cable route corridor cannot yet be confirmed and, as a result, CA powers are being sought over the whole of the Cable Route Corridor. Please can the Applicant explain how this approach accords with the need for the SoS to be satisfied that the Applicant is seeking no more land than is reasonably required for the purposes of the development.	Please refer to the Applicant's response to 1.1.12. It is necessary for the power to be granted over the whole of the cable corridor to reflect that the cable will be micro sited within the corridor at the detailed design stage. The power to temporarily possess the land for construction purposes ensures that the compulsory acquisition of permanent rights is restricted to the minimum land actually required for the grid connection cables.
1.14.6	Applicant	The funding statement [APP-019] identifies the cost estimate for the scheme as £850 - £900 million which includes the compensation payable in respect of CA. Please provide a figure for the estimated compensation payable in respect of CA, including	The property advisors to the Applicant, Dalcour Maclaren, calculated a property cost estimate which valued the compensation payable at £63.136m. The property cost estimate assessed the following claim items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition of freehold land and land rights (and imposition of restrictions) • Compensation arising from survey works and temporary works

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		<p>details of how this figure was arrived at.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injurious Affection and Severance • Blight • Loss of Development • Claims arising under Section 10 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 • Claims arising under Part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1973 • Claims arising under Section 152(3) of the Planning Act 2008 • Business Loss Claims • Third party Professional Fees <p>The relevant legislation covering the claim items listed above was also considered in this assessment including Compulsory Purchase Act 1965, Land Compensation Act 1961 and 1973 and the Planning Act 2008.</p>
1.14.7	Applicant	<p>The Applicant states in its Funding Statement [APP-019] that, in the event that consent was granted, it would seek further funding but that a final form of funding has not yet been identified. Furthermore, it states a final decision has not yet been taken on the type of finance that will be used.</p> <p>The CA Guidance makes clear that that the funding statement should include information on the degree to which</p>	<p>The undertaker, Cottam Solar Project Limited, is owned by Island Green Power (IGP). The undertaker and IGP are able to meet the estimated compulsory acquisition compensation, through capital provided by its investors Macquarie and Shell, or project financing, or a combination of both. The cost of capital and debt financing at the time of taking Final Investment Decision (FID) on the project, will influence the choice of funding available and deployed. The undertaker already has access to sufficient capital to meet the estimated liability and sees no impediment to procuring additional funds, should that be desirable, in due course.</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		<p>other bodies have agreed to make financial contributions to to underwrite the scheme. Furthermore, it advises that Applicants should demonstrate that adequate funding is likely to be available to enable CA within the statutory period following an order being made.</p> <p>While the ExA notes that the Applicant is confident that the scheme is commercially viable, in light of the limited information available in the funding statement how can the SoS be confident that sufficient funds would be available to meet all CA compensation obligations.</p>	
1.14.8	Applicant	Please can the Applicant confirm the status of the option agreement referred to in the BoR [REP-008] in relation to land owned by Tillside Limited.	The option was signed in 2021 with a previous landowner. During the time period leading up to the submission of the planning application for the Scheme, the ownership of much of the land at the Cottam 1 Site was being transferred. When the land was transferred to a new owner (Tillside Limited), the option agreement passed with it. The option was signed before the current owners acquired the land and the option remains binding upon them. No new option agreement is necessary.

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
1.14.9	Applicant	Please can the Applicant ensure that any changes to the BoR [REP-008] are, where necessary, carried through to the SoR [AS-013].	The Applicant notes this comment and will ensure that updates to the Book of Reference are carried through to the next version of the Statement of Reasons as appropriate.
1.14.10	Applicant	Please explain the references to 'temporary use of land' in the blue and pink land shown on the key to the Land plans. Similar references are made in the BoR [REP-008].	Article 29(1)(ii) provides the Applicant with the power to take temporary possession of any Order land, provided no notice of entry or declaration has been made in respect of that land. As explained in 1.1.12 above, this is to ensure that rights and land ownership is only interfered with permanently, through the use of compulsory acquisition powers, to the minimum extent necessary. As such, the Land Plans properly reflect the fact that the Applicant may take temporary possession in advance of using compulsory acquisition powers, and indeed this is to be preferred in many circumstances.
1.14.11	Applicant	The Applicant's Schedule of Progress on Objections and Agreements in relation to CA [REP-057] states that the Applicant does not consider it necessary to seek a voluntary agreement for a number of plots given the nature of the interest being sought. Please explain how this accords with paragraph 7.5.1 of the SoR [AS- 013] which states that the Applicant has considered all reasonable alternatives	<p>The plots to which the statement that it is not necessary to seek a voluntary agreement applies are those where the relevant land interest does not entitle them to prevent or restrict the works required for the Scheme. This relates to public highways where the relevant interest is a subsoil interest to the centre of the highway. However, as it is a public highway, the subsoil owner is not required to consent to works that are carried out under the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991.</p> <p>The Applicant confirms that, where a party has a land interest such that they would be entitled to obtain</p>

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Applicant's Response
		to CA, including amongst other things, voluntary agreements.	compensation were the land to be compulsorily acquired under the Scheme, that party has been approached with a view to entering into voluntary agreements.



Appendix A

CHURCH OF ST ANDREW

Official list entry

Heritage Category: **Listed Building**

Grade: **II***

List Entry Number: **1359847**

Date first listed: **16-Dec-1964**

List Entry Name: **CHURCH OF ST ANDREW**

Statutory Address 1: **CHURCH OF ST ANDREW, MAIN STREET**

This List entry helps identify the building designated at this address for its special architectural or historic interest.

Unless the List entry states otherwise, it includes both the structure itself and any object or structure fixed to it (whether inside or outside) as well as any object or structure within the curtilage of the building.

For these purposes, to be included within the curtilage of the building, the object or structure must have formed part of the land since before 1st July 1948.

[Understanding list entries](https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/understanding-list-entries/) (<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/understanding-list-entries/>)

[Corrections and minor amendments](https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/minor-amendments/) (<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/minor-amendments/>)

Location

Statutory Address: **CHURCH OF ST ANDREW, MAIN STREET**

The building or site itself may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County: **Lincolnshire**

District: **West Lindsey (District Authority)**

Parish: **Fillingham**

National Grid Reference: **SK 94801 85914**

Details

SK 98 NW FILLINGHAM MAIN STREET (North side) 4/21 Church of St. Andrew 16,12.64 G.V. II*

Parish church. c1180, mid C13, 1768, 1777, restored in 1866 possibly by Sir George Gilbert Scott. Coursed limestone rubble. Slate roofs. West tower, nave, rectangular chancel and north-west vestry. 3 stage west tower rebuilt in 1777 with plinth and pointed open archways to west, north and south, each with hood mould. Flat string course above with single large, plain blocked oculus on each side. Moulded cornice above and bell openings on all 4 sides, each a large pointed opening divided by 2 pointed lights. Plain parapet above. West doorway within tower, of c1180 with round roll moulded head with single columnar jambs, that to the left with waterleaf capital, to the right with plain battered capital, and plank doors. North-west corner of original nave visible between tower and north-west vestry, with flat string course. C19 north-west vestry with plinth, single stage buttress to south and pointed west doorway with chamfered surround, hood mould, label stops and plank door. Coped gable to north with steps down to coalhole and trefoiled opening to west, and pointed 2 light window with cusped oculus, hood mould and label stops. North wall of nave with three windows made up of mid C13 fragments re-set into wall. Each window of 2 lights, the pair to the west with taller light to right, the pair to the east with taller light to left. Central window of 2 equally paired lights. Moulded eaves above. Plain north chancel wall. East end of chancel with plinth and large pointed C19 window with 3 lights, reticulated tracery, hood mould and label stops. South side of chancel with plinth and small pointed doorway with chamfered surround and plank door. Nave with plinth with 3 pointed windows, each of 2 pointed lights with trefoil above and hood mould. Large mid C13 interior tower arch with double chamfered, pointed head, the outer order with broaches, hood mould and C19 foliate label stops. Slightly keeled responds with plain capitals, octagonal abaci and water holding bases. 3 mid C13 bays of north and south arcades partially visible in C18 walls. Pointed arches with hood moulds and heads in spandrels. 2 central octagonal piers visible on each side, while arches die away into wall to east and west. Mid C13 chancel arch with double chamfered, pointed head and responds possibly encased in masonry below. C20 flat ceiling to nave and wooden roof to chancel. 3 monuments on north wall of chancel, that to east in black, grey and white marble with urn and draperies, to Sir Cecil Wray, Bar't. of Summer

Castle, died 1805. In the centre a monument of grey and black marble with round arch with cable decoration supported on polygonal columns with 2 shields above, to Jane Sanderson, died 1603. To west, a black, white and grey marble monument with urn and draperies, to Dame Esther Wray, died 1823. Early C14 chest against east wall of chancel with intersecting arches, rosettes, whorls, etc. C19 lectern and pulpit, early C20 pews and altar rail. C13 octagonal font on C20 base.

Listing NGR: SK9480185914

Legacy

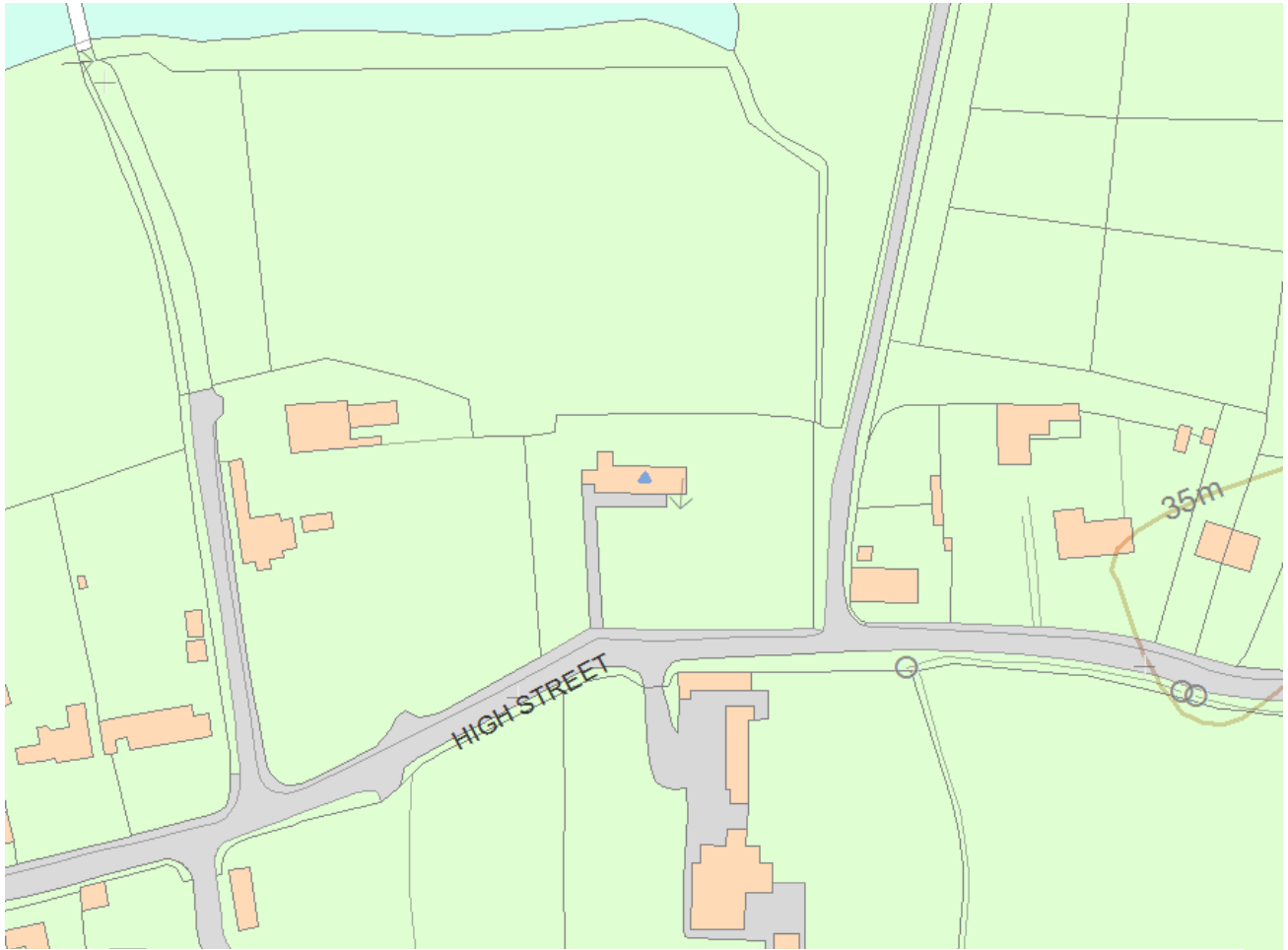
The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System number: **196712**

Legacy System: **LBS**

Legal

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CHURCH OF ST EDITH

Official list entry

Heritage Category: **Listed Building**

Grade: **I**

List Entry Number: **1146742**

Date first listed: **16-Dec-1964**

List Entry Name: **CHURCH OF ST EDITH**

Statutory Address 1: **CHURCH OF ST EDITH, COATES LANE**

This List entry helps identify the building designated at this address for its special architectural or historic interest.

Unless the List entry states otherwise, it includes both the structure itself and any object or structure fixed to it (whether inside or outside) as well as any object or structure within the curtilage of the building.

For these purposes, to be included within the curtilage of the building, the object or structure must have formed part of the land since before 1st July 1948.

[Understanding list entries \(https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/understanding-list-entries/\)](https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/understanding-list-entries/)

[Corrections and minor amendments \(https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/minor-amendments/\)](https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/minor-amendments/)

Location

Statutory Address: **CHURCH OF ST EDITH, COATES LANE**

The building or site itself may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County: **Lincolnshire**

District: **West Lindsey (District Authority)**

Parish: **Stow**

National Grid Reference: **SK 90806 83096**

Details

SK 98 SW STOW COATES LANE (south side)

5/52 Church of 16.12.64 St. Edith

G.V. I

Church. Mid C12, early C13, C15, restored 1883-4 by J. L. Pearson. Coursed limestone rubble, limestone ashlar. Plain tiled roof with west bell turret with 2 barely pointed openings and flat head, timber framed east gable. West end with blocked C13 tower arch with chamfered jambs, abaci and pointed head. C19 rectangular window inserted, of 2 lights. Archway flanked by 3 stage pilaster buttresses. North side of nave with blocked C15 doorway with rectangular head and chamfered surround. Blocked narrow rectangular opening to east with rectangular C15 window beyond with 3 round headed lights and rectangular hood mould. C15 window to east with 4 centred head with 2 ornately cusped lights with hood mould. C15 window to east with shallow triangular head and 3 cusped, pointed lights. C12 round headed narrow light, re-opened in C19, beyond. East end with 2 C19 small round headed lights with timber frame tie-beams and studding embedded in gable above. South side with 2 rectangular C15 windows to east each with 2 pointed cusped lights with continuous central mullion flanked by 4 cusped mouchettes. Blocked doorway in between with rectangular head and chamfered surround. 2 tiny key-hole shaped openings lighting internal staircase to rood loft. C12 round headed doorway to west of 2 chamfered orders with round head with large, bold chip star decoration on outer order and hood mould. Plank doors. C13 interior tower arch with pointed head and chamfered abaci. To east of south doorway a round headed moulded aumbry. C15 tie beam roof over nave, C20 panelled ceiling over chancel. C12 round stone font on rectangular base. C17 box pew with ornate finials and panels decorated with lunettes and flower heads. Poor box attached. Charles I coat of arms. 7 C15 bench ends with poppyhead finials and elbow rests. Cmpulpit with panelled sides with rosettes, cusps and pointed tracery. C15 rood screen and loft. Central archway with hinged door. Rich blind traceried panels, with upper open traceried panels with flower heads. Rich band of fruit and foliage. Rood stair in

south wall with segmental head leading to loft with traceried coving, parapet and canted central projection for rood. Cusped tomb opening in north wall of nave. North wall of chancel with blocked, fragmentary C13 Easter Sepulchre with segmental arch and 2 small panels with 2 reliefs, one of the Resurrection the other, the winged lion of St. Matthew. Ashlar plaque inserted to left with brass monument inserted to Anthony Butler, died 1673. South wall with marble plaque with round headed brass to east, with Charles Butler, died 1602, and his wife flanking altar in prayer, with 3 coats of arms above and 5 sons and 3 daughters below, some holding skulls. To west, a limestone slab with brass of William Butler, his wife and infant daughter still in 'chrison robe', died 1509. Coats of arms above. Alabaster monument to west of Brian Cooke of Doncaster, died 1653. Central bust with high ruff, pleated sleeves and pointed beard. Plaque below and ornate pilastered crown with coat of arms and richly carved fruit and flowers. 2 small C15 stools. C15 chest with stylized foliage and panelled lid. Pre-reformation altar slab with consecration crosses on C20 oak frame. Fragment of glass in north-east window of nave with coat of arms and date of 1597. Other C16 fragments in south-east window of nave. Alabaster tomb slab in nave with illegible inscription. Only intact rood screen and loft in Lincolnshire. Quiney, pp. 247.

Listing NGR: SK9080683096

Legacy

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Legacy System number: **197099**

Legacy System: **LBS**

Legal

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CHURCH OF ST LAWRENCE

Official list entry

Heritage Category: **Listed Building**

Grade: **I**

List Entry Number: **1064162**

Date first listed: **15-Dec-1954**

List Entry Name: **CHURCH OF ST LAWRENCE**

Statutory Address 1: **CHURCH OF ST LAWRENCE, CHURCH LANE**

This List entry helps identify the building designated at this address for its special architectural or historic interest.

Unless the List entry states otherwise, it includes both the structure itself and any object or structure fixed to it (whether inside or outside) as well as any object or structure within the curtilage of the building.

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[Corrections and minor amendments](https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/minor-amendments/) (<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/minor-amendments/>)

Location

Statutory Address: **CHURCH OF ST LAWRENCE, CHURCH LANE**

The building or site itself may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County: **Lincolnshire**

District: **West Lindsey (District Authority)**

Parish: **Corringham**

National Grid Reference: **SK 87147 91657**

Details

SK 89 SE CORRINGHAM CHURCH LANE

9/10 Church of 15.12.64 St. Lawrence

G.V. I

Parish Church. C11, C12, C13, C14, C15, 1882 restoration by Bodley and Garner. Coursed limestone rubble, ashlar dressings, lead roofs. Western tower, nave with clerestorey north and south aisles, south porch, chancel, north transept, vestry. 3 stage plain unbuttressed square tower with offset to belfry stage. Basal plinth, lancet in ground floor to west, square headed window in first floor, and in belfry stage paired belfry lights under round arches with monolithic throughstones and midwall shafts having simple volute capitals. C19 embattled top with C15 water chutes. North aisle has a single restored lancet in the west wall. North wall of aisle has 2 C15 2 light windows with ogee heads, panel tracery and hood moulds. Near the west end is a blocked doorway with flat lintel. North clerestorey of 4 paired C15 trefoil ogee lights under square hood moulds under a plain parapet with 3 bold gargoyles above. North transept west wall has single C19 window. Transept north wall has stepped angle buttresses and a restored 3 light C14 debased curvilinear window with 3 trefoil lights surmounted by a trilobe set in a 2 centred arch with hood mould and human head label stops. To north transept east wall a single 3 light C15 window with cusped lights, embattled panel tracery, 3 centred low head with human head stops. 1882 vestry in angle between transept and chancel. East wall has a 3 light C19 window, chancel south wall has a C13 priest's door and 2 tall lancets, all with simple chamfered hood moulds. South aisle east wall has C19 3 light window and in the south wall are 3 C19 copies of 2 light C15 windows. The clerestorey matches that on the north. The aisle west wall has a single C13 lancet. The south porch dates from 1882 and is in C13 style with octagonal jambs to moulded 2 centred arch and 2 pierced side lights. The C19 inner doorway is in Norman style with nook shafts, 2 orders of dog tooth moulding and a moulded hood mould. Interior; the nave has a north arcade of 3 bays, the 2 westerly bays are late C12 with circular pillar and responds having stiff leaf volute capitals, square abaci and

double stepped chamfered orders with hood mould and beast and human head label stops. The easterly arch is early C13 with circular responds and double chamfered arch. The south arcade has 3 bays of C13 work, the westerly pair have octagonal pillar and responds, stiff leaf capitals and double chamfered arches with human head label stops. The easterly double chamfered arch has keeled responds and circular abaci. The eastern arches in both arcades are separated from the others by short sections of walling. In the south side of the southern pier the western jamb of an earlier window can be seen. The massive tower arch has plain reveals, chamfered impost, and 2 double orders of roll moulding, with a square section hood mould to its round head. Above is a blocked doorway with inserted quatrefoil. To the east of the south door is a holy water stoup and at the east end of the south aisle a C19 piscina. The C13 double chamfered arch dying to its reveals opens into the north transept, from which a C19 doorway opens into the vestry. To the north and south side of the chancel are single large late C13 double chamfered arches, that on the north having conceptual foliage on the capitals, both having octagonal responds. The north arch cuts through the site of an earlier C13 lancet. On this side is a late C13 doorway with hood mould and ammonite label stops with to the east a moulded segmental headed C14 Easter sepulchre with central, presumably repositioned, clerical head. There are 5 steps up to the altar, probably reflecting C14 ritual arrangement. Nave, north transept and chancel roofs are of tie beam construction from 1882 and are elaborately carved and painted. Some of the corbels are C15 work. Fittings; the carved screen base and misericord seats at the west end of the chancel date from C15 and the turned baluster altar rails are C18. The C13 font is a circular blank arcaded bowl resting on an octagonal base with detached round shafts decorated with conceptual foliage sprigs and heads. All other fittings, including candelabrum, rood, side screens, reredos and elaborately decorated organ are of the 1882 restoration. Monuments; in the chancel is a flat purbeck marble slab with a matrix for a C15 Lombardic inscription round the outer edge. In the north wall is a C17 brass to Clifford and an unusual painted metal panel dated 1631 with decorated borders and shield. A marble wall tablet in Greek taste to Sir John Beckett d.1847 is grouped with 3 other C19 Beckett memorials in the chancel.

Listing NGR: SK8715191661

Legacy

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Legacy System number: **196819**

Legacy System: **LBS**

Legal

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CHURCH OF ST MARY

Official list entry

Heritage Category: **Listed Building**

Grade: **I**

List Entry Number: **1146624**

Date first listed: **16-Dec-1964**

List Entry Name: **CHURCH OF ST MARY**

Statutory Address 1: **CHURCH OF ST MARY, CHURCH LANE**

This List entry helps identify the building designated at this address for its special architectural or historic interest.

Unless the List entry states otherwise, it includes both the structure itself and any object or structure fixed to it (whether inside or outside) as well as any object or structure within the curtilage of the building.

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Location

Statutory Address: **CHURCH OF ST MARY, CHURCH LANE**

The building or site itself may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County: **Lincolnshire**

District: **West Lindsey (District Authority)**

Parish: **Stow**

National Grid Reference: **SK 88190 81999**

Details

SK 88 SE STOW CHURCH LANE (north side)

4/48 Church of St.Mary 16.12.64 G.V. I

Parish church. c.1034-49, c.1090, c.1150, c.1170, C13, early C15, chancel restored 1850-2, remainder restored 1864-7 by J. L. Pearson on both occasions, 1983. Uncoursed and coursed limestone rubble, limestone ashlar, lead roofs with stone coped gables and cross finials of various designs. Some slate. Nave, north-west vestry, north stair turret, north and south transepts, crossing tower, rectangular chancel. Mid C12 nave with C12 and C19 west front with plinth and flanking pilaster buttresses. Steps lead up to partially restored central C12 doorway of 4 orders with inner rectangular jambs and 3 shafts on each side, the central shafts with chevron decoration. Scalloped cushion capitals with geometric decoration above and abaci. Round head with 2 chevroned inner orders, a roll moulded order and chevroned outer order. Plank doors. Early C15 pointed niche with cusping, to north. 2 pointed C19 lights above set in C19 rubble filling large C14 opening. C12 flat string course above and upper oculus. North side of nave with plinth and flat string course running over corner pilaster buttress. Round headed window to east immediately above string course with pilaster buttress just beyond. C20 lean-to vestry below string course to east, with 2 re-set windows to east, one with pointed, the other a round head, and coal-hole door below. North side of vestry with double glazed doors with 3 lights to east with pointed heads. Above vestry, C12 round headed window with C12 stair turret to east, removed in C19 from original position against the north-west jamb of interior crossing arch. Turret with C19 string course, quoins and pyramidal slate roof, and 4 Anglo Saxon round, and round headed lights re-set on north and west sides. North transept lower levels of c,1034-49, and upper levels of 1090. Stepped plinth. West side of north transept with tall, pointed mid C13 window of 2 pointed lights with quatrefoil above and hood mould. Slab quoins. North side with narrow window with massive through stone jambs and rectangular head. C12 oculus above. Coped gable with C19 cross finial with interlace decoration. East side with tall, pointed mid C13 window of 2 pointed lights with quatrefoil above and hood mould. In corner of chancel and transept projects corner of C11 chancel bonded into transept wall, with slab quoins. North side of later C12

chancel with clear masonry break from C11 work. Stepped plinth runs round chancel. 4 pilaster buttresses alternate with 2 tiers of 3 windows restored in C19. 3 lower windows with round heads and nook shafts. 3 upper, smaller round headed windows. Corbelled eaves and parapet above. East end of chancel with flanking pilaster buttresses. Wall and windows in between reconstructed in C19 with central pilaster running up to just below gable. Single round headed window on each side with chevroned heads, nook shafts and cushion capitals. Single smaller round headed windows flank pilaster above. Single oculi with cable decoration flank pilaster in gable. South side of chancel with 4 pilaster buttresses alternating with 2 tiers of 3 windows restored in C19. 3 lower windows with round chevroned heads and nook shafts. 3 upper, small round headed windows. Corbelled eaves and parapet above. In corner of chancel and transept projects corner of C11 chancel with slab quoins and bonded into transept wall and with clean masonry break from C12 chancel. Lower levels of south transept of c.1034-49, and upper levels of c.1090. Stepped plinth with square and chamfered profiles. Slab quoins on south-east and south-west corners. East side with small round headed opening with hood mould. Mid C13 window to south, of 2 lights with quatrefoil and hood mould. South side with narrow round headed light of c.1090 with hood mould with Jews' harp decoration. Tall early C13 window to west of 2 pointed lights with plate tracery quatrefoil and hood mould. C12 oculus above. West side of south transept with single small narrow C12 window with round head and hood mould with small monster head label stops. South side of nave with 3 pilaster buttresses, that to east masking join with C11 transept. Large mid C12 doorway partially restored in C19. 4 orders with inner rectangular jambs with moulded profile, and 3 shafts on each side, the 2 outer shafts on each side with chevron decoration. Scalloped cushion capitals with geometric patterning above, and scored abaci. Round head with 5 orders, the 2 inner orders with chevroned decoration, third order roll moulded, fourth order with complex chevron and outer order with double billet. Plank doors. C11 stone coffin against wall to east. String course runs above doorway with scallop decoration. 2 round headed windows above with pilaster buttress to west with another round headed window beyond. String course continues and runs over corner pilaster buttress. Early C15 crossing tower on C11 foundations. Single narrow rectangular lights flank steep pitched roofs rising against tower. C11 round light re-set in this position on north side. String course with bell openings on all 4 sides above. Each bell opening with pointed head with 3 pointed lights and vertical tracery above. Moulded eaves above with corner gargoyles and gargoyles in centre of each face. Battlements above with ornate corner pinnacles and standing figures of 4 Evangelists in centre of each face. Nave interior with pointed north doorway, plank doors and C17 lintel. Small pointed aumbry to east. Large crossing 35 foot square, masonry up to impost level of c.1034-49; heads of crossing arches and above of c.1090. Signs of fire damage on earlier masonry. 4 piers stand on massive plinths of one square and 4 chamfered stages. Each jamb decorated with single pilaster strip and half shafts with crude bases. Outer arches of crossing with round moulded heads, the outer order of western arch with Jews' harp decoration. Inner face of crossing with C12 pointed, moulded arches supported on C12 massive polygonal piers on tall, chamfered stepped plinths inserted into C11 corners of crossing. North transept with narrow west doorway of c.1034-49, leading into C20 vestry, with non-radial voussoirs, chamfered imposts and long and short quoins running through thickness of wall. To north of west window of north transept the remnant

of C11 window jamb with quoining exposed. East wall of north transept with ornate niche heavily restored in C19, containing remnant of early C13 wall painting of the murder of Thomas Becket, consisting of bishop's robes. To east of outer north transept arch rectangular opening inserted with steps leading to rood screen no longer extant. 2 corbel heads of musicians in north transept, and 2 smaller plain corbels. Floor paved with various C18 gravestones. South transept with 3 corbel heads, 2 wearing hats. Floor paved with various C18 gravestones. Chancel of c1170 heavily restored in C19. Quadrupartite rib vaults of 3 bays with chevroned ribs and ball flower decoration rebuilt in C19. Vaults supported on corbel heads to west and tripartite responds to east with scalloped or beaded cushion capitals, decorated bases and abaci running into string course on wall. Wall arcade runs round north, east and south walls with plain shafts mostly replaced in C19, round heads with rich chevron and ball flower decoration and cushion capitals with various decorations. Windows above with surrounds decorated with chevron and key pattern. East end rebuilt in C19 with scalloped string course above wall arcade and another above lower windows which continues over north and south walls. Upper windows plain except for south east window with nook shafts and roll moulded head. Nave with C17 tie beam roof inscribed 1685. Monument on south wall of nave to Thomas Holbeach, died 1591, of stone with coat of arms and scrolls. C17 polygonal pulpit with decorative panels restored in 1877. 6 pews with C14 bench ends with cusped tracery and flower heads. C15 octagonal stone font, each side with single motif; a green man; serpent; star of David and flower heads. Bowl supported on cluster of shafts with foliate capitals and face and foliate motif in north-east and south-east corners, and long tailed dragon stretching between north-west and south-west corners. 2 C16 chests in nave. Ornate C16 chest in north transept and fragment of base of small shaft. C14 lectern in south transept with cusped tracery, flower heads and ornate finials. Highly ornate C17 chair with arms and back decorated with daisy heads and swirling leaves. C14 fragmentary tombstone with ornate cross inscribed and other ornate fragments. Monument on north-east pier of crossing of metal, to Richard Burgh, died c1616. 2 coffin lids in chancel floor, probably C13, both with faces and hands clasped in prayer viewed through round openings. That on south side with inscription: "Alle men that ben in lif, prai for Emme was Fuk wif." Dating of earlier campaigns controversial. One of major examples of Anglo Saxon architecture in the country. Sources: E. Fernie. *The Architecture of the Anglo-Saxons*. 1983, pp.124-127; G. Atkinson. *Associated Architectural Societies, Reports and Papers, I, 1850-1*, pp.319-25; H. M. Taylor. *Architectural Journal* 131, 1974, pp.362-6; M. Spurrell. *St. Mary's, Stow in Lindsey*. 1982. Quiney pp.40, 274-5.

Listing NGR: SK8819481998

Legacy

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System number: **197095**

Legacy System: LBS

Sources

Books and journals

Ferne, E , The Architecture of the Anglo Saxons, (1983), 124-127

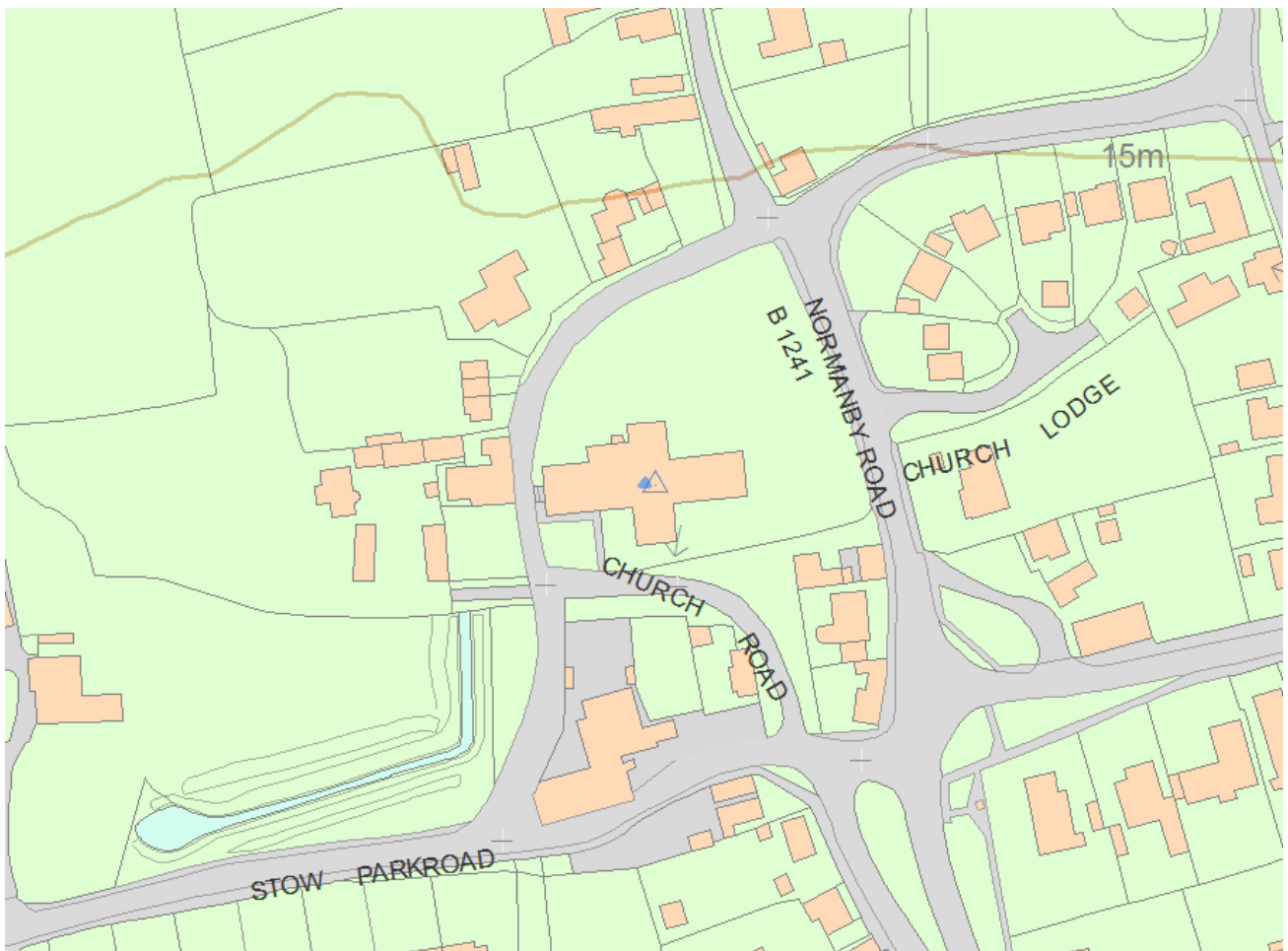
Spurrell, M, St Mary's Stow in Lindsey, (1982)

'Architectural Journal' in Architectural Journal, , Vol. 131, (1974), 362-366

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Legal

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Coates medieval settlement and moated site

Official list entry

Heritage Category: **Scheduled Monument**

List Entry Number: **1016979**

Date first listed: **24-Nov-1999**

Location

The building or site itself may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County: **Lincolnshire**

District: **West Lindsey (District Authority)**

Parish: **Stow**

National Grid Reference: **SK 90788 83064, SK 91165 83407**

Reasons for Designation

Medieval rural settlements in England were marked by great regional diversity in form, size and type, and the protection of their archaeological remains needs to take these differences into account. To do this, England has been divided into three broad Provinces on the basis of each area's distinctive mixture of nucleated and dispersed settlements. These can be further divided into sub-Provinces and local regions, possessing characteristics which have gradually evolved during the last 1500 years or more. This monument lies in the Trent sub-Province of the Central Province, where the broad Trent valley swings in a great arc across midland England. Underlain by heavy clays, it is given variety by superficial glacial and alluvial deposits. Although treated as a single sub-Province, it

has many subtle variations. Generally, it is characterised by a great number of villages and hamlets which cluster thickly along scarp-foot and scarp-tail zones, locations suitable for exploiting the contrasting terrains.

Throughout the sub-Province there are very low and extremely low densities of dispersed farmsteads, some of which are ancient, but most of which are 18th-century and later movement of farms out of earlier villages.

Medieval villages were organised agricultural communities, sited at the centre of a parish or township, that shared resources such as arable land, meadow and woodland. Village plans varied enormously, but when they survive as earthworks their most distinguishing features include roads and minor tracks, platforms on which stood houses and other buildings such as barns, enclosed crofts and small enclosed paddocks. They frequently included the parish church within their boundaries, and as part of the manorial system most villages included one or more manorial centres which may also survive as visible remains as well as below ground deposits.

Villages were the most distinctive aspect of medieval life in central England, and their archaeological remains are one of the most important sources of understanding about rural life in the five or more centuries following the Norman Conquest. Medieval settlements were supported by a communal system of agriculture based on large, unenclosed open arable fields. These large fields were subdivided into strips (known as lands) which were allocated to individual tenants. The cultivation of these strips with heavy ploughs pulled by oxen-teams produced long, wide ridges, and the resultant 'ridge and furrow' where it survives is the most obvious physical indication of the open field system. Individual strips or lands were laid out in groups known as furlongs, which were in turn grouped into large open fields. Well-preserved ridge and furrow, especially in its original context adjacent to settlement earthworks, is both an important source of information about medieval agrarian life and a distinctive contribution to the character of the historic landscape. The medieval settlement of Coates, and the remains of its open field system, survive well as a series of substantial earthworks with associated buried deposits. As a result of detailed archaeological survey and historical research they are quite well understood. The remains of house plots and hollow ways will preserve valuable evidence for domestic and economic activity on the site giving an insight into the lifestyle of the inhabitants. The remains of the moated manorial complex, which are thought to overlie those of the earlier settlement, contribute to our understanding of the way in which monastic property was managed in relation to secular settlement. The association of the village remains with those of its open fields preserves further evidence for the economy of the settlement and its place in the wider medieval landscape.

Details

The monument includes the earthwork remains of the medieval village of Coates. Recorded in the late 11th century as a small settlement of about six households, by the early 14th century it had more than doubled in size. In the late 12th century the church and land at Coates were given to Welbeck Abbey in Nottinghamshire, who may have established a grange here. The village was depopulated by the Black Death in the mid-14th century, and thereafter there were no more than about ten households in the parish, some of which lay outside the village. The

remains of the medieval village, together with the surviving parts of its open fields, are in two separate areas of protection. The western area of protection is situated adjacent to St Edith's churchyard. Approximately 30m to the west of the church is the northern end of a water-filled depression, 'L'-shaped in plan and orientated north-south. The depression is up to 15m wide and over 1.5m deep. On the eastern side of the western arm is a broad internal bank with the remains of an external bank on the western side. Further remains of the western arm are evident as a shallow depression, partly infilled, extending northwards to the edge of the present road. The area thus enclosed is raised approximately 1m above the level of the adjacent fields and includes low earthworks indicating the presence of buried archaeological deposits. These features represent the remains of a moated manorial complex, possibly a grange of Welbeck Abbey established in the late 12th century. The moated complex, which formerly extended over the area now occupied by Coates Hall and Hall Farm, is believed to have been constructed on the site of the earlier medieval settlement at Coates. The Church of St Edith, the earliest known parts of which date from the late 12th century, was thus enclosed within the complex. While the larger part of the complex has been greatly altered by post-medieval and modern activity, and is therefore not included in the scheduling, the buried remains of the south western part of the complex, and of the settlement which preceded it, are believed to survive to the south and west of the church. The church, which is a Grade I Listed Building, and the churchyard in which it stands, are still in ecclesiastical use and are not included in the scheduling. The main area of medieval settlement remains is located east of the moated complex on the north side of the present road to Grange Farm. They take the form of a series of substantial earthworks and associated buried remains, including a linear hollow way about 0.7m in depth and aligned approximately east-west, which represents the original road through the village. Rectangular ditched enclosures ranged along each side of the street represent house plots, within which are the earth-covered remains of houses and outbuildings, while sunken areas indicate yards and ponds. To the north of the northern range of house plots, and separated from them by a deep ditch, is a series of larger rectangular enclosures within which the low earthworks of ridge and furrow cultivation are evident; these represent paddocks laid out in the medieval period over earlier arable land. Adjacent to the east of these enclosures, immediately to the west of Grange Farm, further ridge and furrow cultivation remains represent the only surviving furlong of a formerly extensive pattern of open fields surrounding the medieval village. All fences and gates are excluded from the scheduling, although the ground beneath them is included.

MAP EXTRACT The site of the monument is shown on the attached map extract.

Legacy

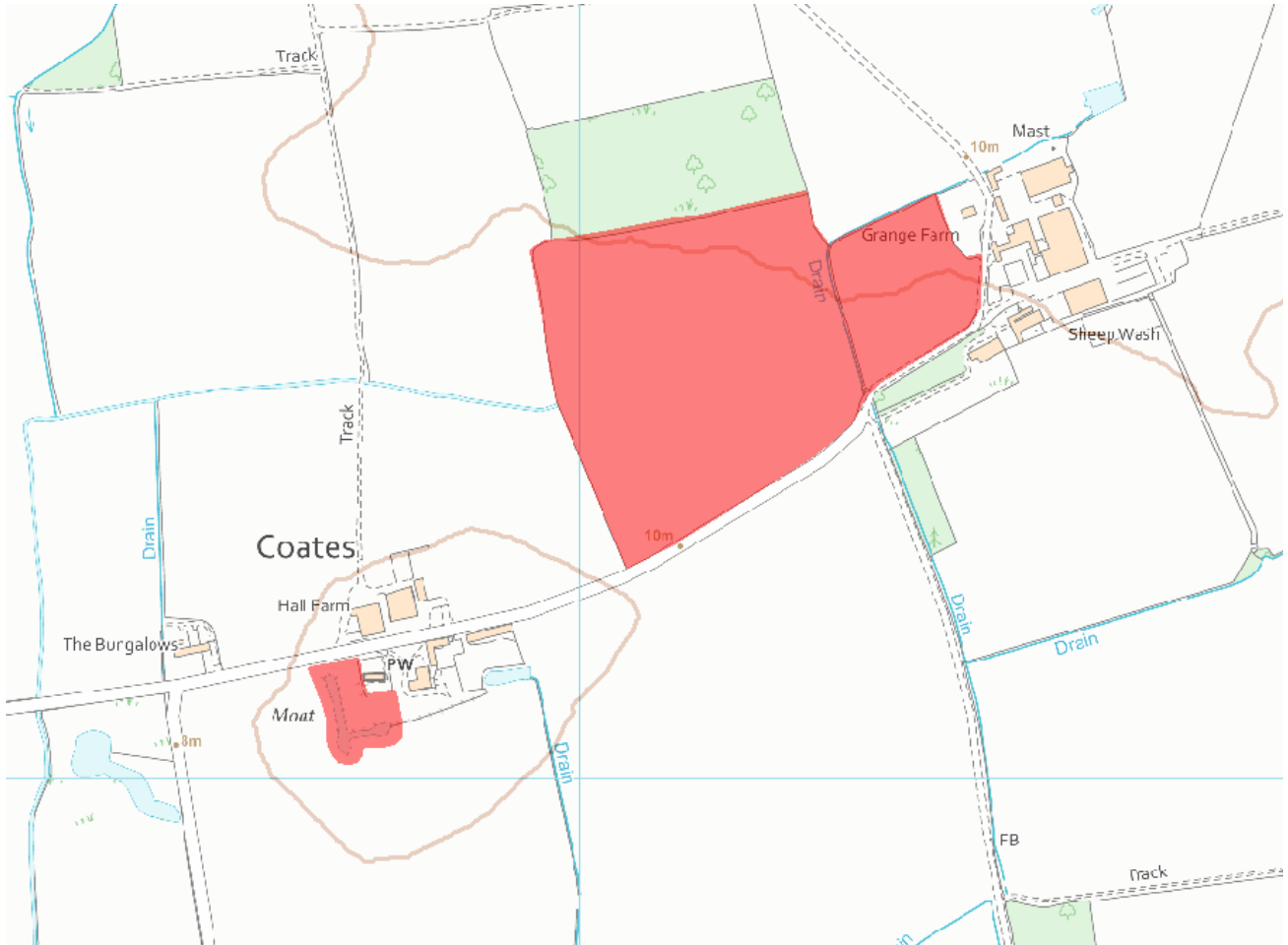
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Legacy System number: **22762**

Legacy System: **RSM**

Legal

This monument is scheduled under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 as amended as it appears to the Secretary of State to be of national importance. This entry is a copy, the original is held by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.



Map

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FILLINGHAM CASTLE

Official list entry

Heritage Category: **Park and Garden**

Grade: **II**

List Entry Number: **1000977**

Date first listed: **24-Jun-1985**

This list entry identifies a Park and/or Garden which is registered because of its special historic interest.

[Understanding registered parks and gardens](https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/what-is-designation/registered-parks-and-gardens/)

(<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/what-is-designation/registered-parks-and-gardens/>)

[Corrections and minor amendments](https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/minor-amendments/) (*<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/minor-amendments/>*)

Location

The building or site itself may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County: **Lincolnshire**

District: **West Lindsey (District Authority)**

Parish: **Fillingham**

County: **Lincolnshire**

District: **West Lindsey (District Authority)**

Parish: **Ingham**

National Grid Reference: **SK 95524 86606, SK 96194 86144, SK 96720 86588**

Details

Mid to late C18 park and woodland surrounding a mid C18 Gothic-style castle.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

Fillingham Castle was built between c 1760 and 1770, possibly by the architect John Carr of York, for Sir Cecil Wray. To accompany the house, which was constructed on a virgin site, a park was laid out and a kitchen garden built. Towards the end of the C18 or early in the C19 Sir Cecil, or his son and heir, extended the Castle to the north and added a raised terrace all around it, thus converting the original ground floor into an extensive cellar. During this period the park was at its most extensive with a long avenue aligned on the east front and Gothic-style arches placed at the extremities of the park. Sometime in the C19 the Wray family died out and the property was inherited by the Daltons, who maintained estates elsewhere, and for most of their ownership they let Fillingham Castle to a series of tenants. By the end of the C19 most of the open areas of park had been ploughed, and by 1900 the house, although in the ownership of Seymour Berkeley Portman-Dalton, was empty. During the first half of the C20 the property was mostly left to decline. It was purchased by the Rose family in 1949 who undertook a major restoration project on the house, which was reduced in size. The surviving areas of park and woodland were rejuvenated and the walled garden replanted. The site remains (2001) in private ownership.

DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING Fillingham Castle occupies a rural setting c 10km to the north of Lincoln, on the west side of the A15 Ermine Street which forms part of the eastern boundary. The c 40ha site is bounded to the west by Middle Street, the B1398, and by farmland to the north, south, and much of the east, where only the east avenue extends as far as the A15. The site itself occupies level ground but the Castle is situated on a ridge. The ground falls away to the west, giving dramatic views over Fillingham Broad and the village of Fillingham, within which lies the church and the Manor House, both having been gothicised in the late C18 to embellish the view.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES The main approach to Fillingham Castle is from the B1398, c 250m to the south-

west of the Castle. Up until the beginning of the C20 a lodge and gates stood at this entrance but these were removed by 1909 (OS) and the approach is now (2001) marked by simple stone gate piers. The tarmac drive runs north-east through mixed woodland containing some mature lime, to emerge at the tarmac forecourt below the south front. The drive continues north along the base of the east terrace to the rear of the house and the stable block. On the eastern boundary of the park stands a gateway with attached lodges and walls (listed grade II*). Built of limestone ashlar, the archway is neo-Gothic in style and was probably erected by John Carr in c 1775. Flanking the lodges are low crenellated screen walls which extend for c 30m in each direction. A wide avenue of trees runs from the lodges to the east front. This was laid out in the C18 (Armstrong, 1779) and until the early C20 carried the east drive up to the Castle (OS 1909). During the C20 the drive was abandoned and the grass became the main area of grazed parkland.

PRINCIPAL BUILDING Fillingham Castle (listed grade I) is a Gothic-style country house built of limestone ashlar and coursed limestone rubble. It is constructed in three storeys, the lower storey having been concealed by the raised garden terrace added when the north wing was erected at the end of the C18. The central rectangular C18 core has four large corner turrets while the late C18/early C19 north wing addition has two storeys and five bays. The entrance door faces south, with garden fronts to the east and west. Fillingham Castle was built between c 1760 and 1770, possibly by John Carr (1723-1807), for Sir Cecil Wray.

The stable block (listed grade II) lies c 100m to the north-east of the Castle and was erected in the late C18. It consists of three two-storey ranges of coursed limestone rubble and is open to the south. Attached to the stables are outbuildings and a small stone cottage; these are used partly as stabling and partly for storage and parking.

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS The Castle is surrounded by a narrow raised terrace constructed with a stone rubble wall. It is laid to grass with borders against the house on the east, south, and west fronts while the north front leads onto a paved area.

Below the south terrace and beyond the tarmac forecourt is a large open lawn bordered to the east and west by plantations containing trees of mixed ages and species. The mature specimens are mainly oak, lime, and Wellingtonia. A C20 plantation enclosing the lawn to the south has recently (2000) been partly felled to reopen the view out over the south park.

Below the west terrace is a further large lawn, bordered to the north and south by plantations edged with mature limes. A late C20 swimming pool lies on the northern edge of the lawn, enclosed by conifer hedges.

PARK Fillingham Castle is set in the north-west corner of the park. Small woodlands surround the Castle, with Lady's Wood and Pale Wood to the north-west and north-east, and Fox Covert c 150m to the south-east. To the

east of the Castle the park extends for c 1.2km along the east avenue, originally a drive but now (2001) laid to grass. It is partly lined with mature oaks with sycamore and horse chestnut, planted in mixed species groups along its length as far as the east lodge gateway.

To the south of Fox Covert and the south lawn, open arable land extends as far as Hare's Wood on the southern boundary of the park. When it was laid out in the late C18 the park covered the whole of the area to the east of the south park as far as Ermine Street, and also extended slightly further north than it does now (Armstrong, 1779). The former boundaries to the north are still marked by ornamental archways facing Middle Street and Ermine Street respectively, now (2001) standing in arable land. The park had been reduced to its present size by 1909 (OS).

KITCHEN GARDEN The walled kitchen garden lies immediately to the north of the Castle, beyond the drying ground and is composed of two compartments, both of which date from the late C18 but with planting added since 1949. The southern compartment is enclosed by high red-brick walls and is entered through a gateway (late C18, listed grade II) from the north end of the west terrace. It is divided by a central path running north/south through the garden, the western half being laid out as a series of ornamental flower gardens while to the east of the path are lawns, orchard trees, and a hard tennis court. Beyond the north wall is a second, smaller compartment surrounded by rough stone and brick walls with a cottage attached to the north-east corner facing the farm buildings and barn (listed grade II) associated with the Castle Farm complex. This smaller compartment is used for vegetable production (2001).

REFERENCES

The Garden, 51 (1897), p 239 Kelly's Directory of Lincolnshire (1900) H Thorold and J Yates, Lincolnshire, A Shell Guide (1965), p 59 N Pevsner et al, The Buildings of England: Lincolnshire (2nd edn 1989), pp 276/7 H Thorold, Lincolnshire Houses (1999), pp 43?4

Maps Capt A Armstrong, Map of the County of Lincolnshire, 1779 (Lincolnshire Archives)

OS 1" to 1 mile: 1st edition published 1824 OS 6" to 1 mile: 2nd edition published 1907

Description written: June 2001 Register Inspector: EMP Edited: May 2002

Legacy

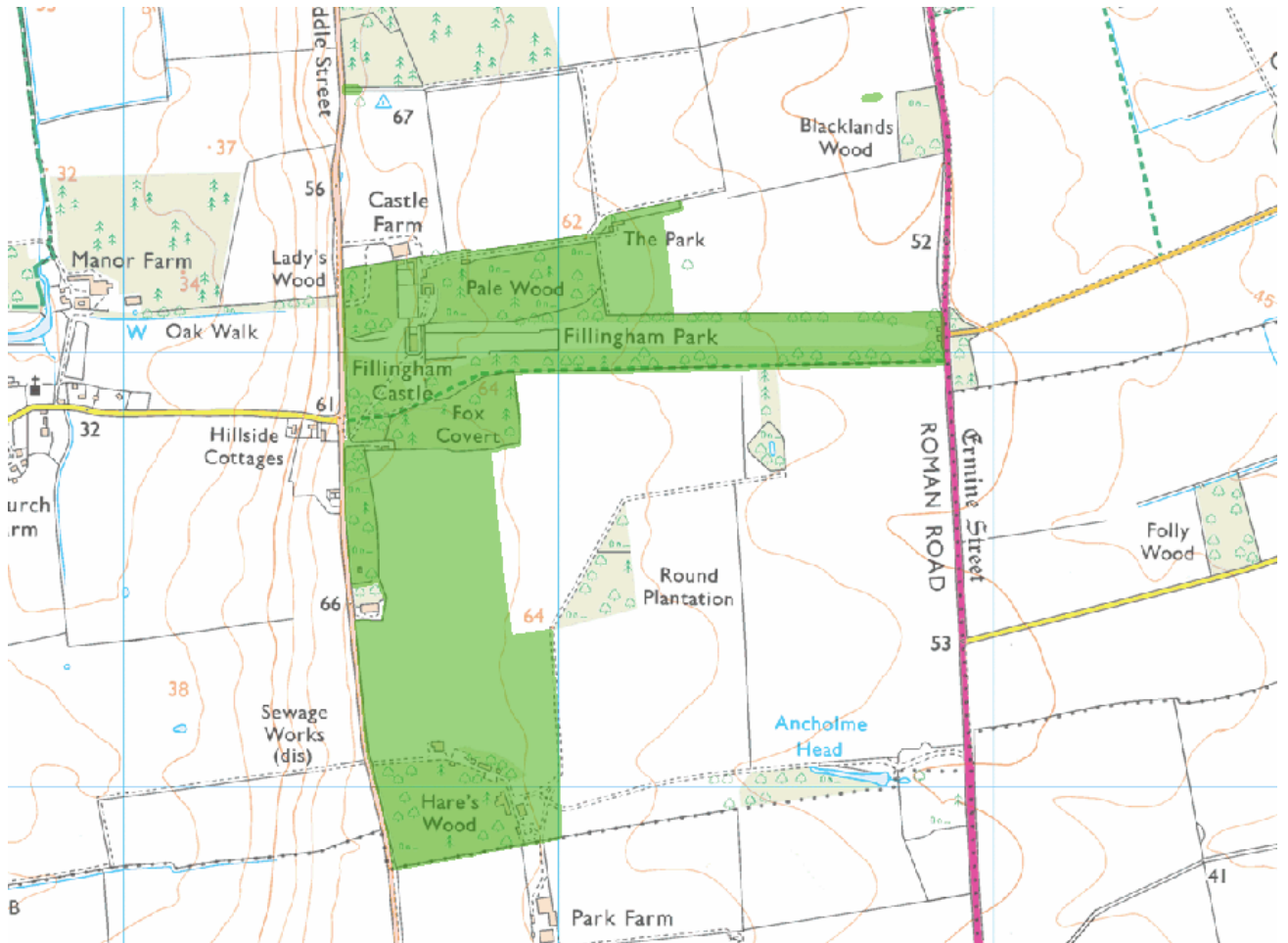
The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System number: 1975

Legacy System: Parks and Gardens

Legal

This garden or other land is registered under the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953 within the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens by Historic England for its special historic interest.



Map

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FILLINGHAM CASTLE

Official list entry

Heritage Category: **Listed Building**

Grade: **I**

List Entry Number: **1166045**

Date first listed: **25-Oct-1951**

List Entry Name: **FILLINGHAM CASTLE**

Statutory Address 1: **FILLINGHAM CASTLE, MIDDLE STREET**

This List entry helps identify the building designated at this address for its special architectural or historic interest.

Unless the List entry states otherwise, it includes both the structure itself and any object or structure fixed to it (whether inside or outside) as well as any object or structure within the curtilage of the building.

For these purposes, to be included within the curtilage of the building, the object or structure must have formed part of the land since before 1st July 1948.

[Understanding list entries \(https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/understanding-list-entries/\)](https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/understanding-list-entries/)

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Location

Statutory Address: **FILLINGHAM CASTLE, MIDDLE STREET**

The building or site itself may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County: **Lincolnshire**

District: **West Lindsey (District Authority)**

Parish: **Fillingham**

National Grid Reference: **SK 95661 86026**

Details

SK 98 NE FILLINGHAM MIDDLE STREET (East side)

5/28 Fillingham Castle 25.10.51 G.V. I

Country house. c.1770, late C18. Possibly by John Carr. Gothick. Limestone ashlar, coursed limestone rubble. Flat roof and 3 parallel slate roofs. 3 visible brick stacks; single stonestack below roof line. Rectangular C18 range with large corner turrets. Truncated C19 range to north. 2 storey, 5 bay front with plinth, projecting central bay and central doorway with bolection moulded stone doorcase with ogee head, traceried fanlight and deep-set partially glazed doors. Doorway flanked by single glazing bar sashes with 3 glazing bar sashes in each turret. Flat band above doorway rising to segmental arch at apex of doorway. First floor ashlar band above, running over flanking turrets. Large glazing bar sash above doorway, flanked by smaller glazing bar sashes with 3 glazing bar sashes and 3 blind oculi in each turret. Flat band above rising to gable above central bay. Battlements on turrets and main body of house. East front with rubble basement with traces of 4 blocked basement openings. Ashlar band above running over turrets at each end, 4 glazing bar sashes, with 3 glazing bar sashes in north-east turret. First floor ashlar-band above with 4 glazing bar sashes and 3 more glazing bar sashes above in turrets. Flat band and battlements above. All the windows in C18 range with elliptical heads and traceried upper sashes. Later C18 range to north with 5 bay east front. Plinth with 4 glazing bar sashes with large round headed glazing bar sash to right with traceried upper sash. First floor ashlar band with 4 glazing bar sashes above. Band rises in right hand bay to run under small fixed glazing bar window set in blind segmental opening. Flat band above rising to gable over right hand bay. Battlements above, those over right hand bay taller. Hall interior with fine Gothick traceried vaulted plaster ceiling. in the style of Adam, with large pointed arches divided into two lights, tripartite foliate motif, rosettes and bold corbelling on east and west walls. Fine late C18 staircase, single flight, reversed at later date. With bracketted tread ends, 2 very slender carved balusters with square knops to each tread, moulded handrail. Hall ceiling with delicate ornate cornice with modillions and rosettes. Fine cornices of various designs in ground floor drawing room, dining room, 3 lower turret rooms and 2 upper turret rooms. Turret rooms with

domed ceilings and ornate central paterae. Extensive cellars run under both ranges and beyond underneath part of C19 range demolished in C20. Cellars with doorways with elliptical and segmental heads, niches and blocked windows in turrets and main body of C18 house, revealing raising of ground level when terrace built around house. Source: Banks. Volume II, pages 65, 66.

Listing NGR: SK9566186026

Legacy

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System number: **196719**

Legacy System: **LBS**

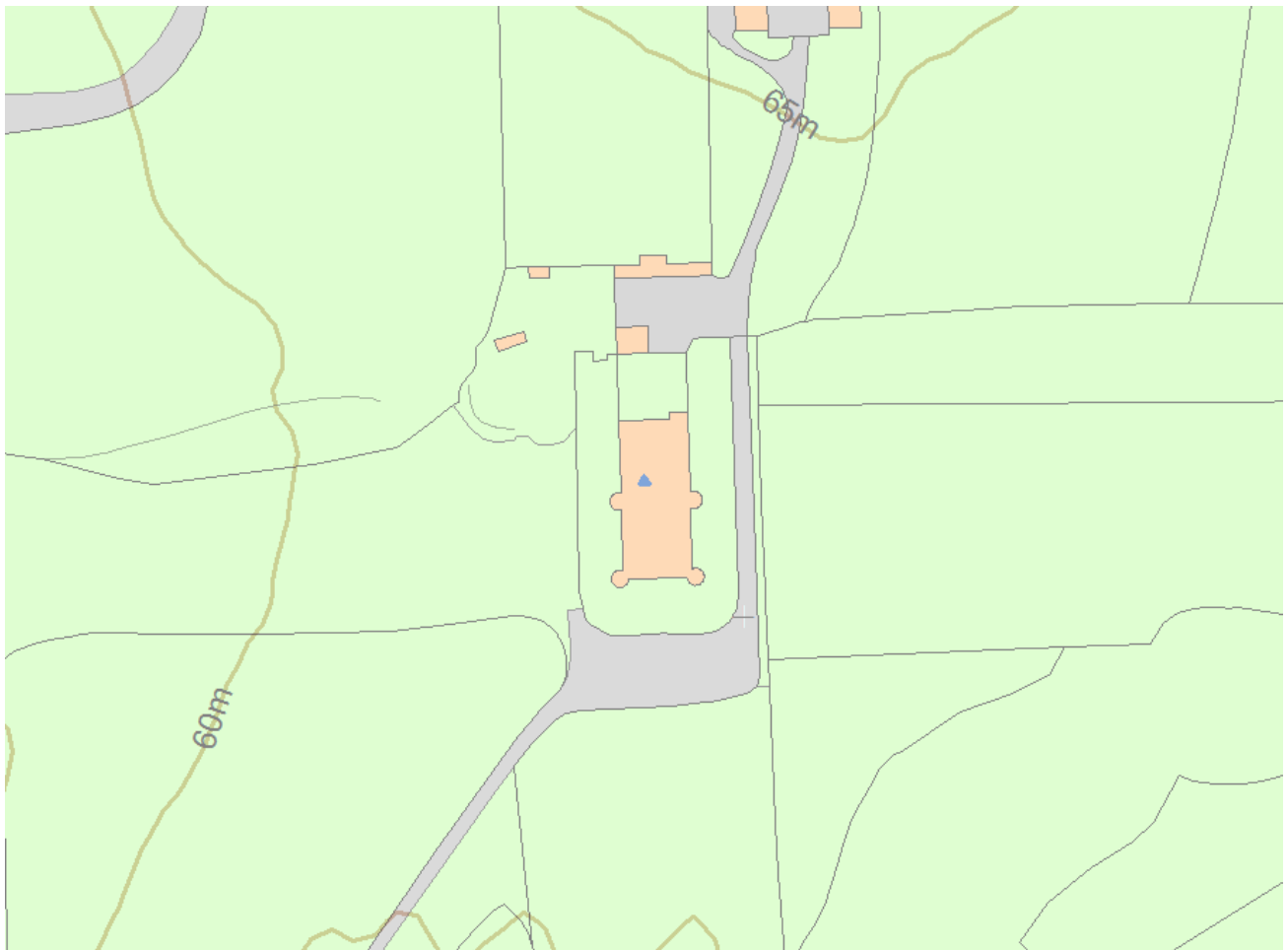
Sources

Other

Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England, Part 27 Lincolnshire,

Legal

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.



Map

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**Fillingham Conservation Area
Appraisal**



FILLINGHAM CONSERVATION AREA

A draft of this report was prepared in February 1993 for consultation purposes and was circulated for information and comment to local residents, and local and national organisations with conservation interests. The Conservation Area was designated in August 1993 and this document sets out the policy of the District Council for it.

WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 1993

ALAN CLAY MRTPI
DISTRICT PLANNER

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FILLINGHAM CONSERVATION AREA

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, states that every Local Planning Authority shall from time to time determine which parts of its area are areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance and shall designate those areas as Conservation Areas.
- 2 Following a detailed study of Fillingham West Lindsey District Council is of the opinion that a large part of the village warrants Conservation Area status due to its special character in terms of its history, architecture and environmental setting.

PURPOSE OF THE POLICY STATEMENT

- 3 It is a statutory duty of the Council to consider how to preserve and enhance its Conservation Areas as areas of architectural and historic interest. It is the advice of the Department of the Environment in Circular 8/87 that this should not mean only preservation to the exclusion of all change. Conservation must be as much concerned with enhancing areas and ensuring that changes are sympathetic to their surroundings as with retaining the exact appearance of the area.
- 4 The purpose of this policy document is to provide an overall view of the future of Fillingham Conservation Area, with particular reference to:-
 - A Guiding the design of development proposals and their siting and the determination of planning applications for development.
 - B Focusing upon the need for enhancement and promoting improvements which may take advantage of the funds available as set out in paragraphs 87, 88 and 89.
 - C Providing guidance to residents and owners in the maintenance, repair and upkeep of their properties.
- 5 Whilst this document provides guidelines for owners and applicants to follow when contemplating development, each planning application will be considered on its own merits.

PLANNING POLICIES

- 6 Fillingham, like other villages along the Lincolnshire Cliff edge is a small settlement and previous planning policies have sought to limit the extent of new housing to small scale residential development on a few sites within the confines of the village. The population of Fillingham over the last 100 years was at its greatest in 1891 when the National Census of Population recorded that 283 people lived in the Parish. By 1931 this figure had declined to 195 and remained about the same level for the next 30 years. In 1971 the total population was 162 having declined by 36 residents from the 1961 figure of 198. The 1981 census indicated that 174 people lived in Fillingham and the 1991 Census showed a decline to 151 residents, constituting 62 households. Between 1970-1979 7 dwellings were built

but no further dwellings were built until 1990. Between 1990-1991 16 dwellings were built and there are 9 commitments allocated in the Draft West Lindsey Local Plan.

- 7 The County Structure Plan alteration No 1 1991 makes provision for new residential development in and around most existing settlements. "The suitability of any proposal will be assessed in relation to its scale and impact on the character, density and physical extent of existing development. There will be a particular need to retain an appropriate level of open space within the settlement".
- 8 Present and future detailed development policies for the village are set out in policy documents available from the District Council. The West Lindsey Local Plan, which includes specific policies in relation to Conservation Areas, is likely to be approved in 1993, prior to its later adoption. Further details of Local Plan policies are available from the Planning Department.

HISTORY

- 9 Fillingham stands at the foot of the Lincolnshire Cliff limestone escarpment, being one of a number of small "spring-line" villages which face westwards, across the plain towards Gainsborough and the River Trent. The majority of Parishes in the area have two or three Roman sites within their boundaries and a Roman settlement existed in Fillingham, although it would have been given a different name at that time. In the Domesday book 1086-1087 Fillingham was described as "Figelingheam" which has been translated as 'The ham of Fyglas people'. Ham means homestead. Evidence has also been found which indicates early Saxon settlement, using the water which came from the springs for their own needs and for livestock. The Domesday book records land belonging to Roger of Poitou, Colsuain and Sortebrand. Evidence of Medieval burials has led some to the belief that Fillingham was once a Poly-focal village with possibly two Churches.
- 10 In 1361 John Wycliff became Rector of Fillingham. Known as "The Morning Star of the Reformation" he was the first man to translate the Bible into English. His teaching influenced John Huss who in his turn was an influence upon Martin Luther. In this way Wycliff helped bring about the Protestant Reformation. He became friends with John of Gaunt, third son to King Edward III and he died in 1384.
- 11 Set apart to the east and overlooking the village from the top of the cliff escarpment is Fillingham Castle, a Grade I Listed country house. It was built by Sir Cecil Wray in 1770 and may have been designed by John Carr. The house is set in an 18th landscaped park which is Listed grade II in the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens. The park stretches to Ermine Street, the A15 and within the park the River Ancholme rises, flowing to the east.
- 12 Fillingham Castle was constructed of limestone ashlar walls and slate roofs. Its distinctive corner turrets with battlements overlook the village from the hilltop and draw the eye. Its position is exposed by the break in the line of mature trees along Middle Street. From the Castle, the view overlooks the fields and lake below which covers something like 40 acres and provides a superb setting for the Manor House and a home for various species of wildlife.

- 13 The relationship of the Castle to the rest of the village is not only visual, but its historical associations are also important. Here have lived Sir Cecil Wray, the Portman-Dalton family and the Rose family, all who have had landed interests in the village itself and occupied a position of importance and standing. Sir Cecil Wray was a descendant of Sir Christopher Wray who was Lord Chief Justice of England under Queen Elizabeth I. A magnificent marble tomb is erected to his memory in Glentworth Church. There is also a memorial to Sir Cecil Wray and his wife in Fillingham Church. Sir Cecil died in 1805.
- 14 Featuring prominently in the history of Fillingham is the Dalton family. Mr John Dalton erected the school which was later enlarged in 1860. Of particular note is a monument to the memory of Thomas Norcliffe Dalton in the grounds of St Andrew's Church. He served with distinction in India with the 61st Regiment during the Punjab campaign of 1848 and 1849 and received a medal and two clasps. He was later killed in the Crimean War at Inkerman in 1854 while leading his men in a charge on the Russian position. One author wrote "Of such stuff are British soldiers made".
- 15 The present day pattern of settlement has evolved from linear development along the High Street to the south of Fillingham Lake. Hence the elongated form of the village. St Andrews Church built in the C12th provides a focal point to the east end of the main part of the village. Being an estate village, during the C19 labourers' cottages were built which abutted the High Street. Most of the later C20th buildings have been erected towards the west end of the village, providing a physical continuation between earlier buildings and those built at a later date. Thus, the present form of the village, although elongated on an east to west axis, is relatively compact.
- 16 The oldest buildings in Fillingham apart from the Church date back as far as the C16. The Manor House, a Grade II Listed Building, dates from the C16 and is situated 200 metres north east of the Church. Buildings of the C17 include 3 Chapel Lane, a Grade II Listed House which originally had a thatched roof and which terminates the view to the south end of Chapel Road. The Old Blacksmith's Cottage is attached to No 5 Chapel Lane and both are also dwellings of the C17. Buildings of the C18 include the Old Rectory opposite the Church, which is Grade II Listed and was later enlarged in 1853. Lake House is also of the same period and is a Grade II Listed Building. Buildings of the C19 include Nos 11 and 20 High Street, 7 and 9 High Street and Ainsworth House.
- 17 C20 development includes the Council houses along Willingham Road and the most recent houses built in the 1980s at Badgercote on Chapel Road. These are solid looking stone built houses with pantiled roofs finished to a high standard built of materials not out of place within the village.
- 18 Fillingham has evolved a blend of housing types of different time periods and status which incorporate local building materials and styles. The form of the village has developed over time, encompassing the main thoroughfare through Fillingham and some of its buildings are a result of estate ownership. All these factors have combined to provide a wealth of social and architectural history.

VILLAGE CHARACTER

- 19 There are a number of different features which make up the character of an area. Usually, these will involve a number of elements, most importantly buildings, and the spaces around them together with walls, hedges and trees.

BUILDINGS

- 20 Buildings which are considered to be important in conservation terms will usually, but not always, be old. That is, of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries or before. They will include all the buildings Listed as being of Architectural or Historic Interest, (Listed Buildings), in the area. Whatever its age, a building should exhibit a certain style. It should, even if it has been modernised, still appear to be an example of the style of building of its period.
- 21 The design of buildings change with time, with changes in building techniques, materials and fashions. Many old buildings were built to conserve heat, with small windows and thick walls, facing south to catch the sun. The safety of their structure also depended on making as few holes in a wall as practicable. Central heating and modern techniques have changed all this. Gardens were, for the most part, places to grow vegetables and keep domestic livestock, chickens and pigs, so the house would be built at one side of the garden often right up against the road to maximise land for the production of food. Privacy in the home was not so important as small windows gave little opportunity for passers-by to see in. Now the demand is primarily for large areas of glass to let light and sun in; for privacy the house now has to be set back in the garden, and the front at least becomes an ornamental landscaped setting.
- 22 In much of Lincolnshire this demand has been reflected in the modernisation of old cottages. Small to start with, they have often been extended, or two or three converted into one such as Nos 23 and 25 High Street, which was originally 3 cottages but is now one. Where they have been extended or altered they may have been rendered or painted in an attempt to hide a change in building material, such as the Old Chapel on Chapel Lane, or to make old brickwork more weatherproof. Examples are rare in Fillingham and this is to the advantage of the village appearance.
- 23 Such modernisation has resulted in the loss of certain traditional building features once common to the County, but in Fillingham the effects of this are rare. Many buildings still have their original features intact, such as the vertical sliding sash window with its attractive proportions within a building elevation. The far less common but close relation, the horizontal sliding sash, known as the "Yorkshire Light", is also to be found.
- 24 The design features of a building are important in providing character, but so too are the materials of construction. The majority of older buildings in Fillingham are constructed of stone with pantiled roofs. Welsh slate has been used to roof some buildings of importance, but the majority are pantiled. Concrete roof tiles are also to be seen but the most recent buildings have reverted to using stone and pantiles for materials. This has enhanced the western part of the village where new buildings constructed of these traditional

materials successfully blend with their older counterparts. Red brick buildings are also seen in the village, the oldest being that attached to the stone house at Nos 7 and 9 High Street. This has a dog tooth dentillated eaves course making it even more distinctive. Red brick has been used on later C20 buildings within the village, but limestone is the predominant material, in particular for the older buildings, together with many of the walls flanking roads and gardens.

- 25 More recent buildings have been added to the village using contemporary materials. Yellow and brown bricks reflect well the more traditional stone and brown concrete tiles have been used instead of slate or pantiles. There has been however, a return to the use of traditional materials on the most recently built houses.

SPACES

- 26 Spaces, that is the open areas between buildings, are very important in determining the character of an area. Spaces are not only defined by buildings, but also by the shape of the ground and by features such as walls, hedges and trees, the latter individually, in groups and in woodland. Stone walls are a feature of this village, and help define spaces, those which should be retained are identified on Map 1. There is a need for an appropriate level of open space to be retained within the village to preserve its character and appearance and to be in accordance with Policy 5A of the County Structure Plan, Alteration No 1.

- 27 Fillingham has developed in its linear form along the main High Street, Chapel Road and Willingham Road. The village streets are long narrow spaces and their curving nature continually restricts views along them. These spaces are most important in their role of creating Fillingham's character.

- 28 Where village streets joint, terminate, and where buildings are set back, the type and nature of spaces change as they open out. This is evident to the front of 3 Chapel Road, to the north end of Chapel Road, to the front of the Old Blacksmith's Cottage and at the junction of High Street and Willingham Road. They all help create Fillingham's character.

- 29 To the east end of the village, the Churchyard is an important space, defined by the Church, roadways and mature trees.

- 30 Smaller spaces are created inside the Conservation Area within gardens, larger spaces outside are the open fields around the village edge, the green fingers of which penetrate between houses and farm buildings to reach the village streets. Beyond the village fringe the larger spaces formed by fields, trees, hedges and scattered buildings, form the setting of Fillingham village and are an important contributing element in the overall character of the Conservation Area.

OTHER FEATURES

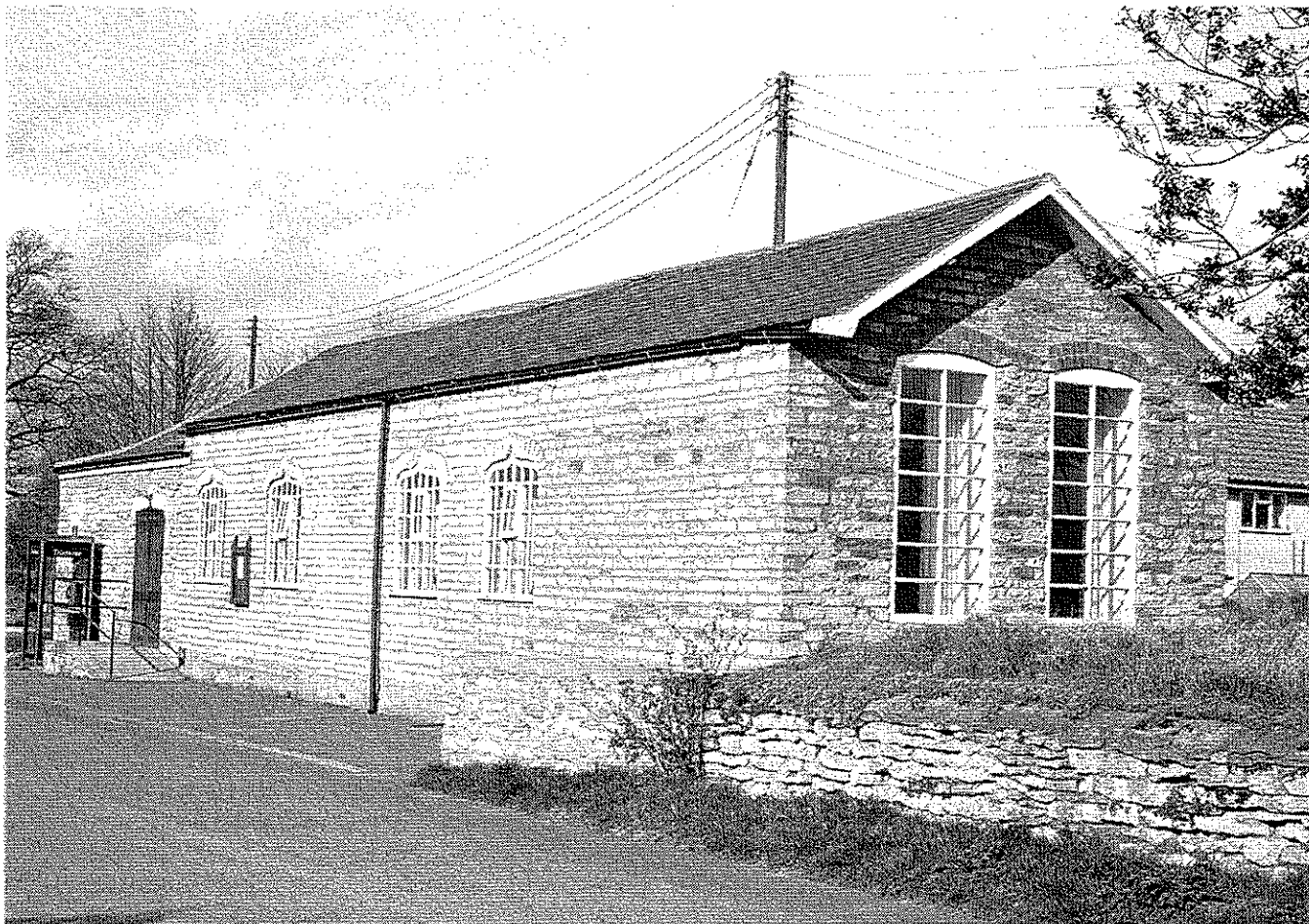
- 31 Building materials, walls, hedges, trees and gardens are all important in creating the character of Fillingham. It is their spatial distribution, their historical significance, their visual appearance and their colour, which combine to give the High Street and other

parts of the village its unique character.

- 32 Linking the buildings, their gardens and the surrounding fields, are hedges, walls and trees. The hedgerows are mainly Hawthorn and Privet. More recent hedges along Willingham Road are of Leylandii, very much the product of modern desire for fast growing plants. Those hedgerows along the field boundaries around the edges of the area are usually Hawthorn. Particularly distinctive in Fillingham are its stone walls which line the roadways and provide a link between buildings and hedgerows. The most important of these are shown on Map 1.
- 33 The position and number of mature trees in Fillingham are a scenic and dramatic feature to the village, particularly in the area around St Andrew's Church. At the bend of the road, outside the Church, mature Lime trees have grown either side, their branches meeting in the middle overhead creating an archway. There is also an avenue of Lime trees along the footpath in the Churchyard, from the gateway to the Church door. The area behind No 5 High Street has an abundance of tall mature trees which form a boundary to the field behind and along the High Street.
- 34 Topography also plays its part in the village setting. More so in the views of the village from the wider landscape, especially Middle Street, than from within the village itself. Fillingham lies at the foot of the Lincolnshire Cliff escarpment and this, together with its extensive tree cover, tends to hide it from view. Approaching along Middle Street from Kirton Lindsey, the first sight is of Fillingham Lake stretching out along the northern edge of the village. From the lake the fields slope up the hillside and Fillingham Castle set within its large landscaped grounds with associated woodland, sits on the hilltop overlooking the lake and the rest of Fillingham, a truly picturesque scene.
- 35 Within Fillingham itself the land is relatively flat from one end of the village to the other, but there are lines of mature trees such as Oak Walk leading from the Cliff escarpment down into the village and which accentuate the rise and fall in levels from the hilltop to the bottom of the escarpment. The difference in elevation from the lake to Fillingham Castle is about 30 metres (98 feet).
- 36 Fillingham has a strong identity. Its origin as a small village dependent upon a country estate is apparent and much of the more recent development in its design, form and location has perpetuated that feeling.

THE CONSERVATION AREA

- 37 Conservation Areas are required to be clearly delineated. Usually there will be obvious physical features along which a boundary line may be drawn. Elsewhere, there may be a "grey area", but the general rule of thumb is to include land or buildings if it does add, or could be made to add, to the character of the area, otherwise, it is left out. It is by using these criteria that the boundaries of the proposed Fillingham Conservation Area have been drawn.
- 38 Just because a building, space or tree, or other feature has been left out, does not mean that it is not important in itself. It simply



"...the Village Hall, originally built in 1850 as a school" Para 50

"The High Street bends past St Andrews Church." Para 43



means that its surroundings do not have the overall character which justifies Conservation Area designation or that it is separated from the main body of the Conservation Area by areas which do not merit inclusion.

- 39 The proposed Conservation Area boundary has been drawn as indicated on Map 1. The inner side of the pecked line on the map indicates the actual boundary of the designated area as proposed. The boundary follows fixed points on the ground, or a straight line between fixed points. This is designed to overcome any conflict over the exact extent of the Area.
- 40 In the following description, where individual buildings are identified as Important on the Map and in Appendix 1, their reference number in these is given.

HIGH STREET

- 41 The road into Fillingham from Middle Street is lined on one side at intervals by mature trees, while on the north side of the road is a mature Hawthorn hedgerow which runs its length and borders the front gardens of properties abutting the road. Upon entering the Conservation Area, the first building on the north side of the road is Church Farm (1), a mid C19 house. It is built of coursed limestone rubble, a common local material much used in villages in the area. 27 High Street (2) dating from C18 also stands on the north side of the road 100 yards before reaching Fillingham Church. This cottage is constructed from local stone using pantiles and slate roofing materials which are also seen on other buildings in the village.
- 42 In the adjacent garden are Nos 23 and 25 High Street (3). Now one house, but originally forming 3 cottages, being built in late C18 and probably occupied by estate workers. They are also constructed from stone with a pantiled roof. Their presence, together with the Church and the Old Rectory (6), provide a cluster of important buildings at this end of the village. The lane which passes by the Church runs northwards to The Manor House, which although not within the Conservation Area, is an important C16 Listed Farmhouse prominently set adjacent to the lake.
- 43 The High Street bends past St Andrews Church, a Grade II* Listed Building (4). Within the Churchyard and clearly visible from the road is the Monument to Major T N Dalton (5). The stone wall of the Churchyard and that to the Old Rectory opposite, together with the mature trees, close the views along the street from the east and west. Visually, this is an important point.
- 44 West of the bend, the stone wall on the north side is replaced by a mature Hawthorn hedgerow. Opposite, the view opens into what was once a farmyard area, but now is open grass and scrubland earmarked for housing development. A stone wall bounds the front of this site once occupied by farm buildings and this is to be retained.
- 45 Lake House (7) an C18 Listed Building, stands back from the road in a large front garden, its colourwashed red brick obscured by extensive growth of Virginia Creeper. A very attractive combination of a fine house, hedgerows, a large garden and a mature tree to one side.



"Lake House an C18 Listed Building ..." Para 45

"...an interesting worker's cottage, 20 High Street ..." Para 47



46. The track leading up the side of Lake House is bounded by a stone wall and hedgerow which lead to the bridge over the lake. Neither the bridge or the lake are part of the Conservation Area, but they are important elements in its setting, an importance which is enhanced by the fact that northwards from the bridge extends a public footpath.
47. There are a number of houses of the C19 along the central part of the High Street. Of particular note is Ainsworth House (10), constructed of yellow brick and Welsh slate. Adjacent to Ainsworth House is an interesting worker's cottage, 20 High Street (8). This house has horizontal sliding Yorkshire Sash windows which are now rare in the village.
48. The north side of the road sees the re-emergence of stone walling, in evidence along most of the rest of the High Street up to the junction with Chapel Road. The length of the stone walling and its prominent position is visually attractive and it provides physical and aesthetic continuity from one end of the High Street to the other.
49. 5 High Street (12), 7 and 9 High Street (11) and 11 High Street (9), are other important C19 stone houses, although they are not Listed Buildings, their contribution to the character and setting of this part of the High Street is significant. No 7 has been extended in red brick and may be the earliest surviving example of the use of this material in the village.
50. At the junction of High Street and Willingham Road is the Village Hall (19), originally built in 1850 as a school. Its Welsh slate roof, stone walls and small paned Gothic window design mirrors that of No 2 Chapel Road, also built about this time. The Hall is a Listed Building.
51. The High Street terminates at its junction with Chapel Road where the Old Blacksmith's Cottage (17) closes the view along the High Street from the east. Originally a Blacksmith's workshop, this is an important focal point in the view from the east along the High Street.

CHAPEL ROAD

52. The oldest surviving buildings in the village are to be found on Chapel Road. The prominent former Smithy, now a cottage (17), is visually important here. It and the adjacent House (16), are of C17 origin. The steeply pitched roof of No 5 (16) is typical of these early buildings. Again, the Yorkshire horizontal sliding sash is a surviving original feature.
53. Opposite the Old Blacksmith's Cottage is a Privet hedge which curves, marking the garden boundary to No 2 Chapel Road. The grassed verges help create the sense of space towards Badgercote, which is indicated on the map. The recent housing development and the roadway then opens out into a large area of open space in front of No 3 Chapel Road.
54. 3 Chapel Road (18) also originates from the C17. Built of coursed limestone rubble, it has a central large chimney stack with a pantiled roof which was once made of thatch. The building closes the view to the south along Chapel Road.
55. Badgercote built in 1990, consists of two detached houses each with its own separate double garage. These provide a good example of how



"...the Old Blacksmith's Cottage...closes the view along the High Street from the east."
Para 51

"Badgercote built in 1990" Para 55



modern buildings can blend with the character of older buildings in the village by the use of appropriate materials. The use of pantiles and stone faced material, finished to a high quality using a lime mortar is to be encouraged. The buildings are also set back from the road, thus preserving the space and view to the front of 3 Chapel Road.

- 56 The presence of stone walls and hedgerows along Chapel Road maintains the continuity achieved along the High Street. On the east side is No 2 Chapel Road (15), a very attractive mid C19 single storey coursed limestone dwelling, with a Welsh slate roof and Gothic windows. It is set within a large garden area, part of which has planning permission for a dwelling.
- 57 In the early part of the C20, Chapel Road terminated next to Walnut Cottage (7 Chapel Road) and a pathway or track continued approximately 50 metres further northwards to meet with a series of buildings. Evidence suggests they were probably farm buildings constructed of stone. These buildings may well have belonged to the owners or occupiers of Nos 4 and 6 Chapel Road (14), a pair of C19 semi-detached two storey houses. The eastern part of the buildings still stand in the grounds of these houses, but modern semi-detached houses now stand where the previous buildings once stood. Modern houses now close the view to this end of Chapel Lane, which is still an unmade road. Limestone from the demolished buildings has been used as garden walling for the modern houses.

WILLINGHAM ROAD

- 58 Nos 2 and 4 Willingham Road are a typical example of pre war housing, and are a distinctive design of their time. The mature Privet hedge provides an attractive roadside boundary.
- 59 At the turn of the C19 Willingham Road had development only down its east side. Now it is occupied by two pairs of pre war and a terrace of 1950s houses. Only the pair at the junction of the High Street and Willingham Road are within the Conservation Area because of their visual relationship with High Street.

POLICIES AND ACTIONS FOR CONSERVATION

- 60 Planning legislation is enshrined in various Acts of Parliament. To set it out in detail would make this report unduly long, and perhaps confuse the Conservation issues with others. With this in mind the following paragraphs have been written solely to relate to Fillingham Conservation Area, and the ADDITIONAL controls on development conservation area status imposes. For more detailed information on particular aspects of relevant legislation, readers are invited to contact the Planning Department.
- 61 Within the Conservation Area the following policies and actions will be pursued by the District Council. The emphasis is on control rather than prevention, the aim being to ensure that any new development accords with the special qualities of the Conservation Area. The policies are derived from and amplify Local Plan policies relating to development in conservation areas, details of which can be obtained from the District Local Plan.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- 62 In a conservation area, planning applications are required for extensions to dwellings that will exceed the cubic content of the original by more than 50 cubic metres or 10%, whichever is greater. (Outside areas of special control, like conservation areas this requirement applies to extensions which exceed 70 cubic metres or 15%). It should be noted that in a conservation area, any building with a cubic content greater than 10 cubic metres erected within the curtilage of a dwelling, shall be treated as an enlargement of the dwelling when calculating cubic content.
- 63 Planning permission must also be sought for:-
- a) the cladding of any part of the exterior of a dwelling with stone, artificial stone, timber, plastic or tiles;
 - b) the enlargement of a dwelling consisting of an addition or alteration to its roof;
 - c) the provision within the curtilage of a dwelling of any building or enclosure, swimming or other pool required for the private use of the occupier with a cubic content greater than 10 cubic metres.
- 64 Within Fillingham Conservation Area, standards of advertising control will be more exacting and planning applications for advertisement consent should be well designed and sympathetic in their use of colour and materials. They should not detract from the visual amenity of the Conservation Area and should accord with the relevant Local Plan Policy.
- 65 Any application for planning permission for development that, in the opinion of the Council, is likely to affect the character or appearance of the Conservation Area, will be advertised for public comment. In this event, there will be a period of 21 days within which people can respond, and any comments made will be taken account of by the District Council in reaching a decision. Such planning applications will usually affect land within the area; but, may also be for development outside, on the fringe of the area, if such development will be likely to adversely affect the character or setting of the Conservation Area.
- 66 The acceptability or otherwise of any proposed new buildings within the Conservation Area will, in many cases, depend on the detailed siting and external appearance of the buildings and the material to be used in their construction. The Council may therefore refuse to consider outline applications. Additional information may be required, indicating any or all of the following: siting, design and the materials to be used in the construction of any proposed building works. Proposals must also be sympathetic to the character of the area so as to preserve and enhance it.
- 67 Applications for new uses or changes of use, will be granted permission only if it is considered that the proposed use will not detract from the appearance and character of the Conservation Area and where all other criteria can be satisfied. The District Council may require an applicant to submit additional details in support of an application, to enable them to reach a decision.

68 The Town and Country Planning General Development Order 1988 sets out several cases of development which may be carried out without the need to seek planning permission. These works are usually called "permitted development"; they include such matters as external and internal painting of buildings, the installation of new windows and doors, the placing of shutters alongside windows and the rendering of walls and other minor works. These rights do not apply to Listed Buildings which are covered by separate legislation. However, it is possible to rescind certain specified types of "permitted development", such as those outlined above, if the local authority are prepared to make a Direction under Article 4 of the above Order. An "Article 4 Direction", as it is known, has to be confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Environment, and there has to be a large measure of local support for the additional controls. The District Council do not consider that at this time there are sufficient reasons to impose any further controls within Fillingham. But, if it appears that permitted development works are adversely affecting the character of the Conservation Area, the planning authority will consider making an Article 4 Direction. It should also be noted that an Article 4 Direction can be made to control development anywhere, not just in a Conservation Area.

SITING, DESIGN AND MATERIALS

69 The building lines up to which the frontages of existing buildings are constructed may be important to the character of the area. New development, or modification to existing development, may be required to accord with the existing building lines, unless there is a good and clear aesthetic justification for not doing so.

70 The design of, and materials to be used in, new buildings or in extensions to existing buildings, should, in form, colour and texture, be in harmony with the traditional buildings in the Conservation Area. This means in Fillingham, generally the use of dark yellow or light brown bricks, or stone, for walls, and pantiles, slate, or red or dark coloured tiles for roofs. However, depending on siting, there may be exceptions.

71 The external painting of walls has generally not been much used in Fillingham and in future should be avoided wherever possible. One of the significant characteristics of the village is the exposed stone and brickwork of its buildings. External painting requires regular maintenance, which, if it does not take place, can lead to buildings becoming unkempt in appearance, to the detriment of the surrounding area. It is more in keeping with the village environment to clean, repair and repoint existing walls without painting. This will not apply to any wall covered in stucco, that is, a cement render, which is meant to be painted. There is no planning control over the colour that the stucco, doors and windows of individual properties are painted, unless they are Listed Buildings.

72 The proportions and sizes of door and window openings in an elevation is of great importance in the creation and maintenance of building character and quality. When alterations are contemplated the size and shape of the aperture should usually be retained, with windows of traditional design and modern construction inserted wherever possible. Traditional design means, for example, windows of a style to reflect the age and design of the original dwelling.

- 73 The replacement of traditional windows with modern UPVC or double glazed units presents particular problems. In these, any glazing bars are often sandwiched between flat panes of glass, and the proportions of newly made frames to match existing can be a problem. On buildings in sensitive locations such as Conservation Areas, therefore, it is better to use secondary double glazing as an alternative. UPVC should not be used in older buildings. Contrary to popular belief, wooden windows are often cheaper in the long run than those made of UPVC. A leaflet explaining the Council's policy on windows is available from the Planning Department.
- 74 The addition of shutters alongside windows is not to be recommended. This is not a traditional detail of Lincolnshire buildings and they can spoil the proportion of the elements on an elevation. Shutters introduce unnecessary clutter to the detriment of the appearance of the building. In addition, they increase the burden of maintenance.
- 75 Before the detail of the design of new buildings and extensions to older dwellings are prepared, developers and/or owners are urged to contact the Council's Planning Department to discuss the proposals.

BUILDINGS WITHIN CONSERVATION AREAS

- 76 It should be noted that in addition to the provision made for controlling the demolition and alteration of "listed" buildings, the Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990, requires that within Conservation Areas, consent is obtained from the District Council before buildings or parts of buildings, are demolished.
- 77 Permission from the District Council, called Conservation Area Consent, will be required for demolition of:-
- *Any building or part of a building with a total cubic content of more than 115 cubic metres. (Except for a Listed Building, see paragraph 81 below)
 - *Any gate, wall, fence or railing which is more than 1 metre high, is abutting a highway (including a public right of way), or elsewhere any gate, wall, fence or railing which is more than 2 metres high.
- 78 Within Fillingham Conservation Area, planning consent for the demolition of a building or structure will only be likely to be granted if it is beyond repair; or falling into disrepair, with no acceptable alternative for its use, which would secure its repair and future maintenance. It is important to preserve those buildings and structures which make a contribution to the appearance of the area and the demolition of which would affect the setting of other buildings.
- 79 The District Council will seek to bring about the enhancement of Fillingham Conservation Area. Therefore, demolition of a building or structure, or redevelopment of a site, is only likely to be granted in the event that it would result in an improvement to the appearance and character of the Conservation Area. Proposals for redevelopment must respect the style and use of materials on other buildings in the immediate vicinity.
- 80 If, in the opinion of the District Council, the proposed alteration of any building not Listed as being of Architectural or Historic Importance (ie a Listed Building), is likely to detract from its

appearance, or the appearance of the area, the Council will consider making a Building Preservation Notice. Such a notice applies for a six months period the same control to the building as if it were Listed. This allows time for the Secretary of State to decide whether the building should be placed on the Statutory List of Buildings of Architectural or Historic Interest.

LISTED BUILDINGS

- 81 The fact that a building is listed as of special architectural or historic interest does not mean that it will be preserved intact in all circumstances, but it does ensure that the case for its preservation is fully considered, through the procedure for obtaining listed building consent. This applies to all Listed Buildings whether they are within a Conservation Area or not. Acceptable alterations to Listed Buildings will be sympathetic in their use of materials and design and will respect the original appearance of the building.
- 82 Anyone who wants to demolish a listed building, or to alter or extend one in any way that affects its character, must obtain 'Listed Building Consent' from the District Council. Listed Building Consent is required for internal as well as external alterations. The procedure is similar to that for obtaining planning permission except that there is no fee and details can be obtained from the Planning Department. Listed Building Consent is unlikely to be granted where proposed alterations or additions would adversely affect the character of the Listed Building or its architectural or historic features. Within Fillingham there are Listed Buildings of different ages and building styles, representative of the period in which they were built. It is important to protect Listed Buildings from insensitive alterations which will damage their appearance and historic integrity.
- 83 It is an offence to demolish, alter or extend a Listed Building without having first obtained Listed Building Consent. The demolition of a Listed Building is only likely to be granted consent when: such a building is structurally dangerous; it cannot be made safe; repair is not possible and if appropriate, a suitable scheme for redevelopment is proposed. All means of saving a Listed Building will be fully explored prior to a consent for demolition being granted. The District Council have a statutory duty to protect Listed Buildings in order to safeguard the national and local heritage.
- 84 Anyone wishing to redevelop a site on which a listed building stands, will need both Listed Building Consent for the demolition and planning permission for the new building. Planning permission alone is not sufficient to authorise the demolition. Similarly, anyone wishing to alter a Listed Building, in a way which would affect its character and whose proposed alteration amounts to development for which specific planning permission is required, will need to apply for planning permission and for Listed Building Consent. This can include external painting.
- 85 The owner of a Listed Building for which Listed Building Consent, involving a measure of demolition, has been granted, is required to give one month's notice of his intention to carry out the work to the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, so that they may be able to make such records of the building as may be necessary. Listed Buildings within the Conservation Area are included in Appendix 1.

- 86 If an application for Listed Building Consent is refused by the local planning authority, or granted subject to conditions, the applicant has a right of appeal to the Secretary of State.
- 87 Many churches are of special architectural or historic interest, and are listed as such. But so long as they are used for ecclesiastical purposes they remain generally outside the scope of the listed building controls described in this report. Listed Building Consent is not required, for instance, for works to a listed ecclesiastical building which is in ecclesiastical use.

GRANTS FOR THE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF BUILDINGS

- 88 Within the limits of such funds as may be afforded from time to time by the District Council, with powers given under Section 57 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, the District Council will consider making grant aid available towards the repair and maintenance of older buildings. To be eligible for such grant aid buildings do not have to be Listed as being of Special Architectural or Historic Interest (ie a Listed Building), but they must, in the opinion of the District Council, be of importance in the local street scene or have local importance in other ways, such as in the history of a village or as an example of vernacular building styles. The amount of grant aid made available, is usually related to the excess costs incurred by the owners in carrying out maintenance and repair arising from the use of special materials or workmanship to preserve the character and appearance of an eligible building or structure. Potential applicants are advised that no works should be carried out before approval of grant aid has been confirmed in writing. Those buildings which are considered to be most important to the character of the Conservation Area are listed and described in Appendix 1, but there may be other buildings, both inside and outside the Area, on which work may be grant aided. Anyone contemplating work on a building in the Conservation Area, should contact the District Council Planning Department at the earliest opportunity; work done prior to an offer of grant aid being made in writing is most unlikely to be given a grant.

BUILDINGS AT RISK

- 89 Following a District wide survey of all Listed Buildings in West Lindsey, the District Council have identified those buildings which appear to be suffering deterioration in all or part of their fabric. Such buildings are considered to be "at risk" and have been graded, depending on their condition, in accordance with guidelines set by English Heritage. Grants are available to owners or those responsible for the upkeep of these buildings, subject to certain conditions. At the present time no buildings within Fillingham Village are included on the Council's Buildings At Risk register, but the situation may change in the future as the register is reviewed.

OTHER GRANTS

- 90 The District Council have a scheme of grant aid to support work which will result in environmental improvement, the number of schemes in any one year being limited by the funds available. The type of work which can benefit from this is not specified because of the great variety of projects which can achieve the desired results. Projects can be identified by an individual, local organisation, company, Parish

Council or the District Council. The main criteria used to determine the eligibility of a project for grant aid are that some local environmental improvement must be achieved or the preservation of an existing attractive environment which is under threat must be secured. An applicant, landowner, or the sponsoring organisation is expected to make a financial contribution also. Each application is treated on its individual merits. Details are available from the Planning Department.

TREES

- 91 In the Town and Country Amenities Act 1974 provision is made for the protection of trees in Conservation Areas which are not covered by Tree Preservation Orders. The protection is given by requiring that anyone intending to cut down, top, lop, uproot, damage or destroy any such trees, shall give the District Council six weeks notice of their intention to do so. This gives the District Council the opportunity to consider the making of a Tree Preservation Order where appropriate. The Council will look most carefully at development which is likely to affect existing trees and may require tree planting in connection with new development.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- 92 Although the District Council has powers of control, over some aspects of land use and development in Conservation Areas, the success of conservation in such areas, depends to a large extent on the willingness of the general public, particularly those living and working in them, to participate with the planning authority in furthering the aims of conservation. In this respect, the planning authority will always be willing to offer help or advice to any member of the public on any matter concerning conservation. It is in the interests of the local population to be involved in conservation as it protects their village environment and the immediate surroundings of their home, it may enhance the value of their property.

ENHANCEMENT

- 93 Section 71 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 requires that planning authorities shall pay special attention to the desirability of enhancing the character of Conservation Areas. The District Council envisages that, apart from opportunities which might arise from time to time for the promotion of a particular improvement, such schemes will normally be promoted locally, taking advantage of the funds available as set out in paragraphs 88, 89, and 90 above.
- 94 The District Council may where the availability of finance permits, become involved in enhancement schemes such as hedgerow planting, stone wall renovation and the redirection of overhead wires underground. The latter is particularly desirable in the western end of the Conservation Area on Chapel Road and High Street/Willingham Road junction.

Important Buildings

Numbers refer to Map 1

This list includes all those buildings which by virtue of their design and their materials contribute most strongly to the character of the area. It includes all the Listed Buildings within the Conservation Area, ie those identified by the Department of the Environment as having special architectural or historic interest. The exclusion of any building from this list does not indicate that it has no contribution to make to the village character, but rather that it is either of modern materials, or has been altered such that its original character has been changed. Comments refer to street or front elevations.

- 1 Church Farm
Two storey mid C19 house. Limestone coursed rubble. Two storey red brick flat roofed addition to south east front incorporating porch with C20 casement window to side and first floor room with C20 casement window. Decorated barge boards and finial to front. Yorkshire horizontal sliding window to right hand side of first floor south west gable end.
- 2 27 High Street
C18 two storey cottage with single storey extension to side. Coursed limestone rubble, pantiled roof to two storey part with two brick gable stacks, Welsh slate to single storey part with brick gable stack. The latter has a central C20 casement bow window. C20 leaded windows in two first floor gabled dormers and two on ground floor flanking partially glazed timber door.
- 3 23 and 25 High Street
Late C18 two storey house. Originally 3 cottages with attached outhouses later converted into two and then into one dwelling in the 1980s. Limestone rubble with main west facing front. Two Yorkshire sliding sashes to ground floor at either end, three to first floor. All having brick segmental heads with keystone. Main French door to ground floor, off centre. Pantiled roof with two gable stacks and one off centre ridge stack. Attached outbuildings have been converted for extensions to the main house.
- 4 Church of St Andrew
C1180, mid C13, 1768, 1777, restored in 1866. Coursed Limestone rubble. Slate roofs. West Tower, nave, rectangular chancel and north west vestry. Listed Building.

5 Monument 10 yards south of Chancel of Church of St Andrew

Monument to Major T N Dalton, late Senior Major of the 49th Regiment. The inscription, now largely indecipherable, once read:-

"He served with distinction in India with the 61st Regiment during the Punjab campaign of 1848 and 1849, taking part in the defence of Ladoolapore, Chillienwallah and Goozerat, for which he received a medal and two clasps. Following his Indian feats of arms and successes he distinguished himself also in the Great Crimean War, taking part in the battle of Alma and being killed while leading his men in a charge of the Russian position at Inkerman on November 5th, 1854".

Limestone Ashlar. Three steps lead up to rectangular base with faded, illegible inscriptions. Pointed blind traceried panels above with cusping and tall gables with crockets and finials. Tall pinnacle above with crockets, protruding busts at corners and ornate cross finial. Listed Building.

6 The Old Rectory

C18, restored and enlarged in 1853 by Sir George Gilbert Scott. Coursed Limestone rubble. Plain tiled and decorative tiled roof with decorative ridge tiles and coped gables. Single gable stack and single ridge stack. Two storey, three bay front with plinth and doorways in outer bays. C18th range to the right at rear. Listed Building.

7 Lake House

House mid C18, C19. Colourwashed red brick, pantile roof with coped gables, projecting gable stacks and dentillated eaves. Two storey, three bay front with central doorway in projecting rectangular C19 brick porch with rectangular overlight and partially glazed door. Doorway flanked by 8 x 8 glazing bar sashes with three similar windows above, all with segmental heads. Listed Building.

8 20 High Street

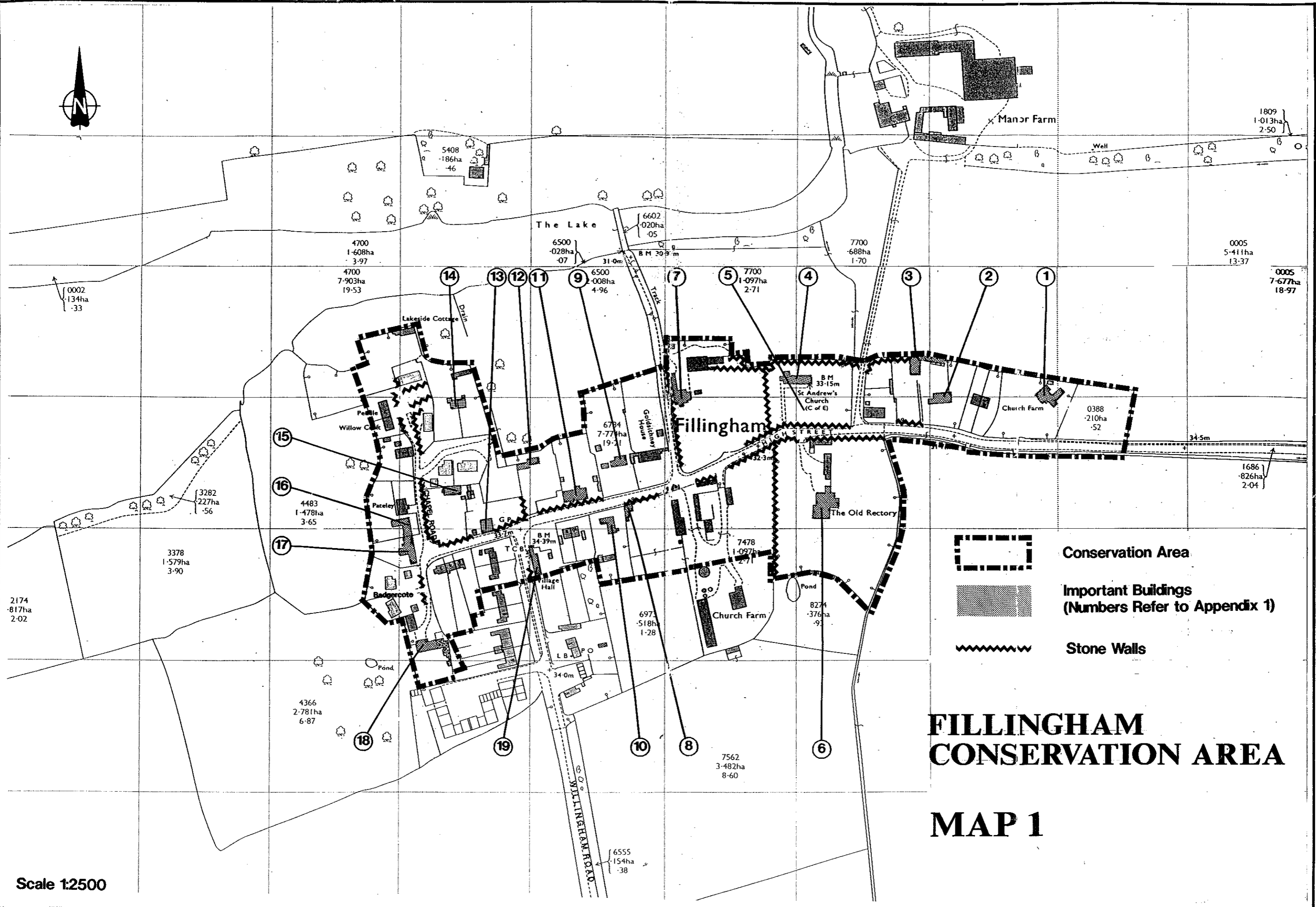
Early C19 two storey cottage one storey and attic. Coursed Limestone rubble with pantiled roof and one gable stack. Central plank doorway with one stone step, flanked by boarded windows, Yorkshire sliding sash window to right. Rendered brick arches over front openings. One attic window opening to either gable end, that to right a Yorkshire sash. Remnants of cast iron guttering.




- 9 11 High Street C19 two storey house with one storey extension. Coursed Limestone rubble, concrete tiled roof with two yellow brick gable stacks. C20 brick porch and C20th casement windows under stone cambered arches.
- 10 Ainsworth House Mid C19 'L' shaped two storey yellow brick house. Welsh slate roof with two gable stacks. Central partially glazed 6 panel door with hood over. 8 over 8 vertical sliding sash windows flanking doorway, two similar windows above, all under flat arches. Two storey red brick part to rear with end gable stack. This is a largely unaltered period property of great charm.
- 11 7 and 9 High Street Early C19, two storey. Coursed Limestone rubble with late C19 red brick extension to left. Originally believed to be a barn, later converted into houses. Concrete roof tiles, one gable and one ridge stack. Two C20 two light windows with flat arched brick segmental heads flanking C20 glazed door. Similar windows above. C20 metal window to front of red brick house (No 7) which also has dogs tooth dentillated eaves course and is the earliest surviving red brick building in the Conservation Area. Believed to once have been a reading room.
- 12 5 High Street Two storey coursed Limestone rubble cottage. Early C19 with single storey brick extension to east side. C20 brick porch with half glazed door to front. Two C20 casement windows flanking porch with similar above. Concrete tiled roof with two red brick gable stacks.
- 13 1 High Street Double pile early C19 two storey coursed Limestone rubble house with pantiled roof, stone coped gables and gable chimney stacks. East front has two C20 casement bay windows, all other windows are C20 small pane casements.
- 14 Nos 4 and 6 Chapel Road C19, pair of houses two storey coursed Limestone rubble houses. Pantiled roof with one large central ridge stack with a smaller one behind. Two later red brick small single storey lean-to extensions to rear, both with pantiled roof. Additional brick and glazed porch to west gable end covering main door entrance with partially glazed C20 door. Single narrow window above at first floor level. All windows are C20, that to left of brick extension at rear right hand is three light with two

light above and similar to left on first floor of left hand side house. With one also to ground floor window below. C20 casements to front.

- 15 2 Chapel Road
Single storey coursed Limestone with hipped Welsh slate roof with stone ridge tiles and off centre single chimney stack. C20 stone and glass porch extension to west side covering main entrance door. Three round arched vertical sliding sash windows, set in reveals in south elevation. Upper parts with Gothic 'Y' tracery, protruding stone cills.
- 16 5 Chapel Road
House and attached outbuilding, now house. Late C17, C20. Limestone rubble, very steep pitched pantile roof with central ridge stack. Two storey and garret, four irregular bays. Central doorway with C19 wooden porch and partially glazed door. Doorway flanked by single C20 casements with wooden lintels. Remnant of older wood lintel above window to left. Outhouse bay to right incorporated into house with C20 sliding sash with broad wooden lintel. Three irregularly placed sliding sashes above, that in the middle larger. Listed Building.
- 17 Old Blacksmith's Cottage
Single storey C17 cottage attached to No 5 Chapel Lane. Originally, Blacksmith's Workshop. Converted to a cottage in 1989/90. Coursed Limestone rubble with pantiled roof, right hand side being slightly raised with gable stack. Four C20 casements and door to right. Timber garage doors to left with large timber lintel above. Two, three light windows at eaves level. Cast iron guttering.
- 18 3 Chapel Road
House. Late C17, C19, C20. Limestone rubble, pantile roof with single massive ridge stack and single lateral stack. Two storey. Five irregular bay front with third bay from left projecting far forward. Three, section Yorkshire sash window to left and two three light C20 casements to left, all with wooden lintels. Projecting bay with two C19 casements with brick segmental heads. Right hand bay without fenestration. Two, two light C20 casements above to left, both with wooden lintels. Interior with encased beams. Listed Building.
- 19 Village Hall
School, now Village Hall, C1850. Limestone rubble with overhanging eaves. Single storey, four irregularly placed windows

with ogee heads and partially fixed windows with glazing bars. Lower bay to left with ogee headed doorway with partially glazed C20 timber door. Small C20 casement window with ogee head to left with wood lintel. Two long C20th windows in south end.
Listed Building.



-  Conservation Area
-  Important Buildings
(Numbers Refer to Appendix 1)
-  Stone Walls

FILLINGHAM CONSERVATION AREA

MAP 1

Scale 1:2500

Site of a college and Benedictine Abbey, St Mary's Church

Official list entry

Heritage Category: **Scheduled Monument**

List Entry Number: **1012976**

Date first listed: **08-Feb-1995**

Location

The building or site itself may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County: **Lincolnshire**

District: **West Lindsey (District Authority)**

Parish: **Stow**

National Grid Reference: **SK 88205 82014**

Reasons for Designation

From the time of St Augustine's mission to re-establish Christianity in AD 597 to the reign of Henry VIII, monasticism formed an important facet of both religious and secular life in the British Isles. Settlements of religious communities, including monasteries, were built to house communities of monks, canons (priests), and sometimes lay-brothers, living a common life of religious observance under some form of systematic discipline. It is estimated from documentary evidence that over 700 monasteries were founded in England. These ranged in size from major communities with several hundred members to tiny establishments with a handful of brethren. They belonged to a wide variety of different religious orders, each with its own philosophy. As a result, they vary

considerably in the detail of their appearance and layout, although all possess the basic elements of church, domestic accommodation for the community, and work buildings. Monasteries were inextricably woven into the fabric of medieval society, acting not only as centres of worship, learning and charity, but also, because of the vast landholdings of some orders, as centres of immense wealth and political influence. They were established in all parts of England, some in towns and others in the remotest of areas. Many monasteries acted as the foci of wide networks including parish churches, almshouses, hospitals, farming estates and tenant villages. Benedictine monasticism had its roots in the rule written about AD 530 by St Benedict of Nursia for his own abbey at Monte Cassino. Benedict had not intended to establish an order of monasteries and wider adoption of his rule came only gradually. The first real attempt to form a Benedictine order came only in 1216. The Benedictine monks, who wore dark robes, came to be known as 'black monks'. These dark robes distinguished them from Cistercian monks who became known as 'white monks' on account of their light coloured robes. Over 150 Benedictine monasteries were founded in England. As members of a highly successful order many Benedictine houses became extremely wealthy and influential. Their wealth can frequently be seen in the scale and flamboyance of their buildings. Benedictine monasteries made a major contribution to many facets of medieval life and all examples exhibiting significant surviving archaeological remains are worthy of protection.

The 11th century institution at Stow, which preceded the Benedictine monastery, has been called a college. It will have been staffed by a group of secular clergy living in common and maintaining a round of services in the church, but they will not necessarily have subscribed to the more rigorous life style prescribed by a monastic rule. Records of about 100 such institutions are known from the 11th century, though the documentation is usually imprecise about their character. Virtually all of these institutions were reformed in the 11th and 12th centuries; some became regular monasteries of various orders, some became humble parish churches and a few were converted into cathedral chapters.

At Stow it is possible to trace the development of a major ecclesiastical site from its collegiate origin in the Anglo-Saxon period, through its reform as a major Benedictine monastery (which failed to take root) to its decline to parish church status. This pattern of development is unusual and the archaeological remains of the successive institutions on the site will provide valuable insights into its causes. Limited archaeological excavation on the site has demonstrated the survival, in good condition, of significant remains from the early Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods, whilst leaving the great majority of deposits intact. The site has valuable documentation relating to the 11th century activity here, and subsequent documentation helping to interpret its medieval character. The church has recently been included in an initiative to encourage local education and tourism and is equipped with a display on the history of the site.

Details

The monument includes the buried remains of an Anglo-Saxon college for secular canons, founded in the early 11th century on the site of an earlier church by Eadnoth, Bishop of Dorchester. The college was enlarged in the mid-11th century with gifts from Leofric, Earl of Mercia and his wife Godiva, but was abandoned after the Norman Conquest. In 1091 the Benedictine abbey of St Mary at Eynsham, Oxfordshire, was transferred here by Bishop Remigius and the church reconstructed. When the community returned to Eynsham in 1094-5 the building reverted to use as a parish church. The monument therefore includes the buried remains of an earlier Anglo-Saxon church overlain by those of the 11th century collegiate and abbey church with associated monastic buildings, in turn overlain by a medieval and later parish church.

The monument is located at the centre of the village of Stow in St Mary's churchyard. The present church, which is excluded from the scheduling, incorporates the transepts and crossing of the early 11th century collegiate church, rebuilt in the late 11th century as part of the abbey church. The nave and chancel of the present structure are 12th century in date and overlie the buried parts of the 11th century churches and their predecessor. Excavations carried out in 1983 on the north side of the present nave, before the construction of the modern vestry, uncovered the stone foundations of an earlier, slightly wider nave with a room attached to the north. Human burials were found both inside and outside this chamber. This group of features is considered to represent the nave of the 11th century collegiate and abbey church, with an aisle or 'porticus' for burial and prayer. Underlying these remains were found those of an earlier and less substantial stone wall, believed to relate to the first stone church on the site. Similarly, excavations undertaken in the 19th century during the restoration of the Norman chancel revealed the foundations of an earlier chancel, the east wall of which was found to lie immediately inside the later one. Beneath the foundations of the south wall of the chancel, several large pieces of dressed stone were discovered, believed to be pier bases representing a pre-Norman arcade. Such an opening would have led from the choir to a former aisle or other part of the 11th century building complex.

The church lies within a churchyard raised approximately 1m above the surrounding land and retained by a stone wall. The area to the west of the nave is a small extension to the churchyard made in the mid 19th century. The remainder of the churchyard, to the north, east and immediately south of the church, includes archaeological remains associated with the college and abbey and with earlier and later activity on the site. This area is considered to have lain within the precinct of both the college and the abbey, where a cloister, chapter house, dormitory and other domestic buildings would have stood. The high density of human burials found during the excavation of the site of the vestry indicates a continuous and intensive use of the site from the Anglo-Saxon period onwards. Other finds include Anglo-Saxon pottery, animal bone, and a path paved with limestone and Roman tile fragments leading northwards from the nave.

St Mary's Church is excluded from the scheduling, although the ground beneath it is included.

MAP EXTRACT The site of the monument is shown on the attached map extract.

Legacy

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System number: **22621**

Legacy System: **RSM**

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Legal

This monument is scheduled under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 as amended as it appears to the Secretary of State to be of national importance. This entry is a copy, the original is held by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.



Map

This map is for quick reference purposes only and may not be to scale.
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