

Cottam Solar Project

~~Draft~~ Statement of Common Ground Lincolnshire County Council Revision ~~D~~E

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Issue Sheet

Report Prepared for: Cottam Solar Project Ltd.
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Statement of Common Ground

Revision ~~D~~E

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this document

1.1.1 This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared as part of the proposed Cottam Solar Project Development Consent Order (the Application) made by Cottam Solar Project Ltd (the Applicant) to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the Secretary of State) pursuant to the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008).

1.1.2 This SoCG does not seek to replicate information which is available elsewhere within the Application documents. All documents are available on the Planning Inspectorate's website.

1.1.3 This SoCG has been produced to confirm to the Examining Authority (ExA) where agreement has been reached between the parties, and where agreement has not yet been reached. SoCGs are an established means in the DCO consenting process of allowing all parties to identify and focus on specific issues that may need to be addressed during the examination.

1.2 Parties to this Statement of Common Ground

1.2.1 This SoCG has been prepared by (1) Cottam Solar Project Ltd. as the Applicant and (2) Lincolnshire County Council. Lincolnshire County Council is a host authority for the four site areas, referred to as Cottam 1, 2, 3a and 3b, that will house the PV panels, BESS and associated development.

1.2.2 Collectively, Cottam Solar Project Ltd. and Lincolnshire County Council are referred to as 'the parties'.

1.3 Terminology

1.3.1 In the tables in Sections 3 - 5 of this SoCG:

- "Agreed" indicates where the issue has been resolved.
- "Not Agreed" indicates a final position.

1.4 Topic Referencing for all matters

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

Topic	Unique Identifying Code
Principle of Development/ General	PD-XX
Alternatives and Design Evolution	ALT-XX
Climate Change	CC-XX
Hydrology	HY-XX
Minerals	MIN-XX
Transport and Access	TRA-XX
Glint and Glare	GG-XX
Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation	STR-XX
Soils and Agriculture	SAA-XX
Waste	WAS-XX
Other Environmental Matters	OEM-XX

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

2 Record of Engagement

2.1 Summary of consultation

2.1.1 The parties have been engaged in consultation since September 2021 prior to the Non-Statutory Consultation which ran from November to December 2021. A summary of the meetings and correspondence that has taken place between Cottam Solar Project and Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) in relation to the Application is outlined in Table 2-1.

Table 2-1 - Record of Engagement

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key topics discussed and key outcomes
Principle of Development/General		
15th September 2021	Initial Project kick off meeting	The range of topics addressed in the SoCG. Representatives of LCC present were: LCC Head of Planning LCC Trainee Planner
6 th June 2022	Councillor Briefing	The Applicant and consultant team briefed the Planning Committee of Lincolnshire County Council on the Application.
Ongoing	Monthly meetings with Planning Officers.	The range of topics addressed in the SoCG. The LCC Head of Planning is the representative of LCC present at these meetings.
Hydrology		
12 th January 2022	Meeting with Ian Field, Growth	Discussion of the Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy [APP-090] and Hydrology Chapter [APP-045].

	Manger – Special Projects, LCC	<p>LCC requested that drainage strategies would be required for large areas of infrastructure, runoff rates should be limited to greenfield rates with appropriate SuDS measures provided.</p> <p>LCC highlighted that the issue of point erosion should be considered within the Drainage Strategies.</p> <p>LCC confirmed that resilience to surface water flooding should be considered within the design of solar sites.</p>
27 th July 2022	Section 42 Consultation response	<p>Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy [APP-090] and Hydrology Chapter [APP-045].</p> <p>LCC stated that Flood Risk Assessments (FRA) had to be undertaken and that FRA will need to address any large areas of impermeability that may be created such as plant compounds, access roads, and battery facilities, the increased run off will need to be determined and mitigated in accordance with SuDS principles.</p>
Minerals		
14 th April 2022	Meeting with Lincolnshire County Council	<p>LCC's Minerals Officer was present as the representative of LCC.</p> <p>Discussion over Study Area/Scope of Minerals Assessment.</p> <p>Acknowledgement from LCC that mineral deposits would be affected.</p> <p>Discussion that the Scheme only affects a small area of safeguarded sand and gravel resources, which are mostly isolated and constrained deposits. Given the temporary nature of the proposed development no concerns regarding sterilisation of mineral resources where raised by LCC.</p> <p>The cabling options for connection to the national grid, east of the River Trent are within a Sand and Gravel Mineral Safeguarding Area. No specific concerns were expressed by LCC given the relatively small land take.</p>
Transport and Access (Lincolnshire County Council Highways)		

25 th February 2022	Scoping Opinion response	Scoping of Environmental Statement Chapter 14 Transport and Access [APP-049], Transport Assessment [EN010133/EX5/C6.3.14.1_C] and Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX5/C6.3.14.2_F]
22 nd April 2022	Pre-application Meeting (MS Teams)	<p>Scoping of Transport Assessment [EN010133/EX5/C6.3.14.1_C] and Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX5/C6.3.14.2_F].</p> <p>Discussion with Ian Field at LCC via MS Teams where LCC agreed that the construction vehicle routes and accesses that are proposed are appropriate, and the construction vehicle trip generation is unlikely to cause any capacity issues. However, LLC requested that the Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) [EN010133/EX5/C6.3.14.2_F] should include measures to prevent construction vehicle movements during the peak hours (08:00-09:00 and 17:00-18:00).</p> <p>LCC also asked for a cumulative assessment that considers all proposals in the area. This was undertaken and included in the Environmental Statement [APP-049] and Transport Assessment [EN010133/EX5/C6.3.14.1_C].</p>
1 st April 2022	Section 42 Consultation Response	<p>Transport Assessment [EN010133/EX5/C6.3.14.1_C] and Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX5/C6.3.14.2_F].</p> <p>LCC commented <i>“Chapter 14 Transport and Access-the assessment included in this chapter is acceptable, it is based on reasonable assumptions of trip rates, construction duration and route assignment. The results show that the predicted construction traffic would not cause capacity problems on the local highway network, it is noted that some routes will experience large percentage increases in HGV movements (>100%) however these are currently very low trafficked routes. Details of access arrangements, swept paths, parking, storage and plant areas and a Travel Plan for construction staff are proposed to be provided in a Construction Management Traffic Plan”.</i></p>
28 th March 2023	DCO Relevant Representation	Environmental Statement Chapter 14 Transport and Access [APP-049], Transport Assessment [EN010133/EX5/C6.3.14.1_C] and Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX5/C6.3.14.2_F].

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

3 Matters Agreed

Tables 3.1 to 3.16 below detail by topic the matters agreed with Lincolnshire County Council.

3.1 Matters Agreed (Principle of Development).

Table 3.1

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
PD-01 Principle of Development	Site description	The Site description set out at ES Chapter 3: The Order Limits [APP-038] is accurate.
PD-02 Principle of Development	Planning History	The relevant planning history for the Scheme insofar as it relates to land within Lincolnshire is set out at Planning Statement [APP-341] through Appendix 1: Planning Application History Search Cottam Sites and Appendix 2: Planning Application History Search Cable Route Corridor respectively.
PD-03 Principle of Development	Legislation and policy	<p>The updated National Policy Statements were published on 22 November 2023 and designated by the Secretary of State on 17 January 2024. Section 1.6 of NPS EN-1 (November 2023) sets out the transitional provisions and states that for DCO applications submitted prior to the designation of the November 2023 NPSs (such as the Scheme), the 2011 suite of NPSs will continue to have effect and therefore the DCO application for the Scheme will be determined under s105 of the Planning Act 2008.</p> <p>The extent to which the updated NPS's are relevant is a matter for the relevant Secretary of State to consider within the framework of the Planning Act 2008 and with regard to the specific circumstances of each Development Consent Order application. The Applicant considers that the NPSs designated in January 2024 will be an important and relevant consideration for the Secretary of State in determining the application for the Scheme.</p>

		The Scheme has been assessed against the relevant and up to date Lincolnshire planning policies as set out within Section 6 of the Planning Statement [APP-341].
PD-04 Principle of Development	Need for large scale solar	The principle of the need for large scale solar projects is established in national planning policy, as detailed in Section 4 of the Planning Statement [APP-341] and the Statement of Need [APP-350]; and the principle of delivering solar in the right places is broadly supported by stakeholders.
PD-06 Principle of Development	Acceptability of Development Consent Order and Requirements	The drafting of the DCO is acceptable [EN010133/EX5/C3.1_G], including the scope and wording of the requirements.

3.2 Matters Agreed (Alternatives and Design Evolution)

Table 3.2

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
ALT-01 Alternatives and Design Evolution	Site selection Assessment	The methodology used in the Site Selection Assessment [APP-067] is appropriate given that there is no standard methodology for the site selection of solar farms and NPS EN-1 4.4.3 states <i>"the consideration of alternatives in order to comply with policy requirements should be carried out in a proportionate manner"</i> .
ALT-02 Alternatives and Design Evolution	ES Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution	The scope of ES Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution [APP-040] including the assessment of alternatives and description of design evolution has been carried out in a proportionate manner and is considered acceptable.

3.3 Matters Agreed (Climate Change).

Table 3.3

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
CC-01 Climate Change	ES Chapter 7: Baseline Conditions	The baseline conditions detailed within Section 7.6 of ES Chapter 7: Climate Change [APP-042] are considered representative of the baseline site conditions and therefore acceptable.
CC-02 Climate Change	ES Chapter 7: Methodology and Assessment	The assessment methodology detailed within Section 7.4 of ES Chapter 7: Climate Change [APP-042] is considered acceptable.
CC-03	ES Chapter 7: Mitigation	Section 7.9 of ES Chapter 7: Climate Change [APP-042] has not identified the need for any additional mitigation or enhancement measures
CC-04 Climate Change	Construction Outcomes	The Scheme will have a negligible impact on CO2e emissions during the construction phase from the production of materials, transport and construction work on site as set out within Section 7.8, paragraph 7.8.46 of ES Chapter 7: Climate Change [APP-042].
CC-05 Climate Change	Operational Outcomes	The Scheme will have a major significant beneficial effect on climate change as it will reduce reliance on fossil fuels and will result in a net reduction in carbon dioxide and equivalent emissions as set out within Section 7.8, paragraph 7.8.68 and 7.8.69 of ES Chapter 7: Climate Change [APP-042].

3.4 Matters Agreed (Ecology and Biodiversity).

Table 3.5

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
ECO-01 Ecology and Biodiversity	Methodology	The methodology adopted within Section 9.4 of ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] has been derived from the information obtained through consultation with stakeholders and by reviewing relevant guidance and studies and is considered acceptable in so far as it relates to those elements of the Scheme within Lincolnshire
ECO-02 Ecology and Biodiversity	Baseline Assessment	The baseline conditions which are detailed within Section 9.5 of ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] are representative of the baseline site conditions in so far as they relate to those elements of the Scheme within Bassetlaw District and Nottinghamshire County.
ECO-03 Ecology and Biodiversity	Mitigation	The proposed mitigation measures set out within Section 9.8 of ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity [APP-044] are acceptable in so far as they relate to those elements of the Scheme within Bassetlaw District and Nottinghamshire County.

3.5 Matters Agreed (Hydrology).

Table 3.6

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Under Discussion
HY-01 Hydrology	Methodology	The methodology adopted within Section 10.4 of ES Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage [APP-045] has been derived from the information obtained through consultation with stakeholders and by reviewing relevant guidance and studies and is considered acceptable.
HY-02 Hydrology	Baseline Assessment	The baseline conditions which are detailed within Section 10.5 of ES Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage [APP-045] are representative of the baseline site conditions.
HY-03 Hydrology	Mitigation	The proposed mitigation measures set out within Section 10.8 of ES Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage [APP-045] are acceptable.
HY-04 Hydrology	Surface Water Flooding	It is agreed that Surface Water Flood Risk is appropriately addressed at this stage as set out in Section 3.0 of Appendix 10, Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy [APP-090].
HY-05 Hydrology	Drainage	<p>Additional detail regarding the proposed surface water drainage strategies in accordance with SuDS principles for proposed areas of hardstanding will need to be provided to ensure greenfield run-off rates are maintained. Requirement 11 of the DCO secures written details of the surface water drainage scheme and (if any) foul water drainage scheme through a plan which must be substantially in accordance with the outline drainage strategy.</p> <p>As stated in paragraph 10.8.19 of ES Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage [APP-045] maintaining the existing surface water run-off regime by utilising permeable surfacing for the Site accesses, linear infiltration trenches around any proposed infrastructure (substations and batteries) and wildflower planting at the leeward edge of</p>

		solar panels will ensure that the Scheme is unlikely to generate surface water runoff rates beyond the baseline scenario.
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3.6 Matters Agreed (Noise and Vibration).

Table 3.7

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
NOI-01 Noise and Vibration	Baseline Monitoring	The baseline noise monitoring detailed within Section 15.4 of ES Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration [APP-050] and Appendix 15.1 [APP-137] is representative of the sound levels in the vicinity of the Scheme and experienced by nearby sensitive receptors.
NOI-02 Noise and Vibration	Methodology and Assessment	The methodology detailed within Section 15.4 and the assessments within Sections 15.7, 15.8 and 15.9 of ES Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration [APP-050] and Appendix 15.3 [APP-139] for noise and vibration associated with both the construction and operational phases of the Scheme is acceptable.
NOI-03 Noise and Vibration	Assessment Outcomes	The effects of noise and vibration detailed within Section 15.7 of ES Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration [APP-050] and Appendix 15.3 [APP-139] from the construction and operational phases of the Scheme do not result in a significant impact and are acceptable.

3.7 Matters Agreed (Minerals).

Table 3.8

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
MIN-01 Minerals	Legislation and Planning Policy	The summary of relevant legislation and planning policy set out within Section 12.3 of ES Chapter 12: Minerals [APP-047], is relevant to the Minerals Assessment as part of the decision-making process and is up to date and complete.
MIN-02 Minerals	Assessment Methodology and Significance Criteria	The assessment methodology and significance criteria set out within Section 12.4 of ES Chapter 12: Minerals [APP-047] provides an appropriate approach to assessing the potential likely significant effects on mineral resources.
MIN-03 Minerals	Study Area/identification of known resources	The extent of the Study Area/ identification of known resources set out within Section 12.5 of ES Chapter 12: Minerals [APP-047] are sufficient to inform the Minerals assessment.
MIN-04 Minerals	Identification and Evaluation of Likely Significant Effects: Assessment of Impact on Mineral Resources (sand and gravel)	The conclusion set out within Section 12.7 of ES Chapter 12: Minerals [APP-047] that the Scheme only impacts on a small part of the safeguarded mineral resources, which include isolated and constrained deposits. Given the nature and characteristics of the project there would be minimal impact in terms of any sterilisation of mineral resources.
MIN-05 Minerals	Identification and Evaluation of Likely Significant Effects: Assessment of Impact on Mineral Resources (Petroleum)	The conclusion set out within Section 12.7 of ES Chapter 12: Minerals [APP-047] that the Scheme does not affect an existing oil field or associated mineral consultation zone. The Scheme would not have any implications for existing or proposed exploration and eventual exploitation of oil and gas resources.
MIN-06 Minerals	Mitigation Measures: Cable route	The mitigation set out within Section 12.8 of ES Chapter 12: Minerals [APP-047] addresses the impact on the Safeguarded Mineral Resource in the Trent Valley within the Cable Route Corridor and states that wherever possible cable routes should follow existing infrastructure corridors or alternatively follow the edge of significant landscape features rather than

		directly crossing open fields to avoid creating further obstructions to future mineral exploitation. This is agreed in so far as it relates to Lincolnshire County Council.
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3.8 Matters Agreed (Transport and Access).

Table 3.10

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
TRA-01 Transport and Access	Methodology	The methodology adopted within Section 14.4 of ES Chapter 14: Transport and Access [APP-049] has been derived from the information obtained through consultation with stakeholders and by reviewing relevant guidance and studies and is considered acceptable.
TRA-02 Transport and Access	Baseline Assessment	The baseline conditions which are detailed in Section 14.5 of ES Chapter 14: Transport and Access [APP-049] are representative of the baseline site conditions.
TRA-03 Transport and Access	Mitigation	The proposed mitigation measures set out within Section 10.6 of ES Chapter 14: Transport and Access [APP-049] are acceptable.
TRA-04 Transport and Access	Transport Assessment and Construction Traffic Management Plan: Construction Vehicle (HGV Route)	All HGVs associated with the construction phase of the Scheme will follow the designated routes as illustrated in the following figures set out in ES Appendix 14.1: Transport Assessment [EN010133/EX5/C6.3.14.1_C]: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Figure 6.1: Construction Vehicle Route – Cottam 1 South • Figure 6.2: Construction Vehicle Route – Cottam 1 North • Figure 6.3: Construction Vehicle Route – Cottam 1 West • Figure 6.4: Construction Vehicle Route – Cottam 2 • Figure 6.5: Construction Vehicle Route – Cottam 3a • Figure 6.6: Construction Vehicle Route – Cottam 3b • Figure 6.7: Construction Vehicle Route – Cable Route Corridor

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Figure 7.1: Construction Vehicle Route – Abnormal Loads
TRA-05 Transport and Access	Vehicle Movements: Trip Generation	The forecast number of construction vehicles set out at Table 5.1 (HGV deliveries), Table 5.2 (construction worker vehicle movements) and paragraph 5.19 (Cable Route Corridor vehicle movements) of the Transport Assessment [EN010133/EX5/C6.3.14.1_C] is accepted and will not have a material impact upon the capacity, operation, and safety of the Local Highway Network.
TRA-06 Transport and Access	Abnormal indivisible Loads	The routes identified for the delivery of abnormal loads, as set out in Figure 7.1 and described at paragraph 7.10 of the Transport Assessment [EN010133/EX5/C6.3.14.1_C], are acceptable.
TRA-07 Transport and Access	Construction Traffic Management Measures	The measures set out in the Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010133/EX5/C6.3.14.2_F] are appropriate to manage the effects of construction traffic on the Local Highway Network. The CTMP has been updated for Deadline 5 to include Applicant commitment to pay for approval of heavy duty access crossings and minor works permits relating to access works.

3.9 Matters Agreed (Glint and Glare).

Table 3.11

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Under Discussion
GG-01 Glint and Glare	Baseline Conditions	The baseline conditions which are detailed in Section 16.5 of ES Chapter 16: Glint and Glare [APP-051] and within Section 5 of Appendix 16.1 [APP-140] are representative of the baseline site conditions within Lincolnshire County.
GG-02 Glint and Glare	Methodology and Assessment	The assessment methodology adopted in the Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study [APP-140] has been derived from the information obtained through consultation with stakeholders and by reviewing any relevant guidance and studies. The assessment methodology is detailed within Section 16.4 of ES Chapter 16: Glint and Glare [APP-051] and within Appendix A of Appendix 16.1 [APP-140] and are considered acceptable.
GG-03 Glint and Glare impacts	Significance of Impacts	<p>No significant impacts upon identified receptors are predicted because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where effects are predicted to have a Moderate impact or higher the developer has proposed mitigation in the form of screening to significantly obstruct the visibility of the reflective area; • Where effects are predicted to have a Low impact, mitigation is not recommended; • Therefore, once the proposed mitigation strategy will be in place, the overall impact of the Scheme upon the nearby identified receptors is predicted to Minor/Negligible Adverse. <p>Further information is set out in Sections 16.8 and 16.9 of ES Chapter 16: Glint and Glare [APP-051] and Section 7 of Appendix 16.1 [APP-140].</p>

3.10 Matters Agreed (Air Quality).

Table 3.12

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
AIR-01 Air Quality	Baseline Conditions	The baseline conditions which are detailed within Section 17.5 of ES Chapter 17: Air Quality [APP-052] are representative of the site conditions.
AIR-02 Air Quality	Methodology and Assessment	The methodology adopted within the Air Quality assessment [APP-141 to APP-143] has been derived from the information obtained through consultation with stakeholders and by reviewing any relevant guidance and studies. The assessment methodology is detailed within Section 17.4 of ES Chapter 17: Air Quality [APP-052] and is considered acceptable.
AIR-03 Air Quality	Methodology and Assessment (construction vehicles)	As detailed within the Air Quality assessment [APP-141 to APP-143] the proposed construction vehicle numbers will not exceed the relevant IAQM/EPUK thresholds e.g., 100 HGV Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT), therefore there is no requirement for detailed construction air quality modelling and assessment has been scoped out of ES Chapter 17: Air Quality [APP-052]. This approach is considered acceptable.
AIR-04 Air Quality	Methodology and Assessment (operational vehicles)	As detailed within the Air Quality assessment [APP-141 to APP-143] the proposed operational vehicle numbers will be limited and will not exceed the relevant IAQM/EPUK thresholds (e.g., 100 HGV Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT), therefore there is no requirement for detailed air quality modelling and assessment has been scoped out of ES Chapter 17: Air Quality [APP-052]. This approach is considered acceptable.
AIR-05 Air Quality	Mitigation	The proposed mitigation measures set out within Section 17.8 of ES Chapter 17: Air Quality [APP-052] are acceptable.

3.11 Matters Agreed (Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation).

Table 3.13

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
STR-01 Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation	Methodology	The methodology used in the assessment of socio-economic, tourism and recreation impacts as set out within Section 18.4 of ES Chapter 18: Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] is appropriate, given that there is no standard methodology for the assessment of socio-economic and associated impacts for EIA.
STR-02 Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation	Assessment scope	The scope of the assessment undertaken within Sections 18.7, 18.9, and 18.10 of ES Chapter 18: Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] including the identification of likely significant effects and likely significant cumulative effects has been carried out in a robust and proportionate manner and is considered acceptable.
STR-03 Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation	Proposed Mitigation and Enhancement Measures	The proposed embedded and additional mitigation and enhancement measures as set out within Sections 18.6 and 18.9 of ES Chapter 18: Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] are considered proportionate and acceptable.
STR-04 Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation	Public Rights of Way	Works that may cause disruption to public rights of way, including diversions and temporary closures where necessary are controlled through the measures set out in the ES Appendix 14.3: Public Right of Way Management Plan [REP4-031], as secured through requirement 18 of Schedule 2 to the draft DCO [EN010133/EX5/C3.1_G]. The measures set out in this Plan are deemed to be acceptable.

<p>STR-05</p> <p>Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation</p>	<p>Community Benefits</p>	<p>The proposed embedded and additional enhancement measures as set out in Sections 18.6 and 18.9 of ES Chapter 18: Socio Economics Tourism and Recreation [APP-053] are proportionate and acceptable to provide sufficient socio-economic, tourism and recreational benefits.</p>
<p>STR-06</p> <p>Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation</p>	<p>Community Benefits</p>	<p>The Applicant has committed to the provision of a Community Benefit Fund, as stated at Section 4.8 of 7.5 Planning Statement [REP4-039]. However, this falls outside the remit of the DCO Application as it is not required to mitigate the impacts of the Scheme. Accordingly, as set out in paragraph 4.8.1 of the Planning Statement [REP4-039], the Community Benefit Fund must not be given any weight or taken into account by the Secretary of State when balancing the positives or negatives of the Scheme. The Applicant is, however, open to continuing discussions with LCC regarding the potential mechanisms for the fund distribution post close of the examination.</p>

3.12 Matters Agreed (Soils and Agriculture).

Table 3.14

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Under Discussion
SAA-01 Soils and Agriculture	Baseline Conditions	The baseline conditions detailed within Section 19.8 of ES Chapter 19: Soils and Agriculture [REP-010] and within Appendix 19.1 [APP-145] are representative of the site conditions within Lincolnshire County.
SAA-02 Soils and Agriculture	Methodology and Assessment	The assessment methodology detailed within Section 19.6 of ES Chapter 19: Soils and Agriculture [REP-010] is considered acceptable.

3.13 Matters Agreed (Waste)

Table 3.15

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
WAS-01 Waste	Waste Policy	Applicable waste policy is set out within Section 20.3 of ES Chapter 20: Waste [APP-055] and is agreed with the exception of the relevance of policies within the MWLP. See WAS-05 under 'Not agreed' below.
WAS-02 Waste	Waste Site Safeguarding	<p>The Order Limits as set out in the Location Plan [APP-005] confirm no existing or safeguarded proposed waste sites are impacted by the location of the Scheme.</p> <p>LCC can confirm no allocated sites/areas are impacted as per page 23 of the 2017 SLD.</p> <p>A map providing an excerpt from LCC's MWLP Core Strategy and Development Management Policies document Figure 6: Existing Minerals and Waste Sites in West Lindsey District, has been appended to this SoCG (Appendix C). This demonstrates that no existing or allocated waste sites as identified in the MWLP lie within the Order Limits. The nearest, site 62 Sturton Airfield, is some 1.2km from the cable route at its nearest approach.</p> <p>Sewage Treatment sites ST07 and AW114 are also within 250m of the Order Limits but are not anticipated to be affected by the development of the Scheme.</p>
WAS-03 Waste	Assessment scope	The scope of the assessment undertaken within Sections 20.7, 20.9, and 20.10 of ES Chapter 20: Waste [APP-055] including the identification of likely significant effects and likely significant cumulative effects has been carried out in a robust and proportionate manner and is considered acceptable.
WAS-04	Proposed Mitigation	The proposed embedded and additional mitigation measures as set out within Sections 20.6 and 20.9 of ES Chapter 20: Waste [APP-055] are considered proportionate and acceptable.

Waste		The Applicant has committed to providing a scheme of monitoring of waste facility capacity and technical capability through a Waste Management Strategy, to be approved by the relevant waste planning authority as secured by Requirement 14 of Schedule 2 to the draft DCO [EX5/C3.1_G]. This has been set out, including the recommended text additions from LCC in the Deadline 5 version of the Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [EX5/C7.16_D].
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3.14 Matters Agreed (Other Environmental Matters).

Table 3.16

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Under Discussion
OEM-01 Other Environmental Matters	Electromagnetic Fields	The technical reporting in paragraphs 21.2.3 to 21.2.9 in ES Chapter 21: Other Environmental Matters [APP-056] is sufficient to demonstrate there are no adverse impacts to human health from electromagnetic fields.
OEM-02 Other Environmental Matters	Telecommunications, Utilities and Television Receptors	The information provided within Section 21.3 of ES Chapter 21: Other Environmental Matters [APP-056] is sufficient, and the protective mitigation measures set out in the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [REP3-012]; Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [EX5/C7.16_D] and Crossing Schedule [REP4-047] are appropriate and therefore acceptable. Protective provisions for the protection of electricity, gas, water and sewerage undertakers and operators of electronic communications code networks are included in Parts 1 and 2 of Schedule 16 to the draft DCO [EX5/C3.1_G] and, where relevant, bespoke protective provisions are being negotiated or have been agreed to protect the assets of statutory undertakers that interface with the Scheme.
OEM-03 Other Environmental Matters	Major Accidents and Disasters (excluding fire safety)	The scope and methodology of the assessment undertaken throughout the ES and signposted within Section 21.6 of ES Chapter 21: Other Environmental Matters [APP-056] including the identification of likely significant effects and likely significant cumulative effects has been carried out in a robust and proportionate manner and is considered acceptable.
OEM-04	Major Accidents and Disasters (fire safety)	The assessment undertaken and relevant mitigation measures provided with regard to fire safety as set out within Section 21.6 of ES Chapter 21: Other Environmental Matters

Other Environmental Matters		[APP-056] and as set out in the Outline Battery Fire Safety Management Plan [REP3-018] have been carried out in a robust and proportionate manner and are acceptable. The design of the BESS is suitable to address the requirements of the Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service.
OEM-05 Other Environmental Matters	Human Health	The scope and methodology of the assessment undertaken throughout the ES and signposted in Section 21.5 of ES Chapter 21: Other Environmental Matters [APP-056] including the identification of likely significant effects and likely significant cumulative effects has been carried out in a robust and proportionate manner and is considered acceptable.

4 Matters Not Agreed

4.1.1 Tables 4.1 to 4.3 below detail by topic the matters not agreed with Lincolnshire County Council.

4.2 Matters Not Agreed (Principle of Development)

Table 4.1

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Not Agreed	Council/Applicant Comment
PD-05 Principle of Development	Project components	Whether the siting of the individual project components, as set out in the draft Development Consent Order (DCO) [EN010133/EX5/C3.1_G] and Design and Access Statement [APP-342 to APP-345], are acceptable.	<p>LCC: Yes agree that this point is picked up within landscape and visual impact considerations (see Appendix B: landscape and visual impact position statement).</p> <p>Applicant: The Applicant considers the project layout to be acceptable. It is noted that LCC have not provided comments specifically on matters of good design or site selection within the Local Impact Report or previous written submissions. The Council's concerns with regard to siting are, therefore, understood to relate primarily to matters of landscape and visual impact. The position between the Applicant and LCC on landscape and visual impact matters is set out in the position statement appended to this Statement of Common Ground.</p>

PD-06	Cumulative Effects	Approach taken to cumulative assessment	<p>LCC: It is a requirement to ensure that the decision maker has up to date assessments of cumulative impacts at the time a decision is made. - There is insufficient assessment of the combinations between different projects to enable the decision maker to make a sound decision on all cumulative projects. - In the event that the decision maker determines all three DCO applications (Cottam, Gate Burton and West Burton) at the same time, the current assessment only allows them to either find the cumulative impacts of all three 'acceptable, or 'unacceptable'. If the cumulative impacts are concluded to be 'unacceptable', the only decisions able to be made are to either grant just one of the projects, or all three of them must be refused. - There is no cumulative environmental assessment to allow a decision on whether two projects could be granted in such a situation.</p> <p>Applicant: The Applicant disagrees with LCC's position. There is no need to cumulatively assess the various potential combination of projects as the Applicant has assessed the worst case. In the event that the Secretary of State considers that the cumulative significant effects of all three projects is not acceptable in the planning balance, they can</p>
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			request further information during the decision-making period to establish whether the cumulative significant effects of only two of the projects would be acceptable. In any event, the Applicant's position is that the benefits of the Scheme outweigh the significant cumulative effects identified.
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4.3 Matters Not Agreed (Soils and Agriculture).

Table 4.2

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Not Agreed	Council/Applicant Comment
SAA-03 Soils and Agriculture	Assessment Outcomes – impacts to ALC graded land and soil quality	<p>Natural England document Agricultural Land Classification: protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land (TIN049) https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/35012 explains the Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) system and its use in informing land use planning decisions for agricultural land. The Applicant has submitted an ALC assessment for agricultural land within the Sites showing it is predominantly ALC Grade 3b, not best and most versatile agricultural land. The Scheme will not result in a permanent loss of best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Scheme will be decommissioned at the end of its operational life; • Land will retain its existing Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) grade baseline after decommissioning of the Scheme as set out at Section 19.10 of ES 	<p>LCC: The Proposed Development is likely to have a cumulative or defined negative impact that will result in the loss of agricultural production in the development area generally and/or the permanent loss of production from mostly medium quality agricultural land.</p> <p>The loss of BMV arable land within the main development site and that required</p> <p>for the corridor route which is classed as best and most versatile agricultural land would have a cumulative or defined negative impact that will result in the loss of</p> <p>agricultural production in the area generally and/or the permanent loss of agricultural production from mostly medium quality agricultural land.</p> <p>LCC estimate that 50+% of the cable route will be BMV and identify issues of concern for farmers and landowners relating to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land drainage • Weed burden

		<p>Chapter 19: Soils and Agriculture [REP-010];</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Scheme will have a beneficial effect on soil quality as set out at Section 19.10 of ES Chapter 19: Soils and Agriculture [REP-010]; <p>A Soil Management Plan (SMP) will be included within the agreed Construction, Operational and Decommissioning Environmental Management Plans (CEMP, OEMP, DEMP) with the aim of conserving the soil resource and its functional capacity for support of agricultural production as set out at paragraph 19.10.1 of ES Chapter 19: Soils and Agriculture [REP-010].</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biosecurity for plant diseases <p>Timeliness of soil stripping and storage</p> <p>During the construction phase there will be significant damage to soil structure particularly on heavy clay soils. There is inevitably a lot of trafficking of vehicles on the land to erect the panels and if this work is undertaken when soils are wet, there can be significant damage. Much of this damage can be remedied post construction, but not all and it is possible that long term drainage issues occur on the site due to the construction.</p> <p>The loss of any agricultural land can impact upon arable food production with knock on effects in terms of the associated food production economy and to farm enterprises affected by the development. The Council is of the view that the cumulative negative impacts of the loss of arable agricultural land places pressure on the function of this important part of the local and wider Lincolnshire rural economy as well as raising questions more generally regarding food security and the carbon footprint impacts as a result of the need to import food due to the consequential changes in land-use. In the case of the Cottam whilst the time proposed is for a specified period for a period that this could be extended beyond the 60 year permission as technology improves the solar infrastructure could be in place for longer than this and therefore the impacts are also much greater as potentially Cottam could result in the permanent loss of the agricultural land and so should not be seen as</p>
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			<p>reversible.</p> <p>The Council considers this loss to represent a significant negative impact not only within the local area but also when considered in combination with the loss of land from other potential NSIP scale solar developments that are also being promoted and considered across the County.</p> <p>The Council maintains its position to object to the loss of any BMV land to facilitate the development and as the proposal includes development on BMV land the Council cannot agree on this point.</p> <p>Applicant:</p> <p><u>Loss of Agricultural production in County.</u> Agricultural land within the Scheme can continue in agricultural use throughout the operational period, grazing livestock. Such use is not required to maintain the status of agricultural land. Farmers are currently being offered Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) payments for turning fields over to wild bird seed mix or pollen and nectar mix with no livestock grazing or harvest of any food, fibre or energy crop. Farmers are also arable land for energy crops such as whole crop maize. Such land use requires in excess of an order of magnitude more land than solar PV per MWh of land per year.</p>
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			Against this backdrop of national SFI payments, LCC's concern regarding loss of agricultural production is misplaced.
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4.4 Matters Not Agreed (Waste).

Table 4.3

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Not Agreed	Council/Applicant Comment
WAS-05	Planning policy	Relevance of MWLP policies	<p>LCC:</p> <p>MWLP Policy W1 has relevance because it refers to capacity gaps. The cumulative impact of ten or more solar farms together with those under the T&CP regime across the County and the predicted waste from the 0,4% per annum failure rate of the panels will require a reassessment of those forecast in the emerging minerals and waste local plan and the provision for new facilities.</p> <p>Applicant: The policies as set out in the MWLP are generally not considered relevant as they refer to new minerals and waste developments, and as such are not relevant to the Scheme. Policies W2-W7, W9 and Policies DM2-DM17 are not relevant to the Scheme and therefore have not been considered.</p> <p>Policy W1 refers to identification of future requirement for new waste facilities – under which the likely waste streams from the Scheme and other solar NSIPs in Lincolnshire should be considered by LCC to ensure that there are sufficient future waste handling facilities. Whilst the Scheme has been assessed against current waste handling capacity, the Applicant is confident that ES Chapter 20 [APP-055] can provide a useful tool to LCC to determine the</p>

			<p>estimated additional waste streams from this Scheme and the cumulatively assessed NSIPs in the Till Valley Area of Lincolnshire.</p> <p>Policy W8 refers to safeguarding of existing waste management sites – which the Scheme is not anticipated to have any safeguarding impacts upon (see response to request for map below at WAS-02). This therefore has been considered, but not explored further. Similarly, Policy DM1 has been considered as it is not explicitly worded whether it is, or is not, directed towards minerals and waste developments. Therefore, this policy has been considered, but not explored further as it is deemed to be inherently complied with as the Applicant understands the Scheme to be compliant with the NPPF.</p> <p>The Applicant believes the level of detail provided at 20.3.13 is suitable due to the potential at the point of DCO application for the emerging MWLP to have been consulted upon in parallel with the examination of the DCO. As such, it was deemed a prudent approach to ensure the application was live to emerging policy wording, or if there were consultation comments that may have been useful to make towards the emerging policies.</p>
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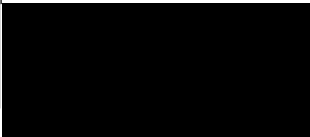
5 Signatories

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

Duly authorised for and on behalf of Cottam Solar Project Ltd.

Name:	Eve Browning
Job Title:	Senior Project Development Manager
Date:	28 February 2024
Signature:	

Duly authorised for and on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council.

Name:	Neil McBride
Job Title:	Head of Planning
Date:	28 February 2024
Signature:	

Cottam Solar Project

Position Statement Lincolnshire County Council Appendix A: Cultural Heritage

Prepared by: Lanpro Services

~~February~~March 2024

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Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010



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Issue Sheet

Report Prepared for: Cottam Solar Project Ltd.
Examination Stage: Deadline [56](#)

Position Statement Lincolnshire County Council Appendix A: Cultural Heritage

Prepared by:

Name: Alice James

Title: Technical Director

Approved by:

Name: Beccy Rejzek

Title: Associate Director

Date: February 2024

Revision	Date	Prepared by:	Approved by:
A	27 February 2024	AJ	BR
E	5 March 2024	AJ	BR

1 Introduction

Purpose of this document

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

Parties to this Cultural Heritage Position Statement

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

Terminology

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

Topic Referencing for all matters

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

Topic	Unique Identifying Code
Cultural Heritage	CUL-XX

2 Record of Engagement

2.1.1 The parties have been engaged in consultation since September 2021 prior to the Non-Statutory Consultation which ran from November to December 2021. A summary of the meetings and correspondence that has taken place between Cottam Solar Project and Lincolnshire Historic Places Team, who are the archaeological advisors for the West Lindsey district in Lincolnshire and so represent Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) in relation to the Application is outlined in Table 2-1.

Table 2-1 - Record of Engagement

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key topics discussed and key outcomes
Cultural Heritage (Lincolnshire County Council Historic Places Team (LHPT))		
9 th June 2022	Online meeting with The Planning Inspectorate, Lincolnshire County Council (including LHPT) and the Applicant	<p>Discussion on Trial Trench Requirements. Due to the disagreement regarding what constitutes an appropriate and professionally recognised approach to evaluation trial trenching, including an appropriate percentage sample of the full Order Limits, including the Cable Route Corridor. No trenching works were able to commence prior to the meeting with PINS, which caused delay to the commencement of intrusive archaeological works.</p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate minutes for the meeting recorded the relevant positions on trenching: "LCC has requested 3+1% of trenching on site which the Applicants do not consider is proportionate to the potential impact of the development which it suggested was approximately 0.07% of the land area subject to the Cottam and West Burton developments."</p> <p>Full details of the meeting are detailed in ES Chapter Appendix 13.9.1. Discussions referred to in the LHPT relevant representations include:</p> <p><i>"LCC confirmed that it had requested 3+1% trenching, which it considered was required in order to ensure that impacts on unknown buried archaeological remains would be avoided. It particularly highlighted the impact of piling on burials. LCC suggested that its approach was proportionate to characterise the baseline to inform decision making. It also highlighted the limitations of</i></p>

		<p><i>magnetometry surveys in the Trent Valley area, which it emphasised was very sensitive archaeologically. LCC stated that the very large sites should not be treated differently from other sites and that their size did not remove the need for comprehensive evaluation.”</i></p> <p><i>“LCC confirmed that it is broadly content with the draft WSI for trenching in areas of archaeological sensitivity identified by geophysical survey. It stated that here is no need to delay work for these agreed trenching locations. The Applicant welcomed this approach. LCC remained of the view that trenching in blank areas would require further discussion and potentially remain an area of disagreement and a matter for examination.”</i></p> <p><i>“LCC expressed disappointment that discussions with the Applicant had not commenced until after publication of the Inspectorate’s Scoping Opinion. The Applicant responded that the availability of geophysical survey data in March 2022 had dictated the engagement programme.”</i></p> <p><i>“The Inspectorate questioned whether there were any means of focussing the survey approach for trenching activity in blank areas. LCC suggested that features such as geology and other desk-based/survey data could be used to focus trenching activity but could not fully be relied upon and that staged approaches to trenching were possible, e.g., using soil strip rather than full trial trenching in those areas where archaeological mitigation can be included within the development groundworks methodology.”</i></p> <p><i>“Those areas of conventional groundwork impacts where traditional archaeological mitigation (excavation, strip map and record, or monitoring) would need less trenching as mitigation can be accommodated in the development groundworks. For areas where ground impacts do not allow for archaeological mitigation during works, sufficient evaluation trenching needs to be undertaken to identify any potentially unknown surviving archaeology across the site to inform mitigation before groundworks commence (either preserved by record or in situ)”</i></p> <p><i>“The Inspectorate also queried whether some works could be undertaken post-consent drawing on examples such as the Cleeve Hill and Triton Knoll projects. LCC highlighted the need to provide sufficient information on baseline, impacts and mitigation to satisfy the requirements of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, however it</i></p>
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		<p><i>acknowledged that some works could be undertaken post-consent. The Applicant's legal representative supported this position."</i></p> <p><i>"Both parties acknowledged that whilst they anticipated that there may be some continued disagreement, their goals are to achieve common ground and move forward. LCC emphasised that provided the Applicant can provide further detail in relation to the impacts of the Proposed Development, this would enable LCC to work with them to develop a targeted survey approach for blank areas.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>LCC agreed that work could commence on trenching of sensitive locations identified by the geophysical survey;</i> <i>Applicant committed to provide additional information on specific locations of intrusive works required for the Proposed Development; and</i> <i>LCC continues to recommend that the EIA needs to contain sufficient information on the archaeological potential which will be impacted by the development to allow for an appropriate mitigation strategy."</i>
07/2022 to 11/2022	Sites visits with LHPT and the Applicant	Numerous site visits undertaken between July and November 2022 in line with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) agreed with LHPT for the evaluation trial trenching. During site visits LHPT and the Applicant concurred that the standards of works were undertaken to a sufficient level and agreed sign off and backfill of trenches, for full details see Table APP 13.9.1.2 [APP-133].
23 rd January 2023	Online meeting with LHPT, The Gate Burton Scheme, The West Burton Scheme and the Applicant.	<p>Meeting to discuss the archaeological assessment works undertaken for the shared Cable Route Corridor—which runs between Stow Park Road and the Cottam Power Station—and agree mitigation strategy between all attendees.</p> <p>LHPT agreed that the scope and extent of archaeological assessment works within the area of the Shared Cable Route Corridor were sufficient, and that the proposed mitigation strategy was appropriate to safeguard buried archaeological remains.</p>

<p>22nd February 2023</p>	<p>Online meeting with LHPT and the Applicant.</p>	<p>Meeting to discuss proposed mitigation strategy and establish a SoCG between the Applicant and LHPT.</p> <p>The Applicant stated a full suite of baseline information has been supplied to inform the mitigation strategy (desk-based research, air photo and LiDAR mapping, Geophysical Survey, Geoarchaeological Assessment and Evaluation Trial Trenching targeting areas containing archaeological remains identified by baseline information and some blank areas), and detailed the proposed mitigation which included embedded mitigation by design (i.e. no development areas and targeted use of concrete feet) and additional mitigation by record (i.e. informative trenching, 'strip, map and sample' open excavation and archaeological monitoring (watching brief)).</p> <p>LHPT stated that in theory they were happy with mitigation either in the form of 'no development', 'strip, map and sample' and open area excavation where sufficient site-specific evaluation has been undertaken to ensure the mitigation is proportionate and effective.</p> <p>LHPT confirmed that they agreed with the proposed mitigation for the shared Cable Route Corridor between Stow Park Road and the Cottam Power Station, which is proposed to be used by the Gate Burton and West Burton Schemes. LHPT mentioned that they had agreed mitigation with the Gate Burton Scheme. The Applicant understood that this indicated that the LHPT were happy with the scope and extent of evaluation works that had been undertaken for the Gate Burton Scheme.</p> <p>The Applicant agreed to directly issue the proposed WSI to LHPT (also accessible from the PINS website) [REP4-025] and establish a second meeting once LHPT had reviewed the document.</p>
<p>22nd March 2023</p>	<p>Online meeting with Historic England (HE), LHPT and the Applicant.</p>	<p>Second meeting to establish a SoCG between the Applicant and LHPT.</p> <p>Three main topics were discussed within the meeting: baseline information, evaluation trial trenching, and mitigation strategy.</p>

		<p>No concerns raised regarding desk-based research or information acquired through non-intrusive evaluation techniques (i.e., air photo and LiDAR analysis, geophysical survey and desk-based geoarchaeological assessment).</p> <p>LHPT were concerned by the lack of evaluation trial trenching in areas where geophysical survey (along with other non-intrusive techniques) had not identified any archaeological potential (including the Cottam Cable Route Corridor between Cottam 3 and Till Bridge Lane). Subsequently, LHPT were of the opinion that a mitigation strategy cannot be achieved in areas that have not been subject to evaluation trial trenching. LHPT questioned whether there was enough information to demonstrate that concrete feet would not impact on archaeological remains during commissioning, operation and decommissioning phases. Consequently, LHPT believed that there was insufficient information to understand the impact of the development and so considered the proposed mitigation strategy to be inadequate.</p> <p>HE stated that the areas not subjected to evaluation trial trenching appeared to be quite large and so the project contained a high level of risk. HE believed that a middle ground (between no trenching or a high sample of trenching) should be found to proportionately manage risk. Although the preference would be to undertake additional trenching pre-consent, a phase of additional trenching post-determination (but as far ahead of construction as possible) would be suitable to 'de-risk' areas that had not been subject to a programme of trenching.</p> <p>No issues were raised by LHPT or HE regarding the archaeological evaluation undertaken or the proposed mitigation for the 'Shared cable Route Corridor' running between Till Bridge Lane and the Cottam Power Station. LHPT were concerned by the lack of evaluation trial trenching on the Cable Route Corridor running between Cottam 3 and Till Bridge Lane, as this area had only been evaluated using geophysical survey.</p>
27 th March 2023 – 5 th April 2023	Email exchange between Historic England, LHPT and the Applicant	In response to the meeting on the 22.03.2023, and with consideration to comments from Historic England, the Applicant proposed a programme of post-determination trenching with a 1% sample in an email dated 27.03.2023 to LHPT and Historic England.

		<p>No objections were raised from Historic England, who recommended that this should be discussed with the LHPT (email dated 30.03.2023).</p> <p>In an email dated 03.04.2023 LHPT rejected the proposal for a programme of post-determination trenching. They believed there was insufficient baseline information to identify and assess the impact on known and potential heritage assets as required by Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, and that it was necessary that the whole scheme, including the cable route, was evaluated using trial trenching pre-determination with a 2% sample (plus 2% contingency).</p> <p>In an email dated 04.04.2023 the Applicant requested further information to clarify LHPT's refusal for post-determination trenching at a 1% sample rate in areas where no evaluation trenching had been undertaken. Specifically the Applicant requested LHPT to clarify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - their position on post-determination trenching as it was in discord with the opinions of the Planning Inspectorate (meeting note dated 09.06.2022), Historic England (meeting dated 22.04.2023), as well as other Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) in the East and North of England (the Applicant has identified case studies of schemes in Nottinghamshire, Norfolk, Cambridgeshire, North Yorkshire, East Riding of Yorkshire and County Durham). - the inconsistency in trench sample they have required for other proposed solar DCOs. The Applicant highlighted that the Gate Burton Scheme, which lies in close proximity to the Cottam Scheme, and was referenced by LHPT in the meeting on 22.03.23, undertook an evaluation trial trenching sample of 1.07%, which is significantly lower than the 2% sample (plus 2% contingency) requested for the Cottam Scheme. <p>In their response (email dated 05.04.2023) LHPT stated that sufficient pre-determination evaluation was required and has been a principle of the archaeological process since Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning was published. Consequently, LHPT stated they would only agree proposed mitigation in areas where evaluation trial trenching has been undertaken (which totals c.17.5% of the Scheme). Although they would not address specific questions relating to other schemes, LHPT stated the Gate Burton Scheme contained significant</p>
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		<p>areas of woodland (estimated by the Applicant to total c.23ha or c.3.2% of the Scheme) and exclusion areas (estimated by the Applicant to total c.33ha or c.4.6% of the Scheme) that were not required to be trenched (the Applicant estimates that with omission of woodland and exclusion zones not trenched the evaluation trial trenching for the Gate Burton Scheme totalled 1.16% of its area). LHPT also stated that they had more confidence in the Gate Burton Scheme undertaking evaluation works as determined reasonable by LHPT. LHPT concluded that they had originally asked for a sample of 3% (with a 1% contingency) and <i>“in the spirit of cooperation following the Planning Inspectorate meeting”</i> agreed to a reduction of 2% trenching with a 2% contingency, which they did not believe to be a high sample.</p>
28 th March 2023	Lincolnshire County Council Relevant Representations [RR-001]	<p>LHPT are of the opinion that insufficient evaluation has been undertaken to understand the archaeological potential and development impacts of the Scheme.</p> <p>LHPT highlighted their concern during the pre-application stage to the Applicant’s proposed coverage of trial trench evaluation. LHPT stated that they agreed to <i>“to a programme of around 2% evaluation trenching (with a 1% contingency) of the entire redline boundary”</i> during a meeting with the Planning Inspectorate and the Applicant. LHPT believe that a 2% sample is required across all areas within the Scheme to adequately inform the EIA, ES Chapter and provide a basis for a mitigation strategy. Large areas of the Scheme have not been evaluated and so LHPT believes that mitigation cannot be agreed outside the trenched areas as their archaeological potential is unknown.</p> <p>LHPT are also of the opinion that concrete shoes are an unacceptable form of mitigation as there will be impact to buried archaeological remains during installation, operation (i.e. compaction), and decommissioning phases. The level of impact is considered by LHPT to be heightened in areas where evaluation trenching identified shallow archaeological remains. LHPT stated <i>“the use of concrete shoes in mitigation cannot be used in any area that has not been ground-truthed by evaluation trenching and found to be archaeologically negative.”</i> LHPT also stated <i>“it is noted that previously unexpected human remains were found in the first few days of trenching in one area at a depth of 20cm below the ground surface.”</i></p>

		LHPT summarised that they felt that the archaeological works for the Application had not been undertaken to a standard LCC would expect. They believed that <i>“the Cultural Heritage section was limited”</i> , and so <i>“the mitigation proposed is therefore uninformed and cannot be fit for purpose”</i> . LHPT therefore felt that further evaluation was therefore required (i.e. trenching) to understand the archaeology and determine an appropriate mitigation strategy. Consequently, the approach set out by the Applicant was considered by LHPT to be inadequate as it did not meet the evidential requirements as set out in the relevant policy and guidance.
3 rd October 2023	Meeting with LHPT and the Applicant	<p>Meeting in response to request from the Examining Authority in its list of action points arising from Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) on the Draft Development Consent Order [EV-018] to detail areas of disagreement between LHPT and the Applicant with respect to the WSI (ES Chapter Appendix 13.7) [REP4-025] submitted as part of the application.</p> <p>Five topics were identified where LHPT and the Applicant were in disagreement. These included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approach to intrusive archaeological evaluation: extent of evaluation trial trenching 2. Approach to Archaeological mitigation: informative trenching as detailed in the WSI [REP4-025] 3. Approach to mitigation: use of concrete feet: as detailed in the WSI [REP4-025] 4. Approach to mitigation: archaeological monitoring (watching brief) on the Cable Route Corridor as detailed in the WSI [REP4-025] 5. Approach to decommissioning
14 th December 2023	Meeting with LHPT and the Applicant	Meeting in response to request from the Examining Authority at Issue Specific Hearing 5 (ISH5) on the Draft Development Consent Order [REP3-038] to identify options for WSI if the scheme was consented.

		<p>Three options will be submitted at Deadline 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. WSI (ES Chapter Appendix 13.7) [REP4-025] submitted as part of the application within which LHPT will provide their comments on a without prejudice basis, notwithstanding the disagreement about the level of trial trenching undertaken to date; B. A second provisional WSI produced by the Applicant which includes post-determination trenching of 'blank' areas without prejudice. LHPT to provide their comments on a without prejudice basis, notwithstanding the disagreement about the level of trial trenching undertaken to date; C. LHPT position of pre-determination 2% trenching (with a 2% contingency) of all areas within the Order Limits (excluding areas already subject to evaluation trenching including the Shared Cable Route Corridor). Applicant to provide their without prejudice comments. <p>The meeting focused on areas solely proposed for the Cottam Solar Scheme (i.e. the main solar sites and adjoining cable running from Cottam 3 to Stow Park Road), as evaluation and mitigation works have previously been agreed for the shared cable route, which runs between Stow Park Road and Cottam Power Station.</p> <p>General discussion regarding use of concrete feet. LHPT agreed that concrete feet are a reasonable and viable option for mitigation where adequate evaluation has been undertaken, ground conditions are suitable, and <i>where the depth, condition and nature of the archaeology is such that it would not be negatively impacted by their installation, compaction during the operational life of the site or subsequent decommissioning impacts</i>. The Applicant highlighted that all areas proposed for concrete feet have been subjected to evaluation trial trenching. In a meeting on the 3rd October 2023, LHPT mentioned a recent scheme in Lincolnshire where a design of concrete feet was considered appropriate for mitigating impact to archaeological remains. LHPT provided an update to the request for information pertaining to the design, and have agreed to provide relevant information if in the public domain.</p>
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		Whilst no agreement could be found regarding the timing of trenching (i.e. trenching to be undertaken pre or post determination of the application), it was agreed that both parties would look to agree a trench plan which would form the basis of the second WSI.
22nd January 2024	Email from Applicant	Update from Applicant to notify LHPT that WSIs would be imminently arriving for Option A – original WSI with amendments to reflect change application and Option B – Without prejudice WSI with amendments to reflect change application and trenching across ‘blank’ areas.
2nd February 2024	Emails from Applicant to LHPT	Email from Applicant issuing the without prejudice WSI (Option B as detailed in Meeting on 14.12.23) to LHPT for comments, which includes the proposal to undertake trenching in ‘blank’ areas post-determination of the DCO application, along with updates to reflect the Change Application. LHPT sent an email confirming receipt on 05.02.2024 and stated that they would respond once they had looked at the document.
8th February 2024	Email from Applicant to LHPT	Applicant provided link to Option A WSI as detailed in Meeting on 14.12.23 with updates to reflect the Change Application. LHPT sent an email confirming receipt on 08.02.2024.

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

3 Archaeological Assessment Works

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

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

Document Reference	Assessment / Document	Applicant Comment	LCC Comment
APP-109	Desk-based assessment (DBA)	<p>As agreed with LHPT, full and detailed desk-based assessments have been completed and have been used to inform ES Chapter 13: Cultural Heritage [APP-048], intrusive field evaluation (ES Chapter Appendix 13.6) [APP-129 and APP-130] and the production of a detailed mitigation strategy (WSI; ES Chapter Appendix 13.7) [REP4-025].</p> <p>Desk-based assessments included an assessment of the full range of cartographic sources, and the following available archaeological records: National Heritage List for England (NHLE), National Record of Historic Environment (NRHE), Historic Environment Record (HER) data, Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS), National Mapping Programme (NMP) and Historic Landscape Character (HLC), as</p>	Agreed

		well as the results of specifically commissioned a geoarchaeological assessment, air photo and LiDAR analysis and geophysical survey (ES Chapter Appendices 13.1, 13.2 and 13.4) [APP-109 to APP-122 and APP-124].	
APP-110 to APP-122:	Geophysical Survey	<p>The scope and extent of non-intrusive survey was discussed with LHPT during a meeting on 23.02.2022. A WSI for geophysical survey along the Cable Route Corridor was agreed by email on 11.04.2022.</p> <p>Both parties were in agreement that the scope, extent, and quality of collected data was sufficient to inform ES Chapter 13: Cultural Heritage [APP-048], and a programme of evaluation trial trenching (ES Chapter Appendix 13.6) [APP-129 and 130].</p>	Agreed. Although had we known the trenching programme would be so limited we would have recommended the use of additional geophysical survey methods.
APP-123	Geoarchaeological DBA	Geoarchaeological desk-based assessment of all areas within the Order Limits.	Please consult the HE regional science advisor on the scope and extent of geoarchaeological work.
APP-124	Air Photo and LiDAR Mapping	<p>The scope and extent of non-intrusive survey was discussed with LHPT during a meeting on 23.02.2022.</p> <p>Both parties were in agreement that the scope, extent, and quality of collected</p>	The non-intrusive survey was sufficient to inform the trenching programme. The ES requires trenching results across the full impact zone.

		data was sufficient to inform ES Chapter 13: Cultural Heritage [APP-048], and a programme of evaluation trial trenching (ES Chapter Appendix 13.6) [APP-129 and 130].	
APP-129 – APP-130	Evaluation trial trenching	<p>The WSI for trial trench evaluation was agreed with LHPT on the 17.06.2022. Trench plans for individual areas were signed-off by LHPT between June and September 2022. Numerous site visits were undertaken between July and November 2022.</p> <p>The Applicant and LCC/ LHPT agreed that where evaluation trial trenching was completed, the standard of fieldwork that was undertaken was completed to a sufficient level to understand the character, quality and preservation, and significance of identified archaeological remains.</p>	We would like it to be noted here that we repeatedly asked for an overall site plan showing progress of the trenching across the scheme to ensure full coverage. it only became clear looking at the evaluation reports in the submission on the PINS website that only a fraction of the site was trenched. The design of a successful mitigation strategy requires sufficient trial trenching.
APP-131	Written Scheme of Investigation (Original version submitted with the DCO application)	<p>WSI which set out proposed archaeological mitigation. Mitigation proposed includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informative Trenching • Open-area Excavation 	As they currently stand we cannot agree either of the two WSIs. Our position remains that they have failed to adequately evaluate the site in line with professional guidance and standard archaeological practice and as such we

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strip, Map and Sample Excavation • Archaeological monitoring (watching brief) • Preservation in situ 	<p>cannot recommend either of the proposed post consent strategies.</p> <p>As we have consistently stated throughout the NSIP process, adequate trial trenching is required to inform an appropriate and fit for purpose mitigation strategy to adequately deal with the developmental impacts. This trenching should cover the full impact zone including the redline boundary and cable routes and be undertaken pre-consent to be in accordance with NPPF paragraphs 200 and 201 and the EIA Regulation 5 (2d)).</p> <p>Trenching results are essential not only to inform mitigation but to ensure effective risk management and allows the developer to present a programme that is deliverable. As we are now in the post-submission stage we would do our best to facilitate completion of an appropriate scheme of trenching evaluation before the determination, to allow the results to inform a reasonable and robust site specific mitigation strategy.</p>
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<p>REP4-026</p>	<p>Written Scheme of Investigation (Second version to reflect change application)</p>	<p>Second version of WSI was prepared to reflect Change Application:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Additional area of archaeological monitoring (watching brief) to the south of Cottam Power Station in advance of construction in the Shared Cable Corridor Route 2. Archaeological mitigation to facilitate abnormal load access at Stone Pit Lane, Willingham by Stow. 	<p>As they currently stand we cannot agree either of the two WSIs. Our position remains that they have failed to adequately evaluate the site in line with professional guidance and standard archaeological practice and as such we cannot recommend either of the proposed post consent strategies.</p> <p>As we have consistently stated throughout the NSIP process, adequate trial trenching is required to inform an appropriate and fit for purpose mitigation strategy to adequately deal with the developmental impacts. This trenching should cover the full impact zone including the redline boundary and cable routes and be undertaken pre-consent to be in accordance with NPPF paragraphs 200 and 201 and the EIA Regulation 5 (2d)).</p> <p>Trenching results are essential not only to inform mitigation but to ensure effective risk management and allows the developer to present a programme that is deliverable. As we are now in the post-submission stage we would do our best to facilitate completion of an appropriate</p>
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			<p>scheme of trenching evaluation before the determination, to allow the results to inform a reasonable and robust site specific mitigation strategy.</p>
N/A	Without Prejudice Written Scheme of Investigation	Without Prejudice WSI that provides for informative trenching in 'blank' areas post-determination of the DCO application.	<p>As they currently stand we cannot agree either of the two WSIs. Our position remains that they have failed to adequately evaluate the site in line with professional guidance and standard archaeological practice and as such we cannot recommend either of the proposed post consent strategies.</p> <p>As we have consistently stated throughout the NSIP process, adequate trial trenching is required to inform an appropriate and fit for purpose mitigation strategy to adequately deal with the developmental impacts. This trenching should cover the full impact zone including the redline boundary and cable routes and be undertaken pre-consent to be in accordance with NPPF paragraphs 200 and 201 and the EIA Regulation 5 (2d)).</p> <p>Trenching results are essential not only to inform mitigation but to ensure effective</p>

			<p>risk management and allows the developer to present a programme that is deliverable. As we are now in the post-submission stage we would do our best to facilitate completion of an appropriate scheme of trenching evaluation before the determination, to allow the results to inform a reasonable and robust site specific mitigation strategy.</p>
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4 Matters Agreed

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

Table 4.1 – Matter Agreed

Main Topic	Sub-topic	The Applicant's Position	LCC's Position
CUL-01 Cultural Heritage	Legislation and Planning Policy / Assessment Methodology Standards and guidance used	<p>As agreed with LHPT, all assessments undertaken were completed in line with local (Lincolnshire Archaeology Handbook 2019) and national guidance (National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3), draft National Policy Statement for Energy EN-1 and EN-3, NPPF, ClfA Guidance, Historic England Guidance).</p> <p>A WSI for geophysical survey along the Cable Route Corridor was agreed by email on 11.04.2022, and a WSI for the trial trench methodology was agreed on 17.06.2022. Numerous site visits were undertaken between LHPT and the Applicant between July and November 2022. All parties agreed that the standard of fieldwork that was undertaken was</p>	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>The WSI was agreed and the standard of what fieldwork which was undertaken was acceptable but insufficient trenching evaluation has been undertaken. Until the outstanding trenching is completed in line with the agreed WSI mitigation can only be agreed in those areas where trenching is completed and the results have informed the mitigation measures required in accordance with the significance and extent of the archaeology and the impact of the development upon it.</p>

		acceptable, and was in line with appropriate professional standards and guidance.	
CUL-02 Cultural Heritage	Baseline Conditions – Desk-Based Assessments: Scope and level of desk-based research	<p>As agreed with LHPT, full and detailed desk-based assessments have been completed and have been used to inform ES Chapter 13: Cultural Heritage [APP-048], a programme of intrusive field evaluation (ES Chapter Appendix 13.6) [APP-129 and APP-130] and the production of a detailed mitigation strategy (WSI; ES Chapter Appendix 13.7) [REP4-025].</p> <p>Desk-based assessments included an assessment of the full range of cartographic sources, and the following available archaeological records: National Heritage List for England (NHLE), National Record of Historic Environment (NRHE), Historic Environment Record (HER) data, Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS), National Mapping Programme (NMP) and Historic Landscape Character (HLC), as well as the results of specifically commissioned a geoarchaeological assessment, air photo and LiDAR analysis and geophysical survey (ES Chapter Appendices 13.1, 13.2 and 13.4) [APP-109 to APP-122 and APP-124].</p>	Agreed
CUL-03 Cultural Heritage	Baseline Conditions: Scope of non-intrusive survey	The scope and extent of non-intrusive survey was discussed with LHPT during a meeting on 23.02.2022. A WSI for geophysical survey along	Agreed

	(geophysical survey, air photo and LiDAR analysis and geo-archaeological desk-based assessment).	<p>the Cable Route Corridor was agreed by email on 11.04.2022.</p> <p>Both parties were in agreement that the scope, extent, and quality of collected data was sufficient to inform ES Chapter 13: Cultural Heritage [APP-048], and the programme of evaluation trial trenching (ES Chapter Appendix 13.6) [APP-129 and 130].</p>	LHPT defer to HE science advisor to comment on the quality of the geo-archaeological aspects of the desk based assessment.
CUL-04 Cultural Heritage	Intrusive Archaeological Evaluation Fieldwork: Characterisation of identified archaeological features.	<p>The WSI for trial trench evaluation was agreed with LHPT on the 17.06.2022. Trench plans for individual areas were signed-off by LHPT between June and September 2022. Numerous site visits were undertaken between July and November 2022.</p> <p>Where evaluation trial trenching was completed, the standard of fieldwork that was undertaken was sufficient to understand the character, quality and preservation, and significance of identified archaeological remains.</p>	<p>Agreed where the trenching was undertaken.</p> <p>It has not been made clear that trenching has not been undertaken across the impact zone as agreed. The selective approach to areas with sufficient trenching to inform mitigation of development impact was not made clear until we compared the location plans of the four evaluation reports in the DCO submission.</p>
CUL-05 Cultural Heritage	Baseline Conditions / Archaeological Evaluation Fieldwork / Approach to Additional	The scope and results of works carried out to assess the potential impact on archaeological remains within the 'Shared Cable Route Corridor', proposed to be shared by the Cottam Solar Project, the West Burton Solar Project and the Gate Burton Solar Project, between Stow Park Road and the Cottam Power Station were	This work on the shared corridor was undertaken as part of the Gate Burton scheme. Sufficient evaluation was undertaken and results informed an effective mitigation strategy which has been agreed.

	Archaeological Mitigation as detailed in the WSI [REP4-025]: Shared Cable Corridor	discussed during meetings between the Applicant and LHPT on 12.01.2023, 22.02.2023 and 22.03.2023. LHPT were in agreement that the extent and quality of collected baseline data was sufficient to inform an appropriate mitigation strategy (WSI; ES Chapter Appendix 13.7) [REP4-025].	
CUL-06 Cultural Heritage	Approach to Additional Archaeological Mitigation as detailed in the WSI [REP4-025]: Reinstatement of earthworks	In line with LHPT's response to the PEIR (2022; see appendix 13.9.2 [APP-133]), the Applicant confirms that earthworks impacted by construction phases of the Scheme will be reinstated, as set out in Section 13.8 of ES Chapter 13: Cultural Heritage [APP-048] and as provided for in Appendix 13.7 Archaeological Mitigation WSI, Figure 10 [REP4-025]. The draft Development Consent Order [EX5/C3.1_G] secures, through Requirement 12 of Schedule 2, that "the authorised development must be implemented in accordance with the written scheme of investigation."	No further comment.

5 Matters Not Agreed

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

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

Based on the meeting on the 3rd October 2023 (see Table 2.1), written summaries of ISH2 [REP3-050] and [REP3-033], the Applicant understands that there are five areas of disagreement (Table 5.1 CUL-10 to CUL-14):

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

Table 5.1 – Matters not Agreed

Main Topic	Sub-topic	The Applicant's Position	LCC's Position
CUL-07 Cultural Heritage	Approach to Embedded Archaeological Mitigation as	Both parties agreed that 'no development' areas were a suitable form of mitigation by design for in situ preservation of archaeological remains during a meeting on 22.02.2023.	LHPT agree that preservation in situ is an option. LHPT do not agree any site specific mitigation options until such time as sufficient trenching as determined by LHPT is completed.

	<p>detailed in the WSI [REP4-025]: Areas of no development</p>	<p>Areas containing buried archaeological remains within the Order Limits that are proposed for in situ preservation in the form of 'no development' were discussed during a meeting on 22.03.2023 (as detailed in the WSI; ES Chapter Appendix 13.7) [REP4-025].</p> <p>LHPT agreed during a meeting on 03.10.2023 that the proposed mitigation is sufficient.</p>	<p>Mitigation by design can only be effective when informed by sufficient baseline evidence including trenching results across the full red line boundary.</p> <p>The full extent of the archaeological areas must be determined and each area must be fenced off and subject to a programme of monitoring throughout the construction, operation and the decommissioning phases, and there will be no ground disturbance whatsoever which may disturb or affect the archaeological remains, including plant movement or storage. The fencing will need to remain in place and be maintained throughout the lifetime of the scheme. They need an Archaeological Clerk of Works and the management strategy for the preservation in situ areas will need to be included in their CEMP to ensure the protection measures stay in place throughout the development.</p>
<p>CUL-08 Cultural Heritage</p>	<p>Approach to Additional Archaeological Mitigation as detailed in the WSI [REP4-025]:</p>	<p>Both parties agreed that strip, map and sample, open area excavation and archaeological monitoring (watching brief) were considered a suitable form of mitigation by record for buried archaeological remains during a meeting on 22.02.2023.</p>	<p>LHPT agree that Strip map and record / open excavation / archaeological monitoring is an option.</p>

	Strip map and record / open excavation / archaeological monitoring (watching brief) (solar Sites)	<p>Areas containing buried archaeological remains proposed for mitigation by strip, map and sample, open excavation and watching brief within the solar Sites (as detailed in the WSI; ES Chapter Appendix 13.7) were discussed during the meeting on 22.03.2023.</p> <p>LHPT agreed during a meeting on 03.10.2023 that, where sufficient trial trench evaluation had occurred, the proposed mitigation is sufficient.</p>	LHPT do not agree any site specific mitigation options until such time as sufficient trenching as determined by LHPT is completed.
CUL-09	Approach to Additional Archaeological Mitigation as detailed in the WSI [REP4-025]: Strip map and record (Cable Route)	Both parties agreed that strip, map and sample was considered a suitable form of mitigation by record of buried archaeological remains identified through geophysical survey along the cable route running between Cottam 3 and Till Bridge Lane during a meeting on 03.10.2023.	<p>LHPT agree that preservation in situ is an option.</p> <p>LHPT do not agree any site specific mitigation options until such time as sufficient trenching as determined by LHPT is completed.</p>
CUL-010	Cultural Heritage Approach to Additional Archaeological Mitigation: Decommissioning	The Applicant is committed to preparing a Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan prior to decommissioning, which will be sufficient to safeguard any archaeological remains during the decommissioning phase (paragraph 13.7.47 of ES Chapter 13 [APP-048]) and secured through the draft DCO [EX5/C3.1_G].	LHPT is of the opinion that any potential impacts caused by the decommissioning phase should be mitigated during the constructional phase. LHPT believe that insufficient trial trench evaluation has been undertaken across the Order Limits for the Scheme, and as a consequence it is not possible to agree adequate mitigation works in those areas where LHPT believe sufficient trenching has not been undertaken as part of a

			post-consent Requirement during the construction phase (see CUL-11).
CUL-11 Cultural Heritage	Intrusive Archaeological Evaluation Fieldwork: Identification of presence/absence of Archaeological features	<p>There is presently a lack of agreement between the Applicant and LHPT regarding what constitutes a sufficient level of archaeological field evaluation to identify the absence/presence of archaeological features in order to inform the DCO application, and what works could be undertaken as part of a post-consent Requirement.</p> <p>The Applicant considers that the programme of geophysical survey, which covered all accessible areas within the Scheme, and informed trial trenching, was a sufficient evaluation and fulfilled the aim of a field evaluation as defined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeology (CIfA) <i>Standards and Guidance for Field Evaluation (2020)</i>: “The definition of archaeological field evaluation is a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts and their research potential, within a specified area or site on land, in an inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present, field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, reports on them and enables an</p>	LHPT is of the opinion that “ <i>baseline evidence is woefully inadequate and effective and appropriate mitigation cannot be determined outside of the trenched areas</i> ” (Lincolnshire County Council Relevant Representations 28.03.2023, Ref EN010133). LHPT believes non-intrusive survey (i.e. geophysical survey) is not a sufficient field evaluation method for identifying the archaeological potential of the development area, and that a programme of evaluation trial trenching that covers a 2% (plus contingency either at 1 or 2%) area sample of the whole scheme is required to identify the absence/presence of archaeological remains.

		<i>assessment of their significance in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate”.</i>	
CUL-12 Cultural Heritage	Approach to Additional Archaeological Mitigation as detailed in the WSI [APP131]: Informative Trenching	<p>There is presently a lack of agreement between the Applicant and LHPT regarding the suitability of a programme of informative trenching post-DCO determination.</p> <p>A post-determination programme of informative trenching targeting geophysical anomalies and cropmarks identified from air photo and LiDAR mapping interpreted as having an unknown origin, as detailed in the WSI (ES Chapter Appendix 13.7) [REP4-025], was discussed with LHPT on the 22.03.2023.</p> <p>The Applicant is of the opinion that the field evaluation, comprising geophysical survey and targeted evaluation trenching, was sufficient to inform the archaeological assessment of the Scheme that was undertaken for the DCO application, and to determine the scope of archaeological mitigation works to be undertaken as a post-consent requirement. A programme of pre-determination untargeted trial trenching with a high sample rate (i.e. 2%) is considered by the Applicant to be disproportionate to the assessed archaeological potential of the area within the Order Limits. If further trenching across the Scheme is deemed necessary, the Applicant considers that, in line</p>	<p>LHPT is of the opinion that the information derived from trial trench evaluation is critical to inform the DCO application, and consider post-consent trenching to impose too much risk upon the developer/Scheme (meeting 03.10.2023 see table 2.1). Consequently LHPT believe that evaluation trial trenching should be undertaken pre-determination across the whole site at a sample of 2% (plus contingency). LHPT consider that evaluation trenches need to cover known and suspected areas of archaeology and also the so-called “blank” areas because there will be archaeology which is not picked up in other evaluation techniques, for example burials do not show up in geophysical survey and in cropmarks later activity may mask earlier surviving archaeology. Unexpected Saxon skeletons were found within 20cm of the ground surface in trenching of blank areas, and on another NSIP all the mitigation areas were identified from trenching, not other evaluation techniques. Our concern is that currently there will be unidentified unexamined archaeology which will be damaged or destroyed by the development process.</p>

		with correspondence with the Planning Inspectorate and Historic England and guided by case studies across other LPAs in England, this should be undertaken post DCO determination.	
CUL-13 Cultural Heritage	Approach to Embedded Archaeological Mitigation as detailed in the WSI [APP131]: Use of concrete feet	<p>There is presently a lack of agreement between the Applicant and LHPT regarding whether there is sufficient information to support the use of concrete feet as a form of archaeological mitigation by design to preserve buried archaeological remains in situ.</p> <p>The Applicant considers that concrete feet are a nationally recognised method for archaeological mitigation by design, as demonstrated by guidance provided by Cornwall Council (BRE National Solar Centre, 2013, P.13), and the numerous examples of solar schemes where LPAs have agreed the use of concrete feet to safeguard buried archaeological remains (i.e. in Nottinghamshire, North Yorkshire, North Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk.</p> <p>As detailed in C6.3.13.7 ES Appendix 13.7 Archaeological Mitigation WSI [REP4-025], all areas recommended by the Applicant for archaeological mitigation using concrete feet have been subject to field evaluation using geophysical survey and trial trenching.</p>	LHPT are of the opinion that the use of concrete anchors is unacceptable. They consider that there is insufficient information to demonstrate that there is no impact on shallow buried archaeological remains during the construction, operational (i.e., compaction) and decommissioning phases of concrete anchors. LHPT believe that concrete anchors are part of the range of mitigation options and the use of concrete anchors is not a concern where the archaeology that will be impacted is robust and suitable for such mitigation. LHPT consider that the Applicant's use of this mitigation type in unevaluated areas where the nature, depth, extent, significance and type of archaeology has not been determined. The unexpected Saxon remains found near the ground surface for example would be damaged and destroyed without investigation or recording if the area had been subject to concrete anchors without trenching.

		As detailed in Table 6.1.1 of C6.3.13.7 ES Appendix 13.7 Archaeological Mitigation WSI [REP4-025], the area where burials were identified, has been proposed for open excavation, not concrete feet.	
CUL-14 Cultural Heritage	Approach to Additional Archaeological Mitigation as detailed in the WSI [APP131]: Watching brief (cable route)	<p>There is presently a lack of agreement between the Applicant and LHPT regarding whether archaeological monitoring (watching brief) is a sufficient form of mitigation along the Cable Route Corridor.</p> <p>The Applicant is of the opinion that geophysical survey is a sufficient field evaluation to identify the absence/presence of buried archaeological remains. Archaeological mitigation in the form of strip, map and record is proposed in the WSI (ES Chapter Appendix 13.7) [REP4-025], where geophysical survey has identified concentrations of buried archaeological deposits. The Applicant considers that archaeological monitoring (watching brief) is sufficient to record any discrete features not detected by the geophysical survey.</p>	LHPT are of the opinion that mitigation cannot be determined outside of the areas where evaluation trial trenching was completed. LHPT does not agree that archaeological monitoring would be sufficient without sufficient trenching results to inform whether it is an appropriate strategy.

Cottam Solar Project

Position Statement Lincolnshire County Council Appendix B: Landscape and Visual

Prepared by: Lanpro Services

~~February~~ March 2024

PINS Ref: EN010133

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Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010



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Issue Sheet

Report Prepared for: Cottam Solar Project Ltd.
Examination Stage: Deadline ~~5~~6

Position Statement Lincolnshire County Council Appendix B: Landscape and Visual

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Date: February 2024

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A	27 February 2024	WW	CJ
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1 Introduction

Purpose of this document

1.1.1 This Appendix has been prepared as part of the proposed Cottam Solar Project Development Consent Order (the Application) made by Cottam Solar Project Ltd (the Applicant) to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the Secretary of State) pursuant to the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008).

1.1.2 This Appendix has been produced as an addendum to the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) with Lincolnshire County Council to confirm to the Examining Authority (ExA) where agreement has been reached between the parties, and where agreement has not yet been reached. SoCGs are an established means in the DCO consenting process of allowing all parties to identify and focus on specific issues that may need to be addressed during the examination.

Parties to this Landscape and Visual Position Statement

1.1.3 This Appendix has been prepared by (1) Cottam Solar Project Ltd. as the Applicant and (2) Lincolnshire County Council. Lincolnshire County Council is a host authority for the four site areas, referred to as Cottam 1, 2, 3a and 3b, that will house the PV panels, BESS and associated development.

1.1.4 Collectively, Cottam Solar Project Ltd. and Lincolnshire County Council are referred to as 'the parties'.

Terminology

1.1.5 In the tables in Sections 2 ~~and~~ 3 of this Appendix:

- "Agreed" indicates where the issue has been resolved;
- "Not Agreed" indicates a final position.

Topic Referencing for all matters

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

Topic	Unique Identifying Code
Landscape and Visual	LAN-XX

2 Matters Agreed

Table 2.1 – Matters Agreed

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed	AAH/LCC Comment	Applicant Comment
LAN-01 Landscape and Visual	ES Chapter 8: Appendices and Figures	The Appendices and Figures listed within Section 8.1 of ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Revision A [REP2-008], are presented in sufficient detail to inform the baseline, underpin the LVIA process and to identify the likely significant effects of the Scheme.	This is agreed	Noted and Agreed.
LAN-02 Landscape and Visual	Meetings and Workshops	The meetings and workshops with statutory consultees set out within Section 8.2 of ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Revision A [REP2-008] and Appendix 8.4 [APP-076], have been effective in informing decision making and monitoring the LVIA assessment process of the Scheme to date. The engagement has been timely and has been a valuable tool in seeking understanding and agreement about the key issues.	This is agreed	Noted and Agreed.
LAN-03 Landscape and Visual	Legislation and Planning Policy	The summary of relevant legislation and planning policy set out within Section 8.3 of ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Revision A [REP2-008], is relevant	This is agreed	Noted and Agreed.

		to the landscape and visual matters as part of the decision-making process and is up to date and complete.		
LAN-04 Landscape and Visual	Assessment Methodology and Significance Criteria	The assessment methodology and significance criteria set out within Section 8.4 of ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Revision A [REP2-008] and Appendix 8.1 [APP-068], provides an appropriate approach to assessing the potential likely significant effects on receptors; and has been undertaken with consideration of the appropriate and relevant guidance.	This is agreed	Noted and Agreed.
LAN-05 Landscape and Visual	Study Area/Scope of Assessment	The Study Areas and Scope of Assessment set out within Section 8.5 of ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Revision A [REP2-008] is sufficient to inform the assessment baseline conditions.	This is agreed	Noted and Agreed.
LAN-06 Landscape and Visual	Baseline Conditions	The description of the existing baseline landscape and visual conditions set out within Section 8.5 of ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Revision A [REP2-008] and Appendix 8.2 Revision A [REP-020] and Appendix 8.3 Revision A [REP2-012], is representative of the baseline site conditions and therefore acceptable to inform the assessment.	This is agreed	Noted and Agreed.

LAN-07 Landscape and Visual	Landscape Character Assessments	The published landscape character assessments that are relied upon at the national, regional, and local level and set out within Section 8.5 of ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Revision A [REP2-008] and Appendix 8.2 Revision A [REP-020] and Appendix 8.3 Revision A [REP2-012], are considered acceptable to inform the assessment baseline conditions.	This is agreed	Noted and Agreed.
LAN-08 Landscape and Visual	Visual Receptors: Assessment Viewpoints	The viewpoints set out within Section 8.5 of ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Revision A [REP2-008] and Appendix 8.3 Revision A [REP2-012] are considered acceptable to inform the assessment baseline conditions.	This is agreed	Noted and Agreed.
LAN-09 Landscape and Visual	Visual Receptors: Additional Assessment Viewpoints for the Cable Route Corridor	The viewpoints set out within Section 8.5 of ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Revision A [REP2-008] and Appendix 8.3 Revision A [REP2-012] are considered acceptable to inform the baseline conditions for the Cable Route Corridor and Substations.	This is agreed	Noted and Agreed.
LAN-10 Landscape and Visual	Landscape Receptors: Value	The judgements on value for the landscape receptors, as set out within Section 8.5 of ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Revision A [REP2-008] and Appendix 8.2 Revision A [REP-020], are	This is agreed	Noted and Agreed.

		considered acceptable to inform the assessment baseline conditions.		
LAN-11 Landscape and Visual	Visual Receptors: Value	The judgements on value for the visual receptors, as set out within Section 8.5 of ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Revision A [REP2-008] and Appendix 8.3 Revision A [REP2-012], are considered acceptable to inform the assessment baseline conditions.	This is agreed	Noted and Agreed.
LAN-12 Landscape and Visual	Embedded Design Mitigation	The approach and proposals for embedded mitigation set out within Section 8.6 of ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Revision A [REP2-008] and Appendix 8.2 Revision A [REP-020] and Appendix 8.3 Revision A [REP2-012]-considers the landscape and visual matters associated with the Scheme as part of an iterative process. LCC also acknowledge the establishing planting will add a positive element to this landscape and vegetation removal, as shown on the Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Rev A), is relatively minimal.	This is agreed	Noted and Agreed.
LAN-13 Landscape and Visual	Additional Mitigation	The approach and proposals for additional mitigation set out within Section 8.6 of ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Revision A [REP2-008] and Appendix 8.2 Revision A [REP-020] and	This is agreed	Noted and Agreed.

		Appendix 8.3 Revision A [REP2-012], considers the landscape and visual matters associated with the Scheme as part of an iterative process. LCC also acknowledge the establishing planting will add a positive element to this landscape and vegetation removal, as shown on the Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Rev A), is relatively minimal.		
LAN-14a Landscape and Visual Cottam Sites (C1, C2, C3a and C3b)	In – Combination Effects Landscape <i>Construction</i> <i>Year 1</i>	It is agreed by both parties that there are no In – Combination Significant Adverse Effects on the following Landscape receptors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Scale Landscape Character Area LCT 3a Flood Plain Valleys. • Regional Scale Landscape Character Area LCT 4b Wooded Vales. • Regional Scale Landscape Character Area LCT 6a Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes. • Regional Scale Landscape Character Area LCT 2b Planned and Drained Fens and Carrlands. • Topography and Watercourses. • Communication and Infrastructure. 	This is agreed	Noted and Agreed.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Settlements, Industry, Commerce and Leisure. • Public Rights of Way and Access. • National and Locally Designated Landscapes Analysis & Evaluation. • Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens. 		
LAN-14b Landscape and Visual Cottam Sites (C1, C2, C3a and C3b)	In – Combination Effects Landscape <i>Residual (Year 15)</i>	<p>It is agreed by both parties that there are no In-Combination Significant Adverse Residual Effects to the following Landscape receptors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Regional Scale Landscape Character Areas. • Topography and Watercourses. • Communication and Infrastructure. • Settlements, Industry, Commerce and Leisure. • Public Rights of Way and Access. • National and Locally Designated Landscapes Analysis & Evaluation. • Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens. 	This is agreed	Noted and Agreed.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations. 		
LAN-14c Landscape and Visual Cable Route Corridor	In – Combination Effects Landscape and Visual <i>All Assessment Years</i>	It is agreed by both parties that there are no In-Combination Significant Adverse Effects to any Landscape Receptor associated with the Cable Route Corridor at any point in time.	This is agreed	Noted and Agreed.
LAN-14d Landscape and Visual Substation Sites	In – Combination Effects Landscape <i>All Assessment Years</i>	It is agreed by both parties that there are no In-Combination Significant Adverse Residual Effects to any Landscape Receptor associated with the Substation sites.	This is agreed	Noted and Agreed.
LAN-14e Landscape and Visual	Cumulative Effects Landscape <i>Construction Year 1</i>	It is agreed by both parties that there are no Cumulative Significant Adverse Effects on the following landscape receptors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Scale Landscape Character Area LCT 3a Flood Plain Valleys. Regional Scale Landscape Character Area LCT 4b Wooded Vales. Regional Scale Landscape Character Area LCT 6a Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes. 	This is agreed	Noted and Agreed.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Scale Landscape Character Area LCT 2b Planned and Drained Fens and Carrlands. Settlements, Industry, Commerce and Leisure. Public Rights of Way and Access. National and Locally Designated Landscapes Analysis & Evaluation. Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens. 		
LAN-14f Landscape and Visual	Cumulative Effects Landscape <i>Residual (Year 15)</i>	<p>It is agreed by both parties that there are no Cumulative Significant Adverse Residual Effects to the following Landscape receptors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Scale Landscape Character Area LCT 3a Flood Plain Valleys. Regional Scale Landscape Character Area LCT 4b Wooded Vales. Regional Scale Landscape Character Area LCT 6a Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes. Regional Scale Landscape Character Area LCT 2b Planned and Drained Fens and Carrlands. 	This is agreed	Noted and Agreed.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topography and Watercourses. • Communication and Infrastructure. • Settlements, Industry, Commerce and Leisure. • Public Rights of Way and Access. • National and Locally Designated Landscapes Analysis & Evaluation. • Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens. 		
LAN-14g Landscape and Visual Cable Route Corridor	Cumulative Effects Landscape <i>All Assessment Years</i>	It is agreed by both parties that there are no Cumulative Significant Adverse Effects to any Landscape Receptor associated with the Cable Route Corridor at any point in time.	This is agreed	Noted and Agreed.
LAN-14h Landscape and Visual Substation Sites	Cumulative Effects Landscape <i>All Assessment Years</i>	It is agreed by both parties that there are no In-Combination Significant Adverse Effects to any Landscape Receptor associated with the Substation Sites at any point in time.	This is agreed	Noted and Agreed.
LAN-15	Presentation of Assessment Findings	The approach to the assessment being an independent chapter text backed up with	This is agreed	Noted and Agreed.

Landscape and Visual		detailed technical appendices is acceptable. The volume of the information in the appendices (rather than the chapter) is in part due to the fragmented nature of the Scheme and cable routes over a wide area, creating additional elements to consider beyond a simple singular red line boundary.		
LAN-16 Landscape and Visual	Detail within Assessment Findings	A lot of supporting information is provided within associated appendices which provide very detailed information relating to the assessment.	This is agreed	Noted and Agreed.
LAN-17 Landscape and Visual	Summary of assessment findings	From Relevant Representation – RR-001 “The Council notes the volume of information provided within the LVIA and associated appendices, which while very detailed, makes the identification and clear understanding of key landscape and visual issues (as well as providing succinct review comments) difficult at this stage. The main LVIA chapter alone is some 295 pages with no clear summary or narrative of effects to communicate the main findings, relying in cross referencing numerous appendices. The Environmental Statement Volume 4: Non-Technical Summary (C6.5) would particularly benefit from this for non-technical readers as the landscape and visual section contains a list of potentially affected receptors with limited summarising narrative	This is agreed	Noted and Agreed

		<p>provided to provide context or identity what the key issues are.”</p> <p>Applicant’s comment:</p> <p>The Applicant has prepared summaries of the assessment of effects to landscape receptors and visual receptors which were submitted to the Examination at Deadline 1, please refer to Supplementary Landscape Effects Tables [REP-060] and at Deadline 2 please refer to Supplementary Visual Effects Tables Revision A [REP2-052]. These supplementary tables communicate the main findings as a clear summary, which signposts out to where the detailed information is available in the LVIA chapter and appendices. This new documentation is aimed to benefit non-technical readers by providing a narrative that summarises the assessment undertaken and identifies what the key issues are.</p> <p>At the Examination Issue Specific Hearing (ISH) 2 on 5th September 2023 and ISH 4 on 6th December 2023, it was requested that LCC and the Applicant provide a joint statement regarding the weighting of the significance of the positive impacts of mitigation on landscape. The Statement should include:</p>		
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		<p>1) Where matters and conclusions of significant beneficial effects are agreed,</p> <p>2) Where there are differences in agreement over the significant beneficial effect conclusions; and</p> <p>3) The reasons for the differences in agreement over opinion regarding the findings of significant beneficial landscape effects.</p> <p>The Applicant has prepared the Joint Statement on Beneficial Landscape Effects. Please refer to Appendix A of this SoCG.</p> <p>The Applicant has also prepared a table setting out the In-Combination Landscape Effects associated with the Scheme. Please refer to Appendix B of this SoCG. D of this SoCG.</p>		
LAN-21 Landscape and Visual	ES Chapter 8: Wider Highways Elements	<p><i>From Relevant Representation – RR-001</i></p> <p><i>“The wider highways elements of the scheme do not appear to be fully considered in the LVIA beyond increased traffic during construction phases, despite the potential adverse effects on the rural landscape these may have including vegetation loss, urbanisation or visual amenity through any required highway improvements.”</i></p> <p>Applicant’s comment:</p> <p>The judgements and conclusions on the likely significant impacts and effects for the</p>	<p>This is agreed.</p> <p>However, prior to any construction activities, all tree and hedgerow protection methods associated with that phase of construction should also be clarified and subsequently agreed with the appropriate authority. This should be to BS:5837</p>	<p>Noted and Agreed.</p> <p>The Applicant has now prepared additional hedgerow removal plans and in light of the inconsistencies between the Draft Development Consent Order and the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) Report, C7.3 Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan B [REP2-026] (the ‘OLEMP’) is revised and</p>

		<p>landscape receptors are set out within Section 8.7 of ES Chapter: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-043]. Wherever feasible, construction vehicle access to the Sites will utilise existing highways and associated access points. In certain instances, minor vegetation removal may be necessary to accommodate the vehicle's swept path and ensure visibility. With abnormal loads, there is no vegetation removal required only minor pruning in just one location at the Normanby Road 'S' bend (see appendix 2 sheets 1 to 3 of drawing no: 22-1062.SPA02 in C6.3.14.1 ES Appendix 14.1 Transport Assessment [EN010133/EX4/C6.3.14.1_B]).</p> <p>In certain locations where existing accesses do not exist, some very minor hedgerow removal is necessary to accommodate the access road between fields, land parcels and solar panel areas. Hedgerows to be removed are shown on Hedgerow Removal Plans within the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010133/EX4/C7.3_E]. This removal will involve only very short sections of hedgerow to accommodate internal access roads and will not involve loss of trees, in particular trees protected under any Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs).</p>	<p><i>Trees in Relation to Construction</i> and any subsequent arboricultural method statements, again which should be approved by the appropriate authority. In particular this should ensure existing trees, and associated root protection areas, are suitably protected throughout the full duration of the construction period.</p> <p>All tree and hedgerow removal should be clearly detailed and agreed prior to commencing works, and any deviation from the information presented within the vegetation removal plans should be agreed with the relevant authority.</p>	<p>secured by the Requirement 7 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_C Draft Development Consent Order Revision C [REP2-004].</p> <p>Following further development of the Scheme, more detailed planting plans including detail of areas of landscape mitigation, location and types of planting (species), as well as number, density and specification will be provided prior to any works commencing. The detailed landscape proposals will consist of the area and extent of the Scheme shown on C6.4.8.16.1_A - C6.4.8.16.10_A Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Figures 8.16.1_A to 8.16.10_A) [REP-024 to REP-034].</p>
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<p>LAN-22 Landscape and Visual</p>	<p>Existing Trees and Hedgerows</p>	<p>From Relevant Representation – RR-001</p> <p>“The submission has not provided sufficient information in regards to the impact upon, or protection of, existing trees, hedgerows and other important vegetation in order for comment to be made at this stage. These impacts are not limited to the solar development areas, but associated with access and highways works to facilitate the development, such as construction access, particularly from large plant, or access points and associated visibility splays. It is unclear on the landscape and ecology plans as to the extent of vegetation removal proposed, and the LVIA implies little or no vegetation removal is proposed. Appendix 14.1 Transport Assessment also identifies some localised areas of hedge removal and several instances of trimming back. The extent of this needs to be clarified during the examination.”</p> <p>Applicant’s comment:</p> <p>The Applicant has submitted plans showing the indicative location of the sections of hedgerow that are to be permanently and temporarily removed as a result of the Scheme. Please refer to the Hedgerow Removal Plans within the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan</p>	<p>This is agreed.</p> <p>However, prior to any construction activities, all tree and hedgerow protection methods associated with that phase of construction should also be clarified and subsequently agreed with the appropriate authority. This should be to BS:5837 <i>Trees in Relation to Construction</i> and any subsequent arboricultural method statements, again which should be approved by the appropriate authority. In particular this should ensure existing trees, and associated root protection areas, are suitably protected throughout the full duration of the construction period.</p> <p>All tree and hedgerow removal should be clearly detailed and agreed prior to commencing works, and any deviation from the</p>	<p>Noted and Agreed</p>
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		<p>[EN010133/EX4/C7.3_E]. Appendix 14.1 Transport Assessment [EN010133/EX4/C6.3.14.1_B] identifies some localised areas of hedge removal and instances where hedgerows will need to be trimmed back to allow the passage of construction vehicles EN010133/EX4/C6.3.14.1_B. Vegetation removal has been reviewed by the Applicant and as shown on the Hedgerow Removal Plans, is relatively minimal and therefore more valuable existing landscape elements of the Scheme would be predominantly retained.</p>	<p>information presented within the vegetation removal plans should be agreed with the relevant authority.</p>	
LAN-23 Landscape and Visual	Long Range Views	<p><i>From Relevant Representation – RR-001</i></p> <p><i>“Long range, open and panoramic views across the low lying Till Vale from elevated land to the east, including from The Ridge Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) are also a concern, which while of a longer range, would potentially include views down onto large areas of solar development, with larger elements, such as substations, being particularly conspicuous in the landscape”.</i></p> <p>Applicant’s comment:</p> <p>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Revision A [REP2-008] considers both the landscape and visual effects of the</p>	<p>This is agreed.</p> <p>While the Ridge provides an elevated vantage point across the Till Vale, and while a concern that the development would be prominent in the view, the information presented within the LVIA has identified that it is unlikely the development would be conspicuous in the view due to vegetation and distance, and subsequently would be unlikely to provide</p>	Noted and Agreed

		<p>Scheme on the local environment, including taking account of views across the low-lying Till Vale and the 'Big Skies' as the baseline situation. The LVIA (see paragraphs 8.5.152, 8.5.14, 8.5.21, 8.5.31 and 8.5.152) recognises the importance of these big expansive skies playing a part in the views across the Study Area along with other vertical elements such as water towers, power stations and wind turbines. The LVIA includes a suite of 67 viewpoints that cover long range views for example viewpoints VP01, VP24, VP25, VP26, VP27 and VP29 for Cottam 1, VP44, VP47, VP52, VP55 and VP56 for Cottam 2 and VP64 and VP65 for Cottam 3. There are also an additional 25 viewpoints at the request of LCC that were agreed at the LVIA Workshops held prior to submission that also include long range views, for example LCC-C-E and LCC-C-L for Cottam 1, LCC-C-Q for Cottam 2 and LCC-C-W and LCC-C-X for Cottam 3. The visual effects for the long-range views are set out in C6.3.8.3 ES Appendix 8.3 Assessment of Potential Visual Effects Revision A [REP2-012].</p> <p>For further details regarding the matters under discussion between the parties in respect of LVIA, please refer to Appendix A.</p>	<p>significant adverse effects to receptors in this location.</p>	
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<p>LAN-25 Landscape and Visual</p>	<p>Landscape and Ecological Management Plan: Landscape and Ecological Improvements</p>	<p><i>From Relevant Representation – RR-001</i> <i>“The proposal would evidently deliver landscape and ecological improvements through mitigation areas and planting. However, this will be dependent upon the information set out in the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan Outline Plan (C7.3) and Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and enhancement Plans (Figures 8.16.1 to 8.16.10), which should be further explored, and assume would be refined at the detailed design stages and subject to appropriate worded requirements in the DCO to capture this.”</i></p> <p>Applicant’s comments: The proposals for embedded mitigation are set out within Section 8.6 of ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Revision A [REP2-008], Appendix 8.2 Revision A [REP-020] and Appendix 8.3 Revision A [REP2-012] and will deliver landscape and ecology improvements through mitigation areas and planting. This mitigation is secured through the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) [EN010133/EX4/C7.3_E]. Requirement 7 of Schedule 2 of C3.1_A Draft Development Consent Order [EN010133/EX4/C3.1_F] secures the production of a detailed Landscape and Ecological Management Plan.</p>	<p>General agreement with this statement. However, we would note: While LCC acknowledge the establishing planting will add a positive element to this landscape, the planting is to mitigate the identified adverse effects, not to enhance the baseline landscape. LCC has considered whether the secured mitigation balances out the change but concluded that the urbanising element of large scale solar in rural agricultural land is a definite and adverse change to the baseline. The application includes landscape proposals and details within the OLEMP, however these are of a high level and if the scheme is consented, as detailed within the DCO, more detailed plans will be submitted and subsequently agreed, through further consultation, with the</p>	<p>Noted and Agreed. Following further development of the Scheme, more detailed planting plans including detail of areas of landscape mitigation, location and types of planting (species), as well as number, density and specification will be provided prior to any works commencing. The detailed landscape proposals will consist of the area and extent of the Scheme shown on C6.4.8.16.1_A - C6.4.8.16.10_A Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Figures 8.16.1_A to 8.16.10_A) [REP-024 to REP-034].</p>
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		<p>Mitigation, including offsets and planting, has been proposed to address and minimise adverse effects on the character of the landscape. This is in line with the agreed methodology and the hierarchy of approach advocated by the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition and matters agreed with LCC at the series of workshops set out in Appendix 8.4 [APP-076].</p> <p>For further details regarding the matters under discussion between the parties in respect of LVIA, please refer to Appendix A.</p>	<p>appropriate authority. These should include clear detail of the areas of landscape mitigation, location and types of planting (species), as well as number, density and specification. The mitigation illustrated on the relevant figures as part of the application has been utilised to assess the landscape and visual effects of the scheme, therefore we would expect any detailed landscape proposals to be based on the area and extent shown on these plans as a minimum. This provides the opportunity to deliver multiple aims and objectives within the local area for green infrastructure and biodiversity, and the careful detailing and layout of any proposed planting would provide opportunities to avoid jarring or out of place mitigation that has been included to only screen proposals.</p>	
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<p>LAN-26 Landscape and Visual</p>	<p>Wording of Requirements: Embedded Mitigation</p>	<p>That the provision for the submission and approval of details in relation to embedded mitigation, as set out by Requirement 7 in Schedule 2 of the Draft Development Consent Order [EN010133/EX4/C3.1_F], is acceptable.</p> <p>The proposals for embedded mitigation are set out within Section 8.6 of ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Revision A [REP2-008], Appendix 8.2 Revision A [REP-020] and Appendix 8.3 Revision A [REP2-012].</p>	<p>Agreed.</p>	<p>Noted and Agreed.</p>
<p>LAN-27 Landscape and Visual</p>	<p>Wording of Requirements: Additional Mitigation</p>	<p>The provision for the submission and approval of details in relation to additional mitigation, as set out by Requirement 7 in Schedule 2 of the Draft Development Consent Order [EN010133/EX4/C3.1_F], is acceptable.</p> <p>The proposals for additional mitigation are set out within the LVIA Chapter, Section 8.6 Revision A [REP2-008] and Appendix 8.2 Revision A [REP-020] and Appendix 8.3 Revision A [REP2-012].</p>	<p>Agreed.</p>	<p>Noted and Agreed.</p>
<p>LAN-28 Landscape and Visual</p>	<p>Wording of Requirements: Landscape and</p>	<p>That the provision for the submission and approval of details in relation to the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan, as set out by Requirement 7 in Schedule 2 of the Draft</p>	<p>Agreed.</p>	<p>Noted and Agreed.</p>

	Ecological Management Plan (LEMP)	Development Consent Order [EN010133/EX4/C3.1_F], is acceptable. Landscape and ecological mitigation is set within the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) [EN010133/EX4/C7.3_E] and Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans Revision A (Figures 8.16.1 to 8.16.10) [REP-024 to REP-034].		
LAN-29 Landscape and Visual	Wording of Requirements: No Further Mitigation Sought	That no further mitigation is considered necessary from that already identified within the suite of application documents (particularly the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) [EN010133/EX4/C7.3_E] and Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans Revision A (Figures 8.16.1 to 8.16.10) [REP-024 to REP-034]. The mechanisms for securing the embedded and additional mitigation measures into the Scheme are acceptable.	Agreed.	Noted and Agreed.
LAN-30 Landscape and Visual	Wording of Requirements: Correlation between LEMP [EN010133/EX4/C7.3_E] and Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plans (Figures 8.16.1 to	The Scheme will deliver landscape and ecological improvements through mitigation areas and planting. This is secured in the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) [EN010133/EX4/C7.3_E] and Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans	Agreed.	Noted and Agreed.



	8.16.10) [APP-305 to APP-315].	Revision A (Figures 8.16.1 to 8.16.10) [REP-024 to REP-034].		
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3 Matters Not Agreed

Table 3.1 – Matters Not Agreed

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Not Agreed	AAH/LCC Comment	Applicant Comment
LAN-14 Landscape and Visual	Residual Effects	<p>The judgements on the likely residual effects and conclusions for the effects to landscape and visual receptors, as set out within Section 8.11 of ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Revision A [REP2-008] and Appendix 8.2 Revision A [REP-020], are considered to be robust and accurate.</p> <p>For further details regarding the matters under discussion between the parties in respect of LVIA, please refer to Appendix A.</p>	<p>LCC maintain the position that by reason of its mass and scale, the scheme would lead to adverse residual effects on landscape character and visual amenity. The scheme has the potential to transform the local landscape by altering the character on a large-scale: it also has the potential to affect wider landscape character, at a regional scale, replacing large areas of agricultural or rural land with solar development, affecting the current sparsely settled and quiet agricultural character that is identified as key defining characteristics of the area. Further details are provided below on separate</p>	<p>Noted. Not Agreed.</p> <p>Applicant understanding of LPA position on Residual Effects:</p> <p><u>LPA Residual Effects</u> Residual Effects are the final impacts which occur after the proposed mitigation measures have been implemented. They refer to the degree of change that will occur after the proposed mitigation measures have taken effect.</p> <p><u>LPA Significant Residual In-Combination Effects: (Cottam 1, 2, 3a and 3b)</u> Land Use: Moderate Adverse.</p> <p><u>LPA Significant Residual Cumulative Effects:</u></p>

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Not Agreed	AAH/LCC Comment	Applicant Comment
			landscape and visual matters.	<u>Cottam Solar, Gate Burton Solar, Tillbridge Solar & West Burton Solar</u> Regional Scale LCT - 4a Unwooded Vales: Moderate Adverse. Land Use: Moderate to Major Adverse.
LAN-18 Landscape and Visual	Landscape Character Effects	<i>From Relevant Representation – RR-001 “By reason of its mass and scale, the proposed development would lead to significant adverse effects upon landscape character and visual amenity. The development has the potential to transform the local landscape by altering the character on a large scale, which is likely to be exacerbated by the fragmented nature of the separate development plots connected by cable routes spread over a wide area. The Council is particularly concerned about the effects upon landscape character through changes to land use, which would be spread throughout a wide area, rather than a more focussed development plot being read as a solar</i>	LCC Maintain the position that the scheme has the potential to transform the local landscape by altering the character on a large-scale. While we acknowledge that the establishment of new areas of planting will introduce positive elements to the landscape, the development will bring about an extensive change on land use (which is defined in table 8.31.15 of Appendix 8.1 of the ES as “What land is used for, based on broad categories of functional land cover such as urban and industrial use	Noted. Not Agreed.

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Not Agreed	AAH/LCC Comment	Applicant Comment
		<p><i>development occupying a single site in a wider landscape."</i></p> <p>Applicant's comment:</p> <p>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Revision A [REP2-008] (the 'LVIA') takes into account the effects on the landscape character in detail, from the national scale (see paragraphs 8.5.12, 8.5.61 and 8.10.11), through regional (see paragraphs 8.5.19, 8.7.8 and 8.10.12), county district and local scales (see paragraphs 8.5.37 and 8.5.49) to the landscape character areas within the 5km Study Area.</p> <p>Within the LVIA, it is acknowledged that there will be change to the character of the landscape at Site level and within parts of the Regional Scale Landscape Character Area – Profile 4a: Unwooded Vales (defined within the East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment) during the construction and operation phase of the Scheme. For further information,</p>	<p><i>and the different types of agriculture and forestry")</i></p> <p>replacing open agricultural land with a solar development: creating what may be perceived as an 'energy landscape' as opposed to rural or agricultural one at present, resulting in what is a complete change of character.</p> <p>We judge there will be no overall beneficial landscape effects, either significant or not-significant, associated with the scheme on any landscape receptors.</p> <p>Based on the Supplementary Landscape Effects Tables [Reference: EN010133/EX1/C8.2.1] July 2023, we judge the following landscape receptors to have In Combination (all four plots: 1, 2, 3a, 3b including</p>	

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Not Agreed	AAH/LCC Comment	Applicant Comment
		<p>please refer to C6.3.8.2 ES Appendix 8.2 Assessment of Potential Landscape Effects Revision A [REP-020]. These associated appendices provide a detailed assessment of landscape effects on each landscape receptor including the character areas from the East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment.</p> <p>Parts of the LVIA chapter of the ES have concluded there would be significant adverse effects on land use but that they would be beneficial (see paragraphs 8.7.17, 8.7.18, 8.7.19, 8.7.29 and 8.7.37). Parts of the LVIA Chapter of the ES conclude that there would be some significant adverse effects of land use and they would not be beneficial due to the presence of the new sub-stations however (see paragraph 8.7.50).</p> <p>For further details regarding the matters under discussion between the parties in respect of LVIA, please refer to Appendix A.</p>	<p>sub stations) residual adverse landscape effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Scale LCT - 4a Unwooded Vales; and • Land Use <p>All other receptors would subsequently have, at best, negligible or neutral residual effects.</p>	

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Not Agreed	AAH/LCC Comment	Applicant Comment
LAN-19 Landscape and Visual	Visual Amenity Effects	<p><i>From Relevant Representation – RR-001</i></p> <p><i>“The scale and extent of development would also lead to significant adverse effects on views from receptors, changing from views within an agricultural or rural landscape to that of a landscape containing extensive areas of large-scale solar infrastructure.”</i></p> <p>Applicant’s comment:</p> <p>ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Revision A [REP2-008] (the ‘LVIA’) includes a full and detailed assessment that deals with both effects (see paragraph 8.4.23) on the landscape itself and effects on the visual amenity of people, as well as changing views. The LVIA process is iterative (see paragraphs 8.1.1, 8.4.5, 8.6.1, 8.8.2, 8.8.3 and 8.11.1) and as a result, the design of the Scheme changes to respond to the findings of the assessment to ensure that landscape mitigation is fully considered as part of the process. This assessment is undertaken in</p>	<p>LCC maintain that by reason of its mass and scale, our opinion is that the scheme would lead to adverse effects on visual amenity.</p> <p>We disagree with the findings of the LVIA that any of the views would be improved (have beneficial effects) over the baseline by the implementation of a large-scale solar development across an open agricultural landscape.</p> <p>Nine views have been assessed in the LVIA as having significant residual beneficial effects (VPs10, 12, 23, 32, 49, 56, 58, 63, LL-C-D), and twenty five others have been assessed as having minor or minor-moderate beneficial, not significant, effects (VPs 1, 5, 6, 8, 14, 21, 22, 29, 30, 33, 35, 36, 37, 38,</p>	Noted. Not Agreed.

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Not Agreed	AAH/LCC Comment	Applicant Comment
		<p>accordance with C6.3.8.1 ES Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology [APP-068].</p> <p>The LVIA includes a suite of 67 viewpoints (see paragraphs 8.5.188, 8.5.189 and 8.5.197) that cover a wide range of visual receptors, including public locations such as transport routes, PRoW and residential properties. There are also an additional 25 LCC viewpoints at the request of LCC (see paragraph 8.5.200) that were agreed at the LVIA Workshops held prior to submission that are included in the LVIA assessment.</p> <p>The LVIA considers that for some aspects of the Scheme (the construction, operation (Years 1 and 15) and decommissioning stages), the effects are not likely to be significant. For example, of the 67 viewpoints there are 18 scoped out and of the additional LCC viewpoints there are 9 scoped out since the proximity to the Scheme and the predicted nature of the effects justified this position. With</p>	<p>41, 44, 45, 46, 50, 54, 57, 61, 66, 67, LCC-C-Stur/73/1).</p> <p>The justification provided within Appendix 8.3 for these benefits is predominantly reliant upon landscape mitigation, not visual enhancement. The development of a large-scale solar scheme does not improve or enhance any of the baseline views, and generally does not screen or integrate existing visual detractors, beyond relatively small elements associated with an agricultural landscape. This also applies for the multiple visual receptors identified as having residual beneficial effects from the scheme.</p> <p>There is a potential over reliance within the landscape assessment upon planting to mitigate the visual effect of</p>	

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Not Agreed	AAH/LCC Comment	Applicant Comment
		<p>regard to where the LVIA has concluded there would not be significant adverse effects, of the 67 viewpoints there are 25 which have predicted not significant effects and of the LCC viewpoints there 8 predicted with not significant effects. For further information, please refer to C6.3.8.3 ES Appendix 8.3 Assessment of Potential Visual Effects Revision A [REP2-012]. These associated appendices provide a detailed assessment of visual effects on each visual receptor including PRoW, transport and residential receptors.</p> <p>The LVIA also considers that for some aspects of the Scheme (the construction stages in particular) (see paragraph 8.6.2), the effects are likely to be significant adverse. Where impacts and effects are identified then strategic landscape mitigation measures (see paragraph 8.6.3) are applied to avoid or reduce any adverse effects.</p>	<p>the development: too much planting without due care for location, simply to screen, could have detrimental impacts and screen more open views: The PROW and local roads in the study area enjoy an open aspect across some areas of the study area. Therefore, care needs to be taken to prevent the loss of this character through an overbearing set of mitigation proposals.</p> <p>Where extensive areas of mitigation planting are visible, the assessment often judges this as an improvement, whereas the view is often foreshortened from the baseline, blocking out current views of open agricultural land, as is this case, for example, with Viewpoint 10.</p>	

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Not Agreed	AAH/LCC Comment	Applicant Comment
		<p>For further details regarding the matters under discussion between the parties in respect of LVIA, please refer to Appendix A.</p>	<p>LCC judge that the adverse effects from sequential views of the scheme is likely exacerbated when travelling through the area either along PROW or local roads between villages, and the sequential effects of large scale solar sites, which are spread over extensive, often fragmented redline boundaries, is likely to create a perception of being surrounded by solar development. Frequent sequential views would create a change to the experience of visual receptors as well as change the perception of character of an entire area – these don't necessarily need to be clear open views of the scheme.</p>	

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Not Agreed	AAH/LCC Comment	Applicant Comment
LAN-20 Landscape and Visual	Close Range Views: Justification and Clarification	<p><i>From Relevant Representation – RR-001</i></p> <p><i>“Several close range views have been assessed as being beneficial, above the baseline view, at Operation (15 Year) phase and the justification for this should be investigated and clarified at the examination as it is currently unclear as to why these visual benefits would be gained.”</i></p> <p>Applicant’s comment:</p> <p>The judgements and conclusions on the likely significant impacts and effects for the visual receptors are set out within Section 8.7 of ES Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Revision A [REP2-008] and Appendix 8.3 Revision A [REP2-012]</p> <p>For further details regarding the matters under discussion between the parties in respect of LVIA, please refer to Appendix A.</p>	<p>For there to be beneficial visual effects, the baseline view should be improved or enhanced by the scheme and/or existing visual detractors screened or integrated into the view.</p> <p>Para 3.39 of GLVIA3 provides clarity:</p> <p><i>“Enhancement is not a formal requirement of the Regulations. It is often referred to incorrectly as an outcome of proposed mitigation measures - for example where planting is proposed to mitigate landscape and/or visual effects but will also achieve an enhancement of the baseline condition of the landscape. In practice enhancement is not specifically related to mitigation of adverse landscape and visual effects but means any proposals that seek to improve the landscape and/or visual amenity of the proposed</i></p>	<p>Noted. Not Agreed.</p> <p>However, the Applicant Notes that LCC do not (through their commentary to date) suggest there to be any additional Significant Adverse Residual Visual Effects in addition to those identified within the LVIA:</p> <p><u>Viewpoints</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viewpoint VP04: Thorpe Lane, Local Bridge Cottam 1. • Viewpoint VP07: TLFc/32/1 Cottam 1. • Viewpoint VP11: TLFc/31/2 Cottam 1. • Viewpoint VP13: Fleets Lane, Stow Pasture Cottam 1. • Viewpoint VP15: Squire’s Bridge Cottam 1. • Viewpoint VP19: Bridge over River Till Cottam 1.

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Not Agreed	AAH/LCC Comment	Applicant Comment
			<p><i>development site and its wider setting beyond its baseline condition."</i></p> <p>In regards to enhancement, para 4.37 of GVLIA poses a question of: "<i>Can the development help improve the visual amenity of the area?</i>". LCC maintain the position that the visual amenity of the area is not improved by the development of a large scale solar scheme, and while the mitigation planting screens, in places, the built elements, the visual amenity of the area is not improved in any material way.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viewpoint VP39: Junction of Cot Garth Lane and Stone Pit Lane Cottam 1. • Viewpoint VP59: Blyton Level Crossing Cottam 3b. • Viewpoint VP60: B1025 (Kirton Road) Cottam 3a. • LCC-C-G PRoW Fill/85/2 Cottam 1. • LCC-C-H PRoW Fill/767/1 Cottam 1. • LCC-C-J Fillingham Lane Cottam 1. • LCC-C-T Kirton Road Cottam 3a. <p><u>Transport Receptors</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport Receptor: T016 Cottam 3a. • Transport Receptor: T021 Cottam 3b. • Transport Receptor: T040 Cottam 2.

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Not Agreed	AAH/LCC Comment	Applicant Comment
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport Receptor: T045 Cottam 2. <p>The LVIA does not identify any Significant Adverse Residual Visual Effects for Residential Receptors or Public Rights of Way.</p> <p>Again, the Applicant Notes that LCC do not (through their commentary to date) suggest that they disagree with this statement.</p>
LAN-24a Landscape and Visual	In – Combination Effects Landscape <i>Residual (Year 15)</i>	<u>LPA Significant Residual In-Combination Effects: (Cottam 1, 2, 3a and 3b)</u> Land Use: Moderate Adverse.	LCC maintains that In – Combination, there would be Moderate Adverse (Significant) Residual Effects to Land Use.	Noted. Not Agreed. Applicant maintains that In – Combination, there would be Negligible Beneficial (Not Significant) Effects to Land Use.
LAN-24b Landscape and Visual	Cumulative Effects Landscape <i>Residual (Year 15)</i>	<u>LPA Significant Residual Cumulative Effects: Cottam Solar, Gate Burton Solar, Tillbridge Solar & West Burton Solar</u>	LCC maintains that there would be Moderate Adverse (Significant) Residual Cumulative Effects to	Noted. Not Agreed. Applicant maintains that there would be Negligible Beneficial (Not Significant) Residual Cumulative

Main Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Not Agreed	AAH/LCC Comment	Applicant Comment
		Regional Scale LCT - 4a Unwooded Vales: Moderate Adverse. Land Use: Moderate to Major Adverse.	Regional Scale LCT - 4a Unwooded Vales. LCC maintains that there would be Moderate to Major Adverse (Significant) Residual Cumulative Effects on Land Use.	Effects to Regional Scale LCT - 4a Unwooded Vales. Applicant maintains that there would be Minor Neutral (Not Significant) Residual Cumulative Effects on Land Use.

Cottam Solar Project

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

Prepared by: Lanpro Services

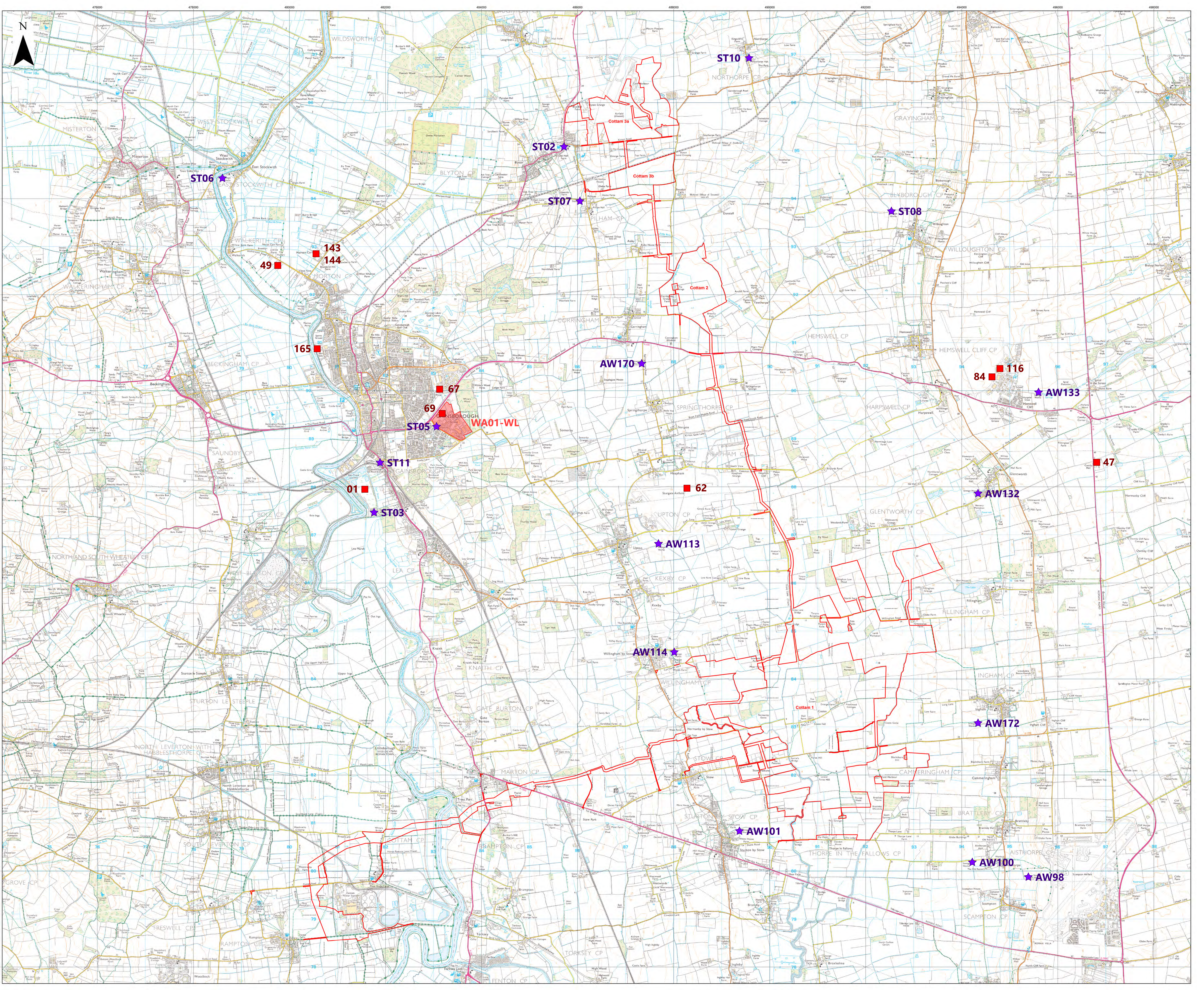
~~February~~March 2024

PINS Ref: EN010133

Document reference: ~~EX5EX6~~/C8.3.~~2D2~~ E

Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010





Map showing various locations and civil parishes (CP) including: WILDSWORTH CP, NORTHORPE CP, GRAYINGHAM CP, BLYBOROUGH CP, WILLOUGHTON CP, BECKINGHAM CP, SAUNDBY CP, GAINSBOROUGH CP, HEMSWELL CP, HEMSWELL CLIFF CP, SPRINGTHORPE CP, HARP SWELL CP, LEA CP, CUPTON CP, KEXBY CP, GLENTWORTH CP, WILINGHAM CP, STOW CP, CAMBRINGHAM CP, BRATTLEBY CP, STURTON CP, STOW CP, THORPE IN THE FALLOWS CP, STURTON LE STEEPLE CP, NORTH AND SOUTH WHEATLEY CP, NORTH LEVERTON WITH HABLESTHORPE CP, SOUTH LEVERTON CP, FRESWELL CP, RAMPTON CP, TORKEY CP, and MORTON CP. Specific locations marked with stars: ST06, ST02, ST07, ST08, ST10, ST05, ST11, ST03, AW170, AW113, AW114, AW101, AW100, AW98, AW132, AW133, AW172, and AW173. Red squares with numbers: 49, 143, 144, 165, 67, 69, 01, 62, 84, 116, 47, and 73. A red shaded area is labeled 'WAO1-WL'. A red outline covers a large area in the center and right of the map, including parts of GAINSBOROUGH CP, HEMSWELL CP, SPRINGTHORPE CP, HARP SWELL CP, WILINGHAM CP, STOW CP, and THORPE IN THE FALLOWS CP. Within this red outline, there are labels for 'Cottam 3a', 'Cottam 3b', 'Cottam 2', and 'Cottam 1'.

Cottam Solar Project

Statement of Common Ground Lincolnshire County Council

Appendix D: Joint Statement on Beneficial Landscape Effects

Prepared by: Lanpro Services

~~February~~ March 2024

PINS Ref: EN010133

Document reference: ~~EX5EX6~~/C8.3.~~2D2~~ E

Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010



Joint Statement on Beneficial Landscape Effects

At the Examination Issue Specific Hearing (ISH) 2 on 5th December 2023 and ISH 4 on 6th December 2023, it was requested that Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) and the Applicant provide a joint statement regarding the weighting of the significance of the positive impacts of mitigation on landscape. The Statement should include:

- 1) Where matters and conclusions of significant beneficial effects are agreed;
- 2) Where there are differences in agreement over the significant beneficial effect conclusions; and
- 3) The reasons for the differences in agreement over opinion regarding the findings of significant beneficial landscape effects.

Two meetings were held on Thursday 5th January 2024 and Monday 15th January 2024 with LCC at which the above matters were discussed. As a result of these meetings the position between the Applicant and LCC in relation to the three matters set out above is as follows:

1. As set out within Chapter 8.9 of the LVIA Rev A [REP2-008], (specifically para 8.9.4) there are no likely significant beneficial in-combination landscape effects for the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme on Landscape Character. In regard to the Individual Contributors to Landscape Character Chapter 8.9 of the LVIA Rev A [REP2-008], (specifically para 8.9.5) sets out that there are no likely significant in-combination landscape effects for the individual contributors to landscape character.

For clarity, *In-Combination* refers to the combination of effects resulting from all development within the Order Limits (the Cottam 1, 2, 3a, and 3b Sites, including sub-stations).

2. Given the findings set out above, there are no differences between LCC and the Applicant over the findings in regard to there being no in combination significant beneficial landscape effects as a result of the Scheme. There is however disagreement between LCC and the Applicant regarding non-significant effects, which is clearly identified within the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) [EX4/C8.3.2_C].
3. The LVIA Rev A [REP2-008] does not identify any In-Combination significant beneficial landscape effects arising from the Scheme. There are significant beneficial effects identified in respect of individual sites, but not in combination. However, a number of non-significant (Negligible) beneficial effects were identified to both Landscape Character and to the Individual Contributors to Landscape Character. The Applicant considers these negligible benefits are derived from the delivery of significant areas of new planting in the context the Scheme, which is a dispersed energy project that is essentially 'overlaid' on the landscape for a limited period of time and the effects are reversible. This position is in contrast to other large-scale infrastructure such as minerals, landfill and transport projects that are 'laid within' the landscape and they can fundamentally and physically change the nature of the land in which they operate. This paragraph sets out the Applicant's position over the conclusions of the In-Combination Landscape Effects within Chapter 8.9 of the LVIA Rev A [REP2-008].

The Applicant considers that the Scheme comprises a series of independent Sites which are set within an extensive agricultural landscape. With large areas of land between each of the Sites,

each Site is set apart by their associated features such as robust hedgerows, woodland and tree cover, intervening settlements and the road and rail infrastructure. The Scheme is also 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. The discrete areas of land in which the Scheme is placed are so far apart that the Scheme will not be perceived in its entirety and the solar panels are distributed 'in and amongst' the landscape features so they assimilate into the landscape. This paragraph sets out the Applicant's views on how the Scheme being a series of independent Sites helps with the dispersion and assimilation of the solar panels into the landscape.

The Applicant believes that provision of a solar scheme within dispersed parcels of land is therefore 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. The ES Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan Revision D [REP3-015] plans and the ES Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans Figure 8.16.1 Revision A [REP-024] to Figure 8.16.10 Revision A [REP-025] show the delivery of significant areas of new planting in the context the Scheme, which is an energy project that 'overlaid' on the landscape and the effects are reversible. This paragraph sets out the Applicant's views on how the provision of a Scheme within dispersed parcels of land is a more favourable approach than having a single large site.

The Applicant's assessment has drawn out the importance of the published landscape character assessments in forming the baseline for the assessment, especially as the evidence base to underpin the local landscape designations. The Applicant's assessment has taken account of the defining characteristics or 'forces for change' (as set out within the WLDC LCA 1999) that now apply and has brought the landscape baseline more 'up to date' from the West Lindsey District Council Character Assessment (August 1999) position. The Applicant's assessment takes account of the current position on climate change in the context of NPS EN-5, the impetus for the provision of renewable energy infrastructure and the capacity for the receiving landscape to adapt to climate change. This paragraph sets out the Applicant's views on the importance of an 'up to date' landscape character assessment to take account of the current position on climate change.

LCC maintain a position that the Scheme overall will have adverse landscape effects. The additional information provided by the Applicant since ISH2, primarily the landscape section and appendices of the *Written Summary of the Applicant's Oral Submissions & Responses at Issue Specific Hearing 2 and Responses to Action Points (December 2023)* [C8.1.21] and note setting out the *In-Combination Landscape conclusions from the LVIA* [C6.3.8.4] provide a clear narrative on the design of the mitigation process, and a clear summary of the Applicants LVIA findings in relation to the In-Combination effects.

LCC also acknowledge the establishing planting will add a positive element to this landscape and vegetation removal, as shown on the Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Rev A), is relatively minimal. However, this is in the context of extensive change to land use over a large area, affecting the current sparsely settled and quiet agricultural character, which is currently unprecedented in the county in terms of scale. LCC has considered whether

the secured mitigation balances out the change but concluded that the urbanising element in rural agricultural land is a definite and adverse change. Mitigation planting goes some way to reduce this but LCC judge that the result is an adverse effect overall. .