

**Tillbridge Solar Project  
EN010142**

**Volume 6  
Environmental Statement  
Chapter 1: Introduction  
Document Reference: EN010142/APP/6.1**

**Regulation 5(2)(a)  
Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and  
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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 Tillbridge Solar Ltd (hereafter referred to as ‘the Applicant’) has commissioned this Environmental Statement (ES) as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in relation to an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the construction, operation and decommissioning of Tillbridge Solar (hereafter referred to as ‘the Scheme’). The Applicant is a joint venture between Tribus Clean Energy Limited and Recurrent Energy (a subsidiary of Canadian Solar), who are both experienced developers of renewable energy projects.
- 1.1.2 Due to its proposed generating capacity being more than 50 megawatts (MW), the Scheme is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), and therefore requires consent via a DCO, under the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008). The application for the DCO (hereafter referred to as ‘the Application’) is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, with the decision whether to grant the DCO being made by the Secretary of State for the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) (hereafter referred to as the ‘Secretary of State’ or ‘SoS’).
- 1.1.3 The Scheme is considered to fall within the definition of ‘EIA development’ under the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) (Ref. 1-1), requiring an EIA to be prepared as part of the Application. The ES presents the findings of the EIA undertaken for the Scheme in accordance with the EIA Regulations and the PA 2008 (Ref. 1-2).
- 1.1.4 A DCO would provide the necessary authorisations and consents for the construction, operation (which includes maintenance and repair) and decommissioning of the Scheme, and associated infrastructure for connection to the national transmission network.
- 1.1.5 A glossary and list of abbreviations for the ES is provided in **Chapter 0: Contents, Glossary and Abbreviations** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1].

## 1.2 The Scheme

- 1.2.1 The Scheme will comprise the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) arrays and associated development to generate electricity. The associated development includes but is not limited to: access provision; a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS); underground cabling between the different areas of solar PV arrays; and areas of landscaping and biodiversity enhancement. The Scheme will export and import electricity to the national electricity transmission network. The Scheme also includes a 400kV underground Cable Route Corridor of approximately 18.5km in length, connecting to the national electricity transmission network at the National Grid Cottam Substation. A full description of the Scheme is included in **Chapter 3: Scheme Description** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1].

- 1.2.2 Subject to obtaining the necessary consents, the ES assumes that the earliest construction could start is 2025 with planned operation from 2028. The Scheme will be operational for 60 years.
- 1.2.3 The Scheme is located approximately 5km to the east of Gainsborough and approximately 13km to the north of Lincoln. The Scheme comprises two distinct parcels, which are:
- 'the Principal Site', which is the location where ground mounted solar PV panels, electrical sub-stations, and BESS will be installed; and
  - 'the Cable Route Corridor', which will comprise the underground electrical infrastructure required to connect the Principal Site to National Grid Cottam Substation.
- 1.2.4 The Principal Site and the Cable Route Corridor are defined by the Order limits. The overall area within the Order limits is approximately 1,670 hectares (ha) .
- 1.2.5 The Principal Site covers an area of approximately 1,350ha and is located to the south of Harpswell Lane (A631), to the west of Middle Street (B1398) and largely to the north of Kexby Road and to the east of Springthorpe.
- 1.2.6 The area of the Cable Route Corridor outside of the Principal Site is approximately 318ha. The Cable Route Corridor has been considered carefully in relation to Cottam Solar Project [EN010133] and Gate Burton Energy Park [EN010131], which are also proposed to connect to National Grid Cottam Substation, and West Burton Solar Project [EN010132] which is proposed to cross the Cable Route Corridor and make its connection at the National Grid substation at West Burton Power Station. The combined and shared Cable Route Corridor within the wider Scheme is shown in **Figure 1-1: Location of the Scheme and Nearby Solar NSIPs** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.3].
- 1.2.7 With further design refinement at the detailed design stage should consent be granted, the final Cable Route Corridor will be smaller than 100m in width (likely 40m, as indicated by the approximate working areas). The current Cable Route Corridor width, which varies along its length, is wider than the final working area to allow flexibility in the final location (micro-siting) at the detailed design stage carried out following determination of the DCO, should any localised constraints such as new third party infrastructure be identified prior to construction. This approach provides flexibility to the Applicant at this stage whilst providing certainty to affected landowners that effects will be no greater than those assessed in the ES. The width of the Cable Route Corridor, including the basis for its varying width, is explained in further detail in **Chapter 3: Scheme Description** [EN010142/APP/6.1] and **Chapter 5: EIA Methodology** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1].
- 1.2.8 The Site and the Scheme are described further in **Chapter 2: Scheme Location** and **Chapter 3: Scheme Description** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1].

- 1.2.9 Environmental impacts arising from the Scheme have been studied systematically as part of the EIA process, and the results are presented within this ES. The baseline for the assessment has been derived from surveys and studies within and around the Order limits. This is explained further in **Chapter 5: EIA Methodology** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1], and in the methodology section of each technical assessment chapter (**Chapters 6 to 17** of this ES [EN010106/APP/6.1]).
- 1.2.10 The Scheme would provide vital new energy infrastructure required to ensure security of supply to the UK, supporting the strategy of the DESNZ for responsible energy generation that provides a more sustainable, low carbon economy (Ref. 1-3). Solar power plays an important role in moving the UK away from its reliance on fossil fuels. The Scheme will therefore be compliant with the Overarching National Policy Statement (NPS) for Energy (EN-1) (Ref. 1-4), the NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (Ref. 1-5) and the NPS for Electricity Networks (EN-5) (Ref. 1-6), which seek to deliver security of electricity supply.

## 1.3 Environmental Statement

- 1.3.1 The EIA process has considered impacts resulting from the construction, operation (including maintenance and repair), and decommissioning of the Scheme. It has also considered measures to avoid, reduce, or mitigate any significant adverse effects on the environment caused by the Scheme and, where possible, enhance the environment. It also identifies ‘residual’ effects, which are effects remaining following the implementation of mitigation measures proposed as part of the Scheme.
- 1.3.2 The structure of this ES is outlined in **Table 1-1** below.

**Table 1-1: ES Structure**

ES Volume	Chapter	Description
EN010142 /APP/6.1	Chapter 1: Introduction	<b>Chapters 1 to 5</b> of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] present an introduction to the Scheme and introduce the methodology for the assessments contain in all subsequent ES chapters.
	Chapter 2: Scheme Location	
	Chapter 3: Scheme Description	
	Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution	
	Chapter 5: EIA Methodology	<b>Chapters 6 to 16</b> of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] consider the environmental effects associated with the Scheme under a number of identified topics, which may result in significant environmental effects. Each topic is presented in a separate technical chapter and details the results of the environmental assessment, likely significant effects
	Chapter 6: Air Quality	
	Chapter 7: Climate Change	
	Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage	
	Chapter 9: Ecology and Nature Conservation	

ES Volume	Chapter	Description
	Chapter 10: Water Environment Chapter 11: Human Health Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration Chapter 14: Socio-Economics and Land Use Chapter 15: Soils and Agriculture Chapter 16: Transport and Access Chapter 17: Other Environmental Topics	arising from the Scheme, and the proposed mitigation measures.  <b>Chapter 17: Other Environmental Topics</b> of the ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] includes consideration of glint and glare, major accidents and disasters, ground conditions, telecommunications, television reception, utilities, and waste impacts associated with the Scheme.
	Chapter 18: Cumulative Effects and Interactions	This chapter considers effect interactions (or intra-project cumulative effects) that lead to combined effects on sensitive receptors. Additionally, this chapter presents an assessment of inter-project cumulative effects, i.e. effects arising from the Scheme in combination with other proposed schemes (reasonably foreseeable and/or consented but not yet constructed or operational) .
	Chapter 19: Summary of Environmental Effects	This chapter presents a summary of the residual significant effects remaining following the implementation of mitigation.
EN010142 /APP/6.2	Technical Appendices	A set of appendices is provided for reference in Volume 6.2 [EN010142/APP/6.2]. These comprise background data, technical reports, tables and surveys, which support the assessments in this ES. The appendices that accompany this chapter are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Appendix 1-1: EIA Scoping Report;</b></li> <li>• <b>Appendix 1-2: EIA Scoping Opinion</b></li> </ul>

ES Volume	Chapter	Description
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Appendix 1-3: EIA Statement of Competence</b></li> </ul>
EN010142 /APP/6.3	Figures	A set of figures is provided to accompany the chapters in Volume 6.3 <b>[EN010142/APP/6.3]</b> to aid readers' understanding.
EN010142 /APP/6.4	Non-Technical Summary (NTS)	The <b>NTS [EN010142/APP/6.4]</b> is presented in a separate document to provide a concise description of the Scheme, the considered alternatives, baseline, assessment methodology, likely environmental effects, and mitigation measures. The <b>NTS [EN010142/APP/6.4]</b> is designed to provide information on the Scheme in an accessible format using non-technical language, which can be understood by a wide audience, and to assist interested parties with their familiarisation with the Scheme.

1.3.3 An **Environmental Mitigation and Commitments Register [EN010142/APP/6.5]** has been produced. This standalone document sets out the environmental mitigation and commitment measures presented in this ES which will be adopted during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Scheme.

## 1.4 Legislative and Planning Policy Context

### Consenting Process

- 1.4.1 The Scheme is defined as an NSIP under Sections 14(1)(a) and 15(2) of the PA 2008 (Ref. 1-2) as an onshore generating station in England exceeding 50 MW. This means that permission to construct the Scheme must be sought via a DCO application.
- 1.4.2 The PA 2008 provides that the Secretary of State is responsible for determining the application for a DCO, with the power to appoint the Planning Inspectorate to manage and examine the Application (referred to as the 'Examining Authority'). In its role, the Examining Authority will examine the Application and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State, who will then decide whether to grant a DCO for the Scheme.
- 1.4.3 In accordance with Section 104(2) of the PA 2008, the Secretary of State is required to have regard to the relevant NPSs, amongst other matters, when deciding whether or not to grant a DCO.

- 1.4.4 The Overarching NPS for Energy (EN-1), the NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) and the NPS for Electricity Networks (EN-5) form the relevant national policy statements with respect to the Scheme. There is currently no adopted NPS designated specifically for solar PV development, however NPS EN-3 Renewable Energy includes specific policy relating to solar generating stations. These policy documents have therefore been taken into account in this ES.
- 1.4.5 In addition, the Secretary of State must have regard to Local Impact Reports, prescribed matters, and any matters which the Secretary of State considers are both *'important and relevant'* to their decision.
- 1.4.6 A DCO, if granted, has the effect of providing consent for development, in addition to a range of other consents and authorisations, where specified, as well as removing the need for some consents (such as planning permission). Section 115 of the PA 2008 also states that a DCO can include consent for 'associated development', which is development that is not an NSIP in its own right but is functionally associated with the NSIP. This may be development that supports the construction, operation or decommissioning of the NSIP; which helps to address the impacts of the NSIP; or is of a type normally brought forward with the NSIP.

## EIA Regulations

- 1.4.7 The EIA Regulations specify which developments are required to undergo an EIA and schemes relevant to the NSIP planning process are listed under Schedule 1 or Schedule 2. Those developments listed in Schedule 1 must be subjected to EIA, while developments listed in Schedule 2 must only be subjected to EIA if they are considered *"likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of factors such as its nature, size or location"*. The criteria on which this judgement must be made are set out in Schedule 3. The Scheme is a Schedule 2 development under Paragraph 3(a) of Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations as it constitutes *"industrial installations for the production of electricity, steam and hot water"*.
- 1.4.8 The Applicant has confirmed to the Planning Inspectorate under Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations that an ES is being provided with the Application, as it is considered there is the potential for the Scheme to meet the criteria set out in Schedule 2, Paragraph 3(a). Due to the size, nature and location of the Scheme, it is likely to have significant effects on the environment and therefore it is considered to constitute an EIA development.
- 1.4.9 The issues that the Applicant considers the EIA will need to address were identified in the EIA Scoping Report submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 30 September 2022 (**Appendix 1-1** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.2]). The EIA Scoping Report was developed following initial consultation with a number of statutory consultees and was informed by the EIA team's experience working on a number of other solar farm projects.



- 1.4.10 The Planning Inspectorate reviewed and consulted on the EIA Scoping Report and published a Scoping Opinion on 4 November 2022 (the ‘Scoping Opinion’) which included the formal responses received by the Planning Inspectorate from consultees (**Appendix 1-2** of this ES **[EN010142/APP/6.2]**). All key issues raised in the Scoping Opinion were considered during the EIA process.

## National Policy Statements

- 1.4.11 As set out earlier, it is considered that the Energy NPSs are important and relevant considerations for the Secretary of State when determining the Application. Therefore, the EIA has been undertaken with reference to the following:
- a. Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (NPS EN-1) (Ref. 1-4);
  - b. National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy (EN-3) (NPS EN-3) (Ref. 1-5); and
  - c. National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (NPS EN-5) (Ref. 1-6).
- 1.4.12 A summary of the relevant considerations from the above NPSs for each technical assessment is provided for each environmental topic (**Chapters 6 to 17**) **[EN010142/APP/6.1]** and the corresponding Legislation, Policy and Guidance appendix of this ES **[EN010142/APP/6.2]**.

## National Planning Policy Framework

- 1.4.13 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Ref. 1-7), last updated in December 2023, sets out the Government’s planning policies for England and how these are to be applied. It is a material consideration in planning decisions under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (Ref. 1-8).
- 1.4.14 Paragraph 5 of the NPPF makes it clear that the document does not contain specific policies for NSIPs and that applications in relation to NSIPs are to be determined in accordance with the decision-making framework set out in the PA 2008 and relevant NPSs, as well as any other matters that are considered both important and relevant. However, Paragraph 5 goes on to confirm that the NPPF may be a matter that is both important and relevant for the purposes of assessing DCO applications. The EIA for the Scheme has therefore had regard to the relevant policies of the NPPF as part of the overall framework of national policy relevant to solar development.

## Local Planning Policy

- 1.4.15 Policies in Local Plans are frequently considered ‘important and relevant’ matters and can influence the content of Local Impact Reports (which the Local Planning Authorities will produce following submission of the Application), and which the Secretary of State must have regard to in its decision making in accordance with the PA 2008.

- 1.4.16 The Scheme is located within the administrative areas of West Lindsey District Council, Lincolnshire County Council, Bassetlaw District Council, and Nottinghamshire County Council. The local planning policy relevant to the Scheme therefore consists of the following:

#### **West Lindsey District Council**

- a. Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (2023) (Ref. 1-9);
- b. Corringham Neighbourhood Plan (2022) (Ref. 1-10);
- c. Glentworth Neighbourhood Plan (2019) (Ref. 1-11);
- d. Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan (2022) (Ref. 1-12);
- e. Hemswell Cliff Neighbourhood Plan 2023 (Ref. 1-13); and
- f. Hemswell and Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan 2023 (Ref. 1-14).

#### **Lincolnshire County Council**

- a. Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Core Strategy and Development Management Policies (2016) (Ref. 1-15); and
- b. Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Site locations (2017) (Ref. 1-16).

#### **Bassetlaw District Council**

- a. Bassetlaw District Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Development Plan Documents (DPD) (2011) (Ref. 1-17); and
- b. Rampton and Woodbeck Neighbourhood Plan (May 2021) (Ref. 1-18);
- c. Treswell and Cottam Neighbourhood Plan (February 2019) (Ref. Ref. 1-19).

#### **Nottinghamshire County Council**

- a. Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan (adopted March 2021) (Ref. 1-19); and
- b. Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Replacement Waste Local Plan: Part 1: Waste Core Strategy (adopted 2013) (Ref. 1-21).

- 1.4.17 Bassetlaw District Council is also reviewing its Local Plan. The draft plan was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for Examination on the 18 July 2022. Following the formal hearings, a number of modifications have been proposed to the emerging policy. These were published in the Bassetlaw Local Plan Schedule of Suggested Changes to the Local Plan Publication Version and Policies Maps (Ref. 1-22) for consultation. It was expected that following consultation these will be adopted by Autumn 2023. At the time of writing, it had not been adopted.

- 1.4.18 Bassetlaw District Council also has one emerging neighbourhood plan, which is not yet adopted, the Cottam and Treswell Neighbourhood Plan Ref. 1-23). A Pre-Submission Draft Plan was published in January 2022.

- 1.4.19 A review of the Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan is underway, with consultation on Issues and Options having closed in August 2022. The published Local Development Scheme sets out a timetable for review with the Preferred Options Plan to be published in 2024, the plan to be submitted to the Secretary of State in Summer 2025, followed by adoption in 2025/26.

- 1.4.20 A full review of the joint Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Waste Local Plan is underway with the first stage of the new Plan having been completed (Issues and Options) in 2020. Consultation on the Draft Plan ended on 4 April 2022 with the Minerals and Waste Local Development Scheme. A Pre-Submission Draft Waste Local Plan was published for consultation in August to October 2023. Submission of the new Plan to the Secretary of State is anticipated in 2024.
- 1.4.21 The Treswell and Cottam Neighbourhood Plan is also undergoing a review. The Treswell and Cottam Plan Pre-submission version was published in 2022 for consultation, and is due to be submitted for examination in due course.

## Consideration of Planning Policy in EIA

- 1.4.22 The ES describes the national and local planning policies relevant to the assessment of the Scheme with a summary provided for each environmental topic. The ES does not assess the Scheme against planning policy, which is undertaken and set out in the **Planning Statement [EN010142/APP/7.2]**.
- 1.4.23 The purpose of considering planning policy in EIA is twofold:
- a. to identify policy that could influence the sensitivity of receptors (and therefore the significance of effects) and any requirements for mitigation; and
  - b. to identify planning policy that could influence the methodology of the EIA. For example, planning policy that may require the assessment of an impact or the use of a specific methodology.
- 1.4.24 A summary of national and local planning policy relevant to each technical assessment is provided within relevant chapters of the ES for each environmental topic **[EN010142/APP/6.1]**.

## 1.5 Other Relevant Policy

- 1.5.1 Other policies which are likely to be important and relevant matters to the Secretary of State's decision and are considerations for the technical assessments include the Progress Report to Parliament Climate Change Committee (2023), the UK Government's 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment' (published in 2018 and updated in 2021), commonly referred to as The 25 Year Environment Plan (Ref. 1-24) and its update the Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 (Ref. 1-25); and the Energy White Paper: Powering our Net Zero Future (2020) (Ref. 1-26).
- 1.5.2 The 25 Year Environment Plan set out the Government's 25-year plan to improve the environment within a generation. It defined 10 goals and provided a framework and vision for how these were to be achieved. The goals included: achieve clean air; achieve clean and plentiful water; achieve thriving plants and wildlife; reduce risk of harm from environmental hazards like flooding and drought; use resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently; enhance beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment; mitigate and adapt to climate change; minimise waste; manage exposure to chemicals; and enhance biosecurity. In accordance with the Environment Act 2021 (Ref. 1-27), the 25-year plan is to be reviewed and

updated every five years and the Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 (Ref. 1-25) is the first of these updates. It reinforces the intent of the 25 Year Environment Plan and sets out the progress made against all 10 goals, the specific targets and commitments made in relation to each goal, and the Government's plan to continue to deliver these targets and the overarching goals.

- 1.5.3 The Energy White Paper, published in December 2020, sets out how the UK will reach net zero emissions by 2050. It identifies the Government's aim for a fully decarbonised, reliable and low-cost power system by 2050 and highlights the Government's commitment to solar alongside wind to achieve net zero.
- 1.5.4 The British Energy Security Strategy (Ref. 1-28) sets out a ten-point plan to reduce energy imports and move towards net zero. The Strategy states that the UK Government expects a five-fold increase in solar deployment by 2035 (up to 70 gigawatts (GW) (i.e., 70,000 MW); and has an ambition of achieving a low-cost, net zero consistent electricity system, composed predominantly of wind and solar generation by 2050. Objective 11: Accelerating Renewables recommends that a taskforce and deployment roadmaps are set up in 2023 for solar energy generation to reach up to 70 GW by 2035.
- 1.5.5 In March 2023, the UK Government published a policy paper on Powering Up Britain (Ref. 1-29). It emphasises the importance of energy security and the new Department for Energy Security and Net Zero's aim to replace the reliance on fossil fuels with "*cheaper, cleaner, domestic sources of energy*". The policy states that is the goal "*to quintuple our solar power by 2035*".

## 1.6 Consultation

- 1.6.1 Consultation is integral to the preparation of DCO applications and to the EIA process. The views of consultation bodies and the local community serve to focus the environmental studies and to identify specific issues that require further investigation, as well as to inform aspects of the design of the Scheme. Consultation is an on-going process, and the publication of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEI Report) formed an important part of that process.
- 1.6.2 The PA 2008 requires applicants for DCOs to carry out formal (statutory) pre-application consultation on their proposals. There are several requirements as to how this consultation must be undertaken that are set out in the PA 2008:
  - a. Section 42 requires the Applicant to consult with 'prescribed persons', which includes certain consultation bodies set out within the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 ('APFP Regulations') (Ref. 1-30), such as the Environment Agency and Natural England, or relevant statutory undertakers.
  - b. Section 43 requires the Applicant to consult with relevant local authorities, those with an interest in the land, as well as those who may be affected by the Scheme.

- c. Section 47 requires the Applicant to prepare a statement setting how it proposes to consult about the proposed application with people living in the vicinity of the land, known as the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). Before preparing the statement, the Applicant is required to consult each local authority that is within section 43(1) of the PA 2008 about what is going to be in the statement. In preparing the statement, the Applicant must have regard to any comments received by the local authorities. The SoCC must set out the proposed community consultation and, once finalised, it must be made available for inspection by the public in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land. The Applicant must also publish a notice in local newspapers circulating within the vicinity of the land stating where and when the SoCC can be inspected. The consultation must then be carried out in accordance with the final SoCC.
  - d. Section 48 places a duty on the Applicant to publicise the proposed application in the 'prescribed manner' in a national newspaper, The London Gazette, local newspapers circulating within the vicinity of the land and, where relevant, certain marine publications.
  - e. Section 49 places a duty on the Applicant to take account of any relevant responses received to the consultation and publicity that is required by Sections 42, 47 and 48.
- 1.6.3 An informal, non-statutory consultation in relation to the Scheme was undertaken in July 2022 with selected stakeholders via a series of collaborative workshops. In addition, during July 2022 and September 2022, the Applicant's landscape and visual consultant and land agent met with local residents close to the Scheme to discuss the proposals.
- 1.6.4 Statutory consultation was undertaken between 30 May 2023 and 11 July 2023, during which time the Applicant hosted a number of in-person and online events. The statutory consultation included the publication of the PEI Report, the feedback on which has been considered within this ES.
- 1.6.5 Following the review of feedback from the statutory consultation and further design development and assessment work, a number of minor changes to the Order limits for the Scheme were identified primarily to reduce impacts to heritage, flood risk and agricultural land. Targeted consultation was undertaken between 14 December 2023 to 25 January 2024, including in relation to these proposed changes to Order limits, and for newly identified land interests.
- 1.6.6 The issues that were raised through consultation and how these have been considered and addressed within the design evolution of the Scheme and the EIA are set out in each of technical chapters (**Chapters 6 to 17**) of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] and **Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1].
- 1.6.7 The pre-application consultation undertaken by the Applicant is also documented within the **Consultation Report** that is provided as a separate document as part of the Application [EN010142/APP/5.1]. This includes a separate section on EIA related consultation as recommended within the Planning Inspectorate Advice Note (Advice Note 14: Compiling the Consultation Report (Ref. 1-31)) on the preparation of consultation reports.

1.6.8 Technical engagement with relevant statutory stakeholders has also been undertaken throughout the preparation of the ES, as further explained in the technical chapters (**Chapters 6 to 17**) of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1].

## 1.7 EIA Project Team

1.7.1 This ES has been co-ordinated by AECOM and presents the environmental information collated by AECOM and a number of other specialist designers and consultants appointed by the Applicant. These designers and consultants are identified in **Table 1-2**, along with their respective disciplines, project roles and contribution to the Scheme and EIA.

**Table 1-2: Project Team Input into EIA**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Project Role / EIA Input</b>
Tillbridge Solar Ltd	The Applicant
AECOM Ltd	EIA Project Management and Co-ordination Production of the technical ES chapters Production of Outline Battery Fire Safety Management Plan Planning Consultant Landscape Architects Electrical Designer
Neo Environmental Ltd	Production of the glint and glare assessment
Soil Environmental Services Ltd	Production of Agricultural Land Classification survey report
Daniel Baird Soil Consultancy Ltd	Production of Soils and Agriculture chapter of the ES
York Archaeological Trust and Magnitude Surveys Ltd	Geophysics survey
Wessex Archaeology	Trial Trenching Survey
Zetica Ltd	Unexploded Ordnance advice
BST&T Consultancy Services Ltd	Fire advice
Green Energy Venture AG	Solar PV Designer
Pinsent Masons LLP	Legal Advisor
Copper Consultancy	Communications Consultant
DDM Agriculture	Land Agent
WSP	Land Referencing

## 1.8 IEMA Quality Mark

- 1.8.1 AECOM Ltd has undertaken the EIA on behalf of the Applicant. AECOM is an Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) Registered Impact Assessor and holds the IEMA EIA Quality Mark as recognition of the quality of our EIA product and continuous training of our environmental consultants. An EIA Statement of Competence is included within **Appendix 1-3** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.2], outlining the relevant expertise or qualifications of the experts who prepared the ES.

## 1.9 The PEI Report

- 1.9.1 The PEI Report was prepared and published in April 2023 to satisfy the requirement of the EIA Regulations as discussed above. 'Preliminary environmental information' is defined in the EIA Regulations as information *“which (a) has been compiled by the applicant; and (b) is reasonably required for the consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the development (and of any associated development)”*.
- 1.9.2 Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 7 (EIA: Process, Preliminary Environmental Information, and Environmental Statements) (Ref. 1-32) notes: *“A good PEI document is one that enables consultees (both specialist and non-specialist) to understand the likely environmental effects of the Scheme and helps to inform their consultation responses on the Scheme”*.
- 1.9.3 In order to enable consultees to understand the likely environmental effects of the Scheme, the PEI Report presented preliminary findings of the environmental assessments undertaken up to that point in time. This allowed consultees the opportunity to provide informed comments on the Scheme, the assessment process, and preliminary findings prior to the finalisation of the DCO application and this ES.
- 1.9.4 The Applicant sought the views of consultees on the information contained within the PEI Report, and there was an opportunity within the process up to submission of the Application for both the EIA and the project design to have regard to comments received. These comments were incorporated into the ES and the design of the Scheme, where appropriate. Further information on how the comments have been taken into account is set out within **Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution** and each of the technical chapters (**Chapters 6 to 17**) of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1], as well as the **Consultation Report [EN010142/APP/5.1]** and associated **Consultation Report Appendices [EN010142/APP/5.2]**.

## 1.10 Environmental Statement

- 1.10.1 Part 1 of Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations sets out the information for inclusion in the ES. **Table 1-3:** below summarises where the requirements of Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations have been addressed in this ES.

**Table 1-3: Requirements of Part 1 of Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations**

<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Location in this ES</b>
1. Description of the development, including in particular: (a) A description of the location of the development.	<b>Chapter 2: Scheme Location</b> <b>[EN010142/APP/6.1]</b>
1(b) A description of the physical characteristics of the whole development including, where relevant, requisite demolition works, and the land-use requirements during the construction and operational phases.	<b>Chapter 3: Scheme Description</b> <b>[EN010142/APP/6.1]</b>
1(c) A description of the main characteristics of the operational phase of the development (in particular any production process), for instance, energy demand and energy used, nature and quantity of the materials and natural resources (including water, land, soil and biodiversity) used.	<b>Chapter 3: Scheme Description</b> <b>[EN010142/APP/6.1]</b>
1(d) An estimate, by type and quantity, of expected residues and emissions (such as water, air, soil and subsoil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation and quantities and types of waste produced during the construction and operation phases.	<b>Chapter 3: Scheme Description</b> <b>Chapter 6: Air Quality</b> <b>Chapter 7: Climate Change</b> <b>Chapter 10: Water Environment</b> <b>Chapter 11: Human Health</b> <b>Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration</b> <b>Chapter 15: Soils and Agriculture</b> <b>Chapter 16: Transport and Access</b> <b>Chapter 17: Other Environmental Topics</b> <b>[EN010142/APP/6.1]</b>
2. A description of the reasonable alternatives (for example in terms of development design, technology, location, size and scale) studied by the developer, which are relevant to the proposed project and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for selecting the chosen option, including a comparison of the environmental effects.	<b>Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution</b> <b>[EN010142/APP/6.1]</b>



Requirement	Location in this ES
<p>3. A description of the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment (baseline scenario) and an outline of the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the development as far as natural changes from the baseline scenario can be assessed with reasonable effort on the basis of the availability of environmental information and scientific knowledge.</p>	<p><b>Chapters 6 to 17</b> (technical assessments) Baseline Conditions sections  <b>[EN010142/APP/6.1]</b></p>
<p>4. A description of the factors specified in regulation 4(2) likely to be significantly affected by the development: population, human health, biodiversity (for example fauna and flora), land (for example land take), soil (for example organic matter, erosion, compaction, sealing), water (for example hydromorphological changes, quantity and quality), air, climate (for example greenhouse gas emissions, impacts relevant to adaptation), material assets, cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological aspects, and landscape.</p>	<p><b>Chapters 6 to 17</b> (technical assessments) Likely Impacts and Effects sections  <b>[EN010142/APP/6.1]</b></p>
<p>5. A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment resulting from:</p> <p>(a) the construction and existence of the development, including, where relevant, demolition works;</p> <p>(b) the use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity, considering as far as possible the sustainable availability of these resources;</p> <p>(c) the emission of pollutants, noise, vibration, light, heat and radiation, the creation of nuisances, and the disposal and recovery of waste;</p> <p>(d) risks to human health, cultural heritage or the environment (for example due to accidents or disasters);</p> <p>(e) the cumulation of effects with other existing and/or approved projects, taking into account any existing environmental problems relating to areas of particular environmental importance likely to be affected or the use of natural resources;</p>	<p><b>Chapters 6 to 17</b> (technical assessments) Likely Impacts and Effects sections  <b>[EN010142/APP/6.1]</b></p>

<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Location in this ES</b>
<p>(f) the impact of the project on climate (for example the nature and magnitude of greenhouse gas emissions) and the vulnerability of the project to climate change;            (g) the technologies and the substances used.</p>	
<p>6. A description of the forecasting methods or evidence, used to identify and assess the significant effects on the environment, including details of difficulties (for example technical deficiencies or lack of knowledge) encountered compiling the required information and the main uncertainties involved.</p>	<p><b>Chapters 6 to 17</b> (technical assessments) Limitations sections.  <b>[EN010142/APP/6.1]</b></p>
<p>7. A description of the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any significant adverse effects on the environment and, where appropriate, of any proposed monitoring arrangements (for example the preparation of a post-project analysis).</p>	<p><b>Chapters 6 to 17</b> (technical assessments) Scheme Design, Impact Avoidance and Mitigation and Enhancement Measures sections.  <b>[EN010142/APP/6.1]</b></p>
<p>8. A description of the expected significant adverse effects of the development on the environment deriving from the vulnerability of the development to risks of major accidents and/ or disasters which are relevant to the project concerned.</p>	<p><b>Chapters 17: Other Environmental Topics</b> Major Accidents and Disasters section.  <b>[EN010142/APP/6.1]</b></p>
<p>9. A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 8 of this Part.</p>	<p><b>Non-Technical Summary</b>  <b>[EN010142/APP/6.4]</b></p>
<p>10. A reference list detailing the sources used for the descriptions and assessments included in the environmental statement.</p>	<p><b>Chapters 6 to 17</b> (technical assessments) References sections.  <b>[EN010142/APP/6.1]</b></p>

## 1.11 References

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