

**Tillbridge Solar Project
EN010142**

**Volume 6
Environmental Statement
Chapter 2: Scheme Location
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Table of Contents

2.	Scheme Location	2-1
2.1	Introduction	2-1
2.2	Site Description.....	2-1
	The Order limits	2-1
	Principal Site	2-2
	Cable Route Corridor	2-3
2.3	Site Designations and Surroundings.....	2-3
	Principal Site	2-3
	Cable Route Corridor	2-5

Tables

Table 2-1: Principal Site WFD RBD, Management and Operational Catchments, and Waterbodies	2-4
Table 2-2: Cable Route Corridor WFD RBD, Management and Operational Catchments, and Waterbodies	2-6

2. Scheme Location

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 This chapter provides a description of the existing conditions of the land within which the Scheme will be delivered (hereafter referred to as 'the Order limits') and the surrounding areas and key receptors that are assessed within the technical topic chapters of this Environmental Statement (ES) (**Chapters 6 to 18** of the ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]).
- 2.1.2 The existing constraints within the Order limits outlined in this chapter were identified through a desktop search of readily available data. These include, but are not limited to, the following:
- a. Statutory nature conservation designations;
 - b. Local nature designations;
 - c. Scheduled monuments;
 - d. Conservation areas;
 - e. Protected roadside verges;
 - f. Water bodies;
 - g. Flood zones;
 - h. Areas of vegetation; and
 - i. Public rights of way (PRoW).
- 2.1.3 The purpose of this chapter is to provide an overview of the land within the Order limits and the surrounding areas. Constraints and opportunities identified through further studies and surveys are described in the relevant technical chapters, **Chapters 6 to 18** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1].
- 2.1.4 This chapter is supported by the following ES figures [EN010142/APP/6.3]:
- a. **Figure 2-1: Order limits;** and
 - b. **Figure 2-2: Environmental Constraints Plan.**

2.2 Site Description

The Order limits

- 2.2.1 The Scheme is located approximately 5km to the east of Gainsborough and approximately 13km to the north of Lincoln. The area within and surrounding the Order limits is a primarily rural setting, comprising open agricultural fields with sparse areas of woodland and villages.
- 2.2.2 There are two parcels that make up the Order limits:
- a. 'the Principal Site', which is the location where ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, electrical substations, and battery energy storage systems (BESS) will be installed; and

- b. 'the Cable Route Corridor', which will comprise the underground electrical infrastructure required to connect the Principal Site to National Grid Cottam Substation.
- 2.2.3 The maximum area of land required for the construction, operation (including maintenance and repair) and decommissioning of the Scheme is shown in **Figure 2-1** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.3]. The area of land within the Order limits is 1,670 hectares (ha). There will be no additional land required temporarily for construction or decommissioning outside of the Order limits. The land take for the Order limits has been refined as the Scheme design has progressed, taking into account environmental, planning, landowner and other technical factors, and statutory consultation responses.
- 2.2.4 Infrastructure within the surrounding area includes 33kV overhead powerlines and 400kV national grid overhead powerlines carried by towers. Data for below ground utility assets has been obtained from relevant statutory undertakers. The locations of any assets in proximity to the Scheme, where known, have been considered further in the design and assessed within this ES, where required.

Principal Site

- 2.2.5 As shown on **Figure 2-1** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.3], the Principal Site is located to the south of Harpswell Lane (A631), to the west of Middle Street (B1398) and largely to the north of Kexby Road and to the east of Springthorpe. The Principal Site covers an area of approximately 1,350ha and is located entirely within the administrative area of West Lindsey District Council.
- 2.2.6 Harpswell Lane (A631) and Middle Street (B1398) form the extent of the northern and eastern boundaries of the Principal Site. A thin strip of land on the western side of Middle Street is included within the Order limits to allow for landscape screening. The Principal Site extends to the south of Kexby Road with the inclusion of field parcels that are located to the south of the road.
- 2.2.7 The Principal Site comprises numerous field parcels used for arable farming. The fields are large with limited hedgerows and trees. Where there are hedgerows, these generally form the boundaries of fields as they adjoin roads. There are also some small, scattered areas of woodland located within the Principal Site, along with some rural dwellings as well as agricultural buildings dispersed across the area.
- 2.2.8 Mature hedgerows and trees line the northern boundary of the Principal Site along the A631. To the west, the surrounding area is predominantly open fields with some defined with hedgerows. To the east, the landscape is defined by a sharp slope referred to as the Lincoln Cliff. This area is relatively elevated compared to the general character of the area, which is characterised by its flat rural landscape.

Cable Route Corridor

- 2.2.9 The Principal Site will be connected to National Grid Cottam Substation located at the decommissioned Cottam Power Station in Cottam on the Nottinghamshire border. The Cable Route Corridor is shown on **Figure 2-1** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.3] and is approximately 18.5km long (approximate distance between the Principal Site and National Grid Cottam Substation). The total area of the Cable Route Corridor outside of the Principal Site is approximately 318 ha. The electrical connection will comprise underground cables and is described further in **Chapter 3: Scheme Description** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1].
- 2.2.10 Heading south from the Principal Site, the cable route runs parallel to Glentworth Road and crosses Common Lane, Cow Lane, Kexby Road and Fillingham Lane, before turning to the west crossing South Lane, Stone Pit Lane and Normanby Road (B1241) (located to the south of Willingham by Stow). The Cable Route Corridor continues in a westerly direction before crossing the East Midlands Railway line that provides services between Doncaster and Lincoln and runs in a broad north-south direction to the west of Willingham by Stow and to the east of Gate Burton. The route then continues westwards crossing the A1500 (Stow Park Road), followed by the A156 (High Street) before crossing the River Trent to connect with the National Grid Cottam Substation.

2.3 Site Designations and Surroundings

Principal Site

- 2.3.1 Immediately surrounding the Principal Site are a series of villages interspersed along Middle Street (east of the Principal Site) including Harpswell (to the north), Glentworth, Fillingham and Ingham (to the south). Springthorpe and Heapham are located to the west of the Principal Site.
- 2.3.2 An Area of Great Landscape Value (Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Policy LP17) runs directly to the east of the Principal Site, with a small area of the Principal Site earmarked for mitigation within this designation to the south of Harpswell.
- 2.3.3 There are no international, national, regional, or locally designated nature conservation sites within the Principal Site. Within a 10km radius of the Principal Site, there are a number of statutorily designated nature sites, including Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). The nearest to the Principal Site is Lea Marsh SSSI, located to the south of Gainsborough at approximately 6km west of the Principal Site, and Cliff House SSSI located 6km to the north east of the Principal Site on the A15. The locations of Sites Statutorily Designated for Nature Conservation Value are displayed on **Figure 9-1** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.3] and Non-Statutory sites designated for Nature Conservation Value are displayed on **Figure 9-2** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.3]. Further discussion of the Scheme and these sites is presented in **Chapter 9: Ecology and Nature Conservation** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1].

- 2.3.4 There are no Scheduled Monuments or Designated Heritage Assets located within the Principal Site. There are two Scheduled Monuments in close proximity to the Principal Site: Harpswell Hall adjacent 320m to the north east of the Principal Site (a post medieval house and gardens that overlays earlier medieval remains) and Elm Tree Farm (a moated manorial complex) 550m to the west.
- 2.3.5 Many of the surrounding villages, such as Gate Burton, Marton, Torksey, Corringham, Upton, Stow, Hemswell, Glentworth, Fillingham, Ingham, Springthorpe and Brattleby have clusters of designated assets, including listed buildings and conservation areas, all located within 10km of the Order limits. There is a Registered Park and Garden, associated with Fillingham Castle, located 2.2km to the east of the Principal Site. The locations of Designated heritage assets are displayed on **Figure 8-1** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.3] and Non-designated heritage assets are displayed on **Figure 8-2** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.3]. Further discussion of the Scheme and these assets is presented in **Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1].
- 2.3.6 Most of the Principal Site is located within Flood Zone 1 and is therefore at a low risk of flooding from fluvial sources and surface water. There are some watercourses located within the northern, southern and western extent of the Principal Site area, including tributaries of the River Till, with some areas at a high risk of flooding (Flood Zone 3). This information is presented on **Figure 10-4** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.3]. There are also land drains, ponds and covered reservoirs located across the Principal Site areas, these are presented on **Figure 10-1** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.3]. Further discussion of the water environment is presented in **Chapter 10: Water Environment** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1].
- 2.3.7 The Principal Site lies across three Water Framework Directive (WFD) surface waterbodies, two WFD River Basin Districts (RBDs), two WFD Management Catchments and two Operational Catchments as shown in **Table 2-1**.

Table 2-1: Principal Site WFD RBD, Management and Operational Catchments, and Waterbodies

RBD	Management Catchment	Operational Catchment	Water Body
Anglian	Witham	Upper Witham	Fillingham Beck - GB105030062490
			Till (Witham) – GB105030062500
Humber	Trent Lower and Erewash	Trent and tributaries	Eau from Source to Northorpe Beck – GB104028057970

- 2.3.8 The majority of the Principal Site is located within Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Grade 3b land, although there are some isolated areas of Grade 2 and 3a land. These areas are discussed **Chapter 15: Soils and Agriculture** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] and in **Appendix 15-2** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.2].
- 2.3.9 The local transport network comprises several strategic connections including the A631 located directly north of the Principal Site. To the east of the Principal Site, the A631 connects with the A15 providing further access to the strategic highway network with the M180 located approximately 6km to the north.
- 2.3.10 Several areas of National Forest Inventory designations are present within the Principal Site.
- 2.3.11 PRoW are notably limited within the Principal Site, the only route being on the southern periphery, which is a bridleway extending south from Kexby Road near Glentworth Grange, towards Willingham Road (Gltw/85/1). In addition, there is a claimed bridleway (Claimed Glentworth and Harpswell Public Bridleway 1209) that runs through the eastern extent of the Principal Site, which has been assumed to become a definitive route in due course. There are a large number of additional recreational routes and PRoW within 500m of the Principal Site, most notably the network of bridleways and PRoW located between the villages of Ingham and Fillingham to the south of the Principal Site and a network of PRoW to the west of the Principal Site connecting the villages of Kexby, Upton, Heapham and Springthorpe. PRoW are presented on **Figure 12-7** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.3], **Figure 16-5** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.3], discussed in **Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity** and **Chapter 16: Transport and Access** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]. A **Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plan** is also included as part of the Application [EN010142/APP/2.4].

Cable Route Corridor

- 2.3.12 There are no international, national or regional nature conservation sites within the Cable Route Corridor, however, locally designated nature conservation sites are present (Upton Grange Road Verges Local Wildlife Site (LWS), Willingham to Fillingham Road Verges LWS, Cow Pasture Lane Drains LWS). The nearest SSSIs are Ashton's Meadow SSSI, which is located 1.5km west of the Cable Route Corridor, and Lea Marsh SSSI, located to the south of Gainsborough approximately 6.5km northwest of the Cable Route Corridor. The locations of Sites Statutorily Designated for Nature Conservation Value are displayed on **Figure 9-1** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.3] and Non-Statutory sites designated for Nature Conservation Value are displayed on **Figure 9-2** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.3]. Further discussion of the Scheme and these sites is presented in **Chapter 9: Ecology and Nature Conservation** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1].

- 2.3.13 Several areas of National Forest Inventory designations are present within the current Cable Route Corridor or adjacent to it. There are no areas of Ancient Woodland or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) within the current Cable Route Corridor.
- 2.3.14 There are no Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens or Conservation Areas within the Cable Route Corridor. However one Scheduled Monument, Fleet Plantation Moated Site, is located to the immediate south of the Cable Route Corridor at the National Grid Cottam Substation. There are a number of non-designated built heritage assets within the Cable Route Corridor and several Grade II Listed Buildings located on the edge of the Cable Route Corridor (Stow Park Station (NHLE 1064058), Signal Box (NHLE 1146606), Church of Holy Trinity (NHLE 1212380) and Font (NHLE 1370089). The location of Designated heritage assets is displayed on **Figure 8-1** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.3] and Non-designated heritage assets are displayed on **Figure 8-2** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.3]. Further discussion of the Scheme and these assets is presented in **Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]
- 2.3.15 Parts of the Cable Route Corridor are located within Flood Zone 2 and 3, where there is increased risk from flooding. The River Trent and River Till and the tributaries are located within the Cable Route Corridor, for which the Environment Agency is the regulating authority. This is presented on **Figure 10-4** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.3]. There are also land drains, ponds and covered reservoirs located across the Cable Route Corridor, this is presented on **Figure 10-1** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.3]. Further discussion of the water environment is presented in **Chapter 10: Water Environment** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1].
- 2.3.16 Within the Cable Route Corridor, there are five WFD surface waterbodies, two WFD RBDs, two WFD Management Catchments, and two Operational Catchments as shown in **Table 2-2**.

Table 2-2: Cable Route Corridor WFD RBD, Management and Operational Catchments, and Waterbodies

RBD	Management Catchment	Operational Catchment	Water Body
Anglian	Witham	Upper Witham	Skellingthorpe Main Drain – GB105030062390
			Tributary of Till – GB105030062480
			Till (Witham) - (GB105030062500)
			Fillingham Beck - (GB105030062490)

RBD	Management Catchment	Operational Catchment	Water Body
Humber	Trent Lower and Erewash	Trent and tributaries	Marton Drain Catchment (tributary of Trent) – GB104028057840
			Seymour Drain Catchment (tributary of Trent) – GB104028058340
			Trent from Carlton-on-Trent to Laughton Drain – GB104028058480

- 2.3.17 According to online mapping, the Cable Route Corridor is located within Grade 3 ALC land, with the area primarily agricultural in use.
- 2.3.18 There are some residential properties within the route, in particular close to Cottam Village, Marton and some barn conversions along Stow Park Road and at Normanby-by-Stow.
- 2.3.19 Three PRoW and three claimed PRoW cross the Cable Route Corridor within Lincolnshire (east of the River Trent) and there are nine PRoW within Nottinghamshire that would also be crossed. PRoW are presented on **Figure 12-7** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.3], **Figure 16-5** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.3], discussed in **Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity** and **Chapter 16: Transport and Access** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]. A **Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plan** is also submitted with the DCO Application [EN010142/APP/2.4].