

Tillbridge Solar Project EN010142

Volume 9
Statement of Common Ground with West Lindsey
District Council

Draft

Document Reference: EN010142/APP/9.8

The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

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tillbridgesolar.com

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Document

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared to support the application ("the Application") for the Tillbridge Solar Project ("the Scheme") made by Tillbridge Solar Limited ("the Applicant"). The Application was submitted to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero ("the Secretary of State") for a Development Consent Order (DCO) ("the Order") under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 ("PA 2008") and was accepted for examination on 8 May 2024.
- 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 at https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010142/documents.
- 1.1.3 SoCGs are an established means in the planning process of allowing all parties to identify and so focus on specific issues that may need to be addressed during the examination. This SoCG has been produced to confirm to the Examining Authority (ExA) where agreement has been reached between the parties and where matters are under discussion or where agreement has not been reached. The SoCG will be progressed during the pre-examination and examination periods to reach a final position between the Parties and to clarify if any issues remain unresolved. This SoCG will be revised and updated as appropriate and/or required by the ExA at relevant examination deadlines.

1.2 Parties to this Statement of Common Ground

- 1.2.1 This SoCG has been prepared between (1) the Applicant and (2) West Lindsey District Council (jointly referred to as the Parties).
- 1.2.2 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.
- 1.2.3 West Lindsey District Council (WLDC) is a host local authority. The Principal Site and part of the Cable Route Corridor is located within WLDC's boundary. WLDC is listed as a prescribed consultee in Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (Ref. 1) and has been consulted during the preparation of the Application and following its acceptance.
- 1.2.4 Collectively, the Applicant and WLDC are referred to as 'the parties'

1.3 The Scheme

1.3.1 The Order, if granted, would authorise the construction, operation (including maintenance), and decommissioning of ground-mounted solar photovoltaic

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- (PV) arrays. The Scheme will also include associated development to support the solar PV arrays.
- 1.3.2 The Scheme is made up of the Principal Site, the Cable Route Corridor and works to the existing National Grid Cottam Substation. The Principal Site comprises the solar PV arrays, electrical substations, grid balancing infrastructure, cabling and areas for landscaping and ecological enhancement.
- 1.3.3 The associated development element of the Scheme includes but is not limited to access provision; a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), to support the operation of the ground mounted solar PV arrays; the development of on-site substations; underground cabling between the different areas of solar PV arrays; and areas of landscaping and biodiversity enhancement.
- 1.3.4 The Scheme also includes a 400kV underground Cable Route Corridor of approximately 18.5km in length connecting the Principal Site to the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS) at the existing National Grid Cottam Substation. The Scheme will export and import electricity to the NETS.

1.4 Terminology

- 1.4.1 Section 3 summarises the issues that are 'agreed', 'not agreed' or are 'under discussion'.
- 1.4.2 These terms are used as follows:
 - a. "Agreed" indicates where the issue has been resolved;
 - a. "Under discussion" indicates where these points will be the subject of ongoing discussion wherever possible to resolve, or refine, the extent of disagreement between the parties;
 - b. "Not Agreed" indicates a final position where the Parties have agreed to disagree.

2. Record of Engagement

2.1.1 A summary of all meetings and correspondence that has taken place between the Parties in relation to the Application is outlined in **Table 1**. This includes email correspondence between the Parties to discuss sharing of information, arrangement of meetings and where appropriate to comment on draft documentation. **Table 1** reflects the key meetings and emails of note.

Table 1: Record of Engagement

Date	Form of Correspondence and attendees	Key topics discussed and key outcomes
16 June 2022	Meeting (Microsoft Teams with Head of Development Management)	Introduction to the Applicant and overview of proposals and current activities including approach to engagement and context of the Scheme.
28 June 2022	Meeting (Microsoft Teams with Head of Development Management)	 Recap following introductory meeting on 16 June 2022. Feedback on approach to non-statutory engagement. Scheme's interaction with other solar schemes.
11 July 2022	Meeting (Microsoft Teams with Head of Development Management)	Following introductory meetings with planning officers' further briefings were held with members to introduce them to the Applicant and the Scheme.
2 November 2022	Meeting (Microsoft Teams with Head of Development Management)	 Applicant's progress following collaboration workshops, including communication with wider stakeholders. Upcoming programme for informal and formal consultation on draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). Discussion of host authority concerns prior to member briefing on wider solar schemes in November 2022.
20 December 2022	Email (to Head of Development Management)	Email from the Applicant to provide a copy of the draft SoCC ahead of formal s47(2) consultation, inviting officers to informally provide any comments on the content and detail set out therein.
13 February 2023	Letter (to Head of Development Management)	Letter from the Applicant including a copy for the draft SoCC for formal consultation, requesting comments back within 28 days.
22 March 2023	Meeting (Microsoft Teams with Head of Development Management)	Discussion on formal consultation of the draft SoCC.
4 April 2023	Email (Head of Development Management)	Email from the Applicant notifying WLDC that the date for the Section 42 Statutory Consultation period had been amended.
17 May 2023	Meeting (Microsoft Teams with Head of	Updates for local elections, including new members.

Date	Form of Correspondence and attendees	Key topics discussed and key outcomes
	Development Management)	 Preparation ahead of host authority briefings for statutory consultation. Scheme updates and on-the ground activities, including trial trenching and wider environmental work.
25 May 2023	Email (to Head of Development Management)	Email from the Applicant issuing WLDC a copy of the final SoCC and Section 47 notice, along with a table setting out the issues raised by host authorities in response to the draft SoCC consultation and regard had to those responses by the Applicant in developing the final SoCC.
23 June 2023	Meeting (Microsoft Teams with Head of Development Management)	 Update on ongoing Stakeholder engagement. Update on continuing engagement with developers of other schemes in the area. Feedback on member briefing.
10 July 2023 and 28 July 2023	Email (Relevant local authority tree officer and Applicant's arboricultural consultant	Discussion and agreement of scope and methodology of Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA).
22 August 2023	Email (to Head of Development Management)	 To address comments raised at statutory consultation and to agree on viewpoints and baseline photography.
13 September 2023	Meeting (Microsoft Teams with Head of Development Management)	 Discussion of targeted statutory consultation and nature of changes following statutory consultation. Progress of considering statutory consultation and ongoing meetings with statutory bodies. Summary of the Applicant's role in the Early Adopters Programme.
13 October 2023	Meeting (Microsoft Teams with Head of Development Management)	 Discussion of the Applicant's programme, with a refreshed date for DCO application submission. Applicant's ongoing regard to consultation responses, including changes to indicative site layout plan. Ongoing stakeholder engagement wither wider bodies, such as Historic England and Natural England.
10 November 2023	Email (to Head of Development Management)	Email from the Applicant to outline a draft version of the targeted consultation methodology, detailing the changes and proposed length of the consultation period.

Date	Form of Correspondence and attendees	Key topics discussed and key outcomes
		Email from the Applicant including a copy of the long list to feed into the cumulative assessment for comment from WLDC.
22 November 2023	Meeting (Microsoft Teams with Head of Development Management)	 Discussion of Targeted Consultation methodology and the extent and nature of changes proposed. Discussion on how statutory consultation responses have been addressed. Update on programme.
11 December 2023	Letter (to Head of Development Management)	Covering letter and targeted consultation materials from the Applicant to WLDC ahead of the start of the targeted consultation period.
13 December 2023	Email (to Head of Development Management)	Electronic copy of covering letter and consultation material from the Applicant to WLDC.
14 February 2024	Meeting (Microsoft Teams with Head of Development Management)	 Discussion of latest proposals for Scheme ahead of DCO application submission. Briefing of Scheme updates ahead of publication of Community Newsletter. Updates related to other solar schemes.
23 February 2024	Email (to Head of Development Management)	Email from the Applicant following up on the long list to feed into the cumulative assessment.
28 March 2024	Email (to Head of Development Management)	Email from the Applicant to WLDC advising WLDC of a delay in the submission of the Application.
7 August 2024	Email (to Head of Development Management)	Email from Applicant enclosing agenda for catch-up meeting and requesting if WLDC would shared its relevant representation response.
9 August 2024	Meeting (Microsoft Teams with Head of Development Management)	 General update on the current stage of the Scheme pre-examination. Introductory conversations surrounding Statement of Common Ground. Introduction to the proposed Change Request.
16 August 2024	Email (to Head of Development Management)	Email from the Applicant providing WLDC with Change Request Consultation Brochure ahead of the beginning of consultation on proposed changes to the Scheme following acceptance of the Application.
3 October 2024	Meeting (Microsoft Teams with Head of	Update on the submission of the Change Request.

Date	Form of Correspondence and attendees	Key topics discussed and key outcomes
	Development Management)	 Update on Procedural Deadline A and the Rule 6 Draft Timetable. Introduction to SoCGs and next steps towards the examination.
15 October 2024	In-person meeting with Head of Development Management, WLDC NSIP consultant and Counsel.	Articles and Schedules associated with the draft DCO.

3. Areas of Discussion between the Parties

3.1.1 **Table 2** below details the areas of discussion and matters that are agreed, under discussion and not agreed between the Parties.

Table 2 Areas of Discussion with West Lindsey District Council (WLDC)

Ref.	Subject	Relevant Application Document	Applicant Position	WLDC Position	Status	Likelihood of Resolution
1. Sche	me Description	•			-	•
1.1	Scheme Description	Chapter 3: Scheme Description of the ES [AS-53]	The Site and Scheme description set out in Chapter 3: Scheme Description of the ES [AS-53] is accurate and agreed.	WLDC agree the Scheme description set Chapter 3: Scheme Description of the ES [AS-53] is accurate	Agreed	High
2. Cum	ulative Schemes					
2.1		Figure 18-1: Cumulative Developments and Appendix 18-1: List of Cumulative Developments of the ES [APP-124]	The Applicant discussed the cumulative developments with WLDC as part of the regular catch-up meetings and sent the list of cumulative developments via email. No issues were raised by WLDC.	WLDC agrees with the cumulative schemes set out in Figure 18-1: Cumulative Developments and Appendix 18-1: List of Cumulative Developments of the ES [APP-124].	Agreed	High
3. Gen	eral Planning Matters					
3.1	PA 2008	Planning Statement [AS-029]	The Application is to be determined under Section 104 of the PA 2008 where national policy statement has effect. This means that in the case of the Scheme, in accordance with NPS EN-1 (Ref. 2), there is an urgent need for the development and that substantial weight should be given to this in decision making. In accordance with paragraph 4.1.3 of NPS EN-1 (Ref. 2) given the urgent need that there is a presumption in favour of granting consent. The Application is a CNP Scheme and the need case will outweigh residual effects in all but the most exceptional cases.	WLDC has not commented on general planning matters and will confirm its position through the publication of its Local Impact Report.		High
3.2	Planning policy contex in decision-making	t Planning Statement [AS-029]	The Applicant states that since the Scheme needs to be considered under Section 104 of the PA 2008 (Ref. 3) that in assessing the merits of the application it must be considered in accordance with the relevant national policy statement (NPS EN-1 (Ref. 2), NPS EN-3 (Ref.	WLDC has not commented on general planning matters and will confirm its position through the publication of its Local Impact Report.	Under Discussion	High

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Ref.	Subject	Relevant Application Document	Applicant Position	WLDC Position	Status	Likelihood of Resolution
			4) and NPS EN-5 (Ref. 5)) this being of primary importance, but regard must also be had to any local impact report and any other important and relevant matters. In this case (WLDC), it is agreed that the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (Ref. 6), Corringham Neighbourhood Plan (Ref. 7), Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan (Ref. 8), Glentworth Neighbourhood Plan (Ref. 9) and Hemswell and Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan (Ref. 10)			
3.3	Compliance with local planning policy	Planning Statement [AS-029]	The Applicant has identified the planning policy documents listed in Table 1of Appendix B of the Planning Statement [AS-029] as being relevant and important in relation to the area of the Application within WLDC.	WLDC has not commented on general planning matters and will confirm its position through the publication of its Local Impact Report.	Under Discussion	High
3.4	Development consent granted for the Gate Burton Energy Park and the Cottam Solar Project	Gate Burton Energy Park ExA Recommendation Report and SoS decision [EN010131] and the Cottam Solar Project ExA Recommendation Report and SoS decision [EN010133]	Development consent was granted for the Gate Burton Energy Park on 12 July 2024 and for the Cottam Solar Project on the 5 September. The ExA appointed to examine the Tillbridge Solar Project and the Secretary of State in reaching a decision should have regard to the decision on these Schemes as important and relevant in relation to the decision on the Tillbridge Solar Project.	WLDC agrees that the decisions on the Gate Burton Energy Park and the Cottam Solar Project are important and relevant pursuant to section 104 of the PA 2008 and as set out in its Relevant Representation (RR-328).	Agreed	High
3.5	Planning Balance	Section 7 of the Planning Statement [AS-029]	The Applicant considers that the following planning balance should be applied to the Scheme:	WLDC has not commented on its judgement on the acceptability of the Tillbridge Solar Project through applying the 'planning balance' in due course.	Under Discussion	Medium
			Positive Impacts and Benefits			
			 a. Climate Change – substantial positive weight. 			
			b. Ecology – significant positive weight.			
			c. Minimum 10% BNG – moderate positive weight.			
			 d. Provision of permissive paths – moderate positive weight. 			
			e. Employment generation – moderate positive weight.			
			f. Socio-economics and land use – moderate positive weight.			

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Ref.	Subject	Relevant Application Document	Applicant Position	WLDC Position	Status	Likelihood of Resolution
			 g. Soils and agriculture – moderate positive weight. 			
			Neutral Impacts			
			h. Air Quality – limited weight.			
			i. Water Environment – limited weight.			
			j. Human Health – limited weight .			
			k. Noise and Vibration – limited weight.			
			I. Transport and access – limited weight.			
			m. Other Environmental Topics – limited weight.			
			Negative Impacts			
			 n. Significant residual effects with respect to severance/pedestrian delay/non-motorised amenity on the B1241, North Fleets Road – limited negative weight. 			
			 o. Landscape and visual amenity – moderate negative weight. 			
			p. Cultural heritage – moderate negative weight.			
			q. Loss of best and most versatile land– limited negative weight.			
			 r. Cumulative Impacts – moderate negative weight. 			
			From the above, it is the Applicant's position that it is very clear that the residual impacts do not trigger the exceptional circumstance set out in national planning policy to refuse consent with the presumption firmly engaged in favour of granting development consent, to deliver critical national infrastructure. The benefits of the Scheme are very substantial (in terms of climate change) and significant (in terms of ecology and nature conservations) at both a national, regional and local levels, leading to an			

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Ref.	Subject	Relevant Application Document	Applicant Position	WLDC Position	Status	Likelihood of Resolution
			overwhelming balance in favour of granting development consent for the Scheme. The benefits of the Scheme is clearly and decisively outweighed by its limited and localised adverse impacts.			
4. Alte	rnatives and Design E	volution				
4.1	Site Selection	Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution of the ES [APP-035]	The methodology used in the site selection process as detailed in Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution of the ES [APP-035] is appropriate for the Scheme.	WLDC agree the methodology used in the site selection process as detailed in Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution of the ES [APP-035] is appropriate for the Scheme.	Agreed	High
5. Legi	slation and Planning F	Policy				
5.1	Legislation and Planning Policy	[APP-037 to APP-048] and [AS-006]	The ES [APP-037 to APP-048] has identified all relevant application legislation, national and local policy pertaining to the following assessments undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the	WLDC agree that the ES [APP-037 to APP-048] and Planning Statement [AS-029] has identified all relevant applicable legislation and national and local policy pertaining to the assessments undertaken as part of the EIA.	Agreed	High
		Planning Statement [AS-029]	Scheme, and which relate to the functions undertaken by WLDC as the relevant planning authority:	LIA.		
			Chapter 6: Air Quality [APP-037];			
			Chapter 7: Climate Change [APP-038]; Chapter 9: Cultural Haritage [APP-030];			
			 Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage [APP-039]; Chapter 9: Ecology and Nature Conservation [APP-040]; 			
			• Chapter 11: Human Health [APP-042];			
			 Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity [APP-043]; 			
			• Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration [AS-006];			
			 Chapter 14: Socioeconomics and Land Use [APP-045]; 			
			 Chapter 15: Soils and Agriculture [APP- 046]; 			
			 Chapter 17: Other Environmental Topics [APP-048]; 			
			The Planning Statement [AS-029] has also has identified all relevant application legislation and national policy.			
5.2	Assessment Methodology	N/A	The Applicant agrees that the decisions on Gate Burton Energy Park and the Cottam Solar Project are 'important and relevant' pursuant to section 104 of the PA 2008. It is important to	WLDC are conscious that the decision made on Gate Burton and Cottam becomes an 'important and relevant' matter pursuant to section 104 of the PA 2008, as will the decision on West Burton when it is made on the 8	Agreed	

Ref.	Subject	Relevant Application Document	Applicant Position	WLDC Position	Status	Likelihood of Resolution
			note that both the Gate Burton Energy Park and the Cottam Solar Project considered cumulative impacts in combination with Gate Burton Energy Park, Cottam Solar Project, West Burton Solar Project and the Scheme.	representations on the implications in terms of the		
	A D. C		It is also important to note that both the Gate Burton Energy Park [EN10131] and the Cottam Solar Project [EN10133] have obtained development consent with the ExA having already examined cumulative effects and the Secretary of State (SoS) having considered the ExA recommendations.			
6. Study	Area Definition and Ex					
6.1	Study area definition and extents	Environmental Statement [APP-037 to APP-048]	The study areas adopted by the Applicant within the assessment of the environmental topics mentioned in the technical chapters of the ES [APP-037 to APP-048] reflect current best practice and standards. The Parties agree that the geographical extents of the adopted study areas are appropriate to identify the likely direct and indirect effects of the Scheme on sensitive features and receptors.	WLDC agree that the study areas and geographical extents of these mentioned in the technical chapters of the ES [APP-037 to APP-048] are appropriate to identify the likely direct and indirect effects of the Scheme on sensitive features and receptors.	Agreed	High
7. Applic	cation of Expert and Pro	ofessional Judgement				
7.1	Application of professional Judgement	Environmental Statement [APP-037 to APP-048]	The identification of likely significant effects on sensitive features and receptors has been informed by professional judgement and the views of the relevant technical specialists. The application of professional judgement by specialists within the environmental topic assessments in outlined in the technical chapters of the ES [APP-037 to APP-048] and	WLDC agree the application of professional judgement by specialists within the environmental topic assessments outlined in the technical chapters of the ES [APP-037 to APP-048] are appropriate and robust.	Agreed	High
8. Asses	sment Methodology		are appropriate and robust.			
8.1	Methodology	Environmental Statement	The assessment methodology adopted within	WLDC largely agree the assessment methodology	Agreed	High
J		[APP-037 to APP-048]	the environmental topic assessments mentioned in the technical chapters of the ES [APP-037 to APP-048] have been derived from the information obtained through consultation with stakeholders and by reviewing relevant guidance and studies. The adopted methodologies area robust and acceptable.	adopted in within the technical chapters of the ES [APP-037 to APP-048]. Those areas where further discussion is required is set out under the individual topic below.		

9. Baseline Surveys

Ref.	Subject	Relevant Application Document	Applicant Position	WLDC Position	Status	Likelihood of Resolution
9.1	Baseline	Environmental Statement [APP-037 to APP-048]	The baseline conditions have been collated using desk-based and field-based techniques (where relevant), and through consultation with stakeholders including WLDC.	WLDC agree the scope, coverage and timing of surveys undertaken in relation to the technical chapters of the ES [APP-037 to APP-048] is acceptable.	Agreed	High
			The scope, coverage and timing of surveys undertaken to establish the baseline conditions and sensitive features and receptors are in line with best practice and appropriate to inform the assessment of direct and indirect effects reported in the technical chapters of the ES [APP-037 to APP-048].			
10. Asse	essment of Impacts and E	Effects				
10.1	Impacts and Effects	Environmental Statement [APP-037 to APP-048]	The assessment findings for the environmental topics mentioned in the technical chapters of the ES [APP-037 to APP-048] are considered acceptable	WLDC agree the assessments findings for the environmental topics within the technical chapters of the ES [APP-037 to APP-048] are acceptable but seeks further discussion with the Applicant in relation to cumulative effects. This is discussed below.	Under Discussion	Medium
11. Mitig	ation of Effects					
11.1	Mitigation	Environmental Statement [APP-037 to APP-048] Draft DCO [EN010142/APP/3.1(Rev0 3)]	The mitigation measures mentioned in the environmental topic chapters mentioned in technical chapter of the ES [APP-037 to APP-048] are considered acceptable to mitigate potential impacts and manage potential effects during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases.	WLDC agree that the mitigation measures mentioned in the technical chapters of the ES [APP-037 to APP-048] are acceptable to mitigate potential impacts during construction, operation and decommissioning.	Agreed	High
			The provision of mitigation is secured by specific requirements within the draft DCO [EN010142/APP/3.1(Rev03)]. These include the requirement for management plans that must be prepared and approved before commencement of development.			
12. Cum	nulative Effects and Inter	actions				
12.1	Assessment of Socio- economic Impacts and Effects	Chapter 18: Cumulative Effects and Interactions of the ES [APP-049].	An assessment of cumulative effects is presented within Chapter 18: Cumulative Effects and Interactions of the ES [APP-049].	WLDC expect that the potential impact of the four solar projects on the socio-economic and communities of West Lindsey is a matter that is managed rigorously.	Agreed	High
		Joint Report on the Interrelationship with other National Infrastructure projects [APP-215 to APP-217].	It should be noted that the Application submission includes an updated version of the Joint Report on Interrelationships between NSIPs [APP-215 to APP-217]. This will be further updated during examination to ensure			

Ref.	Subject	Relevant Application Document	Applicant Position	WLDC Position	Status	Likelihood of Resolution
			that any new NSIPs are considered should these emerge or that the stage of applications already included in the report is updated			
			Section 18.15 of Chapter 18: Cumulative Effects and Interactions of the ES [APP-049] concludes that the Scheme will not have a significant effect on the amenity of residential properties, local businesses, community facilities, and visitor attractions during construction. Similarly, there would not be a significant effect on receptors during operation or decommissioning.			
12.2	Assessment of Landscape and Visual Impacts and Effects	Chapter 18: Cumulative Effects and Interactions of the ES [APP-049]. Joint Report on the Interrelationship with other National Infrastructure projects [APP-215 to APP-217].	Cumulative effects and interactions between the Scheme and other solar DCOs are also assessed in Section 18.13 of Chapter 18 : Cumulative Effects and Interactions of the ES [APP-049]. The Scheme and other solar DCOs have worked collaboratively during design development and environmental assessments, including identification of a shared Cable Route Corridor to minimise the extent of impacts, sharing baseline environment information and identification of shared mitigation measures. Consideration has also been given as to how habitat creations link with other proposed developments and more widely across the landscape to ensure any benefits are aligned.	WLDC have concerns regarding the combined cumulative impact associated with the construction, operation and decommissioning of the schemes on landscape character and visual effects.	Under Discussion	Medium
			Further information on cumulative effects, mitigation and the approach taken to coordinate with the other solar DCOs is provided in the Joint Report on the Interrelationship with other National Infrastructure projects [APP-215 to APP-217].			
			The assessment for Cumulative Effects related to landscape and visual amenity set out in Chapter 18: Cumulative Effects and Interactions of the ES [APP-049] concludes that significant adverse landscape and visual cumulative effects will arise with the Cottam Solar Project, predominantly from the presence of solar infrastructure to areas both north and south of the Scheme, and in elevated			

Ref.	Subject	Relevant Application Document	Applicant Position	WLDC Position	Status	Likelihood of Resolution
			representative viewpoints along the Middle Street. However, these effects should be considered in the context of long-term green infrastructure benefits. Significant cumulative effects have also been determined for the representative viewpoint along Kexby Road due to combined views with Glentworth oil well development and along the Cable Route Corridor, during the construction of the four solar DCOs. However, these effects are considered to be temporary.			
			It should be noted that development consent was recently granted for the Gate Burton Energy Park (12 July 2024) and the Cottam Solar Project on (5 September 2024). Both projects are located within the Zone of Theoretical Visibility of the Scheme. The Secretary of State concluded that the cumulative effects of the Gate Burton and Cottam projects, in combination with each other and the West Burton and Tillbridge projects, lead to moderate adverse landscape effects and material harm to landscape character but that there are no significant adverse cumulative effects on visual receptors. The Secretary of State, in deciding to grant development consent for both projects, concluded that the landscape harms, including cumulatively with other solar projects in the area, were clearly outweighed by the substantial weight to be attached to the critical and urgent need to deliver low-carbon and renewable energy. These recent decisions are important and relevant in assessing the merits of the Scheme.			
12.3	Assessment of Soils and Agriculture Effects	Chapter 18: Cumulative Effects and Interactions of the ES [APP-049]. Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution of the ES [APP-035]	production, the site selection process carried out to identify the Principal Site, as described in Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution	WLDC have concerns regarding the combined cumulative impact associated with the construction, operation and decommissioning of the schemes on agricultural land and soils and the farming circumstances	Under Discussion	Medium
			Chapter 18: Cumulative Effects and Interactions of the ES [APP-049] assesses the			

Ref.	Subject	Relevant Application Document	Applicant Position	WLDC Position	Status	Likelihood of Resolution
			loss of agricultural land in combination with all cumulative solar schemes (Gate Burton Energy Park, West Burton Solar Project and the Cottam Solar Project and others set out in Table 18-22 in Chapter 18: Cumulative Effects and Interactions of the ES [APP-049]). This confirms that cumulative effects during construction, operation and decommissioning are not significant.			
			The above confirms that there is not a significant cumulative effect on agricultural production as a result of the Schemes. The area of agricultural land that would be temporarily taken out of agricultural use across all four schemes would be 2.2% of agricultural land in Lincolnshire.			
			The ExA in its recommendation report on Gate Burton Energy Park [EN010131], which the Secretary of State agreed with in his decision letter, confirmed at paragraph 3.11.114 that:			
			"Whilst I appreciate the concerns of many IPs and the concerns expressed there is no meaningful assessment of the extent of lost production."			
			The Tillbridge Solar Project, through its site selection process sought to minimise impacts upon BMV land and through design iteration of the Scheme, has further minimised impacts. The siting of the Scheme on a limited extent of BMV land is justified and the loss of agricultural land and therefore potential food production would be temporary and reversible allowing the Principal Site to be brought back into agricultural use following decommissioning.			
12.4	Assessment of Noise and Vibration Impacts and Effects	Chapter 18: Cumulative Effects and Interactions of the ES [APP-049]	Effects and Interactions of the ES [APP-049]	WLDC have concerns regarding the combined cumulative impact associated with the construction, operation and decommissioning of the schemes on noise and vibration.	Under Discussion	High

Ref.	Subject	Relevant Application Document	Applicant Position	WLDC Position	Status	Likelihood of Resolution
			have no significant effects in terms of noise and vibration. The assessment findings related to Cumulative Effects for Noise and Vibration are acceptable.			
12.5	Assessment of Air Quality Impacts and Effects	Chapter 18: Cumulative Effects and Interactions of the ES [APP-049]	Section 18.7 of Chapter 18: Cumulative Effects and Interactions of the ES [APP-049] addresses the likely in combination effects and cumulative effects of the Scheme on air quality. This confirms that the predicted change in concentration of fugitive emissions from construction activities, and from the movement of construction vehicles on the road network is negligible with no significant effect on air quality, from the Scheme on its own and cumulatively with other developments. Similarly, there are not anticipated to be any cumulative effects on air quality during the operation or decommissioning of the Scheme.	WLDC have concerns regarding the combined cumulative impact associated with the construction, operation and decommissioning of the schemes on air quality.	Under Discussion	High
			The assessment findings related to Cumulative Effects for Air Quality is acceptable.			
12.6	Assessment of Transport and Access Impacts and Effects	Chapter 18: Cumulative Effects and Interactions of the ES [APP-049] Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010142/APP/7.11 (Rev02)] Joint Report on the Interrelationship with other National Infrastructure projects [APP-215 to APP-217]	Section 18.17 of Chapter 18: Cumulative Effects and Interactions of the ES [APP-049] addresses the likely in combination effects and cumulative effects of the Scheme on transport and access. It is proposed that a Joint Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) is prepared between the Scheme and the other solar DCOs (West Burton Solar Project, Cottam Solar Project and Gate Burton Energy Park) post-consent to manage and mitigate cumulative effects, once further details are known on project timeframes and the approach for the shared Cable Route Corridor. This is set out as a commitment within the Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan (FCTMP) [EN010142/APP/7.11 (Rev02)], an updated version of which will be submitted at Deadline 1. Requirement 14 of the draft DCO [EN010142/APP/3.1(Rev03)] requires that a CTMP is submitted and approved prior to the commencement of development and that traffic management during construction accords with	WLDC have concerns regarding the combined cumulative impact of traffic and transport associated with the construction, operation and decommissioning of the schemes.	Under Discussion	High

Ref.	Subject	Relevant Application Document	Applicant Position	WLDC Position	Status	Likelihood of Resolution
			the approved CTMP. The CTMP also has to be in accordance with the FCTMP submitted as part of the Application. Further information is provided within the Joint Report on the Interrelationship with other National Infrastructure projects [APP-215 to APP-217] submitted with the DCO application. With the implementation of the FCTMP, the assessment concludes that the cumulative increase in traffic flows on School Lane, Cow Lane, Fillingham Lane, the B1241, Headstead Bank and Cottam Road is slight adverse (not significant), the effect on all other road links is neutral (not significant). Any significant cumulative effects on PRoW would be avoided by the implementation of the FCTMP. The assessment findings related to Cumulative Effect on Transport and Access are considered acceptable			
12.7	Assessment of Ecology and Biodiversity Impacts and Effects	Chapter 18: Cumulative Effects and Interactions of the ES [APP-049] Framework LEMP [EN010142/APP/7.17(Rev 02)] Draft DCO [EN010142/APP/3.1(Rev0 3)]	Section 18.10 of Chapter 18: Cumulative Effects and Interactions of the ES [APP-049] addresses the likely in combination effects and cumulative effects of the Scheme on ecology and nature conservation. The Application is supported by a Framework LEMP [EN010142/APP/7.17(Rev02)] which sets out the mitigation and management measures proposed for the Scheme to ensure that impacts on biodiversity are minimised and provides ecological enhancement measures. All four solar DCO's have similar LEMPs which will ensure that biodiversity is protected as far as practicable. The Applicant will prepare a detailed LEMP which will be substantially in accordance with the Framework LEMP [EN010142/APP/7.17(Rev02)] and will need to be approved by the Local Planning Authority prior to construction, as secured by requirement 14 of the draft DCO [EN010142/APP/3.1(Rev03)]. The assessment concludes that with the mitigation measures proposed by the Scheme and other cumulative developments, including the other solar DCOs, there is no potential for the elevation of nonsignificant effects to cumulatively generate	WLDC have concerns regarding the combined cumulative impact associated with the construction, operation and decommissioning of the schemes on ecology and biodiversity.	Under Discussion	High

Ref.	Subject	Relevant Application Document	Applicant Position	WLDC Position	Status	Likelihood of Resolution
			significant effects on important ecological features during construction. In addition, all four solar DCOs have embedded areas of undeveloped land within their Order limits, which will be managed to promote ground-nesting bird species and winter food resource for overwintering birds. Section 18-10, Chapter 18: Cumulative Effects and Interactions of the ES [APP-049] concludes that it is unlikely that this will generate an adverse effect beyond the local level, and is therefore not significant. In addition, given the absence of overlapping features of the projects (other than in the Cable Route Corridor, where they are to be managed cooperatively), the isolated populations of reptiles and amphibians across all four DCOs will benefit from the habitat creation generated by the projects, which may in time improve connectivity across the projects. No significant cumulative effects arise during operation or decommissioning.			
			The assessment findings related to Cumulative Effects for Ecology and Biodiversity are acceptable.			
12.8	Assessment of Cultural Heritage Impacts and Effects		Section 18.9 of Chapter 18: Cumulative Effects and Interactions of the ES [APP-049] addresses the likely in combination effects and cumulative effects of the Scheme on cultural heritage. As detailed in Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage of the ES [APP-039] and Chapter 18: Cumulative Effects and Interactions of the ES [APP-049] of the ES, the cumulative impacts arising from the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the schemes are considered to be not significant in relation to cultural heritage.	WLDC have concerns regarding the combined cumulative impact associated with construction, operation and decommissioning of the schemes on cultural heritage.	Under Discussion	High
			The assessment findings related to Cumulative Effects for Cultural Heritage are considered acceptable.			

Ref.	Subject	Relevant Application Document	Applicant Position	WLDC Position	Status	Likelihood of Resolution
12.9	Mitigation of Effects	Chapter 18: Cumulative Effects and Interactions of the ES [APP-049]. Draft DCO [EN010142/APP/3.1(Rev0 3)]	The mitigation measures mentioned in Chapter 18: Cumulative Effects and Interactions of the ES [APP-049] are acceptable to mitigate potential impacts and manage potential effects during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases. Residual effects are minimised as far as practicable through embedded mitigation and additional mitigation and enhancement measures incorporated within	WLDC are concerned with how the solar schemes in West Lindsey can be mitigated in a co-ordinated and consistent manner including during construction, operation and decommissioning.	Under Discussion	Medium
		Framework CEMP [EN010142/APP/7.8(Rev0 1)]	the Scheme.			
		Framework OEMP [EN010142/APP/7.9 (Rev01)]	The Applicant notes concerns raised regarding the need to deliver a joint co-ordinated approach to the construction of all four solar projects if each is consented. Each project will need to comply with the statutory provisions of its Order. This includes controls and management during			
		Framework DEMP [EN010142/APP/7.10(Rev 01)]	all phases of the project through details to be approved by the relevant authority through the discharge of requirements.			
		Framework Soil Management Plan [EN010142/APP/7.12(Rev 01)]	In terms of the co-ordination of construction with the other projects, Appendix C of the Joint Report on Interrelationships between Nationally Significant Projects [APP-216] includes a copy of a Co-operation Agreement			
		Framework Public Rights of Way Management Plan [EN010142/APP/7.16]	signed by each solar developer. This Cooperation agreement requires the developments to cooperate with each other during examination and until the determination of each DCO application and to then agree and enter into a Further Cooperation Agreement as soon as reasonably practicable and before the date on which the first DCO application is determined by			
			the Secretary of State. The Further Cooperation Agreement will be an agreement between the Parties in order to manage the interaction of the projects during the discharge of requirements, and the respective construction and operational phases of each project.			
13. Draf	ft Development Consent	Order				
13.1	Article 40	Draft DCO [EN010142/APP/3.1(Rev0 3)]	To ensure the effect of this Article is appropriately constrained, the Applicant proposes to amend this Article to prevent the felling, pruning or cutting back of any tree which	WLDC state that Advice Note 15 (Ref. 11) confirms that a DCO should not include powers to allow the felling or lopping of trees protected by a Tree Preservation Order on a precautionary basis.	Under discussion	High

Ref.	Subject	Relevant Application Document	Applicant Position	WLDC Position	Status	Likelihood of Resolution
			is the subject of a current tree preservation order. This has been added as only two trees currently subject to TPOs have been identified within the Scheme (specifically, within the Cable Route Corridor). Through micro-siting and detailed design at this location, the Applicant is able to commit to avoiding impacts on these trees.			
			However, the amended Article permits the undertaker to fell or lop any tree protected by a tree preservation order made after 10 April 2024 (being the date of submission). This is considered necessary to protect the ongoing construction, operation and maintenance of the Scheme being interrupted or affected by a TPO which a local authority may implement in the future. The Applicant cannot risk the construction or operation of the Scheme being blocked by a future order.			
			It is noted per discussion at the ISH1 that the amended Article also confirms that the duty contained in section 206(1) (replacement of trees) of the 1990 Act does not apply. That section provides that replacement of removed TPO trees must occur "in the same place" as where the original tree was removed. This cannot be committed to since the Scheme would only need undertake works to a tree protected by a TPO, if there was conflict with the Scheme spatially (i.e. the tree was in the way of intended infrastructure. The undertaker would therefore not be able to commit to replanting a replacement tree in the same location in which it was removed.			
			To assist with the above, the Applicant proposes to amend the FLEMP [EN010142/APP/7.17(Rev02)] at Deadline 1 to clarify that the undertaker will replace any TPO tree in a suitable location elsewhere within the Order limits if a tree has to be removed.			
13.2	Requirement 4 (community liaison group)	Draft DCO [EN010142/APP/3.1(Rev0 3)]	The drafting of requirement 4 is in accordance with recently made development consent orders (Cottam [EN010133] and Gate Burton	WLDC seek further clarification on the terms of reference of the community liaison group, the need for it to be established prior to the commencement of	Under discussion	High

Ref.	Subject	Relevant Application Document	Applicant Position	WLDC Position	Status	Likelihood of Resolution
			[EN010131]) and is an established principle and mechanism to manage construction activities with local communities in relation to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects. The proposed approach is therefore consistent with recently made development consents.	WLDC also seek assurance that the requirement is enforceable.		
			The requirement is necessary, relevant to planning, relevant to the development consent to be consented, enforceable, precise and reasonable in all other aspects as defined by section 120 of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 3). It also accords with the NPPF (Ref. 12) and the Planning Practice Guidance: Use of Planning Conditions (Ref. 13).			
13.3	Requirement 8 (biodiversity net gain)	Draft DCO [EN010142/APP/3.1(Rev0 3)]	The Applicant has demonstrated through the submitted Biodiversity Net Gain Report [AS-062] that the Scheme will achieve at least the 10% biodiversity net gain (BNG) prior to this becoming a mandatory requirement. The delivery of BNG will be secured by requirement 8 of the draft DCO [EN010142/APP/3.1(Rev03)], which requires to submit and agree a BNG strategy with the relevant authority and for this to be substantially in accordance with the Framework LEMP [EN010142/APP/7.17(Rev02)].	WLDC consider that requirement 8 should include a specific percentage of biodiversity net gain that the Scheme should deliver.	Under consideration	High
			BNG will require careful application as part of the detailed design stage, informed by the Framework LEMP [EN010142/APP/7.17(Rev02)]. Given that the project is not at a detailed design stage yet, but with the development consent order establishing parameters for detailed design and that the delivery of BNG is nuanced with regards to achieving target conditions and trading rules, it would not be sufficiently clear or precise at this stage to secure a specific percentage of BNG as part of a DCO requirement. The vehicle to deliver BNG is through the approval of the LEMP that will need to be substantially in accordance with the Framework LEMP [EN010142/APP/7.17(Rev02)] submitted as part of the Application. The Framework LEMP [EN010142/APP/7.17(Rev02)] sets out the			

Ref.	Subject	Relevant Application Document	Applicant Position	WLDC Position	Status	Likelihood of Resolution
			provisions for green infrastructure, biodiversity and landscape mitigation and enhancement that will need to be delivered as part of the detailed design. The Framework LEMP [EN010142/APP/7.17(Rev02)] also includes a commitment for the delivery of at least 10% BNG, in accordance with the terms of the Biodiversity Net Gain Report [AS-062].			
			The approach to secure biodiversity net gain is in accordance with the made Order for the Gate Burton Energy Park [EN010131].			
13.4	Requirement 20 (decommissioning and restoration)	Draft DCO [EN010142/APP/3.1(Rev0 3)	The Applicant will include a further definition for the date of decommissioning within the draft DCO at Deadline 1 to ensure both the existing 60 year limit within Requirement 20 and a trigger for decommissioning to commence from the period when electricity generation ceases permanently. This aligns with similar wording included within requirement for	WLDC raise concerns that the current drafting does not include a timeframe for decommissioning to reflect the time-limited consent being sought and excludes a provision for decommissioning and restoration requirements should the Scheme cease to operate as a generating station.	Agreed	High
			decommissioning within the Cottam Solar Project Order 2024.	WLDC consider that the timeframe for discharging details submitted in relation to requirement 20 should align with the timeframes set out under Schedule 16 of the Draft DCO [EN010142/APP/3.1(Rev03) which is updated and submitted at Deadline 1 with respect to the procedure for the discharge of requirements.		
13.5	Schedule 17 - Article 47 – Procedure for discharge of requirements.	Draft DCO [EN010142/APP/3.1(Rev0 3)]	Schedule 16, Section 2, paragraph 1 of the Draft DCO [EN010142/APP/3.1(Rev03)] states that when an application is made to the relevant planning authority for approval of details relating to requirements that it will need to be determined within eight weeks.	WLDC seek a determination period of 13-weeks. With respect to the submission of further information, WLDC request that it has up to 20 working days from receipt of the application to request further information and that WLDC must issue consultations within 10 working days of receipt of the request by the consultee and within 20 working days of receipt of the application.	Disagree	Low
			Section 3, paragraph (2) states "should the local planning authority require further information to consider an application that this must be requested within 10 working days from receipt of the application."			
			Section 3, paragraph (3) goes on to state that "should the submission require consultation with a consultee, that the local planning authority must issue the consultation to the required consultee within five working days from receipt of the application. Should a consultee request further information, the local planning authority shall request this information within five working			

Ref.	Subject	Relevant Application Document	Applicant Position	WLDC Position	Status	Likelihood of Resolution
			days of receipt of the request and within 15 working days of receipt of the application."			
			The Applicant continues to consider these periods of time are appropriate as:			
			 Section 2, paragraph (1) (c) states that a longer period of determination can be agreed in writing by the undertaker and the relevant planning authority. The Applicant considers this provides sufficient optionality for longer periods for determination where necessary and agreed between the parties, while not providing for longer periods as a matter of course. 			
			 Should development consent be granted for the Scheme, the Applicant has a short pre- construction phase to appoint a contractor/s to build the Scheme, to secure approval of the detailed design and the discharge of requirements than the other solar NSIPs within Lincolnshire. The Scheme has the earliest point of connection date out of all four solar schemes (August 2028). 			
			While the Applicant understands the resource implications of multiple NSIPs in the region, it does not consider it appropriate for the Council to seek increasingly greater determination periods per project.			
			For those reasons set out above, the Applicant proposes to retain the wording as drafted.			
13.6	Schedule 17 - Article 47 – Procedure for discharge of requirements.	Draft DCO [EN010142/APP/3.1(Rev0 3)]	The Applicant has amended Schedule 16 of the Draft DCO [EN010142/APP/3.1(Rev03) which is updated and submitted at Deadline 1 to include a fee schedule for the discharge of requirements. The fees are in accordance with the Cottam Solar Project, being the most recently approved development consent Order in the area.	WLDC supports and welcomes this amendment to the Draft DCO [EN010142/APP/3.1(Rev03)].	Agreed	High
13.6	Articles	Draft DCO [EN010142/APP/3.1(Rev0 3)]	WLDC in a meeting prior to the ISH1 on the Draft DCO [EN010142/APP/3.1(Rev03)] on the 15 October 2024 did not raise any issues with	WLDC in a meeting prior to the ISH1 on the Draft DCO [EN010142/APP/3.1(Rev03)] on the 15 October 2024	Agreed	High

Ref.	Subject	Relevant Application Document	Applicant Position	WLDC Position	Status	Likelihood of Resolution
			Articles (other than Article 40 listed above). On this basis, it is assumed that all other Articles are agreed.	did not raise any issues with other Articles other than those under Part 3 (Streets) – Articles 8 to 16.		
13.7	Schedules	Draft DCO [EN010142/APP/3.1(Rev0 3)]	WLDC in a meeting prior to the ISH1 on the draft DCO [EN010142/APP/3.1(Rev03)] on the 15 October 2024 did not raise any concerns with respect to the Schedules 1 to 15 of the draft DCO [EN010142/APP/3.1(Rev03)], other than the matters relating to requirements with Schedule 2 as noted above. It is therefore assumed that these are agreed.	WLDC in a meeting prior to the ISH1 on the draft DCO [EN010142/APP/3.1(Rev03)] on the 15 October 2024 did not raise any concerns with respect to the Schedules 1 to 15 of the draft DCO [EN010142/APP/3.1(Rev03)], other then the matters relating to requirements with Schedule 2 as noted above.	Agreed	High

4. References

- Ref. 1 Stationary Office (2009). The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009. Accessed on 16/10/2024 at https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2009/2264/contents/made
- Ref. 2 Department for Energy Security & Net Zero. (2023). Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1). Accessed on 16/10/2024 at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65bbfbdc709fe1000f637052/overarching-nps-for-energy-en1.pdf
- Ref. 3 The Stationary Office (2008). Planning Act 2008. Accessed on 18/10/2024 at https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/contents
- Ref. 4 Department for Energy Security & Net Zero. (2023). National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3). Accessed on 16/10/2024 at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65a7889996a5ec000d731aba/nps-renewable-energy-infrastructure-en3.pdf
- Ref. 5 Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. (2023). National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5). Accessed on 16/10/2024 at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-electricity-networks-infrastructure-en-5
- Ref. 6 Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee (2023). Central Lincolnshire Local Plan. Accessed on 16/10/2024 at https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/centrallincolnshire
- Ref. 7 West Lindsey District Council (2022). Corringham Neighbourhood Plan. Accessed on 18/10/2024 at https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/planning-building-control/planning/neighbourhood-planning/all-neighbourhood-planwest-lindsey/corringham-neighbourhood-plan
- Ref. 8 West Lindsey District Council (2024). Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan. Accessed on 18/10/2024 at https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/planning-building-control/planning/neighbourhood-plans-west-lindsey/sturton-stow-stow-neighbourhood-plan
- Ref. 9 West Lindsey District Council (2019). Glentworth Neighbourhood Plan. Accessed on 18/10/2024 at https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/planning-building-control/planning/neighbourhood-planning/all-neighbourhood-planwest-lindsey/glentworth-neighbourhood-plan
- Ref. 10 West Lindsey District Council (2023). Hemswell and Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan. Accessed on 18/10/2024 at https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/planning-building-control/planning/neighbourhood-plans-west-lindsey/hemswell-harpswell-neighbourhood-plan
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- Ref. 12 Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2023). National Planning Policy Framework. Accessed on 18/10/2024 at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2
- Ref. 13 Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2023).Planning Practice Guidance. Accessed on 18/10/2024 at https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance