



East Yorkshire Solar Farm

Summary of North Yorkshire Council Relevant Representations

<p>Highways and Transportation</p>	<p>The L.H.A agrees that the construction phase of the project will generate the most traffic and that construction of the solar farm within East Riding will create the most impact to the public highway .</p> <p>The applicant has stated that up to 75 HGVs per day will deliver equipment and materials to all the compounds within the scheme area. However no clear figures of the likely traffic generated by the project within North Yorkshire have been provided.</p> <p>The project within North Yorkshire will construct new accesses points which join the adopted highway all shall be design to the Councils standards The Authority does not wish to see loose material on or near the highway or debris of any kind. Over running of the verge must be avoided where possible and repaired as directed by the L.H.A when necessary.</p> <p>Once removed the L.H.A expects all points of access to be returned to grass verge or landscape as necessary. A.I.L are expected to access either Drax power station or Compound E along the A645 and New Road and the L.H.A will expect to be consulted at each stage to effectively manage the road network.</p>
<p><u>Built Heritage</u></p>	<p>Relevant Listed Buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments have been identified and the search area is considered to be satisfactory.</p>

	As harm has been acknowledged the justification for these works and then in turn harm needs to be outweighed by the public benefit of the proposal.
<u>Cumulative Impacts</u>	The policies contained within the emerging Local Plan can be given weight as a material consideration in decision making. The equivalent local policy within the adopted Development Plan for the Selby area of NYC is Policy SP17 (Low Carbon and Renewable Energy) of the Core Strategy Local Plan.
<u>Environmental Health</u>	<p>Noise and Vibration. While the literature captures 55 noise-sensitive receptors for assessment, please note that I have only considered those within the boundary of North Yorkshire Council in my response (R37 & R38).</p> <p>Overall, there are no objections relating to construction noise/vibration impacts.</p> <p>Operational Noise/Vibration. Significant operational noise/vibration impacts at receptors R37 and R38 are not envisaged due to distances from noise-generating fixed plant installations.</p>
<u>Ground Conditions</u>	The proposal to carry out intrusive site investigation and GQRA in the areas of potential contamination is considered acceptable. If contamination is found, appropriate remediation/mitigation measures will be required to manage the potential risks from land contamination. Following implementation of these measures, it is agreed that no significant effects associated with ground conditions are likely.
<u>Archaeology</u>	<p>The Environmental Statement includes a Chapter on the Historic Environment (Chapter 7). This chapter is supported by an archaeological desk-based assessment (Appendix 7.2) and the results of archaeological geophysical survey (Appendix 7.3). There is a report on archaeological trial trenching (Appendix 7.4) but this falls outside of the North Yorkshire Council area. Together, these documents represent an adequate assessment of the proposal on heritage assets of archaeological interest.</p> <p>NYC are pleased to see that an Archaeological Clerk of Works will be appointed to oversee the implementation of this mitigation. I support the framework as set out in the CEMP.</p>

<p><u>Landscape</u></p>	<p>We have concerns which mainly relate to protection and retention of existing vegetation within the Grid Connection Corridor and the lack of certainty for this to be secured through the Environmental Mitigation and Commitments Register and DCO.</p> <p>We would wish to see greater certainty for protection and retention of existing vegetation and in the agreement of final routing options within the Grid Connection Corridor and a landscape framework capable of minimising potential vegetation loss and offsetting the wider cumulative effects.</p> <p>There are a number of large energy projects planned in the study area utilising the connection to the National Grid Substation at Drax. Some of these are in proximity to and overlap with this DCO Application site boundary. Collectively these have potential to radically change land use within several km radius of the Grid connection point at Drax Power Station, for a long-period of time (40+ years).</p> <p>There is potential for ongoing erosion of the landscape baseline in this area over a number of years, therefore we would wish to see greater certainty for protection and retention of existing vegetation and in the agreement of final routing options, recommend that the landscape strategy should consider a landscape framework capable of minimising this erosion and offsetting the wider cumulative effects.</p> <p>Certain assumptions have been made within the LVIA, but it is not clear that a worse-case scenario has been taken into account for landscape, visual and cumulative effects.</p> <p>The LVIA includes statements that no vegetation will be lost as a result of the scheme (e.g. paragraph 10.5.83 of the LVIA). However, trees and hedgerows are shown for removal on the Tree Protection Plans, and generally allowed within the DCO.</p> <p>Proposed and existing landscape features between the plan and plan key are also confusing, inconsistent and unclear. Landscape mitigation and principles shown on the Landscape Masterplan are minimal in content and lacks commitment given the overall scale of the Works. The plans provide no explanation of how potential clearance works would be minimised, mitigated or reinstated.</p>
<p><u>Biodiversity</u></p>	<p>The approach to ecological assessment is supported as it follows current best practice guidance.</p>

	<p>The Council generally agree with the assessment which appears reasonable in terms of the location, type and scale of the proposed works.</p>
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	<p>We are fully supportive of the intention of this project to provide a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain in line with current guidance set out in the Environment Act 2021. We support use of the most up to date version of the Defra Biodiversity Metric in presenting data on biodiversity losses and gains. The proposals for BNG should sit within a wider landscape and biodiversity strategy which has clear objectives and sets out how monitoring and management will be delivered in the long term.</p>
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