Springwell Solar Farm

Consultation Report
Appendices A-1 to A-4

APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)

Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

EN010149/APP/5.2
November 2024
Springwell Energyfarm Ltd

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Appendix A-1 – Launch materials and advertising

Application Document Ref: EN010149/APP/5.2
Planning Inspectorate Scheme Ref: EN010149

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Appendix A-1.1
Launch leaflet

Application Document Ref: EN010149/APP/5.2
Planning Inspectorate Scheme Ref: EN010149

Springwell
Solar Farm

Springwell is a proposed new solar farm with battery storage in North Kesteven that would provide enough clean, secure energy to power over 180,000 homes*.

Springwell Solar Farm is backed by EDF Renewables UK and Luminous Energy, two companies with a long history in helping meet the country's need for renewable energy.

We are currently at a very early stage in preparing our plans for Springwell. Community input will be vital to helping shape a design that supplies clean, secure and affordable electricity while enhancing the surrounding environment.

* Based upon the average domestic electricity consumption per home (temperature corrected) per the Energy Consumption in the UK (published September 2021, Table C9 of ECUK: Consumption data tables)

Location plan

The plan on this page shows the area we are considering for Springwell.

We do not expect to use all this area for generating and storing energy. We will be looking at opportunities for boosting biodiversity as well as improving existing habitats, led by the feedback we receive and the surveys we carry out.

Some of the land will also be used for burying cables to connect different parts of Springwell together. We will continue to refine the locations for all elements of the solar farm over the coming months.

We will share more information about Springwell, including our early design, during our consultation which will start on 24 January 2023.

Potential area for Springwell

Existing woodland

Existing power lines

Working with local landowners

The land is predominantly owned by Blankney Estates and Springwell Solar Farm will play an important role in safeguarding its future operations while supporting the estate's ethos of long-term sustainability, for the benefit of the environment and future generations.

Next steps

Consultation will start on 24 January 2023 and will include more details about the site for Springwell Solar Farm, our design process, how we plan to assess potential environmental effects, and the benefits to the community that our proposals could deliver.

All of the consultation information will be on our website and we will also hold a series of public exhibition events, where you can come and talk to us about the proposals and give us your feedback. The dates and locations of these sessions are:

Tuesday 31 January, 2pm – 7pm
Blankney Old School House,
Drury St, Blankney, LN4 3AZ

Wednesday 01 February, 2pm – 7pm
Scopwick Village Hall, Brookside,
Scopwick LN4 3PA

Friday 03 February. 11am – 4pm
Ashby de la Launde Village Hall,
Church Avenue, Ashby de la Launde,
LN4 3JQ

Saturday 04 February, 11am – 4pm
Metheringham Village Hall,
Fen Road, Metheringham, LN4 3AA

Planning process

Springwell Solar Farm would make an important contribution to increasing Britain's homegrown energy capacity and meeting the government's target of net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

The size of this contribution means we will apply for a type of planning consent called a Development Consent Order (DCO), which is decided by the government. Consultation forms a key part of the DCO process, both before we submit the application and as part of the examination process.

For more information about the planning process, visit the Planning Inspectorate website:

infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/

Get in touch

For further information, please contact us on **0800 038 3486** or **info@springwellsolarfarm.co.uk**

You can also visit our website, springwellsolarfarm.co.uk, for updates throughout the process.

Appendix A-1.2
Stakeholder launch email

Application Document Ref: EN010149/APP/5.2
Planning Inspectorate Scheme Ref: EN010149

From: Springwell Solar Farm Info
To: [redacted]
Subject: Introducing our proposals for Springwell Solar Farm
Date: 10 January 2023 10:20:00
Attachments: Springwell Solar Farm Launch Leaflet.pdf

Good morning,

We are writing to introduce our proposals for Springwell Solar Farm, a new solar farm with battery storage capable of providing enough clean, secure, and affordable energy to meet the needs of over 180,000 homes. That's the equivalent of around half of all homes in Lincolnshire.

As an important community representative, we wanted to provide you with this information as early as possible and to provide our contact details, so you can get in touch and ask any immediate questions you may have.

Public consultation on our early plans will commence on Tuesday 24 January. You can find out more about how we plan to consult, including details of our public consultation events, in the attached leaflet.

Springwell is backed by EDF Renewables UK and Luminous Energy - two companies with a long history in helping meet the country's need for renewable energy. It would be located predominantly on land owned by Blankney Estates and on several parcels of farmland from the A15 in the west to the B1189 in the east.

We are at a very early stage in preparing our proposals for Springwell. We are seeking your feedback at this stage to make sure we can consider it while we're still developing our plans and carrying out our assessments.

In addition to the events we are hosting, we would very much appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the proposals and our consultation plans in more detail.

If you would like to meet, or have any other questions, please do get in touch with us on 0800 038 3486 or info@springwellsolarfarm.co.uk.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Head of Solar,
EDF Renewables UK

Appendix A-1.3
Stakeholder launch letter

Application Document Ref: EN010149/APP/5.2
Planning Inspectorate Scheme Ref: EN010149

ADDRESS 1
ADDRESS 2
ADDRESS 3
ADDRESS 4
POSTCODE

Tuesday 10 January 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

Introducing our proposals for Springwell Solar Farm

We are writing to introduce our proposals for Springwell Solar Farm, a new solar farm with battery storage capable of providing enough clean, secure, and affordable energy to meet the needs of over 180,000 homes. That's the equivalent of around half of all homes in Lincolnshire.

As [ROLE], we wanted to provide you with this information as early as possible and to provide our contact details, so you can get in touch with us and ask any immediate questions you may have.

Whilst we have not yet entered a period of formal consultation (the statutory consultation), it is also expected that you will be a statutory consultee for this project and will therefore be invited to provide detailed feedback on the proposed scheme at a later date.

Public consultation on our early plans will commence on Tuesday 24 January. You can find out more about how we plan to consult, including details of our public consultation events, in the enclosed leaflet.

Springwell is backed by EDF Renewables UK and Luminous Energy - two companies with a long history in helping meet the country's need for renewable energy. It would be located predominantly on land owned by Blankney Estates and on several parcels of farmland from the A15 in the west to the B1189 in the east.

We are at a very early stage in preparing our proposals for Springwell. We are seeking your feedback at this stage to make sure we can consider it while we're still developing our plans and carrying out our assessments.

In addition to the events we are hosting, we would very much appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the proposals and our consultation plans in more detail.

If you would like to meet, or have any other questions, please do get in touch with us on 0800 038 3486 or info@springwellsolarfarm.co.uk.

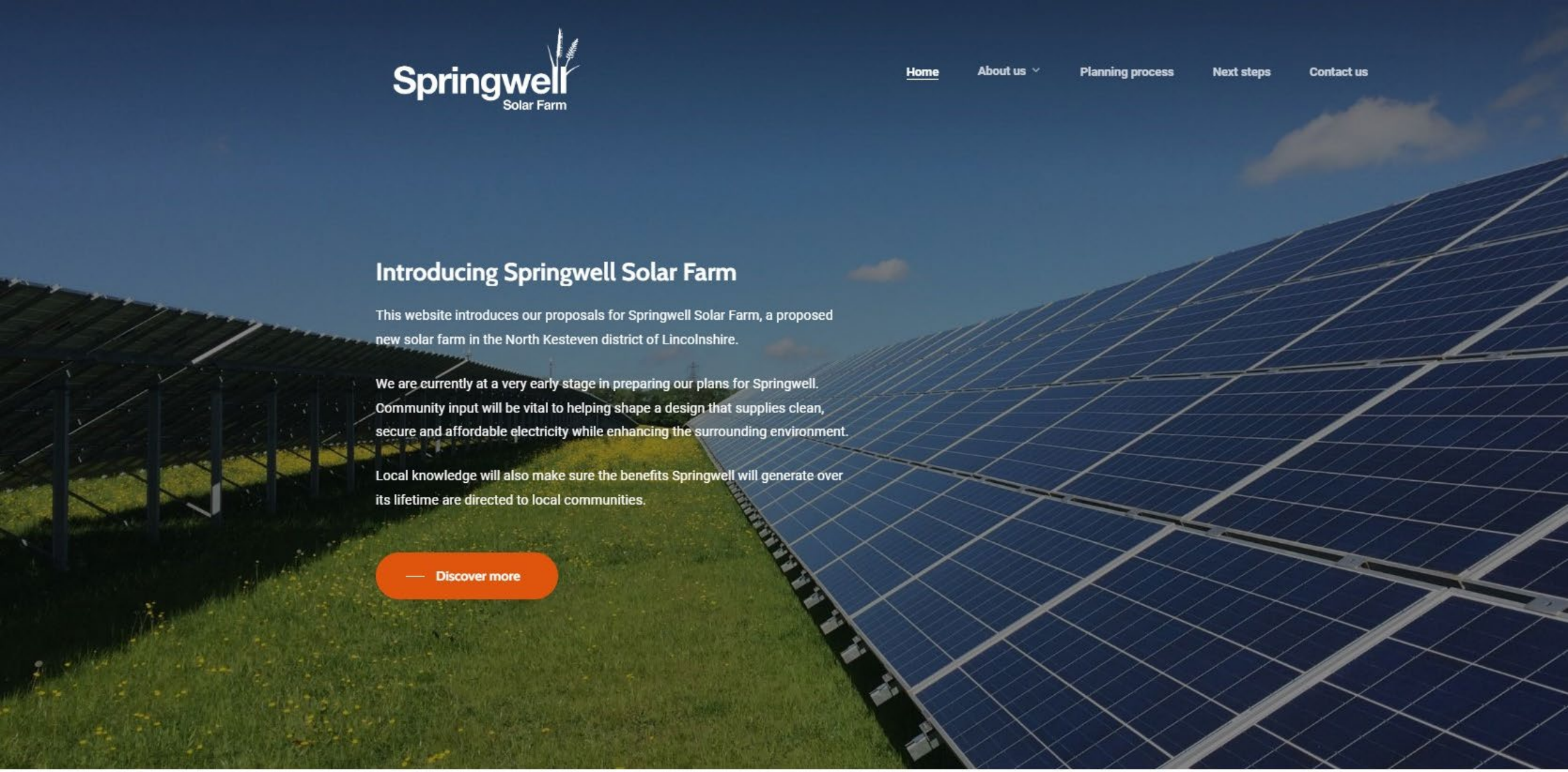
Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Head of Solar,
EDF Renewables UK

Appendix A-1.4 Screenshots of launch Springwell Solar Farm website

Application Document Ref: EN010149/APP/5.2
Planning Inspectorate Scheme Ref: EN010149


Springwell
Solar Farm
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Contact us
Introducing Springwell Solar Farm
This website introduces our proposals for Springwell Solar Farm, a proposed new solar farm in the North Kesteven district of Lincolnshire.
We are currently at a very early stage in preparing our plans for Springwell. Community input will be vital to helping shape a design that supplies clean, secure and affordable electricity while enhancing the surrounding environment.
Local knowledge will also make sure the benefits Springwell will generate over its lifetime are directed to local communities.
Discover more

What is Springwell Solar Farm?

Springwell is a proposed new solar farm with battery storage in North Kesteven that would provide enough clean, secure energy to power approximately 157,000 homes. That's almost half of all the homes in Lincolnshire.

Like all solar farms, Springwell would be temporary. It would have a fixed lifespan of around 40 years and would be built and operated without damage to the land beneath it. This means that once the panels are removed, the land could be returned to agricultural use. In fact, during the operation of Springwell the land could be used for all sorts of things – from sheep grazing to providing new habitats for pollinators.

With community input and a design process that puts people and nature first, we will continue to refine the locations for all elements of the solar farm over the coming months.

We will share our early thoughts about the design of Springwell during our consultation which will start on 24 January 2023.

Read more

Why is Springwell Solar Farm needed?

Springwell Solar Farm will help the UK build a cleaner, independent and affordable energy system and will make an important contribution to meeting the government's target of net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

The UK is undergoing a major change in the way it meets its energy needs. In 2019 the government legislated to commit the country to achieving 'net zero' carbon emissions by 2050 as against 1990 levels.

Read more

* Based upon the average domestic electricity consumption per home (temperature corrected) per the Energy Consumption in the UK (published July 2019, Table C9 of ECUK: Consumption data tables)

Springwell Solar Farm

What is Springwell Solar Farm?

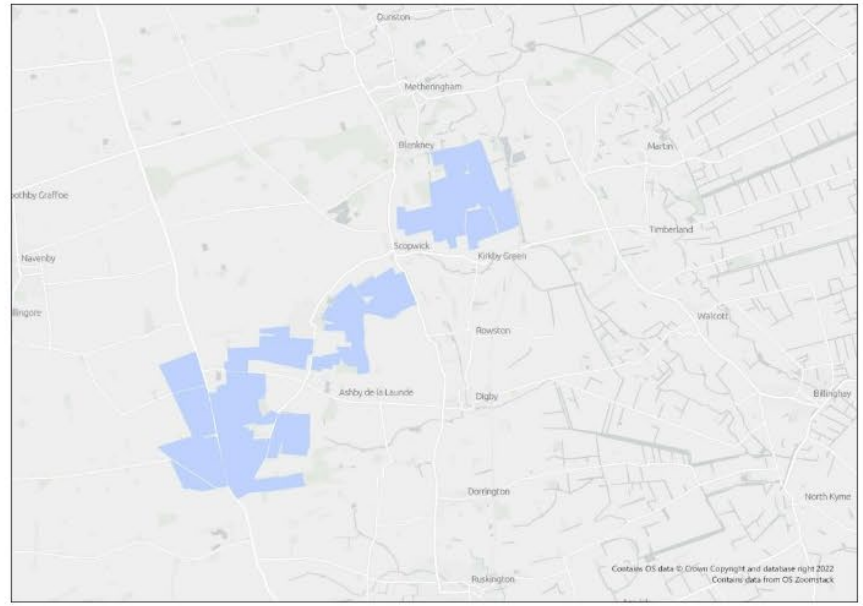
Discover more

Springwell is a proposed new solar farm with battery storage that would provide enough clean, secure energy to power approximately 157,000 homes*.

The plan on this page shows the areas we are considering for Springwell. We do not expect to use all of this area for generating and storing energy. We will also be looking at opportunities for boosting biodiversity as well as improving existing features, led by the feedback we receive and the surveys we carry out.

With community input and a design process that puts people and nature first, we will continue to refine the locations for all elements of the solar farm over the coming months.

We are sharing this very early design to make you aware of our plans before asking for feedback. More information will be available during the consultation which starts on 24 January 2023.



The proposals are on land predominantly owned by Blankney Estates. Springwell Solar Farm will play an important role in safeguarding its future operations and supporting the estate's ethos of long-term sustainability, for the benefit of the environment and future generations.

Springwell
Solar Farm

Why is Springwell needed?

Discover more

Reaching net zero means fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas will need to be replaced by sources of clean, renewable electricity. This is important because the energy sector produces around 75% of greenhouse gas emissions around the world today. The government believes that by 2030, 95% of British electricity could be low carbon and by 2035, this could be 100%.

In the future, electricity will have a much larger role to play in our energy system. Not only will it be used to heat our homes, but it will play an important role across our whole economy, powering our future transport systems, buildings and industries. This means we need to produce a lot more electricity than we currently do. In fact, electricity demand is set to double by 2050.

All of this means we need to increase the amount of clean electricity we produce by increasing the sources of renewable energy we have in the UK. Having lots of sources of electricity in the UK will also help our energy system become more independent.

Solar will be an important part of the way we meet this need – it is affordable, reliable and can be built quickly compared to other renewable technologies. It is also low-impact – the amount of solar we need to reach

electricity than we currently do. In fact, electricity demand is set to double by 2050.

All of this means we need to increase the amount of clean electricity we produce by increasing the sources of renewable energy we have in the UK. Having lots of sources of electricity in the UK will also help our energy system become more independent.

Solar will be an important part of the way we meet this need – it is affordable, reliable and can be built quickly compared to other renewable technologies. It is also low-impact – the amount of solar we need to reach our net-zero target would use just 0.3 per cent of land in the UK, and only for a short period. Solar lasts around 40 years and once it is removed, the land can be returned to its original use.

With the potential to generate up to 800MW of electricity, Springwell will make an important contribution to helping the UK build a cleaner, independent and affordable energy system and reach our net-zero target.

Springwell
Solar Farm

Planning process

Discover more

Springwell Solar Farm is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) because of the amount of electricity it would generate (over 50MW). This means we need to apply for a special type of planning consent called a Development Consent Order (DCO) to build and operate it.

Consultation is an important part of the DCO process as it enables everyone to comment on the proposals. The feedback received, along with further technical work and environmental studies, will inform the development of our proposals ahead of submission of our DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate.

For more information about the planning process, please visit the Planning Inspectorate website here:

https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/

Springwell
Solar Farm

Next steps

Discover more

We are introducing our proposals for Springwell Solar Farm at this very early stage to make you aware of our plans before asking for feedback.

Consultation will start on 24 January 2023 and will include more details on the location of Springwell Solar Farm, our design process, how we plan to assess potential environmental impacts, and the benefits to the community that our proposals can deliver.

All of the consultation information will be here on our website and we will also hold a series of public exhibition events, where you can come and talk to us about the proposals and give us your feedback. The dates and locations of these sessions are:

Tuesday 31 January (2pm-7pm) – Blankney Old School House, Drury St, Blankney, LN4 3AZ

Wednesday 01 February (2pm-7pm) – Scopwick Village Hall, Brookside, Scopwick LN4 3PA

Friday 03 February (11am-4pm) – Ashby de la Launde Village Hall, Church Avenue, Ashby de la Launde, LN4 3JQ

Saturday 04 February (11am-4pm) – Metheringham Village Hall, Fen Road, Metheringham, LN4 3AA

Your name

Your email

Subject

Your message (optional)

Submit

Get in touch

For further information, please contact us on 0800 038 3486 or info@springwellsolarfarm.co.uk.

Appendix A-1.5
Launch advertising

Application Document Ref: EN010149/APP/5.2
Planning Inspectorate Scheme Ref: EN010149

Feedback wanted on new solar farm in North Kesteven which could power over 180,000 homes

North Kesteven, Lincolnshire (10 January 2023) – EDF Renewables UK and Luminous Energy are announcing plans and a public consultation for Springwell Solar Farm, a proposed new solar farm with battery storage located between Lincoln and Sleaford in Lincolnshire.

Springwell Solar Farm would make a significant contribution to the UK's future energy mix by providing enough clean, secure energy to power over 180,000 homes* every year – that's the equivalent of around half of all the homes in Lincolnshire**.

Consultation on early plans for Springwell Solar Farm will run for six weeks from Tuesday 24 January. Feedback from local communities will help shape the plans for Springwell and identify potential benefits that it could support in the local area.

EDF Renewables UK's Head of Solar, Ben Fawcett said, "At EDF Renewables UK, we're passionate about creating a future where clean energy powers our lives. Springwell Solar Farm would produce much needed low-carbon electricity here in the UK, helping to power thousands of homes and businesses every year.

"We are currently at a very early stage on Springwell, with local views vital to helping us develop our plans. We encourage everyone to get involved in the upcoming consultation to find out more about Springwell and let us know their thoughts."

Jolyon Orchard, CEO of Luminous Energy said, "Our company was established to make a meaningful contribution towards mitigating climate change and we now have numerous renewable energy projects in development, under construction or operating across four continents. When we initiated this project, we recognised it provided a real opportunity to help the UK transition to net-zero.

"We are looking forward to working with EDF Renewables UK and the local community to create a scheme that delivers affordable, clean energy."

As part of the consultation, members of the public are invited to a series of public exhibitions to meet the team behind Springwell and share feedback. The exhibitions will take place at the following dates and locations:

- **Tuesday 31 January – Blankney Old School House (2pm –7pm)**
- **Wednesday 01 February – Scopwick Village Hall (2pm – 7pm)**

- **Friday 03 February – Ashby de la Launde Village Hall (11am – 4pm)**
- **Saturday 04 February – Metheringham Village Hall (11am – 4pm)**

A dedicated website: www.springwellsolarfarm.co.uk includes information on Springwell and will host consultation materials from 24 January.

For further information, please contact

info@springwellsolarfarm.co.uk

0800 038 3486

---- ENDS ----

Notes to editors

About EDF Renewables UK

EDF Renewables UK (www.edf-re.uk) is a subsidiary of EDF Group's, one of the world's largest low carbon electricity companies, and our investment and innovation is reducing costs for consumers and bringing significant benefits for communities. With our operating portfolio of 38 renewable energy sites including solar, battery, onshore and offshore wind (together totalling more than 1 GW) we are providing much needed affordable, low carbon electricity. We have an expanding portfolio with almost 5 GW of projects in planning and development, including wind, battery and solar PV. Find out more at www.edf-re.uk

About Luminous Energy

Luminous Energy is an established UK-based renewable energy developer with projects in the UK, US, Chile and Australia. The company was set up in 2013 to provide people around the world with affordable, renewable energy. Luminous Energy is now regarded as a leading player in the market having delivered 1GW of projects globally and the company's core values remain firmly at the heart of the business. It aims to make a positive contribution to the world by providing practical answers to climate change, and actively seeks to implement initiatives that enhance biodiversity on individual projects which are in keeping with local communities and landscapes. More information is available at www.luminous.energy

Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects

Springwell is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) because of its generating capacity (over 50MW). NSIPs require planning permission to be granted by the relevant Secretary of State through a Development Consent Order (DCO).

Further information about the DCO process is available at the Planning Inspectorate's website: https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/

* *Based upon the average domestic electricity consumption per home (temperature corrected) per the Energy Consumption in the UK (published September 2021, Table C9 of ECUK: Consumption data tables)*

** *Based on 2021 census data (homes within the Lincolnshire County Council area)*

News

New red Arrows base not going down well with the neighbours

Peter Moyes pictured next to the airfield crash gate where fans line up to see the Red Arrows

RAF BASE NEIGHBOUR TALKS OF PROBLEMS SPECTATORS BRING

By JOSHUA HARTLEY
joshua.hartley@reachplc.com

A MAN who lives near a Nottinghamshire air base fears the arrival of the Red Arrows will also mean spectators arriving in the area and causing damage, trespassing, leaving litter – and even using it as a toilet.

The famous aerobatics display team have been given permission to use the airspace over RAF Syerston, in Flintham, for training flights until April 17.

The RAF has said this temporary arrangement would test the site as a possible permanent solution for the Red Arrows following the closure of their previous base at RAF Scampton.

But Peter Moyes, 62, who lives at one of the two properties on Longhedge Lane leading up to RAF Syerston, claims to have suffered in the past as a result of the behaviour of some people who have come to watch the displays.

He explained some fans had already unsuccessfully tried to get a peek of the Red Arrows in action.

"The favourite spot is from just outside my house up to the crash gate, which I have seen a few people showing up at already. People just drive over the place and cause damage to the highways," Mr Moyes said.

"People usually come down to watch the gliders, but it is a completely different level when the Red Arrows are here.

"A lot of people who are in favour [of the Red Arrows] wouldn't be if they lived next to it.

"The last display they had here the lane was full and we couldn't really get in or out.

"There's no toilets or bins so when people are around for one or two hours they go wherever they can, that's why I previously called them urinating and defecating litter louts."

Mr Moyes added: "My neighbour has put up fencing to stop people going onto his land.

The Red Arrows at the last formal parade at RAF Scampton before its closure

> "There's no toilets or bins so when people are around for one or two hours they go wherever they can."
>
> Peter Moyes

"The cars parking up cause damage, but if we try putting down barriers or try to move them away, it will just push the problem somewhere else.

"The wood behind it is quite inaccessible to most people and has become a sanctuary for wildlife. You see lots of deer there, which you would assume would be impacted by the noise."

The airspace is being used so two jets from the team – known as the Synchro Pair – can carry out UK-based training before the Red Arrows move overseas to complete their traditional pre-season in more settled weather.

RAF Scampton will remain the primary training airspace for the Red Arrows throughout this period, with the team's home and main operating base being RAF Waddington.

A Ministry of Defence spokesperson said: "Until April 17, 2023, aircraft from the Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team are permitted to train over RAF Syerston.

"The team requires different airspace sites depending on what type of training is needed to be completed.

"In accordance with UK regulation, feedback on the activity will be undertaken through electronic communication."

News

'Disgusted' over claims students are nicking trolleys


Morrisons on Tritton Road in Lincoln, the scene of trolley thefts

MORRISONS APOLOGISED TO SHOPPERS AND SAYS IT IS DOING ALL IT CAN ON THE ISSUE

By ELEANOR MASLIN
news@lincolnshireecho.co.uk

A RETIRED police officer has said he is "disgusted" after struggling to get a shopping trolley at Morrisons in Lincoln after claims that students are stealing them.

Rodney White, 78, had to wait for a woman to finish unloading her shopping trolley as he could only find a family-sized one out of five bays at the Tritton Road store on Thursday, January 12.

He claims that he was told by the woman that students had taken the trolleys to their Pavilion's accommodation nearby, which he says was then confirmed by a staff member. Morrisons has said it is doing "all it can" to solve the issue and has apologised to shoppers.

Mr White, who uses a walking stick and had parked in a disabled bay with his blue badge, said: "It's disgusting. Even for the most mobile of people, it shouldn't happen. It could be classed as theft if they're taking them permanently. It's out of order.

"After I shopped another shopper asked me for my trolley, I gladly gave it to her but then a young man approached and requested it almost immediately." Mr Rodney, who has lived in Lincoln for six years with his wife, said that there are some changes Morrisons could make to help deter trolleys being stolen.

He said: "I think they could return to putting the pound coins, which would probably relieve the pressure a bit. One or two more attendants could probably be employed so they're around when the trolleys are being taken.

"I'm inconvenienced but there are people worse off than me. [Next time] I would probably just drive around before I park to see if there are any trolleys."

He added: "Come on students and return your trolleys."

A spokesperson for Morrisons said: "Trolleys are routinely collected from the bays throughout the day and locked instore overnight."

iQ student accommodation has been approached for comment.

Refuse lorry dumped its load

COUNCIL workers were forced to dump a bin lorry's load outside a man's doorstep on a quiet street after a potential fire started within the vehicle.

Steve Lealand woke up to find a mountain of rubbish sat outside his door in the middle of Little Bargate Street in Lincoln.

The incident took place on the morning of Tuesday, January 10 when the driver of the bin lorry thought they could see smoke. Workers used extinguishers to make sure the load was safe before dumping it in the street, right by Mr Lealand's house.

The 73-year-old said it was one of the most bizarre things he's seen down the street during the 20 years he's lived there. He added: "I woke up in the morning, came down and saw some hi-vis jackets so I looked out and saw the big pile of rubbish. The workers got another truck to get rid of it, and it was all gone in two or three journeys by around 4pm."


PHOTO: Steve Lealand

A spokesperson for City of Lincoln Council said: "The driver of one of our refuse lorries thought they saw smoke coming from the rear of their vehicle. Their colleagues used fire extinguishers on the non-compacted load before it was emptied onto the street for further inspection.

EDF Renewables UK & Ireland
86,740 followers
1yr •

We're excited to announce a new solar project we're developing with **Luminous Energy Group Ltd**, which could power more than 180,000 homes.

The Springwell solar farm at North Kesteven, between Lincoln and Sleaford in Lincolnshire, will also include a battery storage facility to maximise the amount of renewable energy Springwell can deliver to the grid.

A six-week consultation period – including four public events – begins on 24 January, which will help shape our plans for Springwell and identify potential benefits the project could support in the local area.

Read more at **http://ow.ly/H6A150MlFMJ** ...more

268 6 comments • 31 reposts

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Appendix A-2 – Phase One Consultation materials and advertising

Application Document Ref: EN010149/APP/5.2
Planning Inspectorate Scheme Ref: EN010149

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Appendix A-2.1
Phase One Consultation newsletter

Application Document Ref: EN010149/APP/5.2
Planning Inspectorate Scheme Ref: EN010149

Springwell
Solar Farm

We are now consulting on our early plans for Springwell Solar Farm.

Springwell is a proposed new solar farm with battery storage located in North Kesteven - capable of providing enough clean, secure and affordable energy to meet the needs of over 180,000 homes* each year.

This newsletter sets out how you can get involved in the consultation, where you can get more information and how you can send us your feedback.

This consultation is running between Tuesday 24 January and Tuesday 7 March 2023.

*Based upon the average domestic electricity consumption per home (temperature corrected) per the Energy Consumption in the UK (published September 2021, Table C9 of ECUK: Consumption data tables)

How to get involved

You can find out more about Springwell by:

- Getting in touch with us by phoning **0800 038 3486**, emailing **info@springwellsolarfarm.co.uk** or writing to our Freepost (no stamp required) address:

  Springwell Solar Farm
  FREEPOST SEC NEWGATE UK LOCAL

- Visiting our project website:
  www.springwellsolarfarm.co.uk
  where you can view and download our consultation materials, and visit our virtual exhibition.

- Coming along to the public exhibitions we are holding:

Blankney Old School House, Drury St, LN4 3AZ	**Tuesday 31 January** 2pm-7pm
Scopwick Village Hall, Brookside, LN4 3PA	**Wednesday 01 February** 2pm-7pm
Ashby de la Launde Village Hall, Church Avenue, LN4 3JQ	**Friday 03 February** 11am-4pm
Metheringham Village Hall, Fen Road, LN4 3AA	**Saturday 04 February** 11am-4pm

- Getting in touch by post, email or phone to request a copy of our consultation booklet, which we will send free of charge to your address.

- Collecting a copy of our consultation booklet from the following locations (please check opening hours):

Blankney Golf Club, Lincoln Road, Blankney LN4 3AZ

Scopwick Village Hall, Brookside, LN4 3PA

Metheringham Community Library, High Street, Metheringham LN4 3DZ

You can share your views on Springwell by:

- Completing an online questionnaire at:
  www.springwellsolarfarm.co.uk

- Emailing a questionnaire to:
  info@springwellsolarfarm.co.uk

- Posting (no stamp required) a questionnaire to:

  Springwell Solar Farm
  FREEPOST SEC NEWGATE UK LOCAL

- Submitting your comments by email to **info@springwellsolarfarm.co.uk** or in writing to the above Freepost address.

All responses must be received by the consultation deadline of 11:59pm on Tuesday 07 March 2023.

Following this consultation, we will consider all of the feedback that we receive and continue to develop our plans for Springwell ahead of the next stage of consultation.

Appendix A-2.2
Phase One Consultation stakeholder letter

Application Document Ref: EN010149/APP/5.2
Planning Inspectorate Scheme Ref: EN010149

ADDRESS 1
ADDRESS 2
ADDRESS 3
ADDRESS 4
POSTCODE

Tuesday 24 January 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

Share your views on Springwell Solar Farm

We are writing to invite you to respond to a consultation on our early plans for Springwell Solar Farm by Tuesday 7 March 2023.

Our early plans

You may remember that we got in touch earlier this month introduce our proposals a new solar farm with battery storage capable of providing enough clean, secure, and affordable energy to meet the needs of over 180,000 homes. That's the equivalent of around half of all homes in Lincolnshire.

Springwell is backed by EDF Renewables UK and Luminous Energy - two companies with a long history in helping meet the country's need for renewable energy. It would be located predominantly on land owned by Blankney Estates and on several parcels of farmland from the A15 in the west to the B1189 in the east.

You can find more information about Springwell in the consultation booklet enclosed with this letter. We have also launched a dedicated website, www.springwellsolarfarm.co.uk, for Springwell.

The consultation

We are now consulting on our early plans for Springwell from Tuesday 24 January 2023. We are currently at the earliest stages of Springwell, with local views vital to helping us develop our plans.

We are seeking your feedback at this stage to make sure we can consider it while we're still developing our plans and carrying out our assessments.

As an important community representative, we would like to invite you to a preview of the public exhibitions we are holding during the consultation:

- **Tuesday 31 January (1pm-2pm)**
  Blankney Old School House, Drury Street, Blankney, LN4 3AZ
- **Saturday 4 February (10am-11am)**
  Metheringham Village Hall, Fen Road, Metheringham, LN4 3AA

You would also be very welcome to attend any of the public exhibitions we are holding during the consultation period.

You can find out more about these, and the other ways you and the people you represent can take part in the consultation, in the booklet enclosed with this letter.

Share your views

You can share your views on our proposals for Springwell by:

- Completing a consultation questionnaire online at: springwellsolarfarm.co.uk/questionnaire
- Emailing a questionnaire to info@springwellsolarfarm.co.uk
- Posting a questionnaire (no stamp required) to Springwell Solar Farm, FREEPOST SEC Newgate UK LOCAL
- Submitting your response in writing by email to info@springwellsolarfarm.co.uk or in writing to the above Freepost address

If you would like to meet, or have any other questions, please do get in touch with us on 0800 038 3486 or info@springwellsolarfarm.co.uk.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Head of Solar,
EDF Renewables UK

Appendix A-2.3
Phase One Consultation booklet

Application Document Ref: EN010149/APP/5.2
Planning Inspectorate Scheme Ref: EN010149

PHASE ONE CONSULTATION

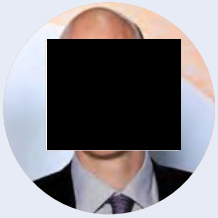
Springwell Solar Farm

Early plans and proposals

January 2023

Contents

? This icon means there is a question on this topic in our feedback questionnaire.



Foreword

Climate change is a challenge we must all play our part in addressing – from the small changes in our everyday lives to the transformational changes we need to make across our whole economy, particularly the way we power our homes, businesses and transport systems. Over the next decade, we'll need to replace the fossil fuels that once powered our economy with sources of low-carbon electricity.

Solar is an important part of the way we can meet this challenge – it is affordable, reliable and can be built quickly. EDF Renewables is passionate about creating a net-zero future where clean energy powers our lives. We're already one of the UK and Ireland's leading renewable energy companies, developing, building, operating and maintaining wind, solar and battery storage projects. Together with Luminous Energy, a company with numerous solar farms in development across the UK and abroad, we are delighted to introduce our plans for Springwell Solar Farm.

Springwell would make an important contribution to our future energy network by producing enough clean, secure and affordable energy to power over 180,000 homes every year - that's around half of all the homes in Lincolnshire*.

We are currently at the earliest stages of Springwell, with local views vital to helping us develop our plans. We are keen to hear your feedback, which will help shape our proposals and ensure Springwell can benefit the community throughout its lifetime. I encourage everyone to get involved in this consultation and share your views.

I hope we will see you at one of our consultation events and we look forward to hearing your feedback.

Ben Fawcett
Head of Solar,
EDF Renewables UK

* Based upon the average domestic electricity consumption per home (temperature corrected) per the Energy Consumption in the UK (published September 2021, Table C9 of ECUK: Consumption data tables)

1 Introduction

Introduction

Springwell Solar Farm is a proposed new solar farm with battery storage in North Kesteven capable of providing enough clean, secure and affordable energy to meet the needs of over 180,000 homes* every year. That's the equivalent of half the homes in Lincolnshire.

Like most solar farms, Springwell would have a fixed lifespan of around 40 years and could be built and operated with limited impact to the land beneath it. This means that once the panels are removed, the land could be returned to agricultural use. In fact, it is possible to continue to use the land between and beneath the panels during operation.

For example, to support new habitats.

We also want Springwell to benefit the local area throughout its lifetime and we will work closely with the community to identify opportunities to support local initiatives.

* Based upon the average domestic electricity consumption per home (temperature corrected) per the Energy Consumption in the UK (published September 2021, Table C9 of ECUK: Consumption data

Who are we?

Springwell is backed by EDF Renewables UK and Luminous Energy.

EDF Renewables has over 25 years' worth of experience delivering renewable energy projects in more than 20 countries around the world. In the UK, we have 38 operating sites providing much needed affordable, low carbon electricity across all renewable technologies.

We're pleased to be working with Luminous Energy, an established UK-based renewable energy developer with projects in the UK, US, Chile and Australia.

EDF Renewables invests for the long-term in the projects and communities where we operate. We remain involved in and committed to projects over their lifetime from development, construction and operation, all the way through to decommissioning.

We're also working closely with the Blankney Estate, the owner of the majority of the land for Springwell. Springwell will play an important role in safeguarding its future agricultural operations while supporting the estate's ethos of long term sustainability, for the benefit of the environment and future generations.

Why here?

Lincolnshire has played an important role in powering the nation for almost a century – generating electricity from coal and gas and feeding it into the National Grid to reach millions across the nation.

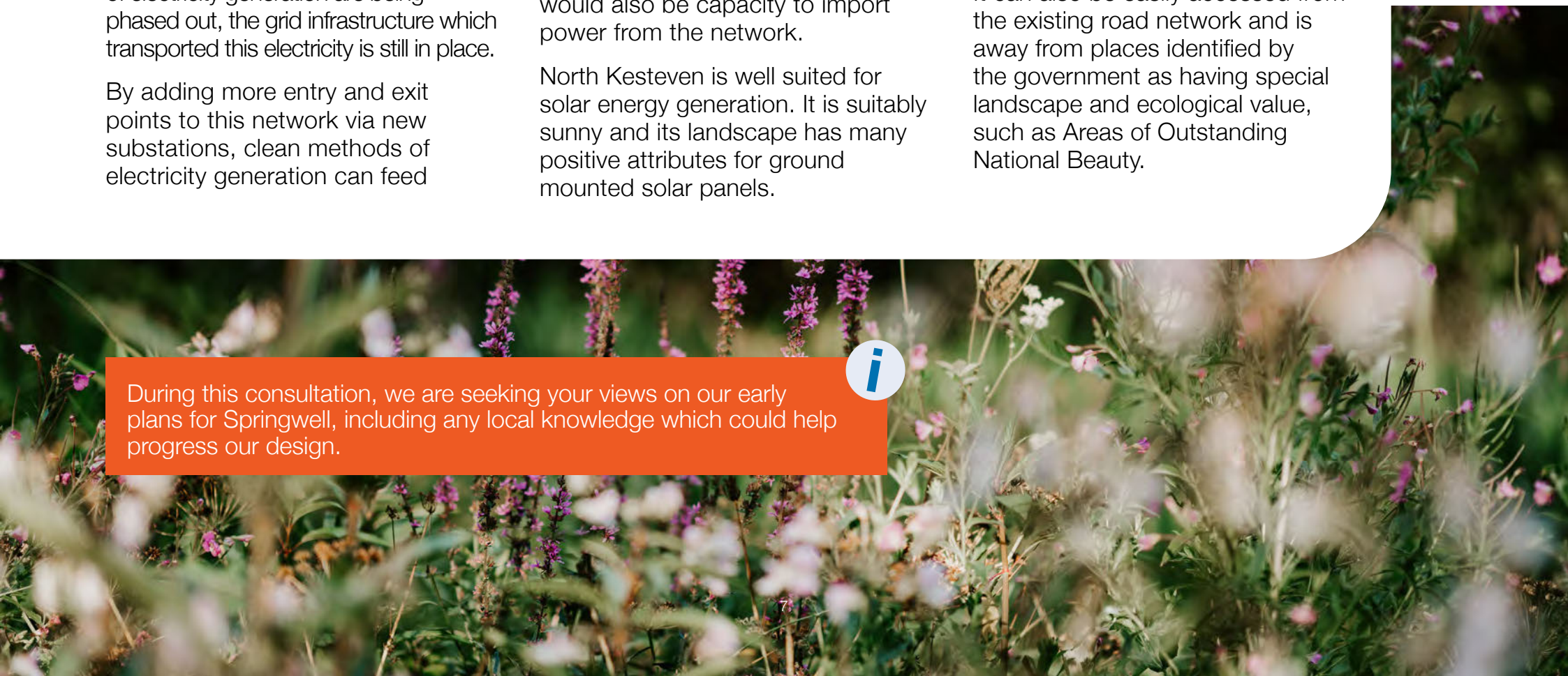
While these traditional methods of electricity generation are being phased out, the grid infrastructure which transported this electricity is still in place.

By adding more entry and exit points to this network via new substations, clean methods of electricity generation can feed into it, allowing us to use this existing pylon infrastructure. We have secured a grid connection agreement with National Grid which would allow us to export up to 800MW of electricity to this network, through a new substation owned by National Grid. There would also be capacity to import power from the network.

North Kesteven is well suited for solar energy generation. It is suitably sunny and its landscape has many positive attributes for ground mounted solar panels.

In selecting the site for Springwell, we have ensured that there is enough suitable land available to support a solar farm while also allowing parts of the site to be used for recreation, landscaping and ecological enhancements.

It can also be easily accessed from the existing road network and is away from places identified by the government as having special landscape and ecological value, such as Areas of Outstanding National Beauty.



During this consultation, we are seeking your views on our early plans for Springwell, including any local knowledge which could help progress our design.

What's happening now?

We are now consulting on our early proposals for Springwell. We're seeking feedback at this stage so it can inform our plans while they are still being developed.

Community input will be vital to helping shape a design that supplies clean, secure and affordable electricity while enhancing the surrounding environment.

Alongside explaining our early proposals, the rest of this booklet sets out the process we need to follow to get planning consent, and explains how we will carry out our assessments.

It also sets out the different ways you can get involved and share your views.

Some parts of Springwell need to be guided by the results of our environmental assessments and the technical work we will carry out. Other parts are more open, with consultation feedback helping us develop our plans.

Throughout the booklet, you will see this icon **?** which means there is a question on this topic in our feedback questionnaire.

2 The planning process

The application process

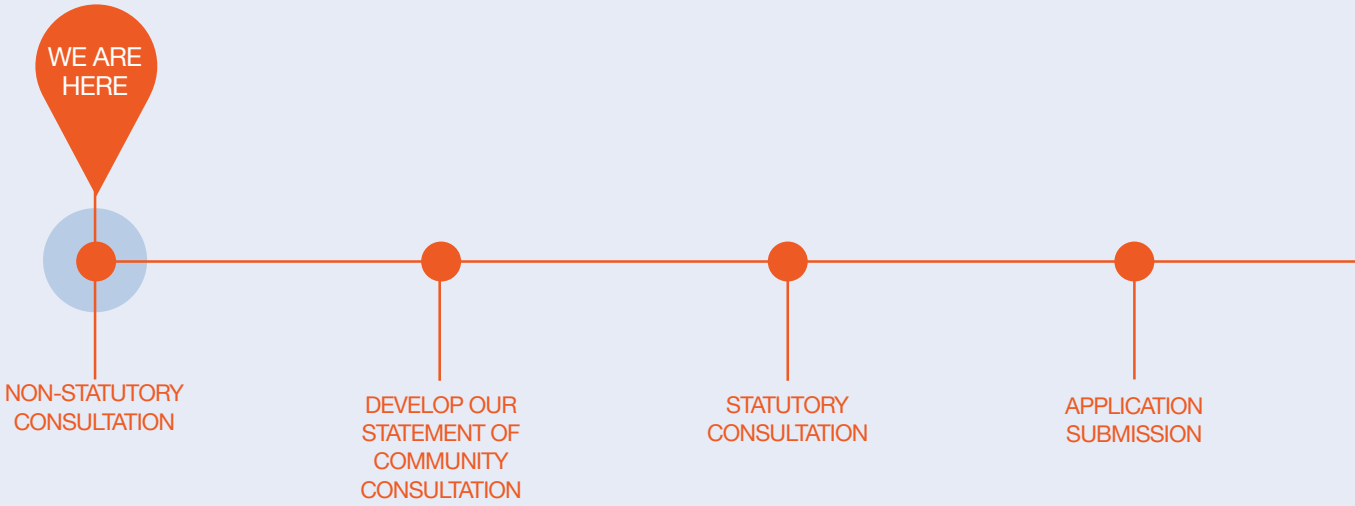
Springwell Solar Farm is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) because of the amount of electricity it would generate (over 50MW). This means we need to apply for a special type of planning consent called a Development Consent Order (DCO) to build and operate it.

Consultation is an important part of the DCO process as it enables everyone to comment on the proposals. The feedback received, along with further technical work and environmental studies, will inform the development of our proposals before we submit our DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS).

The Planning Inspectorate will then review and examine the application, including encouraging submission of views from communities and other interested parties, before making a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, who will take the final decision on whether or not to grant consent.

For more information on the DCO planning process, please visit:

infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk



Role of consultation

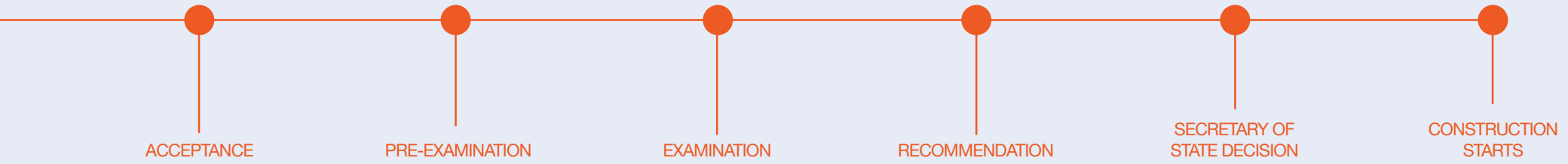
We are carrying out this consultation to introduce our plans and gain your early feedback. This is called a 'non-statutory consultation' as it is in addition to the statutory consultation we will carry out as part of the application process.

Local councils play a very important role in this process and we will be consulting with them at every stage – including on how we will conduct our statutory consultation. We will develop and agree a 'Statement of Community Consultation' which will set out how we plan to consult with the local community.

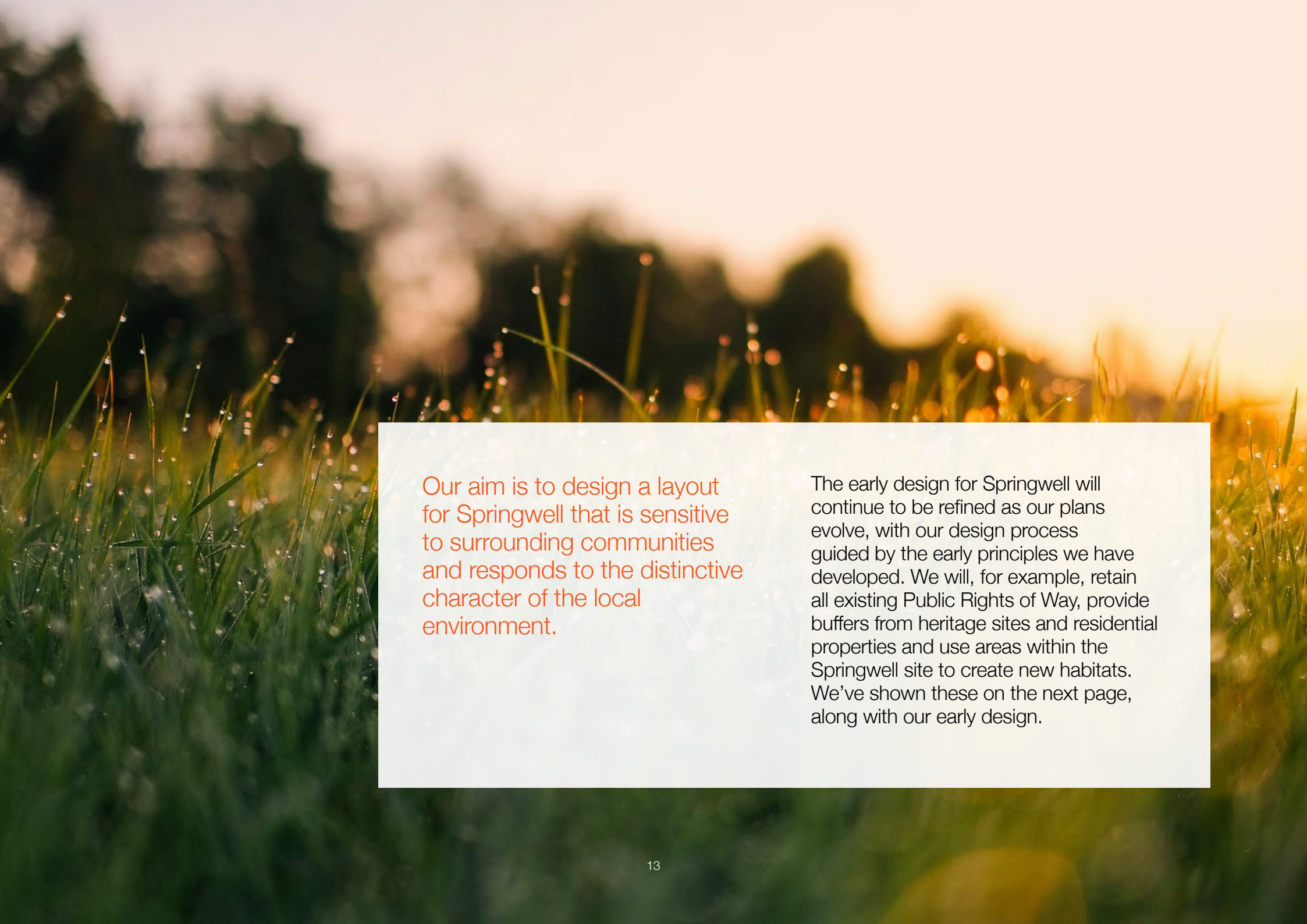
The statutory consultation will show how our plans have evolved in response to the feedback we have received from this consultation. It will also reflect the outputs of our environmental assessment work and include more detail about the layout and design of Springwell.

This will be a further opportunity to share your views and feedback with us.

If there is anything you think we should include in our statutory consultation, please let us know in your feedback.



3 Our approach to design



Our aim is to design a layout for Springwell that is sensitive to surrounding communities and responds to the distinctive character of the local environment.

The early design for Springwell will continue to be refined as our plans evolve, with our design process guided by the early principles we have developed. We will, for example, retain all existing Public Rights of Way, provide buffers from heritage sites and residential properties and use areas within the Springwell site to create new habitats. We've shown these on the next page, along with our early design.

Our approach to design

We have developed some early principles that will guide the design of Springwell as our plans evolve.

The amenity of homes and villages would be protected, with buffers and setbacks separating them from solar panels.

Existing trees and woodlands would be retained with buffers from solar development.

Existing hedgerow and ditch networks would be retained where possible and managed to boost biodiversity.

New habitats would be created to support farmland birds such as skylark and grey partridge and animals such as brown hares.

We would work to deliver a biodiversity net gain at Springwell.

Existing Public Rights of Way and permissive footpaths within the Springwell site would be retained.

Local wildlife sites would be retained and improved, creating new grassland habitat.

We would respect the history and settings of local historic and cultural sites, responding to the distinctive character of the local environment.

- Indicative Springwell boundary
- Existing woodland
- Existing power line and pylons within Springwell
- Existing railway line
- Existing wall retained and enhanced
- Existing hedgerows retained and enhanced
- Existing Public Rights of Way and footpaths
- Potential area for solar development
- Potential area for solar development, substation and/or consolidated battery storage.
- Potential area for mitigation, enhancement and/or retained agricultural land
- Potential access
- Potential new permissive footpaths
- Existing watercourses

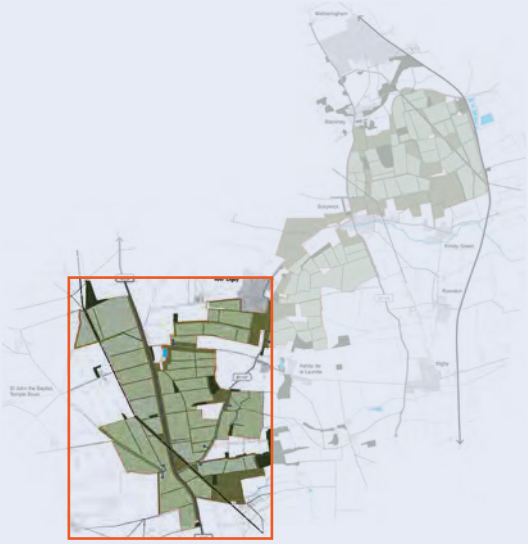
This plan shows our early thinking for Springwell. As part of this consultation, we are seeking your feedback on our early design - including where we have placed different elements of the solar farm, our initial ideas for new footpaths and habitats and whether there is any information we need to take into account as we develop our plans. ?

We want to enhance the existing footpath network to improve recreation, linking existing Public Rights of Way in and around Springwell as well as providing new routes to enjoy.

We are working to determine the best location for the battery storage to ensure it is placed sensitively. We are also considering whether to locate the battery storage in one area alongside the substation, or having three smaller batteries spread out across the site.

Access to Springwell would be via the A15 and onto the B1191.

Springwell West



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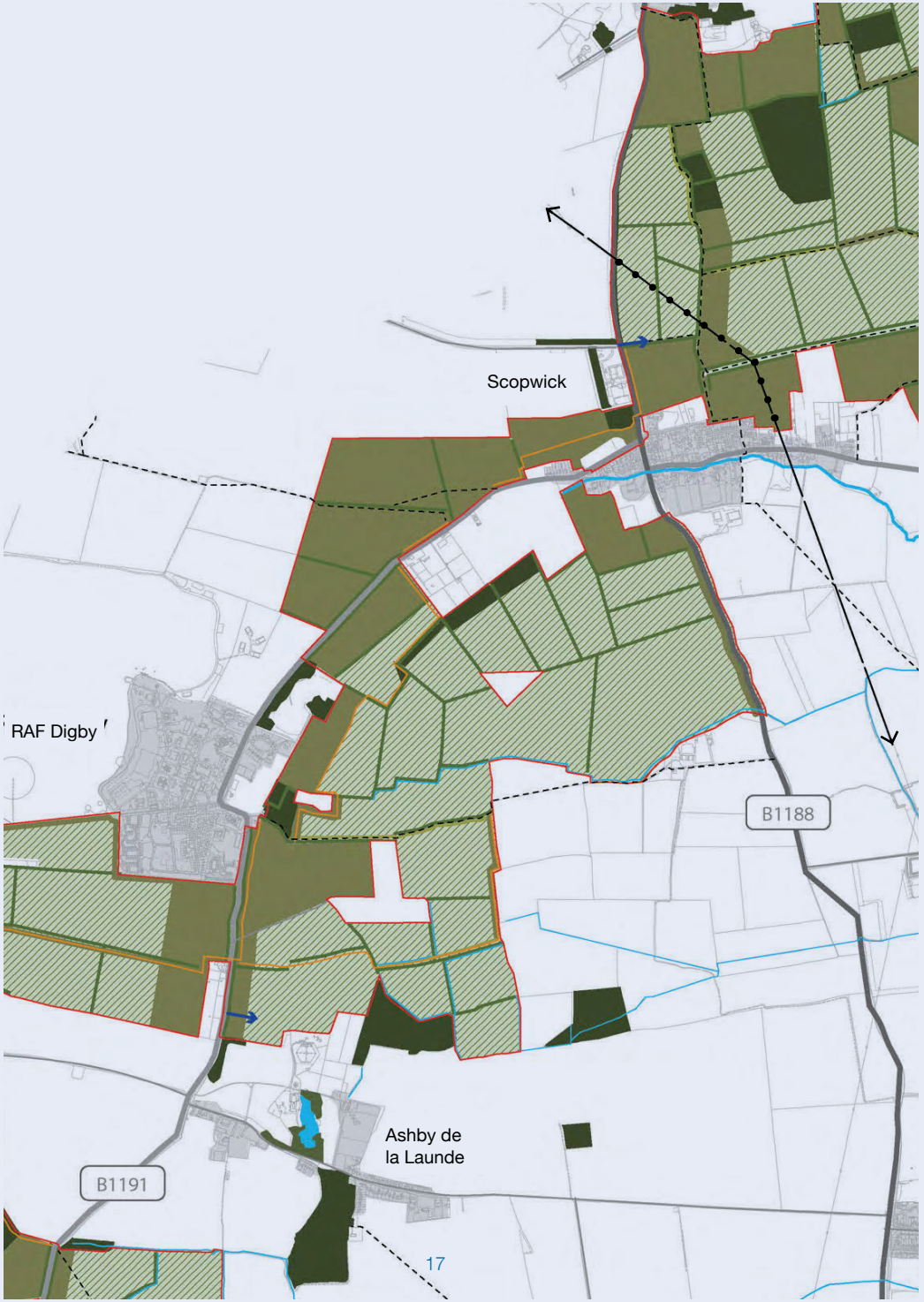
- Potential access
- Potential new permissive footpaths
- Existing watercourses

Springwell Central



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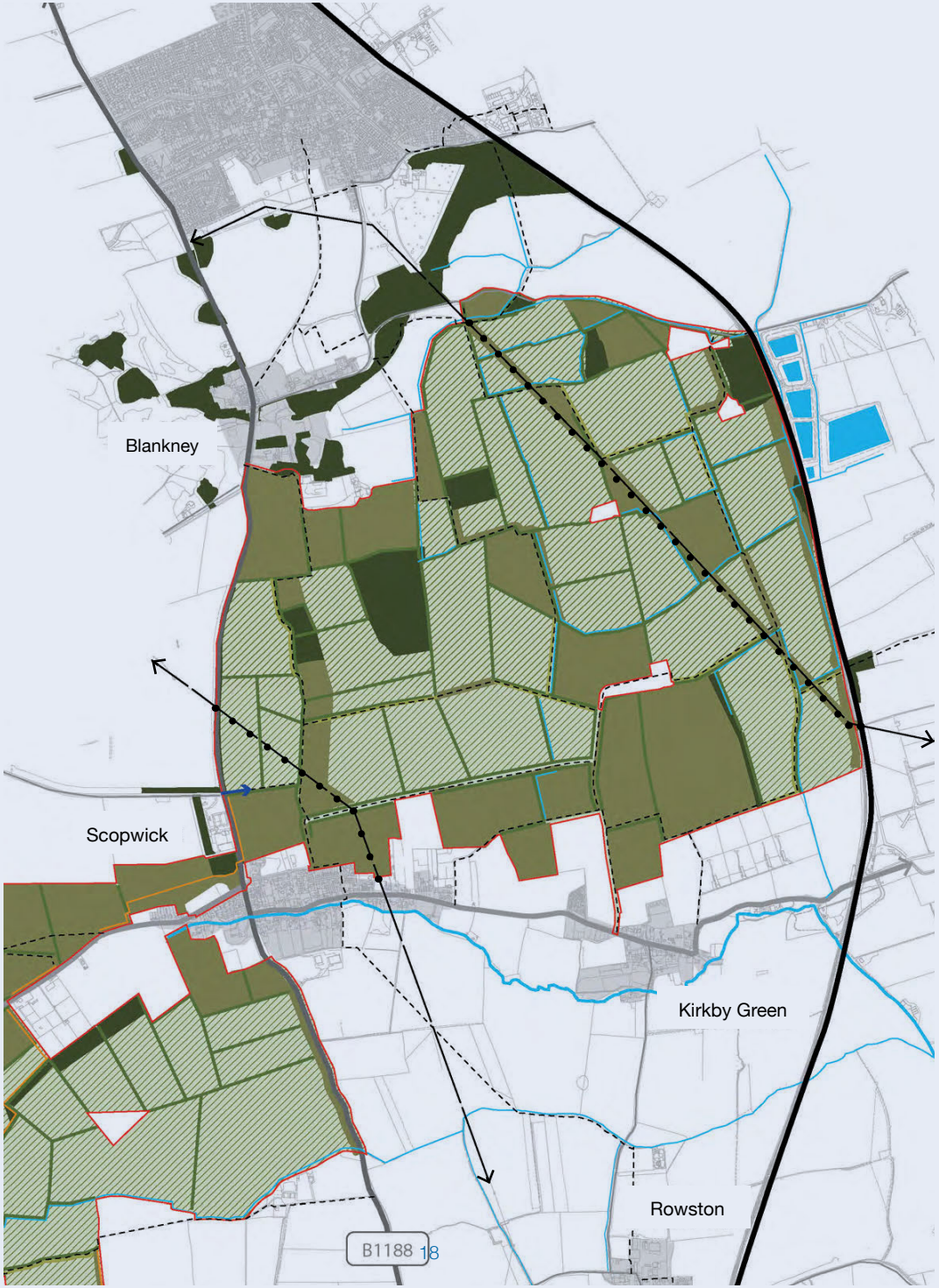
- Existing watercourses

Springwell East



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- Potential area for solar development
- Potential area for solar development, substation and/or consolidated battery storage.
- Potential area for mitigation, enhancement and/or retained agricultural land
- Potential access
- Potential new permissive footpaths
- Existing watercourses

Enhancing the local environment

Parts of the Springwell site would be used for recreational, landscape and ecological enhancements. Our early design shows our initial thoughts about what we could include - such as introducing new habitats, new planting and setting parts of Springwell back from important landscape features and residential properties. We are keen to hear your thoughts on what we could include and where these could be.?

We are also aware that there is an opportunity to improve the existing footpath network, by providing links between existing Public Rights of Way in and around Springwell as well as providing new routes for residents to enjoy. ?

Construction

Our current thinking is that the main construction access to Springwell would be via the A15 and onto the B1191. Within Springwell itself, we intend to use existing agricultural access tracks and field gateways for internal access where possible. We will provide more detail about construction routes and how traffic will be managed at a later stage of consultation.

Within the Springwell site, temporary construction compounds would be created before construction begins which would store materials, plant and equipment. They would also include staff welfare facilities, waste storage and wheel washing areas.

As the design for Springwell evolves we'll be able to share more detail on the construction process. The next stage of consultation will include proposed construction activities and their duration and how we propose to limit the effects of construction on local communities.

Operation

Solar farms are quiet neighbours and once operational, require minimal upkeep. Springwell would be managed throughout its lifetime by a team of permanent staff who would ensure all elements of Springwell are monitored and maintained, including the solar panels and battery storage as well as the landscaping and habitats we would introduce.

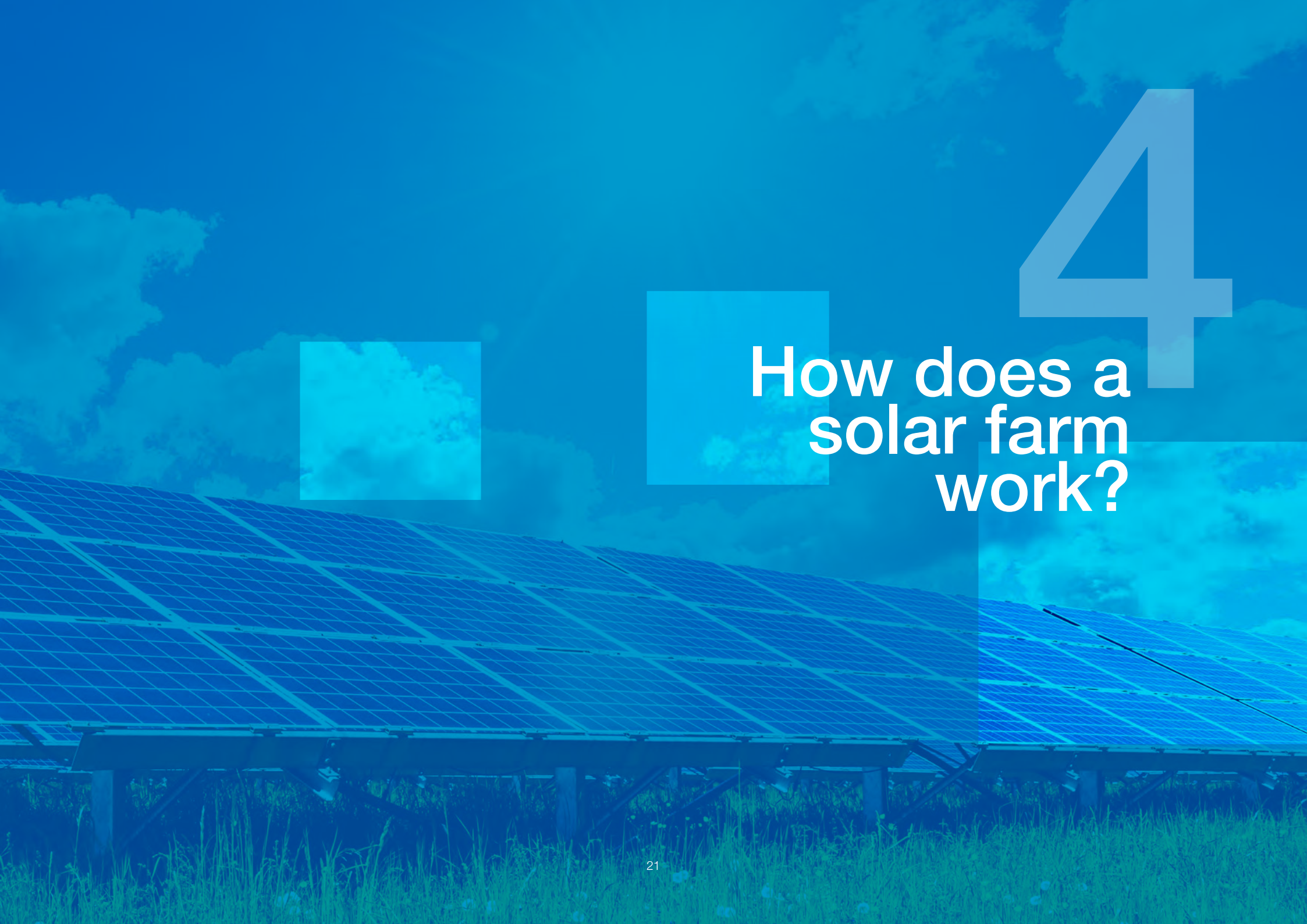
Battery storage technology is safe and makes use of tried and tested technology, much of which we use in our day-to-day lives. While battery storage at Springwell would be larger in scale, we would build safety measures into our battery design, including for example, self-contained units for each battery and a fire extinguishing system.

This is something we already do at the battery storage sites we manage around the country. We will work with Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue and the Health and Safety Executive, along with other relevant statutory bodies, throughout the development of Springwell.

Decommissioning

The operational lifetime of Springwell is expected to be around 40 years. At the end of Springwell's operational lifetime, we will dismantle all above ground material and recycle where practicable, in line with the best practice at that time and a decommissioning plan.

Like any other electrical waste, solar panels need to be disposed of responsibly and safely. Around 85% of solar panel parts are now recyclable, and the major panel components including the glass, aluminium and copper can all be recovered. With recycling methods improving all the time, this is likely to be even greater in the future.



4

How does a solar farm work?

How does a solar farm work?

Solar farms use **energy from the sun (1)** to generate electricity, supported by battery storage and a substation to feed the electricity into the National Grid.

The **solar panels (3)** are set up in rows, connected to each other by cables to transfer the electricity generated by the panels to inverters. Once mounted the panels at Springwell would be approximately four metres at their highest point. Our current thinking is that we would use fixed panels, however we may explore the potential for using 'tracking panels' (which follow the sun as it moves through the sky), in limited areas.

Inverters (4) are needed to convert the direct current (DC) electricity which is generated into alternating current (AC) electricity, suitable for it to be transferred to the solar farm substation.

Inverters are housed in areas sometimes referred to as 'Balance of Solar System', along with transformers to step up the voltage and switchgear which controls the electrical equipment. This area would be up to three and a half metres in height.

Collector compounds (6) can be used to reduce the amount of cabling that is needed by collecting electricity from a number of inverters, stepping up the voltage and sending it to the solar farm substation. The maximum height of the equipment within these compounds at Springwell would be six metres.

The solar farm substation (7) receives all the electricity and sends it on to the **National Grid substation (9)** to enter the electricity network.

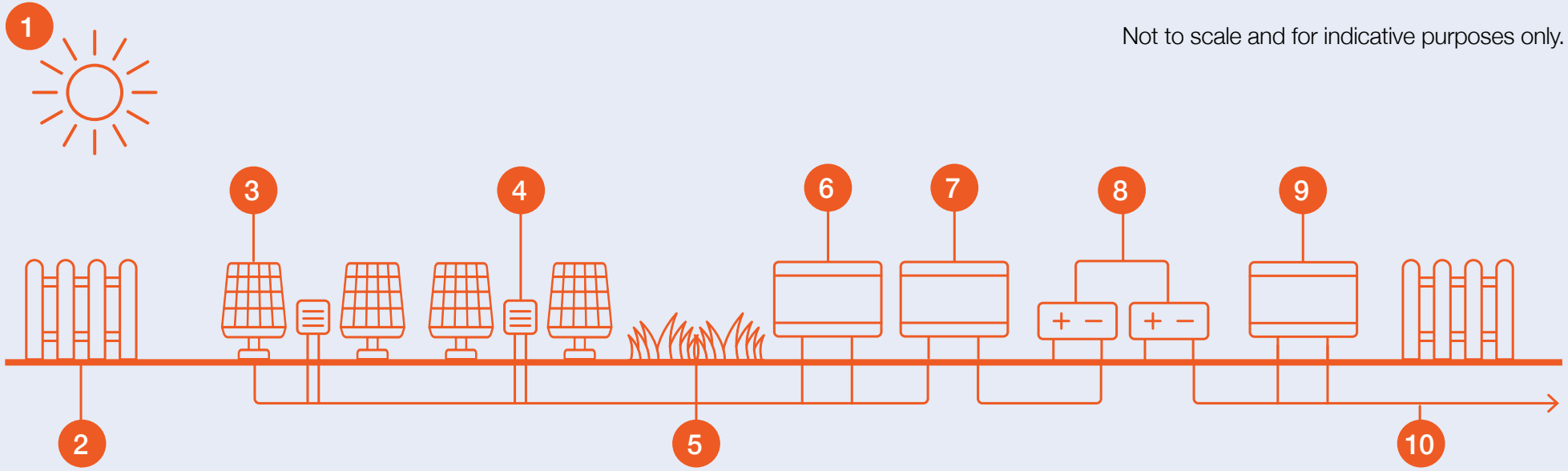
The substation includes a control building with a small amount of office space, storage and welfare facilities. At Springwell, it is likely that this area would be located alongside battery storage, if this is located in one area.

The main role of **battery storage (8)** is to store electricity at times when demand is lower and release it to the National Grid when it is most needed. The height of the battery units at Springwell will not be more than three metres, although there may be some electrical plant of up to six metres in height. At this stage, we have not made decisions about where the battery storage would be located and how it would appear.

Our commitment to providing low-carbon energy means we are constantly searching for ways to innovate. We are, for example, pioneering the use of green hydrogen to decarbonise hard-to-reach areas of our economy, such as the industrial sector. As complementary renewable technologies evolve, we will consider - and consult on - whether they might be suitable for extending the benefits of Springwell.

This diagram shows the main elements that typically make up a solar farm.

Not to scale and for indicative purposes only.



1. Solar Energy
2. Fencing
3. Solar Panels
4. Inverters
5. Landscape and Biodiversity Areas
6. Collector Compounds
7. Solar farm substation
8. Battery Storage
9. National Grid Substation
10. Cables

Battery storage is important because renewable technologies like wind and solar do not generate electricity at a constant rate – and the times electricity is generated is not always when electricity demand is highest. Battery storage therefore stores energy for when it is most needed.

Solar panels don't need direct sunlight to work and can produce power all year round. Even in winter, solar technology is powerful and effective. At one point in February 2022, solar provided more than 20% of the UK's electricity.

Connecting to the grid

Large amounts of electricity are transported around the country every day by a transmission network called the National Grid. This isn't the electricity you use in your home – this is supplied from your local network which takes electricity from the National Grid and feeds it through to homes and businesses.

It's helpful to think of our electricity system like our road network. The National Grid is the high-speed route (the motorway) which transfers electricity over a large area while the local networks connect into it to distribute electricity to local areas, acting like 'B roads'. To get the electricity generated by Springwell to homes and businesses, we need to connect into the National Grid.

We have secured a grid connection agreement with National Grid which would allow us to export up to 800MW of electricity to this network, through a new substation owned by National Grid. There would also be capacity to import power from the network.

Our preference is for this substation to be located within the Springwell site, connecting into the existing overhead power line which crosses it. This would be done either using transmission towers or sealing end compounds, which house the connection between the overhead line and underground cabling. We are working with National Grid to determine the most appropriate location.

5 Assessing environmental effects

Assessing environmental effects

Assessing environmental effects is a key part of the DCO process. We will carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for Springwell Solar Farm.

This will assess the potential effects (both positive and negative) Springwell would have on the environment, and ensure that these are considered in the design process.

These environmental assessments will look at a range of topics such as cultural heritage, landscape and visual impact, flood risk and ecology over the whole of Springwell's lifetime – construction, through operation, and to decommissioning.

We will present our early findings in a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) at a later stage of consultation. The final results of these assessments will be presented in an Environmental Statement (ES) which will accompany our DCO application.

This process will also help us to identify how best we can reduce the potential environmental effects of Springwell.

Where significant effects are identified, the report will also explore the measures we would take to avoid, mitigate or compensate for these effects in order to reduce Springwell's impact.

We have outlined some of the topics and how we will approach our assessment on the following pages.

We will shortly be submitting a report to the Planning Inspectorate (called a 'Scoping Report') which sets out our proposed approach to assessing effects and shows our early assessments.

These assessments cover all of the land within Springwell - more than we would use for solar development. This is to make sure we identify which areas are most suitable for solar and which should be used for environmental enhancements or retained for agricultural use.

The early results of these assessments have already helped shape our early thinking on the design for Springwell which we have shown on pages 14-18.

Artists impression of Springwell Solar Farm from a Public Right of Way.

Community benefit

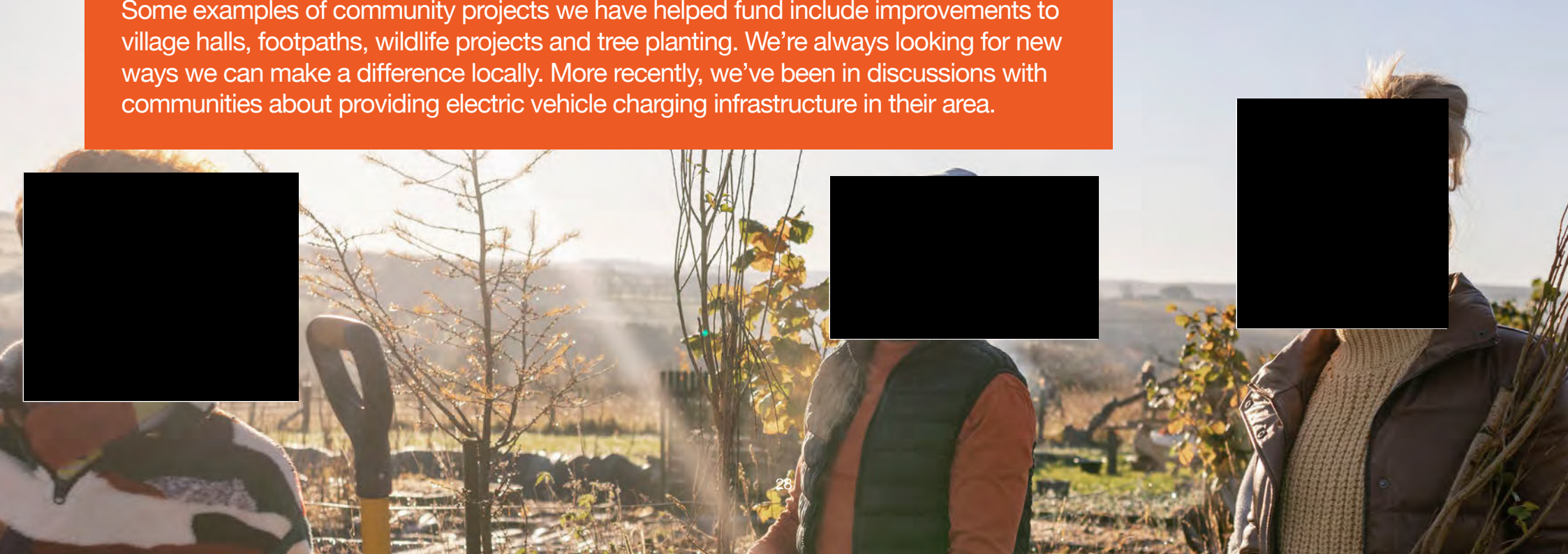
We recognise that the construction and operation of solar farms can affect the communities around them. As long-term investors in our projects and the communities where we operate, we are committed to being good neighbours.

Wherever we operate, we also give something back to the local community. All our onshore wind and solar sites in the UK have a dedicated community fund to spend on improvements in the local area during development and over their operational lifetimes.

We welcome suggestions from the community as to how we can make a positive local contribution, ? whether that's through funding, employment and training, or environmental programmes.

We are also interested in hearing about existing community funds or organisations that might be interested in partnering with Springwell.

Some examples of community projects we have helped fund include improvements to village halls, footpaths, wildlife projects and tree planting. We're always looking for new ways we can make a difference locally. More recently, we've been in discussions with communities about providing electric vehicle charging infrastructure in their area.



Natural environment and ecology

Springwell would not only bring environmental benefits by contributing to UK's net-zero goal, it also has the potential to make a positive impact on the local environment.

The assessments that we are carrying out will identify the species and habitats currently in the area and assess any effects Springwell could have.

We are aiming to deliver a substantial 'net gain' in biodiversity. We will use feedback from the consultation and our ongoing work with stakeholders to design a detailed biodiversity plan for Springwell.

Our design will ensure habitats and corridors for existing wildlife are retained and enhanced, while creating new habitats suitable for the area to increase the landscape's biodiversity value.

We would also manage the land between and beneath the panels throughout Springwell's operational lifetime to help improve the condition of the soil, allowing it to recover for future long-term farming use. Soil which is used for any kind of production needs time to rest and regenerate to regain its quality and replenish nutrients in the soil. This is called a fallow period, and is a common practice used by farmers.

What is biodiversity net gain?

Biodiversity net gain is the term used to describe the process of increasing the overall biodiversity value of a given site. It is calculated by using the difference between pre-development and post-development habitat data. From 2023, all new developments are required to deliver at least ten percent biodiversity net gain on site.

We have partnered with Nature Positive, an environmental consultancy, to help researchers carry out academic research to look at how all our solar farms can be managed to boost biodiversity, improve wildlife habitats and soil health.

Land use

At the moment, solar farms occupy less than 0.1% of the UK's land. Government plans to significantly scale up solar in line with its net-zero target are expected to bring this up to just 0.3% of the UK land area. The design of Springwell would be informed by detailed surveys to identify the land most suitable for continued farming and where appropriate, provide a robust justification for using such land.

Climate change

Springwell would make an important contribution to tackling climate change by reducing our reliance on more carbon-intensive forms of electricity generation, providing new, clean energy to power homes and businesses across the UK.

The UK Government has also recognised that climate change is the biggest medium to long term risk to our domestic food supply, making the delivery of sources of new renewable energy so important.

Reducing visual impact

While solar farms are low-lying in nature, we recognise that they represent a change to what is currently there. Our aim is to design Springwell sensitively to reduce its visual impact and protect the amenity of our neighbours. As part of our assessments, we will examine the effect Springwell could have on the landscape from a range of public viewpoints around the site. Where appropriate, we will propose mitigation such as new planting to help screen the site, in line with the principles we have set out on page 14.

6 Get in touch

Responding to our consultation

We are keen for as many people as possible to get in touch, meet with us and share their feedback during our consultation.

This consultation is running between **Tuesday 24 January 2023** and **Tuesday 07 March 2023.**

Finding out more

You can find out more about Springwell Solar Farm by:

- Coming along to the public exhibitions we are holding
- Visiting springwellsolarfarm.co.uk, where you can visit our virtual exhibition
- Contacting us on **0800 038 3486** or info@springwellsolarfarm.co.uk

Public exhibitions

Tuesday 31 January (2pm-7pm)
Blankney Old School House, Drury St,
Blankney, LN4 3AZ

Wednesday 01 February (2pm-7pm)
Scopwick Village Hall, Brookside,
Scopwick, LN4 3PA

Friday 03 February (11am-4pm)
Ashby de la Launde Village Hall, Church Avenue,
Ashby de la Launde, LN4 3JQ

Saturday 04 February (11am-4pm)
Metheringham Village Hall, Fen Road,
Metheringham, LN4 3AA

7 Share your views

Consultation questionnaire

Thank you for taking the time to read through our early plans and proposals for Springwell. Our consultation questionnaire is available both on our website and in hard copy, and we have set out the ways you can get in touch and share your views on the back page of this booklet.

Early plans

At this stage in our design process, we have developed principles which will guide the design of Springwell.

Q1. Do you have any comments on our early plans and proposals for:

a. the potential locations of the solar energy generation element of Springwell?

b. the areas we are looking at for the battery storage element of Springwell?

c. any other elements of Springwell?

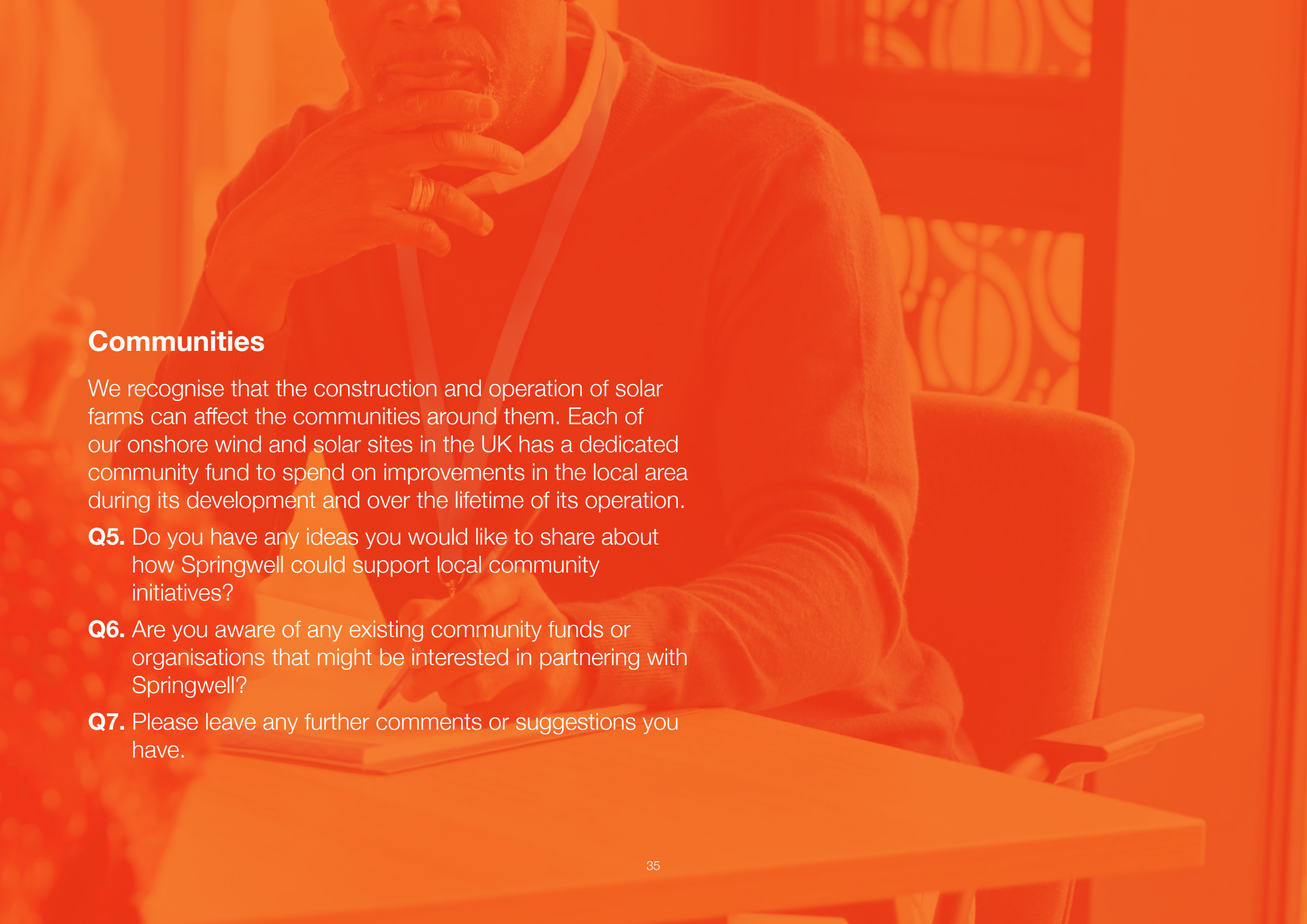
Enhancing the local environment

We have had some early thoughts on what could be suitable to balance any effects Springwell could have and ways we could improve what is currently there, including the potential for improving the existing footpath network.

Q2. Are there any environmental enhancements you think we should include as part of the proposals?

Q3. Do you have any feedback on our proposals for new public footpaths or suggestions for other improvements or additional routes?

Q4. Do you have any other information about the area and local environment which you think we should take into account?



Communities

We recognise that the construction and operation of solar farms can affect the communities around them. Each of our onshore wind and solar sites in the UK has a dedicated community fund to spend on improvements in the local area during its development and over the lifetime of its operation.

Q5. Do you have any ideas you would like to share about how Springwell could support local community initiatives?

Q6. Are you aware of any existing community funds or organisations that might be interested in partnering with Springwell?

Q7. Please leave any further comments or suggestions you have.

Sharing your views

You can share your views on our proposals for Springwell Solar Farm by:

- Completing a consultation questionnaire online at: **springwellsolarfarm.co.uk/questionnaire**
- Emailing a questionnaire to **info@springwellsolarfarm.co.uk**
- Posting a questionnaire (no stamp required) to: **Springwell Solar Farm FREEPOST SEC Newgate UK LOCAL**
- Submitting your comments by email to: **info@springwellsolarfarm.co.uk** or in writing to the above Freepost address.

Next Steps

All responses must be received by the consultation deadline of **11:59pm on Tuesday 07 March 2023.**

Following this consultation, we will consider all of the feedback that we receive and continue to develop our plans for Springwell ahead of the next stage of consultation.

Our DCO application will include a Consultation Report setting out how we have had regard to the responses received during all phases of consultation.

Get in touch

Phone:
0800 038 3486

Email:
info@springwellsolarfarm.co.uk

Springwell Solar Farm

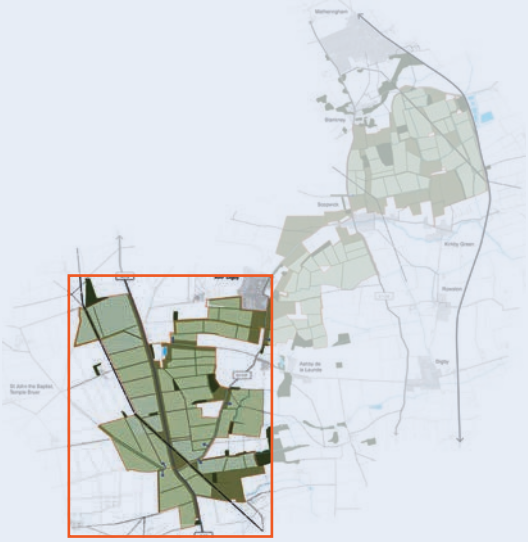
springwellsolarfarm.co.uk

Appendix A-2.4
Phase One Consultation maps

Application Document Ref: EN010149/APP/5.2
Planning Inspectorate Scheme Ref: EN010149

- Indicative Springwell boundary
- Existing woodland
- Existing power line and pylons within Springwell
- Existing railway line
- Existing walls retained and enhanced
- Existing hedgerows retained and enhanced
- Existing Public Rigths of Way and footpaths
- Potential area for solar development
- Potential area for solar development, substation and/or consolidated battery storage
- Potential area for mitigation, enhancement and/or retained agricultural land
- Potential access
- Potential new permissive footpaths
- Existing watercourses

Springwell West



- Indicative Springwell boundary
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- Existing railway line
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- Potential area for solar development
- Potential area for solar development, substation and/or consolidated battery storage.
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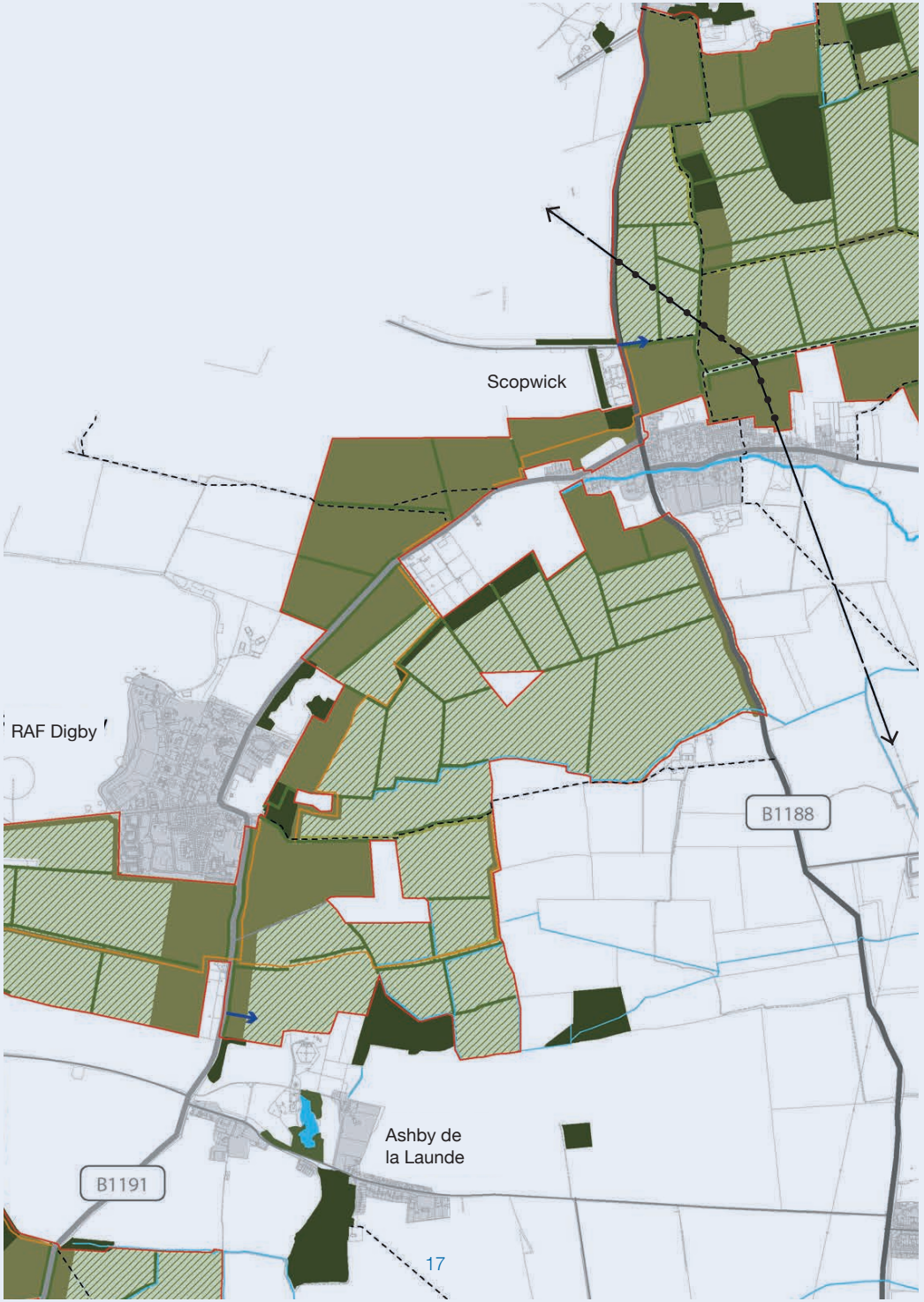
- Potential access
- Potential new permissive footpaths
- Existing watercourses

Springwell Central



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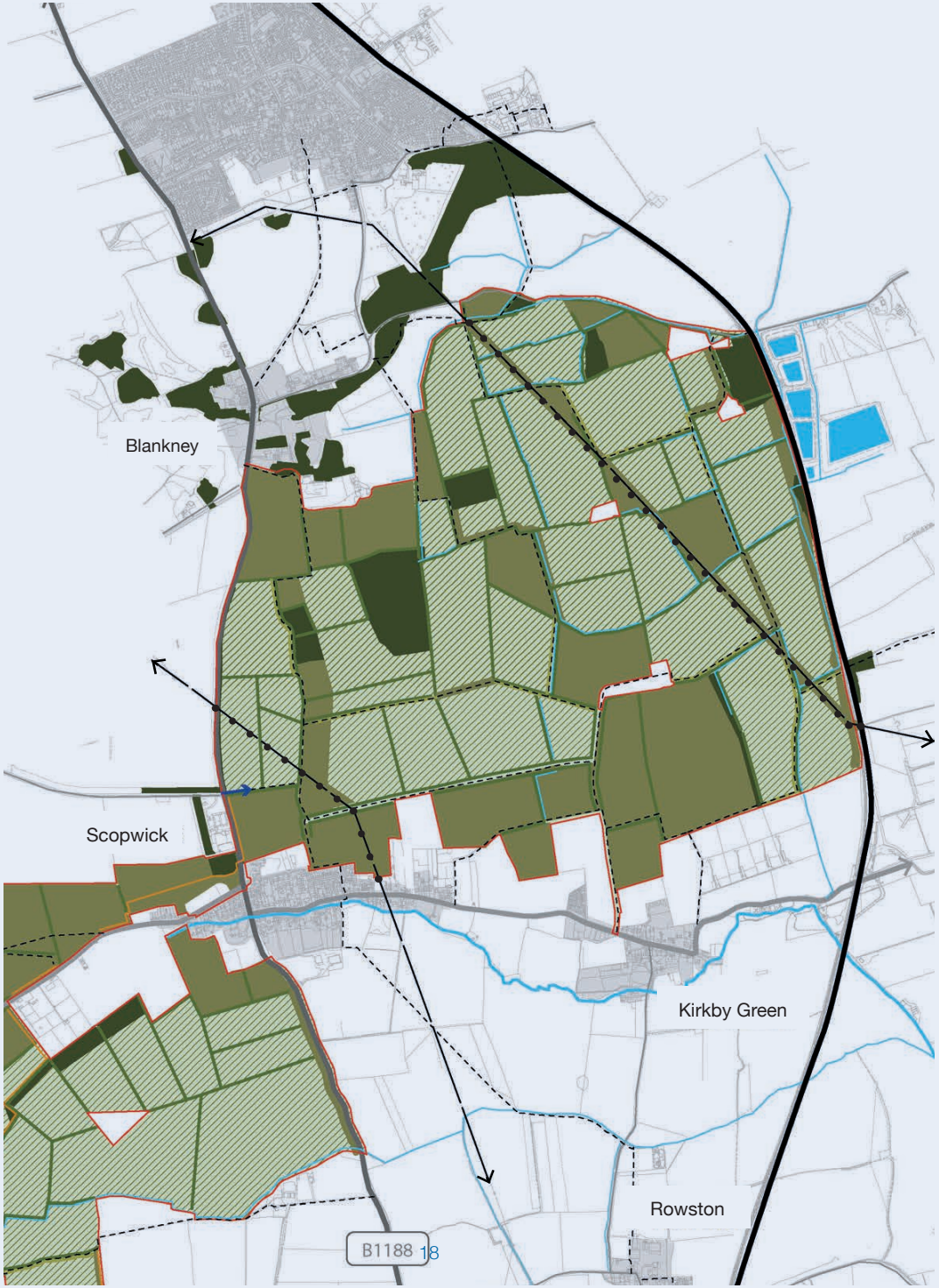
- Potential area for solar development
- Potential area for solar development, substation and/or consolidated battery storage.
- Potential area for mitigation, enhancement and/or retained agricultural land
- Potential access
- Potential new permissive footpaths
- Existing watercourses

Springwell East



- Indicative Springwell boundary
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- Existing railway line
- Existing wall retained and enhanced
- Existing hedgerows retained and enhanced
- Existing Public Rights of Way and footpaths
- Potential area for solar development
- Potential area for solar development, substation and/or consolidated battery storage.
- Potential area for mitigation, enhancement and/or retained agricultural land
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- Existing watercourses

Appendix A-2.5
Phase One Consultation questionnaire

Application Document Ref: EN010149/APP/5.2
Planning Inspectorate Scheme Ref: EN010149

PHASE ONE CONSULTATION

Springwell
Solar Farm

Share your feedback

January - March 2023

Thank you for taking the time to share your views on our early plans and proposals for Springwell Solar Farm.

How to respond to our consultation

We are seeking your feedback at this stage to make sure we can consider it while we are still developing our plans. This questionnaire is designed to be used having read about our proposals in the consultation booklet. You can answer as many or as few questions as you like and are welcome to use the additional space at the end of the questionnaire to provide further information. You can respond to the consultation by:

- Completing this questionnaire online: **www.springwellsolarfarm.co.uk**
- Emailing a questionnaire to: **info@springwellsolarfarm.co.uk**
- Posting this questionnaire (no stamp required) to:

  Springwell Solar Farm
  FREEPOST SEC NEWGATE UK LOCAL

- Submitting your comments by email to **info@springwellsolarfarm.co.uk** or in writing to the above Freepost address.

All responses must be received by the consultation **deadline** of **11:59pm** on **Tuesday 07 March 2023**.

Following this consultation, we will consider all the feedback that we receive and continue to develop our plans for Springwell ahead of the next stage of consultation.

Early plans

As part of this consultation, we are seeking your feedback on the early design of Springwell - including where we have placed different elements of the solar farm.

Q1. Do you have any comments on our early plans and proposals for:

a. the potential locations of the solar energy generation element of Springwell?

b. the areas we are looking at for the battery storage element of Springwell?

c. any other elements of Springwell?

Enhancing the local environment

Parts of the Springwell site would be used for recreational, landscape and ecological enhancements. We are keen to hear your thoughts on what we could include and where these could be.

Q2. Are there any environmental enhancements you think we should include as part of the proposals?

Q3. Do you have any feedback on our proposals for new public footpaths or suggestions for other improvements or additional routes?

Q4. Do you have any other information about the area and local environment which you think we should take into account?

Communities

We recognise that the construction and operation of solar farms can affect the communities around them. All our onshore wind and solar sites in the UK have a dedicated community fund to spend on improvements in the local area during its development and over the lifetime of its operation.

Q5. Do you have any ideas you would like to share about how Springwell could support local community initiatives?

Q6. Are you aware of any existing community funds or organisations that might be interested in partnering with Springwell?

Q7. Please leave any further comments or suggestions you have.

Please use this space to expand on any answers you have given or provide additional information.

If you would like to be kept updated on this project, please provide your contact details below:

Name:

Address:

Email:

Are you responding on behalf of an organisation? Yes No

If yes, please provide the name of the organisation and your role within it.

Organisation:

Role:

Any comments received will be analysed by Springwell Energyfarm Ltd and any of its appointed agents. Copies may be made available in due course to the Secretary of State, the Planning Inspectorate and other relevant statutory authorities so that feedback can be considered as part of the DCO process. We will request that any personal details are not placed on public record and will be held securely by Springwell Energyfarm Ltd and its agents in accordance with the data protection law and will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent DCO application and, except as noted above, will not be passed to third parties.

Springwell
Solar Farm

Appendix A-2.6
Phase One Consultation advertising

Application Document Ref: EN010149/APP/5.2
Planning Inspectorate Scheme Ref: EN010149

Consultation begins on new solar farm in North Kesteven which could power over 180,000 homes

North Kesteven, Lincolnshire (24 January 2023) – Consultation has begun on plans for Springwell Solar Farm, a proposed new solar farm with battery storage located between Lincoln and Sleaford.

Springwell Solar Farm would make a significant contribution to the UK's future energy mix by providing enough clean, secure energy to power over 180,000 homes* every year – the equivalent of around half the homes in Lincolnshire**.

As well as delivering vital clean energy, parts of the Springwell site would also be used for recreational, landscape and ecological enhancements. The early design of Springwell, which has been published as part of this consultation, includes suggestions for new habitats, planting and improvements to the existing footpath network.

The consultation will run for six weeks, closing on Tuesday 7 March. Feedback from local communities will help shape early plans for Springwell and identify potential benefits that it could support in the local area.

As part of the consultation, members of the public are invited to a series of public exhibitions to meet with the team and share their feedback.

EDF Renewables UK's Head of Solar, Ben Fawcett said, "We are currently at a very early stage with our plans for Springwell, with the feedback we receive during this consultation helping to inform our plans while they are still being developed.

We encourage everyone to get in touch, meet with us and share their views during the consultation."

The exhibitions will take place at the following dates and locations:

- Tuesday 31 January – Blankney Old School House (2pm –7pm)
- Wednesday 01 February – Scopwick Village Hall (2pm – 7pm)
- Friday 03 February – Ashby de la Launde Village Hall (11am – 4pm)
- Saturday 04 February – Metheringham Village Hall (11am – 4pm)

Members of the public can also visit a dedicated website: www.springwellsolarfarm.co.uk to view and download the consultation materials and visit a virtual exhibition on the plans from Tuesday 24 January.

Copies of the consultation materials can also be picked up at the following locations:

- Blankney Golf Club, Lincoln Road, Blankney LN4 3AZ
- Scopwick Village Hall, Brookside, LN4 3PA
- Metheringham Community Library, High Street, LN4 3DZ

All responses must be received by the consultation deadline of 11:59pm on Tuesday 07 March 2023.

For further information, please contact:

info@springwellsolarfarm.co.uk

0800 038 3486

---- ENDS ----

Notes to editors

Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects

Springwell is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) because of its generating capacity (over 50MW). NSIPs require planning permission to be granted by the relevant Secretary of State through a Development Consent Order (DCO).

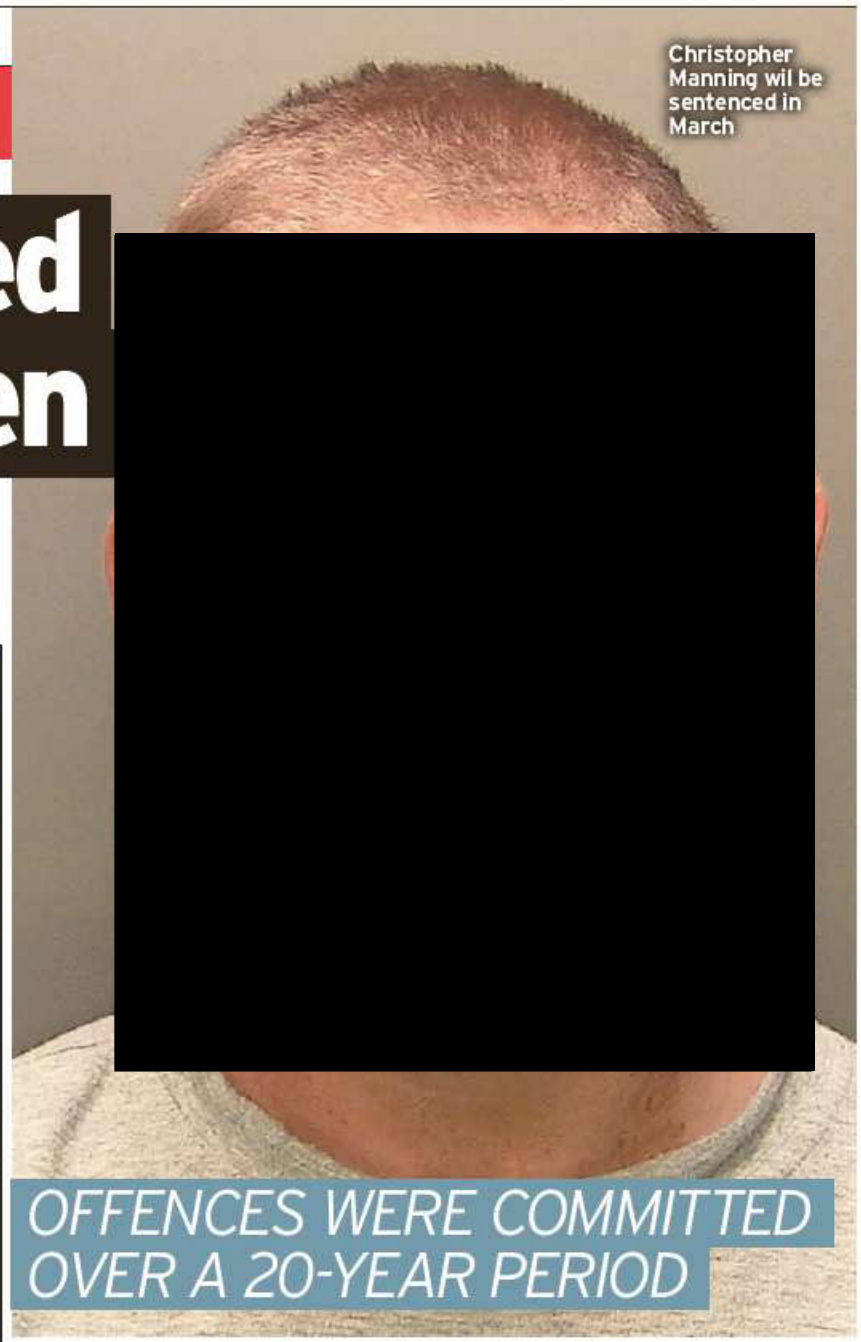
Further information about the DCO process is available at the Planning Inspectorate's website: https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/

* Based upon the average domestic electricity consumption per home (temperature corrected) per the Energy Consumption in the UK (published September 2021, Table C9 of ECUK: Consumption data tables)

** Based on 2021 census data (homes within the Lincolnshire County Council area)

News

Child rapist convicted after abusing children as young as seven



Christopher Manning wil be sentenced in March

OFFENCES WERE COMMITTED OVER A 20-YEAR PERIOD

By JOE GRIFFIN
news@lincolnshireecho.co.uk

A MAN has been convicted of raping and sexually assaulting children as young as seven over a 20-year period.

Christopher Manning, 38, from Grantham, was arrested in February last year after he was identified as being involved in exchanging indecent images and encouraging the abuse of children online.

During online chats, Manning had stated that he was "into" young children, and claimed to have sexually assaulted a four-year-old girl on several occasions, saying he wanted to video and watch the abuse back.

Manning also asked an online contact to send videos of him sexually abusing seven-and-11-year-old children, saying he "...would love to video call and watch your action".

Further National Crime Agency (NCA) inquiries established that Manning had raped and sexually assaulted young children over the course of many years. His first victim described how, in 1998 when aged seven, she woke to find him in her bed and raping her. The sexual abuse continued until she was 21.

He also repeatedly raped and sexually abused a vulnerable boy for a decade, between 2004, when the child was seven, and 2014, when Manning felt his victim had become too old to gain sexual gratification from. Manning also sexually assaulted a girl, aged approximately 11, in 2007.

In July 2021 he attempted to groom a 13-year-old girl and then proceeded to sexually assault her. The child informed her parents immediately of the crime.

He also sought opportunities to engage with girls under 15 on the internet, asking them to send naked indecent images of themselves via Snapchat.

Each of the victims gave evidence during Manning's 11-day trial at Lincoln Crown Court. Examination of a mobile phone belonging to Manning found that eight different VPNs (Virtual private networks) had been installed on it in an effort to conceal his searches for child abuse images.

Manning was charged with rape, sexual assault and indecent images of children offences.

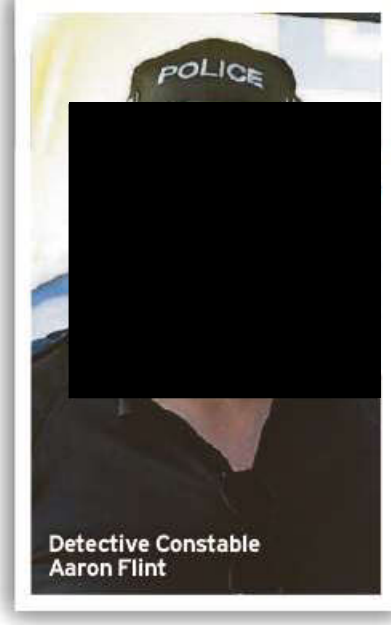
He was convicted by a jury and is due to be sentenced at the same court on March 16.

David Levett, Senior Investigating Officer at the NCA, said: "Christopher Manning is a dangerous sexual offender who committed grave abuse against children over more than two decades and was targeting young girls online right up to the point of his arrest.

"Manning's crimes left his innocent victims physically and emotionally traumatised, yet many of them bravely gave evidence during his trial.

"Their voices have been heard and they have helped to secure his conviction.

"The NCA works tirelessly to identify dangerous criminals like Manning, who pose the most serious risk to the UK public, and ensure they are brought to account."



Detective Constable Aaron Flint

News

Police warning after birds of prey poisoned


Several dead birds of prey were found dumped in a ditch near Sleaford. These included three barn owls, a tawny owl and a red kite

DETECTIVE CONSTABLE FEARS THERE WILL BE HUMAN CASUALTY THROUGH ILLEGAL PRACTICE

By ELEANOR MASLIN
news@targetseries.co.uk

AN increase in bird poisoning cases in Lincolnshire could lead to a "human casualty," a wildlife officer for Lincolnshire Police has warned. Detective Constable Aaron Flint currently has six birds of prey investigations in the county, three of which relate to poisonings.

He said that the poisons can be passed through the skin if the birds are touched by people and that there have been cases of dogs dying from coming into contact with them.

He also said that despite birds of prey being protected, the persecution of them is a problem in Lincolnshire.

He said: "I feel one day there will be a human casualty. We get people coming in when the bird of prey has died and members of the public pick it up and take it to the police station. There is no poisoning protection worn."

"It just takes something like that for a member of the public to take it as [the poison] can be passed through your skin." He added: "There are so many different ways that people can get hurt. There are a lot of dogs being poisoned and it comes to a nasty end. We had an incident quite recently where a dog was poisoned.

"People do need to be careful."

On December 22, 2022, several dead birds of prey were found dumped in a ditch near Sleaford. These included three barn owls, a tawny owl and a red kite that were discovered alongside two dead magpies.

DC Flint said: "It was just so weird and such a strange incident. The truth of the matter is I absolutely do not know [what happened]. It's such an odd case. In all my 20 years I have never come across a job like it.

"They will be sent off to be investigated so we will know at one point how they died. We haven't had any information back [yet] as to what happened to those birds."

DC Flint said the six live investigations into birds of prey persecutions in Lincolnshire are in the early stages of development. Aside from the poisoning investigations, which he said are dotted around the county, he is also looking at the trapping and shooting of birds of prey and taking eggs out into the wild.

He said: "I would say six live investigations is quite a lot, in the years gone by we have never had six at the same time. We have now got a rural crime team so more officers looking into it.

> We advise dog walkers to exercise caution by keeping their dogs on a short lead.
>
> Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

"It could be lots of people doing it for what they see as protecting their livelihoods and there are people out there who just want to cull things for fun. It's not just gamekeepers."

DC Flint also said that the Avian Flu disease has made birds of prey investigations "more difficult" for the rural crime team, as it is another factor contributing to bird deaths. A spokesperson for Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust said: "Birds of prey are an important part of Lincolnshire's natural heritage and the persecution and killing of these birds is unacceptable.

"Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust condemns the indiscriminate and illegal use of poisons and fully supports the police investigating such incidents. Given the recently reported cases, the Trust would advise dog walkers to exercise caution by keeping their dogs on a short lead and watching them closely whilst out in the countryside."

If you come across a dead bird and suspect it's been poisoned or shot then don't touch it and keep it away from dogs. You can report it by ringing 999 and reporting it as a wildlife crime.

Public consultation

24 January 2023 – 07 March 2023

We are now consulting on our early plans for Springwell Solar Farm, a proposed new solar farm with battery storage in North Kesteven.

We are keen for as many people as possible to get in touch and share their feedback during our consultation.

Get in touch

For further information or to request a copy of our consultation materials, please get in touch:

0800 038 3486
(9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday)

info@springwellsolarfarm.co.uk

Springwell Solar Farm,
FREEPOST SEC Newgate
UK LOCAL (no stamp required)

Springwell Solar Farm

Find out more by...

- Coming along to a public exhibition:

Blankney Old School House, Drury St, LN4 3AZ	**Tuesday 31 January** 2pm-7pm
Scopwick Village Hall, Brookside, LN4 3PA	**Wednesday 01 February** 2pm-7pm
Ashby de la Launde Village Hall, Church Avenue, LN4 3JQ	**Friday 03 February** 11am-4pm
Metheringham Village Hall, Fen Road, LN4 3AA	**Saturday 04 February** 11am-4pm

- Visiting springwellsolarfarm.co.uk
- Picking up a copy of our consultation booklet:
  (please check opening hours)

Scopwick Village Hall, Brookside, LN4 3PA

Blankney Golf Club, Lincoln Rd, Blankney, Lincoln LN4 3AZ

Metheringham Community Library, High Street, Metheringham LN4 3DZ

EDF Renewables UK & Ireland
87,108 followers
1yr •

There's just one week to go until the end of the current consultation period ends for the Springwell Solar Farm in Lincolnshire.

Local communities have been sharing their views to help shape our plans for this solar and battery site, but there's still time to provide feedback.

We're developing Springwell with Luminous Energy Group Ltd and it could provide clean energy to more than 180,000 homes every year.

To find out more about the project and have your say, visit https://lnkd.in/eaW8FmNi

#AcceleratingCleanEnergy #Solar #BatteryStorage #RenewableEnergy

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Like Comment Repost Send

Add a comment...

Appendix A-2.7
Phase One Consultation exhibition banners

Application Document Ref: EN010149/APP/5.2
Planning Inspectorate Scheme Ref: EN010149

Springwell
Solar Farm

Welcome

Thank you for visiting our public exhibition about Springwell Solar Farm.

This consultation is running between **Tuesday 24 January** and **Tuesday 07 March 2023.** We are keen for as many people as possible to get in touch, meet with us and share their feedback during our consultation.

Springwell is backed by EDF Renewables UK and Luminous Energy - two companies with a long history in helping meet the country's need for renewable energy.

We're also working closely with the Blankney Estate, the owner of the majority of the land for Springwell.

This exhibition includes information about our early plans for Springwell, the process we need to follow to get planning consent and the different ways you can get involved and share your views.

Springwell Solar Farm

Introducing Springwell

A proposed new solar farm with battery storage in North Kesteven, Springwell would be capable of providing enough clean, secure and affordable energy to meet the needs of over 180,000* homes each year.

That's the equivalent of half of all the homes in Lincolnshire.

Why is it needed?

We all have a part to play in addressing climate change – from the small changes in our everyday lives to the transformational changes we need to make across our whole economy, particularly the way we power our homes, businesses and transport systems.

Over the next decade, we'll need to increase the amount of clean electricity we produce by increasing the sources of renewable energy we have in the UK, which will also help our energy system become more independent.

Solar is an important part of the way we can meet this challenge – it is affordable, reliable and can be built quickly. It is also low-impact – the amount of solar we need to reach our net-zero target would use just 0.3 per cent of land in the UK, and only for a short period. Solar lasts around 40 years and once it is removed, the land can be returned to its original use.

With the potential to generate up to 800MW of electricity, Springwell would make an important contribution to helping the UK build a cleaner, more affordable energy system and reach our net-zero target.

*Based upon the average domestic electricity consumption per home (temperature corrected) per the Energy Consumption in the UK (published September 2021, Table C9 of ECUK: Consumption data tables)

Springwell
Solar Farm

Why here?

Lincolnshire has played an important role in powering the nation for almost a century, generating electricity from coal and gas and feeding it into the National Grid to reach millions across the nation.

While these traditional methods of electricity generation are being phased out, the grid infrastructure which transported this electricity is still in place.

By adding more entry and exit points to this network via new substations, clean methods of electricity generation can feed into it, allowing us to use the existing pylon infrastructure. We have secured a grid connection agreement with National Grid which would allow us to export up to 800MW of electricity to this network, through a new substation owned by National Grid. There would also be capacity to import power from the network.

North Kesteven is well suited for solar energy generation. It is suitably sunny and its landscape has many positive attributes for ground mounted solar panels.

In selecting the site for Springwell, we have ensured that there is enough suitable land available to support a solar farm while also allowing parts of the site to be used for recreation, landscaping and ecological enhancements.

It can also be easily accessed from the existing road network and is away from places identified by the government as having special landscape and ecological value, such as Areas of Outstanding National Beauty.

Springwell Solar Farm

The application process

Springwell Solar Farm is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) because it would generate over 50MW of electricity.

This means we need to apply for a special type of planning consent called a Development Consent Order (DCO) to build and operate it.

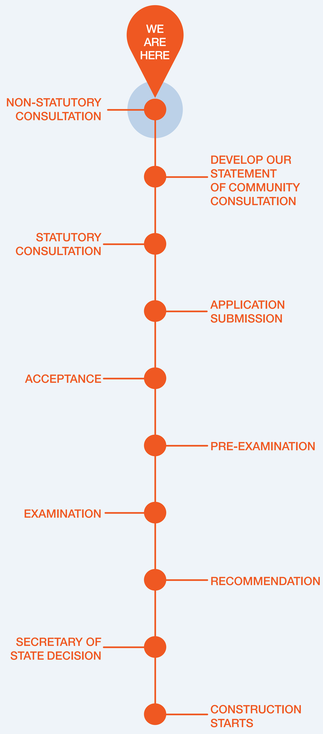
Consultation is an important part of the DCO process. The feedback received, along with further technical work and environmental studies, will inform the development of our proposals before we submit our DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS).

The Planning Inspectorate will then review and examine the application, including encouraging submission of views from communities and other interested parties, before making a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, who will take the final decision on whether to grant consent.

For more information on the DCO planning process, please visit:

infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk

NSIP timeline



Springwell
Solar Farm

Our approach to design

Our aim is to design a layout for Springwell that is sensitive to surrounding communities and responds to the distinctive character of the local environment. We have developed some early principles that will guide the design of Springwell as it evolves.

The amenity of homes and villages would be protected, with buffers and setbacks separating them from solar panels.

We would work to deliver a biodiversity net gain at Springwell.

Existing hedgerow and ditch networks would be retained where possible and managed to boost biodiversity.

Existing trees and woodlands would be retained with buffers from solar development.

New habitats would be created to support farmland birds such as skylark and grey partridge and animals such as brown hares.

Local wildlife sites would be retained and improved, creating new grassland habitat.

We would retain existing Public Rights of Way and permissive footpaths within the Springwell site and look for opportunities to improve the existing network.

We would respect the history and settings of local historic and cultural sites, responding to the distinctive character of the local environment.

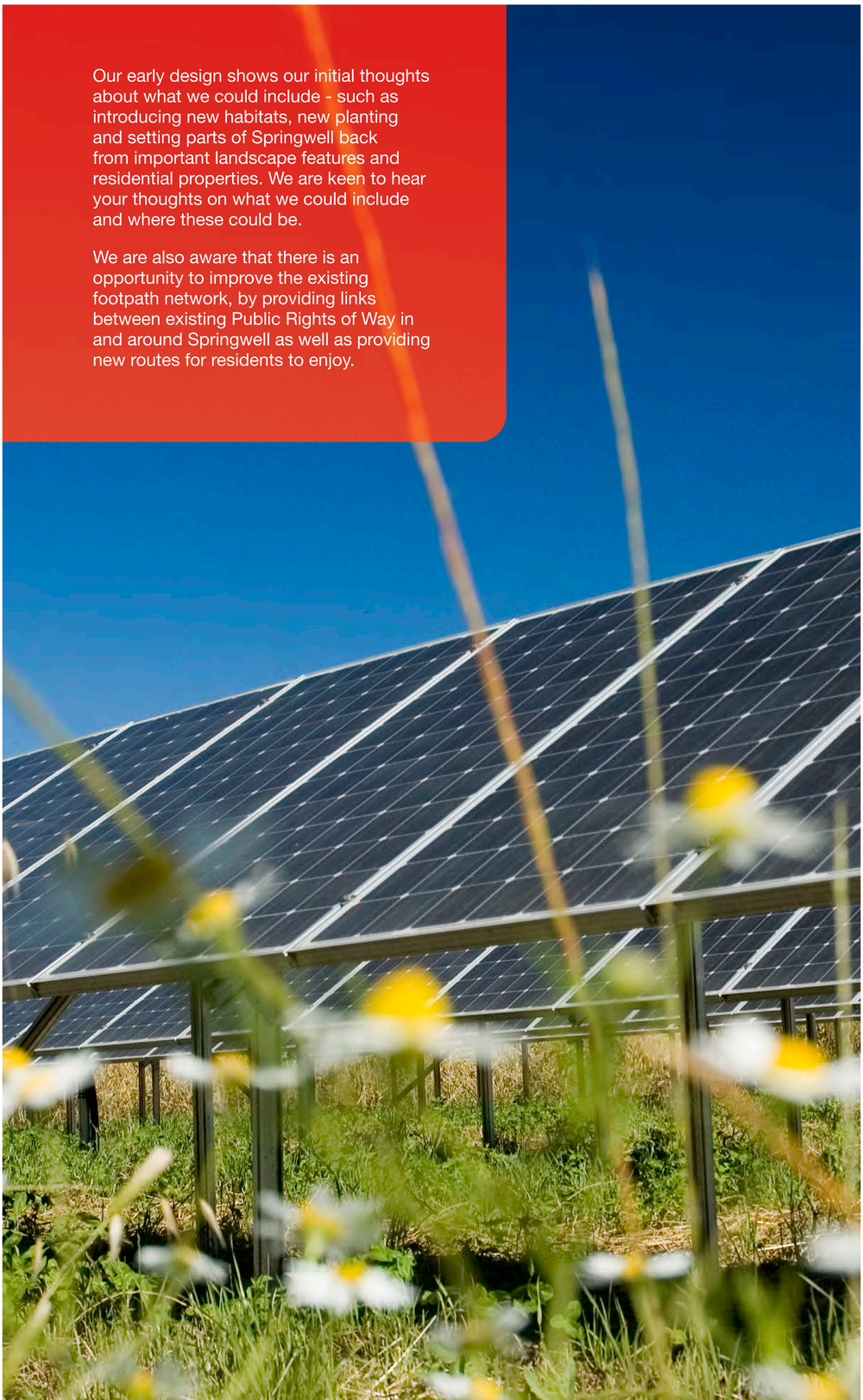
Springwell
Solar Farm

Enhancing the local environment

Parts of the Springwell site would be used for recreational, landscape and ecological enhancements.

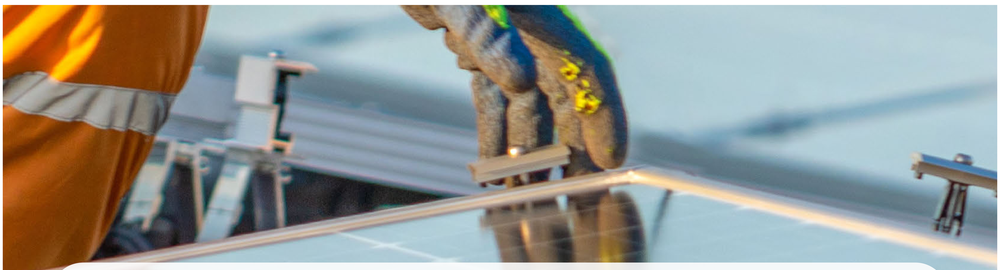
Our early design shows our initial thoughts about what we could include - such as introducing new habitats, new planting and setting parts of Springwell back from important landscape features and residential properties. We are keen to hear your thoughts on what we could include and where these could be.

We are also aware that there is an opportunity to improve the existing footpath network, by providing links between existing Public Rights of Way in and around Springwell as well as providing new routes for residents to enjoy.



Springwell Solar Farm

Construction, operation & decomissioning



Construction

The main construction access to Springwell would be via the A15 and onto the B1191. Within Springwell itself, we would use existing agricultural access tracks and field gateways for internal access where possible.

As the design for Springwell evolves we'll be able to share more detail on the construction process. The next stage of consultation will include proposed construction activities and their duration and how we propose to limit the effects of construction on local communities.

Operation

Solar farms are quiet neighbours and once operational, require minimal upkeep. Springwell would be monitored and maintained by a team of permanent staff throughout its lifetime.

We recognise there is an interest in how health and safety would be managed at Springwell during its lifetime, particularly around battery storage. Battery storage technology is safe and makes use of tried and tested technology.

While battery storage at Springwell would be larger in scale, we would build safety measures into our battery design, including for example, self-contained units for each battery and a fire extinguishing system. This is something we already do at the battery storage sites we manage around the country. We will work with Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue, along with other relevant bodies, throughout the design process.

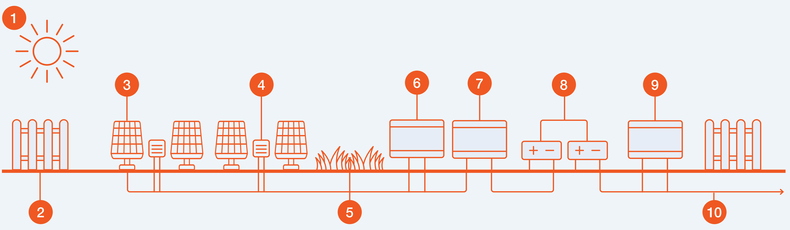
Decommissioning

The operational lifetime of Springwell is expected to be around 40 years. At the end of its lifetime, we would dismantle all above ground material and recycle where practicable, in line with best practice at that time and a decommissioning plan.

Around 85% of solar panel parts are now recyclable, including all major panel components like glass, aluminium and copper. With recycling methods improving all the time, this is likely to be even greater in the future.

Springwell Solar Farm

How does a solar farm work?



Not to scale and for indicative purposes only.

Solar farms use energy from **the sun** 1 to generate electricity, supported by battery storage and substations to feed the electricity into the National Grid.

They are protected by **fencing** 2 for security, with most solar farms using deer fencing.

The solar panels 3 are set up in rows, connected to each other by cables to transfer the electricity generated by panels to inverters.

Inverters 4 convert the electricity to alternating current which is suitable to enter the National Grid.

Parts of the solar farm are also set aside for landscaping and **biodiversity areas** 5.

Collector compounds 6 can reduce the amount of cabling needed by collecting electricity from a number of inverters, stepping up the voltage and sending it to the solar farm substation.

The **solar farm substation** 7 recieves all the electricity and sends it on to the **National Grid substation** 9 to enter the electricity network.

The main role of **battery storage** 8 is to store electricity at times when demand is lower and release it to the National Grid when it is most needed.

At Springwell, we are currently considering whether to locate the battery storage in one area alongside the substation, or have three smaller batteries spread out across the site.

All elements of a solar farm are connected together by **cables** 10, with cabling also used to connect into the National Grid.

Springwell
Solar Farm

Connecting to the grid

A large amount of electricity is transported around the country every day by a transmission network called the National Grid.

It can be helpful to think of our electricity system like our road network. The National Grid is the high-speed route (the motorway) which transfers electricity over a large area while the local networks connect into it to distribute electricity to local areas, acting like ‘B roads’. To get the electricity generated by Springwell to homes and businesses, we need to connect into the National Grid.

We have secured a grid connection agreement with National Grid which would allow us to export up to 800MW of electricity to this network, through a new substation owned by National Grid. There would also be capacity to import power from the network.

Our preference is for this substation to be located within the Springwell site, connecting into the existing overhead power line which crosses it. This would be done either using transmission towers or sealing end compounds, which house the connection between the overhead line and underground cabling. We are working with National Grid to determine the most appropriate location.

Springwell Solar Farm

Assessing environmental effects

Artist's impression of Springwell Solar Farm from a Public Right of Way

We will carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for Springwell Solar Farm, which will assess the potential effects (both positive and negative) Springwell would have on the environment, and ensure that these are considered in the design process.

These assessments will look at a range of topics, such as cultural heritage, landscape and visual impact, flood risk and ecology over the whole of Springwell's lifetime. We will present our early findings in a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) at a later stage of consultation.

Where significant effects are identified, the report will also explore the measures we would take to minimise, mitigate or compensate for these effects in order to reduce Springwell's impact.

We will shortly be submitting a report to PINS (called a 'Scoping Report') which sets out our proposed approach to assessing effects and shows our early assessments.

These assessments cover all of the land within Springwell - more than we would use for solar. This is to make sure we identify which areas are most suitable for solar and which should be used for environmental enhancements or retained for agricultural use.

The early results of these assessments have already helped shape our early thinking on the design for Springwell.

Springwell
Solar Farm

Assessing environmental effects

What is biodiversity net gain?

Biodiversity net gain is the term used to describe the process of increasing the overall biodiversity value of a given site. It is calculated by using the difference between pre-development and post-development habitat data. From 2023, all new developments are required to deliver at least ten percent biodiversity net gain on site.

Natural environment and ecology

Springwell would not only bring environmental bene its by contributing to our net-zero goal, it also has the potential to make a positive impact on the local environment.

The assessments that we are carrying out will identify the species and habitats currently in the area and assess any effects Springwell could have.

We are aiming to deliver a substantial ‘net gain’ in biodiversity.

Our design will ensure habitats and corridors for existing wildlife are retained and enhanced, while creating new habitats suitable for the area to increase the landscape’s biodiversity value.

We would also manage the land between and beneath the panels throughout Springwell’s operational lifetime to help improve the condition of the soil, allowing it to recover for future long-term farming use.

Springwell Solar Farm

Assessing environmental effects

Land use

At the moment, solar farms occupy less than 0.1% of the UK's land. Government plans to significantly scale up solar in line with its net-zero target are expected to bring this up to just 0.3% of the UK land area. The design of Springwell will be informed by detailed surveys to identify the land most suitable for continued farming and where appropriate, provide a robust justification for using such land.

Reducing visual impact

While solar farms are low-lying in nature, we recognise that they represent a change to what is currently there. Our aim is to design Springwell sensitively to reduce its visual impact and protect the amenity of our neighbours. As part of our assessments, we will examine the effect Springwell could have on the landscape from a range of public viewpoints around the site. Where appropriate, we will propose mitigation such as new planting to help screen the site, in line with the principles we have set out.

Climate change

Springwell would make an important contribution to tackling climate change by reducing our reliance on more carbon-intensive forms of electricity generation, providing new, clean energy to power homes and businesses across the UK.

The UK Government has also recognised that climate change is the biggest medium to long term risk to our domestic food supply, making the delivery of sources of new renewable energy so important.

Springwell Solar Farm

Working with communities

We recognise that the construction and operation of solar farms can affect the communities around them.

Wherever we operate, we give something back to the local community. Each of our onshore wind and solar sites in the UK has a dedicated community fund to spend on improvements in the local area during its development and over the lifetime of its operation.

We welcome suggestions from the community as to how we can make a positive local contribution, whether that's through funding, employment and training, or environmental programmes.

We are also interested in hearing about existing community funds or organisations that might be interested in partnering with Springwell.

Some examples of community projects we have helped fund include improvements to community centres, footpaths, wildlife projects and tree planting. We have also recently been in discussions with communities about providing electric vehicle charging infrastructure in their local area.

Boosting the local green economy

Solar farms can have a positive impact on local economies, helping to support the provision of green jobs and training opportunities, in particular during the construction process.

We are keen to speak with schools, colleges, and training providers in the area to discuss the opportunities Springwell could create. We would also welcome conversations with business groups and organisations to better understand how the project could make the best use of the local supply chain.

Springwell Solar Farm

Share your views

Next steps

We are carrying out this consultation to introduce our plans and gain your early feedback. This is called a 'non-statutory consultation' as it is in addition to the statutory consultation we will carry out as part of the application process.

The statutory consultation will show how our plans have evolved in response to the feedback we have received from this consultation. It will also reflect the outputs of our environmental assessment work and include more detail about the layout and design of Springwell.

How to respond

You can share your views on our proposals for Springwell Solar Farm by providing feedback here today. Alternatively, you can:

- Complete a consultation questionnaire online at: **www.springwellsolarfarm.co.uk**
- Email a questionnaire to **info@springwellsolarfarm.co.uk**
- Post a questionnaire (no stamp required) to:

  Springwell Solar Farm
  FREEPOST SEC Newgate UK LOCAL

- Submit your comments by email to: **info@springwellsolarfarm.co.uk** or in writing to the above Freepost address.

All responses must be received by the consultation deadline of 11:59pm on Tuesday 07 March 2023.

Get in touch

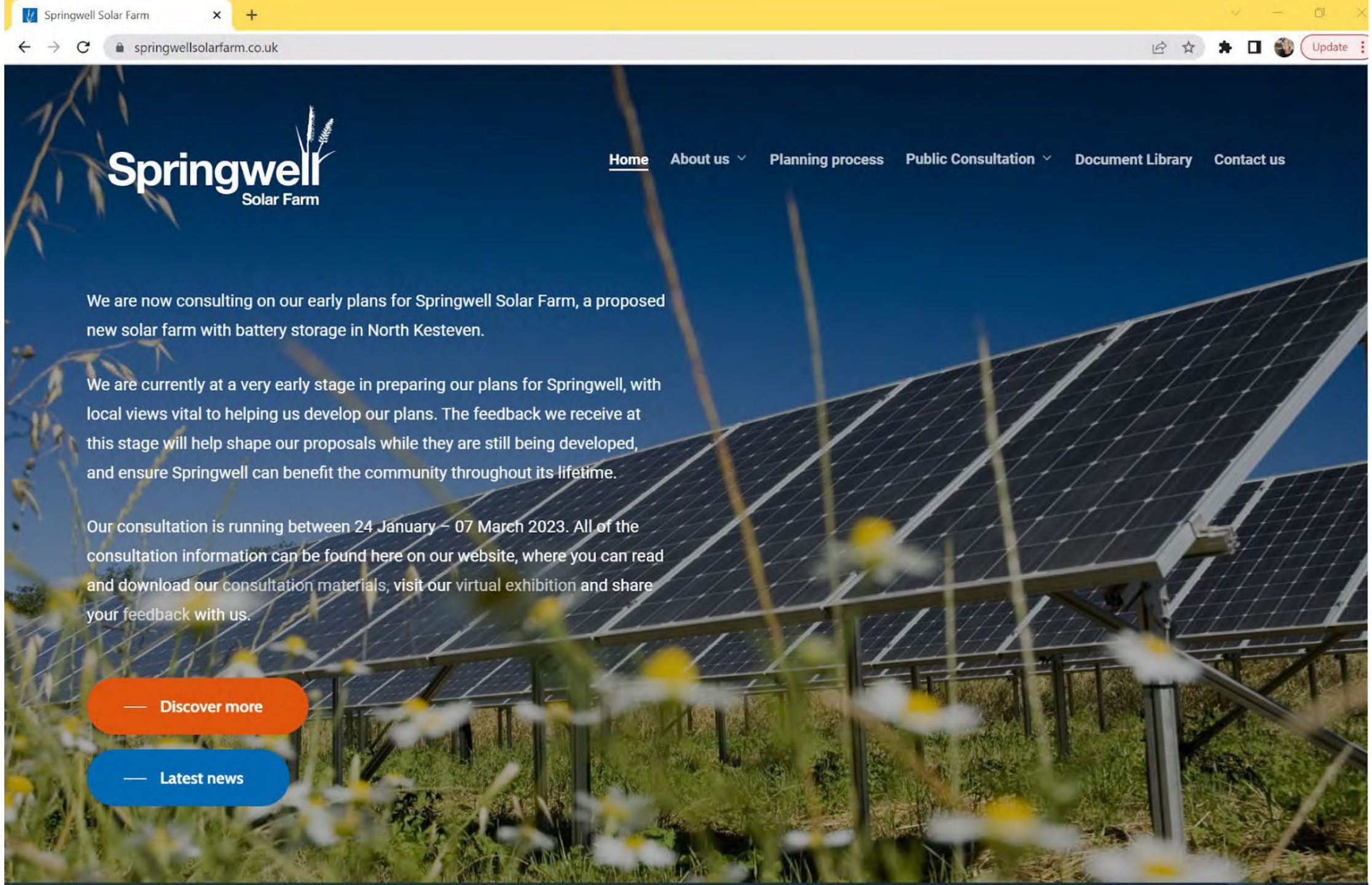
0800 038 3486

info@springwellsolarfarm.co.uk

springwellsolarfarm.co.uk

Appendix A-3 – Screenshots of Phase One Consultation website and virtual exhibition

Application Document Ref: EN010149/APP/5.2
Planning Inspectorate Scheme Ref: EN010149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We are now consulting on our early plans for Springwell Solar Farm, a proposed new solar farm with battery storage in North Kesteven.
We are currently at a very early stage in preparing our plans for Springwell, with local views vital to helping us develop our plans. The feedback we receive at this stage will help shape our proposals while they are still being developed, and ensure Springwell can benefit the community throughout its lifetime.
Our consultation is running between 24 January – 07 March 2023. All of the consultation information can be found here on our website, where you can read and download our consultation materials, visit our virtual exhibition and share your feedback with us.
Discover more
Latest news

Springwell Solar Farm

springwellsolarfarm.co.uk

Update

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What is Springwell Solar Farm?

Springwell is a proposed new solar farm with battery storage in North Kesteven that would provide enough clean, secure energy to power over 180,000 homes*. That's around half of all the homes in Lincolnshire.

Like most solar farms, Springwell would be temporary. It would have a fixed lifespan of around 40 years and could be built and operated with limited impact on the land beneath it. This means that once the panels are removed, the land could be returned to agricultural use.

We also want Springwell to benefit the local area throughout its lifetime and we will work closely with the community to identify opportunities to support local initiatives.

Read more

Windows Ink Workspace

Springwell Solar Farm

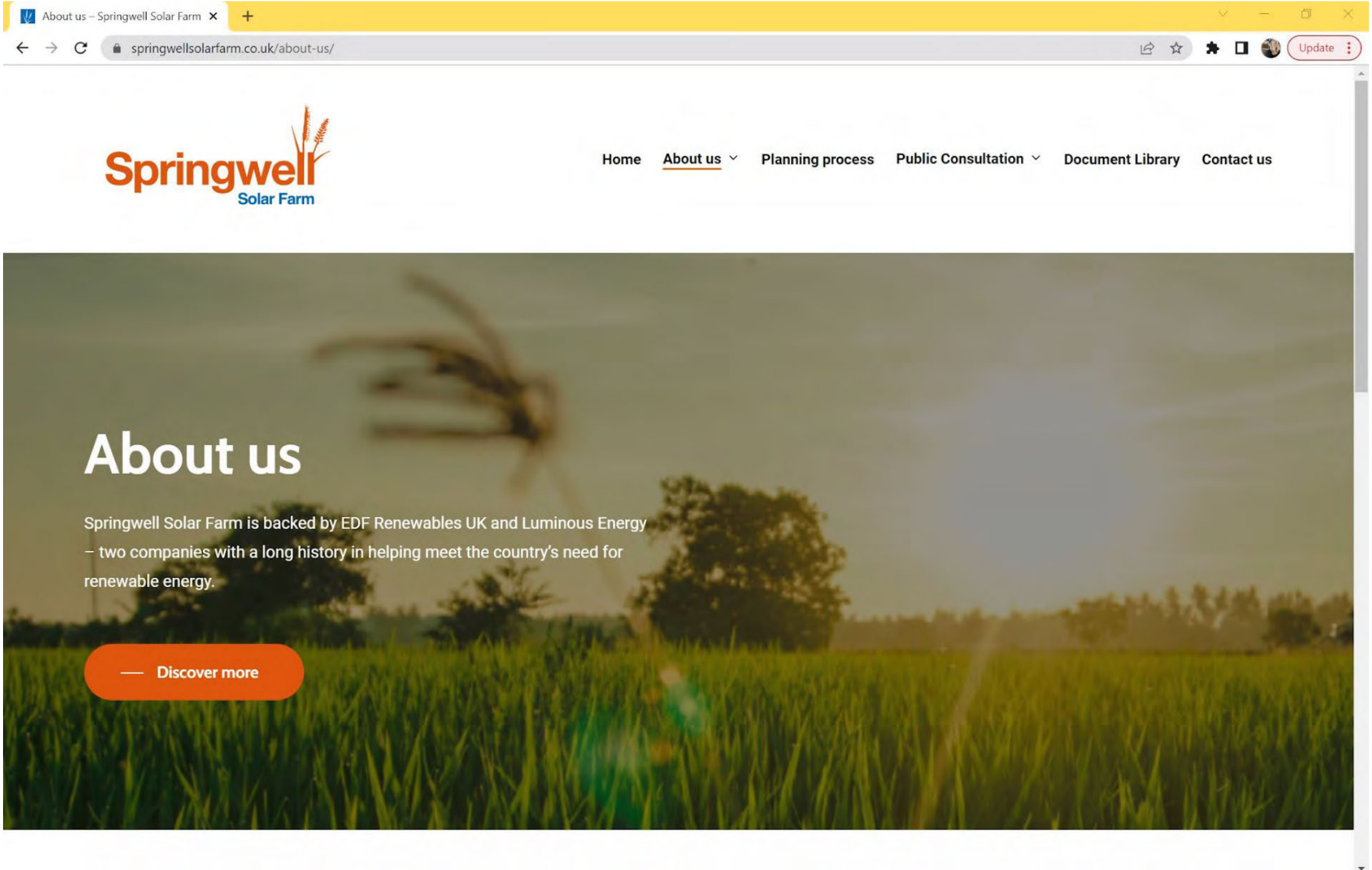
Why is Springwell Solar Farm needed?

Springwell Solar Farm would help the UK build a cleaner, independent and affordable energy system and would make an important contribution to meeting the government's target of net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

The UK is undergoing a major change in the way it meets its energy needs. In 2019 the government legislated to commit the country to achieve 'net zero' carbon emissions by 2050 as against 1990 levels.

Read more

* Based upon the average domestic electricity consumption per home (temperature corrected) per the Energy Consumption in the UK (published September 2021, Table C9 of ECUK: Consumption data tables)


About us – Springwell Solar Farm
springwellsolarfarm.co.uk/about-us/
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About us
Springwell Solar Farm is backed by EDF Renewables UK and Luminous Energy – two companies with a long history in helping meet the country's need for renewable energy.
Discover more

Springwell Solar Farm

EDF Renewables UK (www.edf-re.uk) is a subsidiary of EDF Group's, one of the world's largest low carbon electricity companies, and our investment and innovation is reducing costs for consumers and bringing significant benefits for communities.

With our operating portfolio of 38 renewable energy sites including solar, battery, onshore and offshore wind (together totalling more than 1 GW) we are providing much needed affordable, low carbon electricity. We have an expanding portfolio with almost 5 GW of projects in planning and development, including wind, battery and solar PV.

We invest in our projects and the communities where we operate for the long-term. We remain involved in projects over their lifetime from development, construction and operation, all the way through to decommissioning.

Springwell Solar Farm

We're pleased to be working with Luminous Energy, an established UK-based renewable energy developer with projects in the UK, US, Chile and Australia. The company was set up in 2013 to provide people around the world with affordable, renewable energy. Luminous Energy is now regarded as a leading player in the market having delivered 1GW of projects globally and the company's core values remain firmly at the heart of the business.

It aims to make a positive contribution to the world by providing practical answers to climate change, and actively seeks to implement initiatives that enhance biodiversity on individual projects which are in keeping with local communities and landscapes.

You can find out more about both organisations at: www.edf-re.uk and www.luminous.energy

What is Springwell Solar Farm? -

springwellsolarfarm.co.uk/what-is-springwell-solar-farm/

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Springwell Solar Farm

Springwell is a proposed new solar farm with battery storage that would provide enough clean, secure energy to power over 180,000 homes* each year. That's the equivalent of half the homes in Lincolnshire.

This plan shows our early thinking for Springwell. As part of this consultation, we are seeking your feedback on our early design – including where we have placed different elements of the solar farm, our initial ideas for new footpaths and habitats and whether there is any information we need to take into account as we develop our plans.

To find out more about our early plans and proposals, you can visit our virtual exhibition and read and download our consultation materials.

Springwell Solar Farm

To find out more about our early plans and proposals, you can visit our virtual exhibition and read and download our consultation materials.

The proposals are on land predominantly owned by Blankney Estates. Springwell Solar Farm will play an important role in safeguarding its future operations and supporting the estate's ethos of long-term sustainability, for the benefit of the environment and future generations.

*Based upon the average domestic electricity consumption per home (temperature corrected) per the Energy Consumption in the UK (published September 2021, Table C9 of ECUK: Consumption data tables)

Why is Springwell Solar Farm nee

springwellsolarfarm.co.uk/why-is-springwell-solar-farm-needed/

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Reaching net zero means fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas will need to be replaced by sources of clean, renewable electricity. This is important because the energy sector produces around 75% of greenhouse gas emissions around the world today. The government believes that by 2030, 95% of British electricity could be low carbon and by 2035, this could be 100%.

In the future, electricity will have a much larger role to play in our energy system. Not only will it be used to heat our homes, but it will play an important role across our whole economy, powering our future transport systems, buildings and industries. This means we need to produce a lot more electricity than we currently do. In fact, electricity demand is set to double by 2050.

All of this means we need to increase the amount of clean electricity we produce by increasing the sources of renewable energy we have in the UK. Having lots of sources of electricity in the UK will also help our energy system become more independent.

Solar will be an important part of the way we meet this need – it is affordable, reliable and can be built quickly compared to other renewable technologies. It is also low-impact – the amount of solar we need to reach our net-zero target would use just 0.3 per cent of land in the UK, and only for a short period. Solar lasts around 40 years and once it is removed, the land can be returned to its original use.

With the potential to generate up to 800MW of electricity, Springwell would make an important contribution to helping the UK build a cleaner, independent and affordable energy system and reach our net-zero target.

Planning process – Springwell So

springwellsolarfarm.co.uk/planning-process/

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Springwell Solar Farm

Springwell Solar Farm is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) because of the amount of electricity it would generate (over 50MW). This means we need to apply for a special type of planning consent called a Development Consent Order (DCO) to build and operate it.

Consultation is an important part of the DCO process as it enables everyone to comment on the proposals. The feedback received, along with further technical work and environmental studies, will inform the development of our proposals ahead of submission of our DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate.

For more information about the planning process, please visit the Planning Inspectorate website here:

https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/

Public Consultation – Springwell

springwellsolarfarm.co.uk/next-steps/

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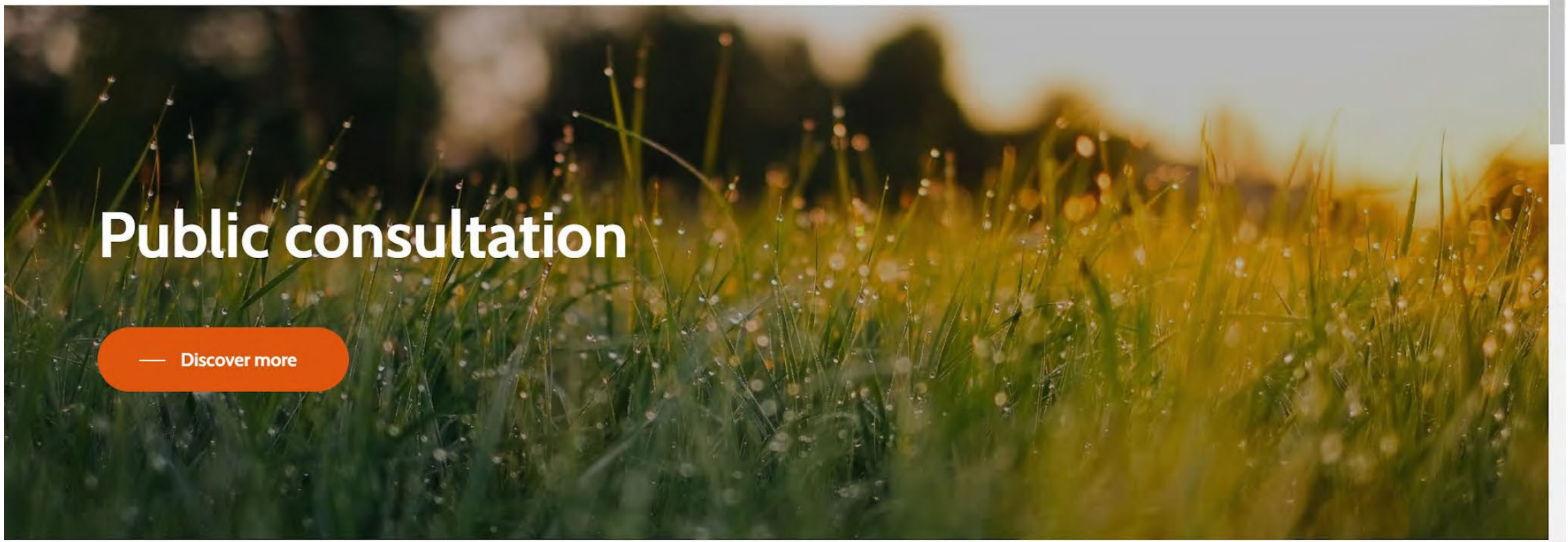

Windows Ink Workspace

Springwell Solar Farm

We are now consulting on our early proposals for Springwell. We're seeking feedback at this stage so it can inform our plans while they are still being developed.

We are keen for as many people as possible to get in touch, meet with us and share their feedback during our consultation, which is running between **Tuesday 24 January** and **Tuesday 07 March 2023**.

All of the consultation information can be found here on our website, where you can read and download our consultation materials, visit our virtual exhibition and share your feedback with us.

You can also request a copy of these materials, posted free of charge to your address, by getting in touch using the contact form, or using our contact details.

contact details.

We are holding a series of public exhibition events, where you can come and talk to us about the proposals and give us your feedback. The dates and locations of these sessions are:

Tuesday 31 January (2pm-7pm) – Blankney Old School House, Drury St, Blankney, LN4 3AZ

Wednesday 01 February (2pm-7pm) – Scopwick Village Hall, Brookside, Scopwick LN4 3PA

Friday 03 February (11am-4pm) – Ashby de la Launde Village Hall, Church Avenue, Ashby de la Launde, LN4 3JQ

Saturday 04 February (11am-4pm) – Metheringham Village Hall, Fen Road, Metheringham, LN4 3AA

Springwell Solar Farm

Friday 03 February (11am-4pm) – Ashby de la Launde Village Hall, Church Avenue, Ashby de la Launde, LN4 3JQ

Saturday 04 February (11am-4pm) – Metheringham Village Hall, Fen Road, Metheringham, LN4 3AA

You can collect a copy of our consultation materials from the following locations (please check opening hours):

- Blankney Golf Club, Lincoln Road, Blankney LN4 3AZ
- Scopwick Village Hall, Brookside, LN4 3PA
- Metheringham Community Library, High Street, Metheringham LN4 3DZ

Virtual exhibition – Springwell So

springwellsolarfarm.co.uk/virtual-exhibition/

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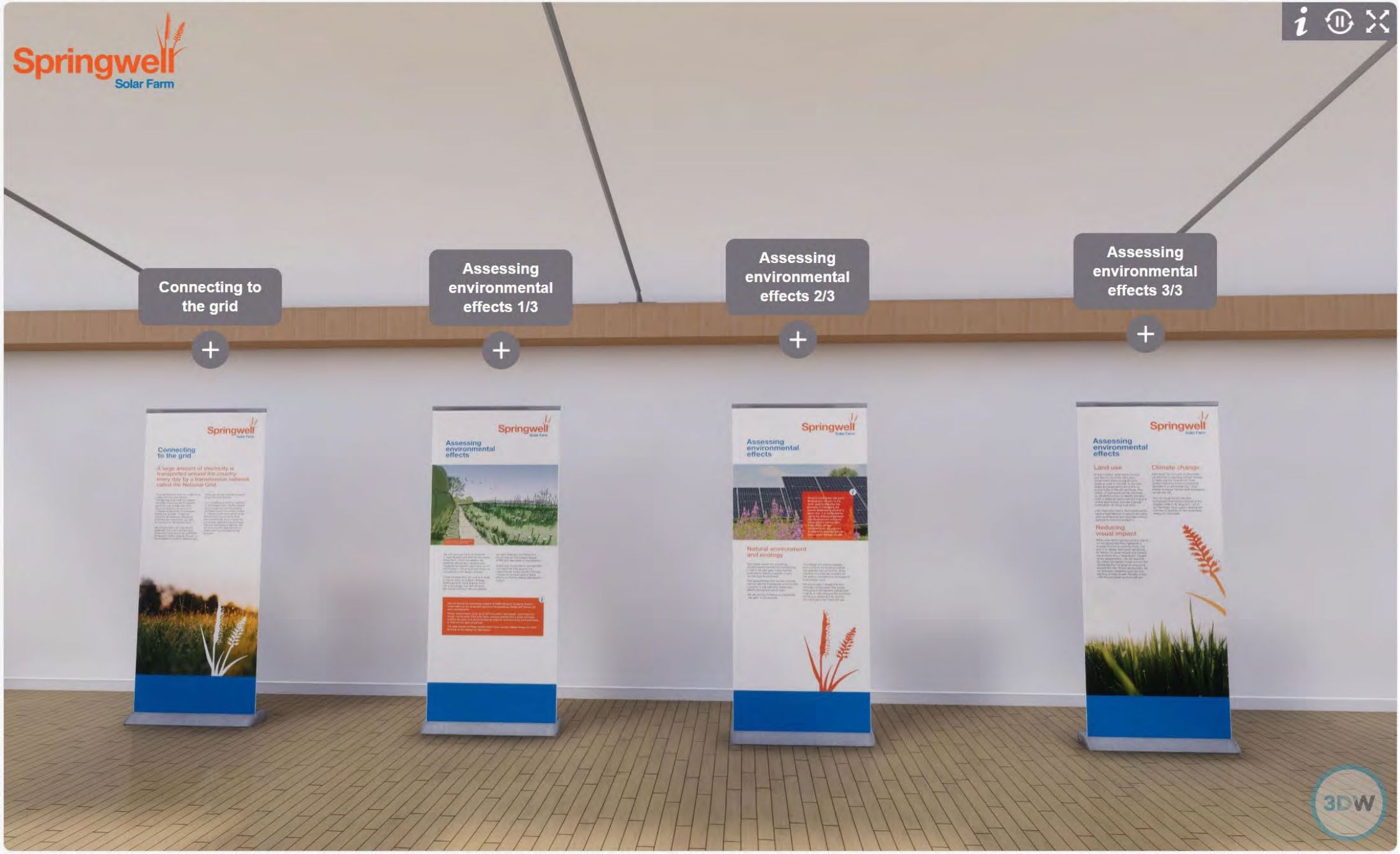
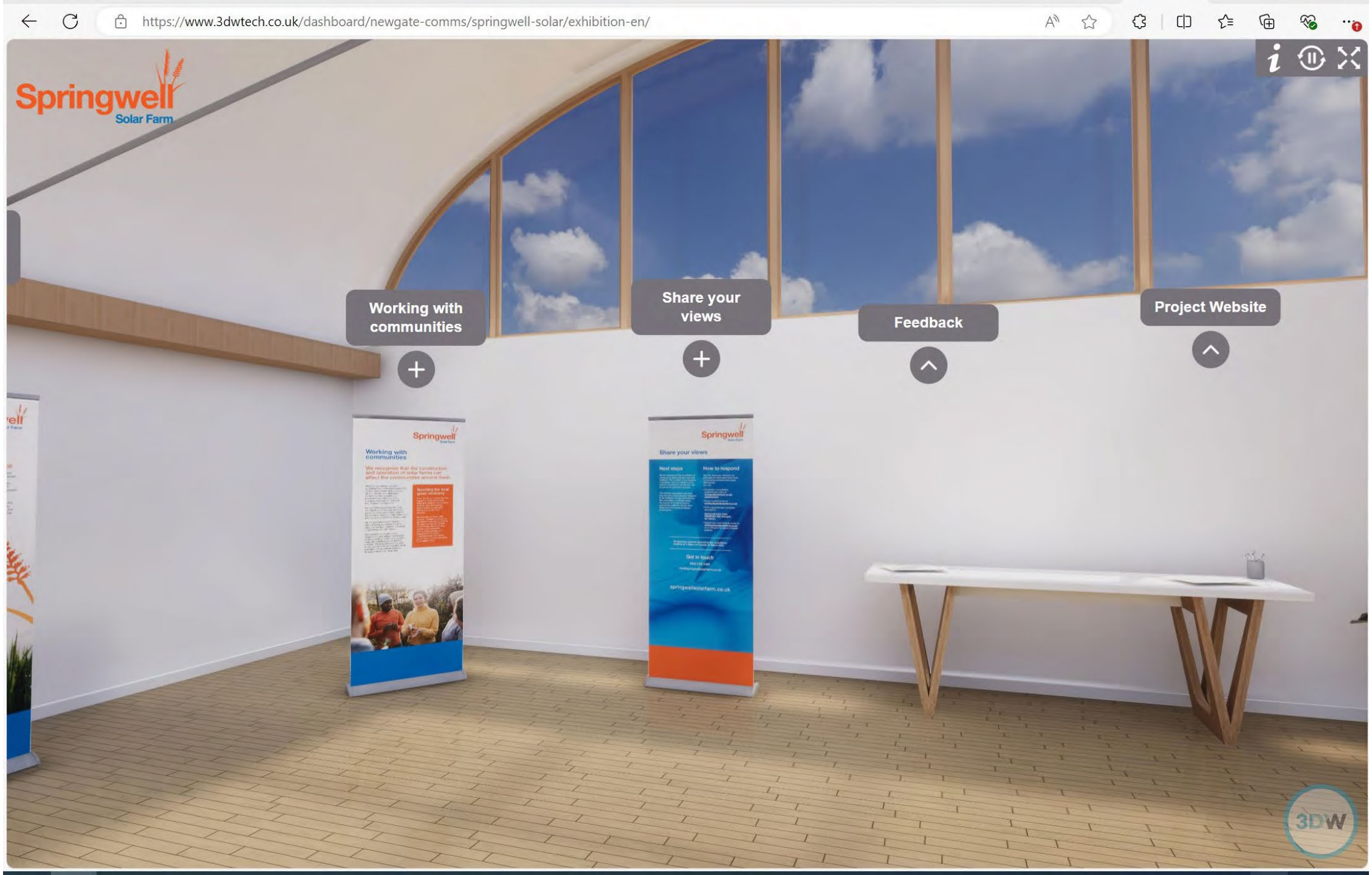
Virtual exhibition

Our virtual exhibition sets out the proposals and explains how you can get involved in the consultation.

Enter the virtual exhibiton


https://www.3dwtech.co.uk/dashboard/newgate-comms/springwell-solar/exhibition-en/
Springwell
Solar Farm
Project Website
Welcome
Introducing Springwell
Springwell
Welcome
Thank you for visiting our public exhibition about Springwell Solar Farm.
Springwell
Introducing Springwell
Why is it needed?
3DW




https://www.3dwtech.co.uk/dashboard/newgate-comms/springwell-solar/exhibition-en/
Springwell
Solar Farm
Working with communities
Share your views
Feedback
Project Website
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Working with communities
Springwell
Share your views
Next steps
How to respond
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Consultation booklet – Springwe

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We are now consulting on our early proposals for Springwell. We're seeking feedback at this stage so it can inform our plans while they are still being developed.

Springwell Solar Farm

We are now consulting on our early proposals for Springwell. We're seeking feedback at this stage so it can inform our plans while they are still being developed.

This booklet explains our early proposals, the process we need to follow to get planning consent, and explains how we will carry out our assessments. It also sets out the different ways you can get involved and share your views.

To view and download our booklet, please click below:

Read the booklet

Questionnaire – Springwell Solar

springwellsolarfarm.co.uk/questionnaire/

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Questionnaire

Thank you for taking the time to share your views on our early plans and proposals for Springwell Solar Farm.

Discover more

Springwell Solar Farm

We are seeking your feedback at this stage to make sure we can consider it while we are still developing our plans. This questionnaire is designed to be used having read about our proposals in the consultation booklet, which can be found here.

To complete the questionnaire, please click below:

Complete Questionnaire

Springwell Solar Farm

You can also respond to the consultation by:

Emailing a questionnaire to info@springwellsolarfarm.co.uk

Posting a questionnaire (no stamp required) to:

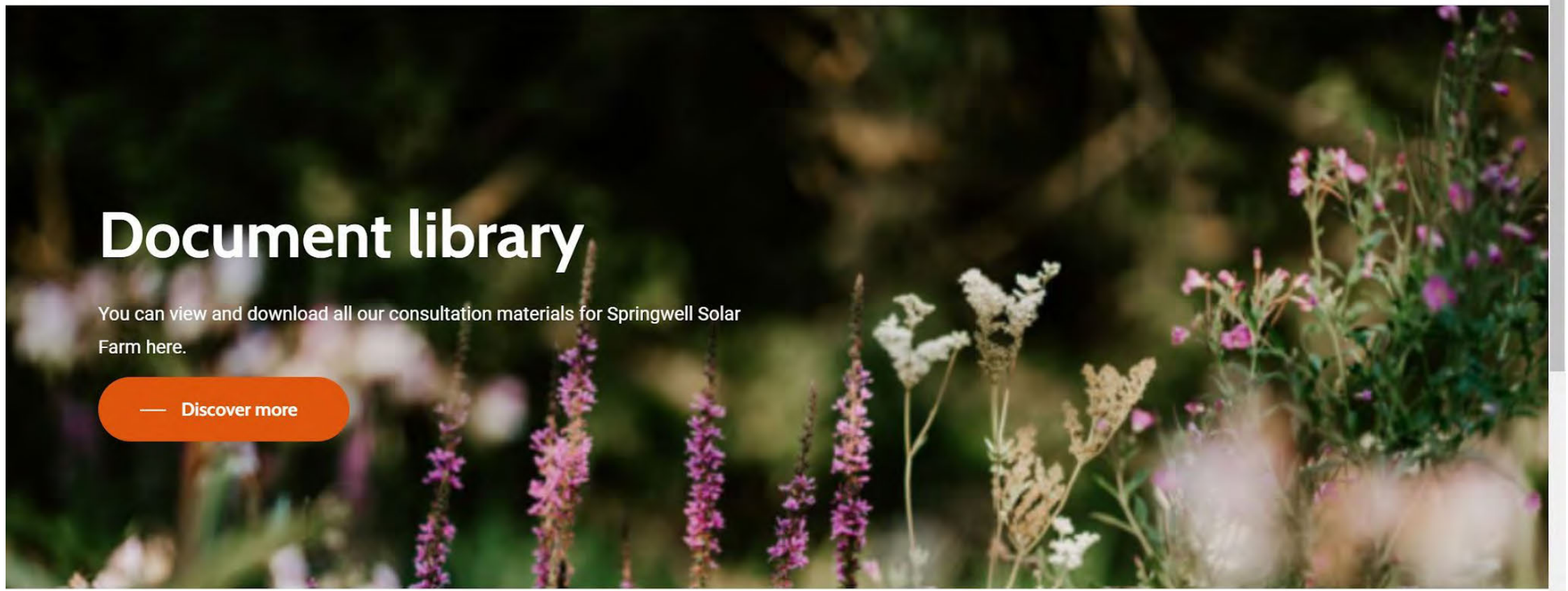
Springwell Solar Farm

FREEPOST SEC NEWGATE UK LOCAL

Submitting your comments by email to info@springwellsolarfarm.co.uk or in writing to the above Freepost address.

All responses must be received by the consultation deadline of 11:59pm on Tuesday 7 March 2023.

Springwell Solar Farm



Document library

You can view and download all our consultation materials for Springwell Solar Farm here.

— Discover more

Non-statutory consultation (24 January 2023)

Springwell Solar Farm

Non-statutory consultation (24 January 2023)

- Consultation booklet
- Questionnaire
- Consultation newsletter
- Our early design
- Springwell West, Central and East

Launch (10 January 2023)

- Springwell Solar Farm launch leaflet

Springwell Solar Farm

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Your name

Your email

Subject

Your message (optional)

Get in touch

For further information, please contact us on 0800 038 3486 or info@springwellsolarfarm.co.uk.

By submitting a contact form, you agree to our terms and conditions and that you have read our privacy policy. You may receive email updates from Springwell Solar Farm and you can opt out at any time.

Appendix A-4 – Summary of responses from Phase One Consultation and consideration by topic

Application Document Ref: EN010149/APP/5.2
Planning Inspectorate Scheme Ref: EN010149

Appendix A-4: Summary of responses from Phase One Consultation and consideration by topic[1]

Table A-4: Summary of responses from Phase One Consultation and consideration by topic

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
Alternatives			
Alternatives	Request for more information about the site selection process for the Proposed Development and whether alternative locations were considered.	At the outset the Applicant's aim was to deliver a NSIP scale solar farm to meet the critical national need for low carbon and renewable energy generation. Site selection is driven primarily by: • The availability of a suitable grid connection • Suitable topography and irradiance • The availability of land **ES Volume 1, Chapter 4: Reasonable Alternatives Considered [EN010149/APP/6.1]** sets out the Applicant's approach to alternatives, including locations and technologies. The Chapter concludes that there were no reasonable alternatives that could deliver the Applicant's objectives within the same timeframe which accords with the intent of NPS EN-1 para. 4.3.22.	N

[1] Abbreviations and defined terms are included within **ES Volume 1, Chapter 00: Glossary [EN010149/APP/6.1]**

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		The Applicant considers it reasonable for the site selection process to focus on land in close proximity to a potential connection point as this represents one of the three core attributes required to deliver a NSIP scale solar farm (as set out in the **Site Selection Report** at **Appendix 1** of the **Planning Statement [EN010149/APP/7.2]**). Without a point of connection, the electricity generated would effectively have nowhere to go. This approach is supported in NPS EN-3 and helps reduce energy loss, potential environmental impacts in comparison to shorter cable routes and deliverability based on the potential additional number of land interests. The Site is based on land available to the Applicant. While the landowner may have wider interests and holdings, that does not translate into availability for solar development. The layout of the Proposed Development has been environmentally led and proposes a mixture of solar PV development, wider infrastructure and mitigation which responds to the context of the Site and is laid out in a coherent fashion. The Applicant's **Site Selection Report** is included within **Appendix 1** of the **Planning Statement [EN010149/APP/7.2].**	
Alternatives – location	Comments that the Proposed Development should be located further south where the demand for electricity is.	The Applicant sought to understand where capacity existed in existing substations or the transmission network that would be sufficient to enable the connection of a large-scale solar development. Capacity at existing substations is finite but there remains capacity in the transmission network, notably in the East	N

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		Midlands distribution network region. The East Midlands is crossed, from north to south, by a number of high-voltage transmission lines. These lines are important arteries of the National Electricity Transmission System, located between demand centres and generation zones. They provide resilience to the National Electricity Transmission System to enable very high levels of reliability to all users and are therefore likely to be well suited to connect large-scale solar generation facilities and allow the bulk transmission of power to consumers nationally whenever that power is demanded. In parallel to the search for grid capacity, the Applicant also sought to align the search with general conditions that allow for the development of large-scale solar development, notably, suitable irradiance and topography. The Applicant focused on identifying a site suitable for solar energy along one of the overhead lines before starting discussions with landowners on what land would potentially be available for development. In undertaking this search, areas of land closer to the 400kV lines were preferred to minimise the cable connection length, which limits cost, time, and potential complexity of negotiation with multiple additional landowners. Critically a shorter cable route is likely to result in a less environmentally impactful development. Plus, any environmental constraints associated with the cable route add to potential delays in the overall consenting and delivery timescale. A shorter cable route also reduces the loss of energy in transporting power	

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		to the grid and presents a more efficient use of the land. This is particularly true when routing can be delivered near the infrastructure to generate power rather than crossing other land unrelated to the development. In terms of why the Proposed Development is not located further south towards demand centres, there is no general planning policy requirement that electricity generation needs to occur close to where demand exists. The National Grid network is designed to deliver flows from locations where power is generated to where it is needed. Indeed, policy discusses key considerations in terms of how a site for solar development may be selected but it is not geographically specific. Sites should be delivered where there exists the opportunity to generate power and connect to the National Grid. That is not to say that there are not suitable sites for solar further south, however, the Applicant has set out its reasoned approach to selecting Springwell and the Application will be determined giving consideration to the robustness of this approach. A **Site Selection Report** has been prepared and forms **Appendix 1** of the **Planning Statement [EN010149/APP/7.2],** which provides an overview of the site selection process undertaken by the Applicant to identify the location of the Proposed Development.	
Alternatives – scales of solar	Comment that there are more suitable locations for	National Policy Statement (NPS) EN-1 (2024) states that decentralised and community energy systems, which by definition	N

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
	and scales of solar development, including rooftops, smaller ground-mounted solar farms, brownfield land and poorer quality land.	include rooftop solar installations, could lead to some reduction in demand on the main transmission system, but "*the government does not believe they will replace the need for new large-scale electricity infrastructure to meet our energy objectives.*" NPS EN-1 goes on to explain that the connection of large-scale generation facilities via high-voltage transmission systems enables the pooling of generation and demand and enables the efficient bulk transfer of power between areas with surplus and areas in deficit [1, Para 3.3.12]. This is a critical benefit of large-scale systems and supports energy security and system operability. Powering Up Britain's Energy Security Plan confirms that the government's view is that: "*We need to maximise deployment of both types of solar to achieve our overall [net zero and energy security] target*." The **Statement of Need [EN010149/APP/7.1]** provides evidence that, on its own, smaller scale solar, including rooftop solar, is not likely to deliver a sufficient total installed capacity at the required pace and at an affordable cost to meet the government's net zero and energy security targets. Therefore, smaller scale solar, including rooftop solar, must be considered as additional to, as opposed to instead of, large-scale solar. The Applicant considered whether sufficient previously developed land would be available to develop a utility scale solar development, however, as the North Kesteven District Council brownfield register illustrates, there are currently only five	

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)

available sites, none of which would have the capability of meeting the project objectives. Four of these sites have either full planning permission or outline planning permission for housing development. The list of these sites, their size and status are set out below:

Site Name	Size (ha)	Status
The Hoplands Depot, Boston Road, Sleaford	1.84	No planning permission
Land off Moor Lane, Swinderby	8.29	Outline permission for residential development
Land off West Street, Billinghay	1.4	Outline planning permission for residential development
Land at Former Lafford School	0.98	No planning permission
Land at former Orchard House, Rauceby Hospital, Greylees	1.95	Full planning permission for residential development

None of the above sites were pursued given the inability to meet any of the project objectives.

Of the landholdings identified by the Applicant with sufficient acreage to deliver project the objectives, all were predominantly rural and agricultural in nature, with no differing land types available that had a lesser agricultural grade than Springwell.

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		That is to say, no alternatives sites were identified by the Applicant that presented non-agricultural (e.g., contaminated or industrial) characteristics. All sites identified by the Applicant were identified on the provisional ALC (DEFRA) mapping as Grade 2 or 3. At a local level, according to the provisional and predictive ALC mapping (DEFRA and Natural England), this area (i.e. in proximity to the Order Limits) of Lincolnshire has a mixture of largely Grade 2 and Grade 3 land. The Applicant has taken into account the quality of agricultural land when identifying the Solar PV Site, based on publicly available information. This approach to considering ALC grade, in terms of the use of provisional and predictive mapping, has been considered as both satisfactory and proportionate by the Examining Authorities in relation to the Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024 and Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024. Notwithstanding the predictive mapping experience elsewhere in developing/ identifying sites for ground based solar, it is important to carry out detailed site-specific assessment work to inform design development. The wider Lincolnshire area is not mapped, therefore for an indication of the distribution the Applicant also considered the 1970s 'provisional' maps. The Applicant undertook a systematic process to determine suitable sites. A range of technical, environmental, and economic factors are considered when investigating and assessing any	

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		potential site for large-scale solar developments. A **Site Selection Report** has been prepared and forms **Appendix 1** of the **Planning Statement [EN010149/APP/7.2]**, which provides an overview of the site selection process undertaken by the Applicant to identify the location of the Proposed Development. The Site was selected because it presents the characteristics which are highly supportive in terms of the ability to deliver a NSIP scale solar development. The Site: • has a grid connection offer which would see energy transported to the national transmission network by 2030 • lies within an area of suitable irradiance and favourable topography • includes a proportion of BMV land which is characteristic of the predominating mix in the general locality and less than the Lincolnshire average • has sufficient land to enable the grid connection offer to be maximised while maintaining sufficient offsets to sensitive residential receptors • is located away from key environmental and cultural heritage related designations • is on land which is available and may be voluntarily acquired with a single landowner enabling efficiencies in delivery	

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		• is accessible from the road network and has suitable access to land not immediately adjacent the strategic road network. On the basis of the analysis presented in these documents, the Applicant considers that, as discussed in the **Statement of Need [EN010149/APP/7.1]**, the Proposed Development supports the Government's wider policy proposals.	
Alternatives – technology	Comments that there are more efficient ways of generating clean energy, including wind farms and nuclear energy.	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 4: Reasonable Alternatives Considered [EN010149/APP/6.1]** sets out alternatives considered by the Applicant and concludes that there are no suitable alternative technologies to deliver the project objectives within the same timescales at this location.	N
Approach to EIA			
EIA process	Comments disputing the validity and independence of the EIA as it would be funded by the Applicant.	The Applicant instructed EIA specialists (RSK) to undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment and prepare the Environmental Statement **[EN010149/APP/6.1- 6.4]**. RSK is held to the same high standards of professionalism as all EIA consultants, including through its registration with the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) EIA Quality Mark. The scheme includes independent review of RSKs EIA work as well as its delivery against seven 'EIA commitments'. As part of Phase Two Consultation, the Applicant published a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (**Appendix L-1** of the **Consultation Report [EN010149/APP/5.2**) which set out the	N

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		results of preliminary environmental assessments as well as further work required to inform the contents of the ES. Feedback from Phase Two Consultation on the PEIR led to several changes being made to the approach to EIA which are summarised in the Consultation Report **[EN010149/APP/5.1]** and within this Appendix. The Applicant has set out how it has approached the EIA in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Approach to the EIA [EN010149/APP/6.1]**. The ES identifies a range of possible impacts of the Proposed Development, including both beneficial and adverse, together with mitigation measures to prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset adverse effects. Should the Application be accepted for examination, the ES would be published and be subject to examination as part of the Application. This process is led by the Planning Inspectorate. As part of the examination, anyone who has registered as an 'Interested Party' is able to make representations on the Proposed Development. These representations are also made publicly available. This includes members of the public, as well as statutory bodies such as Natural England, Historic England and the host authorities.	
Battery storage			
Fire risk	Concern raised about fire risk from the battery storage, contamination from toxic gases and ability of	The Applicant has applied industry best practice to the design of the BESS, including the use of the NFCC (National Fire Chief Council) Guidance "Grid Scale Battery Energy Storage System planning – Guidance for FRS" and NFPA (National Fire	N

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
	emergency services to respond in the event of a fire.	Protection Association) 855 "Standard for the Installation of Stationary Energy Storage Systems". The Applicant has investigated BESS safety and fire risk from a thermal runaway event and adopted suitable mitigation measures detailed within the **Outline Battery Safety Management Plan (oBSMP) [EN010149/APP/7.14]** and **BESS Plume Assessment [EN010149/APP/7.19]**. These documents set out the very low likelihood of such an event (1 in 7700 years, an aggregate figure which accounts for all example BESS enclosures within the compound) along with the worst-case impacts that could occur. The **BESS Plume Assessment [EN010149/APP/7.19]** demonstrates that should a thermal runaway event occur, it would not pose significant risks to nearby human health receptors, including the closest residential receptors to the proposed BESS compound (approx. 440m to the southeast). Harmful impacts are predicted to only occur within tens of metres rather than hundreds of metres from the specific BESS enclosure involved in any thermal runaway event. Due to the low wind speed and lack of turbulence the cloud would likely be less than 6m in width. It should also be noted that the modelled plume remained well formed and showed a gradual rise to around 8m as it moved downwind, reducing the risk to people at ground level. The design of the BESS enclosure follows guidance to lay assets out in a manner that limits the ability for a thermal runaway event to spread to adjacent enclosures and nearby residential receptors. Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) would	

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		respond to any BESS event according to a mutually agreed Emergency Response Plan, which further reduces risk. Compliance with internationally accepted tests (e.g. UL9540A) would be mandatory on any BESS that could be used for the Proposed Development. The Applicant would set strict standards around safety, reliability and quality throughout procurement that must be satisfied for any BESS product or supplier to be considered. Trained staff would be used throughout the installation, operation and maintenance phases to ensure a high-quality BESS installation and that the facility continues to function as expected. On-site staff would maintain the BESS and would be able to respond swiftly and appropriately to any indications from the in-built monitoring equipment within the BESS enclosures as well as carrying out regular maintenance activities. The monitoring system would be able to pre-emptively shut down the BESS enclosure automatically if it detected early indications of a likely thermal event, even without human intervention. The Applicant is applying measures in multiple areas of the BESS to ensure high levels of system safety and integrity using a layer fire system philosophy. Some examples of mitigation that may be used are monitoring CO and H2 gas levels; heat detection; minimum 60 minutes fire rated walls; deflagration panels and sufficient physical space. The **oBSMP [EN010149/APP/7.14]** and **Flood Risk Assessment: Appendix - Outline Drainage Strategy [EN010149/APP/7.16]** set out methods to collect, contain and	

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		manage any firefighting water runoff during a thermal runaway event. It also sets out drainage strategy for normal operation. This helps to avoid, control and mitigate the risk of contamination to nearby receptors. The Applicant has engaged with Lincolnshire FRS throughout the pre-application period, with ongoing dialogue on suitable preventative measures and response to any thermal runaway event. Comments received from the Lincolnshire FRS have been incorporated into the design of the BESS compound, **oBSMP [EN010149/APP/7.14]** and the **BESS Plume Assessment [EN010149/APP/7.19]**. Part of the mitigations discussed and agreed with Lincolnshire FRS relate to the potential need for water to cool adjacent enclosures in the event of a fire. If required, the BESS compound can accommodate sufficient water storage over and above the minimum currently required under NFCC guidance. Appropriate measures would be agreed with the Lincolnshire FRS during detailed design. The Applicant has included a Draft Statement of Common Ground agreed with Lincolnshire FRS as part of its Application (**see Draft Statement of Common Ground - Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service [EN010149/APP/7.24]**).	
Biodiversity			
Birds	Comments highlighting the number of different species in the local area, and the	The design of the Proposed Development has been informed by ecology surveys (see **ES Volume 3, Appendices 7.1-7.13 [EN010149/APP/6.3]**) to avoid sensitive habitats and species	N

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
	need to ensure that wildlife is protected and not impacted by the Proposed Development. Other comments highlighted that the local area has a lot of different species of birds, such as yellowhammer, skylark, fieldfare and lapwing and it is important that these are protected.	where possible. Where impact to habitats or species is unavoidable, for example where sections of hedgerow would need to be removed for access, proposed mitigation and compensation measures would ensure there would be no significant adverse effects. The assessment of effects and mitigation are detailed in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 7: Biodiversity [EN010149/APP/6.1].** No significant adverse effects are anticipated due to embedded design and mitigation measures. With specific reference to birds, breeding bird and wintering bird surveys were carried out of the Site and wider area in 2022 and 2023. The Site was considered to be of County and District importance respectively for breeding and wintering farmland birds, including grey partridge, corn bunting, stock dove and skylark. Survey details are in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.2: Breeding Bird Survey** and **7.3: Wintering Bird Survey [EN010149/APP/6.3].** Consideration for birds has been a key part of the biodiversity design, including creation of over 100ha of grassland for ground nesting birds and enhancement of field margins and treatments under Solar PV modules to enhance foraging habitat. Habitat creation and enhancement proposals are detailed in the **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.9].** There is anticipated to be an adverse effect on birds during construction however this would be short	

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		term and is not considered likely to be significant. There is anticipated to be a significant beneficial effect on farmland birds once created and enhanced habitats have established. The impact assessment on biodiversity, including ground nesting birds is detailed in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 7: Biodiversity [EN010149/APP/6.1]**.	
Birds	Concern that the creation of new habitat could attract and support populations of birds which could increase risk of birdstrike on aircraft at military airfields.	There are no proposals to create wetland or large areas of woodland or scrub that would attract significant assemblages of birds. Therefore, it is not considered that new habitat creation and habitat enhancement measures would cause significant increases of birdstrike risk to airfields. Habitat creation and mitigation measures are designed to support the assemblage of farmland birds that already exists within the Order Limits. The assessment of the effects on birds is discussed in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 7: Biodiversity [EN010149/APP/6.1].** Information about habitat creation and enhancement proposals are detailed in the **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.9]**.	N
Deer	Comments that the movement of deer could be affected by the proposed fencing.	Field margins would have a minimum 10m buffer from security fencing, which would allow large animals such as deer to disperse across the Order Limits. Buffers would be secured through the **Design Commitments [EN010149/APP/7.4].**	N
Environmental enhancements	Comments stating that no environmental	Although there would be adverse effects on some habitats and species, mostly during the construction phase, due to the	N

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
	enhancements would make the Proposed Development acceptable.	embedded design and additional mitigation measures proposed these effects are not anticipated to be significant. Habitat creation and enhancement proposals are anticipated to have a significant beneficial effect once established during the operational phase. For example, 15,563m of new hedgerow, 16ha of new tree belts and over 100ha of neutral and calcareous grassland creation are proposed. The Proposed Development would deliver a minimum 10% Biodiversity Net Gain from habitat creation and enhancement proposals, with potential to deliver a higher BNG, as detailed in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.14: Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment [EN010149/APP/6.3]** and the **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.9].** The impact assessment and mitigation proposals to avoid significant adverse impacts and provide significant beneficial effects to biodiversity are detailed in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 7: Biodiversity [EN010149/APP/6.1]**.	
Habitats	Comments stating that habitats for existing wildlife should be retained.	Where practicable, Habitats of Principal Importance have been retained and avoided in the design. This is a key Project Principle as outlined in the **Design Approach Document [EN010149/APP/7.3]**. Although approximately 1,249m of hedgerow sections would need to be removed to facilitate access and cable installation, these hedgerows would be replanted after construction works or planted elsewhere within the Order Limits. Approximately 15,563m of new hedgerow and 16ha of new tree	N

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		belts are proposed to be planted, which is anticipated to have a significant beneficial effect once established and managed appropriately during the operational phase. No significant adverse effects on habitats and wildlife are anticipated. The impacts on habitats and wildlife are discussed in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 7: Biodiversity [EN010149/APP/6.1].** Habitats which would be retained, created and enhanced are shown in **ES Volume 2, Figure 3.3: Green Infrastructure Parameters [EN010149/APP/6.2]** and detailed in the **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.9].**	
Hedgerows	Comments supporting the filling in of existing hedgerows to screen views of the Proposed Development and improve biodiversity.	Approximately 15,563m of new hedgerow (including infilling) and 16ha of new tree belts are proposed to be planted in strategic locations to enhance connectivity, buffer woodlands and screen views where appropriate. Habitats which would be retained, created and enhanced are shown in **ES Volume 2, Figure 3.3: Green Infrastructure Parameters [EN010149/APP/6.2]** and detailed in the **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.9].**	N
Maintenance	Request for more information about how the Proposed Development would be managed during operation to encourage biodiversity.	The Proposed Development would deliver a minimum 10% Biodiversity Net Gain from habitat creation and enhancement proposals, with potential to deliver a higher BNG, as detailed in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.14: Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment [EN010149/APP/6.3]** and the **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.9].**	N

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		The **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.9]** provides the framework in which the future management of habitats within the Proposed Development would be undertaken during operation. This includes hay meadow management of grassland by mowing, hedgerow trimming, sowing/cultivation of field margins and treatments under panels to enhance habitat for a range of wildlife including birds, bats, arable flora.	
Screening	Comments stating that proposed screening would take too long to grow. Other comments were supportive about the potential for advanced planting.	It is acknowledged that new mitigation planting takes several years to establish and provide screening where this is the stated objective. The assessment in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010149/APP/6.1]** therefore presents an assessment of visual effects at year 1 following completion of construction and a second assessment of effects at year 10 following construction. By year 10, it is assumed that all new hedgerows would have become fully established and any new structure woodland planting would be at least semi-mature. Nevertheless, it is also recognised that woodland would continue to mature for many years after this. By year 10, it is assumed that any mitigation planting would have substantially fulfilled its intended mitigation function, but it is also recognised that even with mitigation planting in place, some significant effects on landscape and visual amenity would remain beyond 10 years. The Applicant has committed to advanced planting (prior to installation of solar panels) as part of the Proposed Development.	N

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		This would include planting adjacent to the A15 for a 700m section of this road to mitigate potential glint and glare effects upon road users. The full green infrastructure has been considered within the glint and glare assessment (see **ES Volume 3, Appendix 5.4: Glint and Glare Study [EN010149/APP/6.3]**).	
Trees and hedgerows	Comments supporting the provision of new tree and hedgerow planting as part of the Proposed Development.	Following Phase One Consultation, the design of the Proposed Development (including proposals for new tree and hedge planting) has been updated to take into account feedback from consultation, further technical work and the outputs of environmental assessments. The design of the Proposed Development has been guided by Project Principles. These are set out with the **Design Approach Document [EN010149/APP/7.3]** and include principles to enhance important habitats, including hedgerows and trees, where possible. Although a total length of approximately 1,249m of hedgerow sections would need to be removed to facilitate access and cable installation, these hedgerows would be re-instated after works or would be planted elsewhere within the Order Limits. Approximately 15,563m of new hedgerow and 16ha of new tree belts are proposed to be planted which is anticipated to provide a significant beneficial effect once established and managed appropriately during the operational phase. Habitats which would be retained, created and enhanced are shown in **ES Volume 2, Figure 3.3: Green Infrastructure Parameters**	N

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		[EN010149/APP/6.2] and details are provided in the **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.9]**.	
Woodlands	Comments supporting the provision of new woodlands as part of the Proposed Development.	The design of the Proposed Development has been guided by Project Principles. These are set out with the **Design Approach Document [EN010149/APP/7.3]** and include principles to enhance important habitats, including hedgerows and trees, where possible. Most woodland has been excluded from the Order Limits and there would be a minimum 15m buffer from woodland edges to protect woodland within or adjacent to the Order Limits. Approximately 16ha of new tree belts are proposed to be planted in strategic locations to buffer woodland and enhance woodland connectivity, which is anticipated to provide a significant beneficial effect once established and managed appropriately during the operational phase. Habitats which would be retained, created and enhanced are shown in **ES Volume 2, Figure 3.3: Green Infrastructure Parameters [EN010149/APP/6.2]** and details are provided in the **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.9].**	N
Community benefit			
Community benefit	Requests for free or discounted electricity for	The Applicant is unable to provide free or discounted electricity for residents closest to the Proposed Development.	N

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
	residents closest to the Proposed Development.	However, the Applicant is proposing a Community Fund of £400 per megawatt of installed capacity per year from the start of operation and lasting throughout the lifetime of the Proposed Development. It is envisaged that it would be managed by an independent third party and delivered in partnership with the local community. Local people would be able to advise on the fund strategy and spend, to prioritise issues that are important to the local area. The total amount of funding would be based on the final installed capacity of the Proposed Development. The Community Fund would be index linked from the first payment, with the RPI base rate linked to the operation date of the Proposed Development and reviewed annually.	
Community benefit	Comments that the Proposed Development would not benefit the local community.	The Applicant intends to provide benefits for the community through the enhancement of PRoWs and permissive paths, provision of a community growing area, a community fund and creating direct and indirect effects associated with employment, skills and education. The Applicant intends to promote economic benefits for the community through the activities set out in the **Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Plan [EN010149/APP/7.20].** The Plan describes activities that would promote access to employment, upskilling and re-skilling opportunities for local people. These could include work	N

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		experience placements, access to jobs, and joint Apprenticeships across industry partners. The Plan also includes provision for working with schools to promote career opportunities available to young people within renewable industries, including, importantly, those available local to their place or residence. This would support the objective, shared by regional and local stakeholders, to encourage young people to invest their careers and futures within Lincolnshire rather than seek opportunities in other parts of the UK. The Applicant is proposing to enhance approximately 2km of existing PRoW and provide approximately 3.49km of additional PRoW and 8.58km of permissive paths to improve connectivity within the area and around the Order Limits. These are secured by the **Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans [EN010149/APP/2.4]**. A new community growing area of up to approx. 2ha is proposed to the north of Scopwick in response to stakeholder feedback, adjacent to existing community facilities along Vicarage Lane. This would be available to the public and could include areas for growing of fruit, vegetables and wild foraging. More detail is available in the **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.9]**. In addition, the Applicant is proposing a Community Fund of £400 per megawatt of installed capacity per year from the start of operation and lasting throughout the lifetime of the Proposed	

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		Development. It is envisaged that it would be managed by an independent third party and delivered in partnership with the local community. Local people would be able to advise on the fund strategy and spend, to prioritise issues that are important to the local area. The Applicant held initial discussions with the Lincolnshire Community Foundation as outlined in **Appendix B-1** of the **Consultation Report [EN010149/APP/5.2]**. The total amount of funding would be based on the final installed capacity of the Proposed Development. The Community Fund would be index linked from the first payment, with the RPI base rate linked to the operation date of the Proposed Development and reviewed annually.	
Community fund	Comments that there are a number of community facilities in the local area, including schools, churches and village halls that would benefit from local funding. Other comments suggest that the community fund is a bribe and disingenuous.	The Applicant is proposing a Community Fund of £400 per megawatt of installed capacity per year from the start of operation and lasting throughout the lifetime of the Proposed Development. It is envisaged that it would be managed by an independent third party and delivered in partnership with the local community. Local people would be able to advise on the fund strategy and spend, to prioritise issues that are important to the local area. This could include upgrades to community buildings in the local area should this be a community priority. The total amount of funding would be based on the final installed capacity of the Proposed Development. The Community Fund would be index linked from the first payment, with the RPI base	N

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		rate linked to the operation date of the Proposed Development and reviewed annually. The Applicant intends to promote economic benefits for the community through the activities set out in the **Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Plan [EN010149/APP/7.20].** The Plan describes activities that would promote access to employment, upskilling and re-skilling opportunities for local people. These could include work experience placements, access to jobs, and joint Apprenticeships across industry partners. The Plan also includes provision for working with schools to promote career opportunities available to young people within renewable industries, including, importantly, those available local to their place or residence. This would support the objective, shared by regional and local stakeholders, to encourage young people to invest their careers and futures within Lincolnshire rather than seek opportunities in other parts of the UK.	
Consultation			
Consultation process	Comments stating that the consultation was misleading.	The Applicant approached pre-application consultation with a commitment to ensuring that consultees were given the opportunity to understand and provide feedback on the Proposed Development. The Applicant ensured thorough, open, and transparent engagement and consultation on its proposals, and provided	N

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		sufficient opportunities for interested parties to understand and influence its plans by publishing information in a variety of different formats and levels of detail to ensure consultees were given the opportunity to understand and provide feedback on the Proposed Development. Further information on how this was achieved is provided in **Chapter 2** of the **Consultation Report [EN010149/APP/5.1]**. Feedback from Phase One Consultation also helped to inform the Applicant's approach to Phase Two Consultation. More information is available in **Chapters 4** and **5** of the **Consultation Report [EN010149/APP/5.1]**.	
Consultation process	Comments that the consultation period was too short.	The length of the consultation period was sufficient to enable consultees to understand the Proposed Development and share their feedback. The Applicant conducted its Phase One Consultation on the Proposed Development for six weeks (42 days) between 24 January 2023 and 7 March 2023. This is 14 days more than the 28-day statutory minimum prescribed in section 45 of the PA 2008 and Regulation 4(3)(i) of the AFPF Regulations. In addition, the Applicant publicised the launch of the consultation from 10 January 2023 (two weeks ahead of the start of consultation) to give people sufficient notice of the consultation period, including the times and dates of the public events and the deadline for providing feedback.	N

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
Consultation process	Comments stating that the local community should be kept informed and consulted on the Proposed Development as it evolves.	The Applicant carried out two phases of formal consultation on the Proposed Development, along with a targeted consultation. More information is set out in **Chapters 2, 5** and **7** of the **Consultation Report [EN010149/APP/5.1]**. The Applicant used a range of methods to engage with the local community and promote awareness of the Proposed Development outside of formal phases of pre-application consultation. This included update meetings, workshops with nearby residents, updates to the Springwell Solar Farm project website, engagement relating to on-site survey works and maintenance of its communication channels throughout the pre-application consultation period. More information can be found in **Chapter 3** of the **Consultation Report [EN010149/APP/5.1]**.	N
Engagement	Request that the local authorities have more input into the consultation programme.	The Applicant met with both NKDC and LCC prior to Phase One Consultation to brief officers on the Proposed Development, which included information about the proposed consultation period. Following Phase One Consultation, the Applicant has engaged with the host authorities on the consultation process through fortnightly programmed Planning & Communications meetings (detailed in **Appendix B-2** of the **Consultation Report [EN010149/APP/5.2]**) to provide regular updates on consultation and engagement. The Applicant also consulted (both informally and formally in line with the requirements of the PA 2008) on the contents of its draft Statement of Community Consultation with	N

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		the host authorities. A number of changes were made to the SoCC as a result of feedback from the host authorities, including an additional event in Navenby, moving public events forward to week 2 of the consultation period and revising the boundary of the inner zone of consultation to a 2km buffer around the proposed Site boundary. More information is set out in **Chapter 4** of the **Consultation Report [EN010149/APP/5.1].** Prior to submission, the Applicant engaged with the host authorities on some elements of the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone. The Applicant received letters from the host authorities on 26 and 27 September 2024 confirming that, based on the documents provided and engagement undertaken to date, consultation undertaken on the Proposed Development was adequate and met the commitments set out in the SoCC. The letter to the host authorities, and copies of the letters received from the host authorities confirming engagement is included at **Appendix B-3: Early engagement on Adequacy of Consultation** of the **Consultation Report [EN010149/APP/5.2]**.	
Information	Comments that more information about different elements of the Proposed Development is needed such as photos and sizes of each element.	The Applicant included an appropriate level of information to explain and consult on the proposals at each phase of consultation. The purpose of Phase One Consultation was to gather feedback on the Applicant's early plans and proposals while also informing future phases of consultation. The Applicant published more information about the Proposed Development as part of its Phase Two Consultation, including the outputs of its	N

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		early environmental assessments. The consultation materials (see **Appendix G-2** of the **Consultation Report [EN010149/APP/5.2]**) included information about the parameters of the core elements of the Proposed Development. The PEIR (see **Appendix L-1** of the **Consultation Report [EN010149/APP/5.2]**) contained information about the parameters of each element of the Proposed Development and provided indicative imagery of each element.	
Cultural heritage			
Conservation areas	Concern expressed about proximity of the Proposed Development to Blankney and Scopwick conservation areas.	The **Archaeological Desk Based Assessment** (**ES Volume 3, Appendix 9.1 [EN010149/APP/6.3]**) has considered the heritage significance of the Blankney and Scopwick conservation areas and how they draw significance from their settings. Potential impacts to the significance of the Church of St Oswald, Blankney (within the Blankney Conservation Area) were identified at an early stage of the pre-application period as views of the church from the Spires and Steeples Trail within the Order Limits contribute to the significance of this building. In order to maintain this view and avoid impacts on the significance of the Church of St Oswald, proposals for Solar PV development were withdrawn in fields west of the Spires and Steeples Trail. There would be no visibility of the Proposed Development from other parts of the Blankney Conservation Area.	Y

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		As there are limited views out of the Scopwick Conservation Area and views into the Conservation Area from the surroundings are heavily filtered by vegetation it has been considered that siting solar PV within closer proximity to Scopwick would not adversely affect the heritage significance of the Scopwick Conservation Area. **ES Volume 1, Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010149/APP/6.1]** concludes that there would not be any likely significant effects on the Scopwick or Blankney Conservation Areas during operation.	
Heritage assets	Comments that the setting of a WW2 air crash memorial would be impacted.	The Applicant acknowledges the communal value of the memorial to those who died in the two WWII crashes. It derives significance from its position close to where the two planes crashed – its physical relationship with the crash sites providing appropriate context to the memorial. This physical relationship would not be altered by the presence of the Proposed Development although the appearance of the field in which the crashes occurred will change. Pre-application archaeological trial trenching (**ES Volume 3, Appendix 9.5: Archaeological Trial Trenching Report [EN010149/APP/6.3]**) found that remains of the aircraft have been distributed by subsequent ploughing. The Proposed Development would take this field out of arable agriculture during its operational lifetime, preventing further disturbance of the remains for this period. The siting area for the collector	N

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		compound proposed within this field would be subject to archaeological mitigation (as set out in the **Outline Written Scheme of Investigation [EN010149/APP/7.15]**) which would ensure that any remains of the crashes would be sensitively recovered, recorded and returned to the MoD or the airmen's families as appropriate. The overall effect on the heritage significance of the memorial is considered to be neutral.	
Heritage assets	Comment that the setting of Ashby Walled Garden needs to be considered.	The **Archaeological Desk Based Assessment** (**ES Volume 3, Appendix 9.1 [EN010149/APP/6.3]**) has considered the heritage significance of the Walled Garden and how it draws significance from its setting. The Order Limits are over 400m from the walled garden, and the closest areas proposed for Solar PV development are now proposed 800m to the north. Additional vegetation planting would further screen views of the Proposed Development from the area around the walled garden. Therefore, the change to the setting of the walled garden would be minor and no likely significant effects are predicted.	Y
Heritage assets	Comments highlighting the heritage value of Temple Bruer and the Knights Preceptory Tower and the need to ensure that this is not impacted by the Proposed Development.	The **Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment** (**ES Volume 3, Appendix 9.1 [EN010149/APP/6.3]**) has considered the heritage significance of the remains of the Templar Preceptory and related heritage assets and how they draw significance from their setting. The Order Limits and the closest areas proposed for Solar PV development are proposed over 900m from the Preceptory Tower at Temple Bruer. Therefore, no visibility of the Proposed	Y

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		Development is predicted and there would be no impact on this asset.	
Cumulative effects			
Wider solar developments	Comments stating that there are too many solar farms proposed in Lincolnshire and there could be inter-project effects, including visual impacts, impacts on landscape character, impacts on ground nesting birds and traffic impacts during the construction phase.	The Zones of Influence for each of the individual environmental factors have been based on relevant institute guidelines (e.g. IAQM, CIEEM). The overall combined 'search area' for the long list of relevant other existing development and/or approved development(s) has been based on the largest ZoI (study area) in terms of distance, which in this case is 10km. However, Consideration has been afforded to the adoption of a wider county level study area for cumulative assessment for some topics to consider solar developments in Lincolnshire and any developments within 1km of the border with Nottinghamshire (to the west of the Proposed Development). The Applicant has summarised below how other solar NSIPs have been accounted for in the cumulative effects assessment with respect to the specific topics referenced in the comment: • Potential for cumulative landscape and visual effects to arise in combination with Fosse Green Energy have been considered in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 16: Cumulative Effects [EN010149/APP/6.1]**. • Although there would be an adverse effect on ground nesting birds during the construction phase, this would be relatively short-term and is not considered significant. It is anticipated	N

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		that the habitat creation and enhancement proposals would provide a significant benefit to farmland birds once established and appropriately managed for the duration of the operational phase. Therefore, this would remove the potential for adverse cumulative effects with other developments in proximity to the Order Limits. Details of habitat creation, enhancement and management proposals are in the **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.9]** The embedded design and additional mitigation measures proposed to reduce the potential impacts identified, and therefore to remove potential for cumulative effects, with specific consideration to impacts on ground-nesting birds, wintering birds and bats, is discussed in the **ES Volume 1, Chapter 7: Biodiversity, [EN010149/APP/6.1].** • Inter-project cumulative effects relating to traffic and transport would depend on the likely routes used by cumulative development traffic (HGV and worker cars), and whether these overlap with routes proposed to be used by the Proposed Development in the construction phase. Of the short-list projects within the ZoI for traffic and transport, Heckington Fen Solar Park is considered to overlap in geography (road links), and timeframe and has subsequently been included within the assessment. An assessment of the inter-project cumulative effects with other existing development and/or approved developments is	

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		presented in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 16: Cumulative Effects [EN010149/APP/6.1]**.	
Decommissioning			
Disposal	Request for more information about how solar panels would be disposed of/prevented from being sent to landfill.	Solar PV modules are made up of several materials, including a metal frame, of which approximately 99% can currently be recycled. When decommissioning, options to reuse or recycle materials available at the time would be explored to ensure that as much of the materials as possible are recycled and diverted from landfill. An **Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.13]** forms part of the Application. A full Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan would be subject to the approval of local planning authorities at the time of decommissioning and would set out how materials would be reused, recycled or disposed of, in line with the waste hierarchy.	N
General	Comments expressing concern about the decommissioning process, including whether the Proposed Development would be decommissioned and what would happen to the land following decommissioning.	The DCO (see **Draft DCO [EN010149/APP/3.1]**) would include a Requirement to decommission the Proposed Development after 40 years of operation. Decommissioning would involve the removal all above ground infrastructure (including the Solar PV modules, Collector Compounds, Springwell Substation, BESS and ancillary infrastructure), which would be dismantled and removed per industry best practices. Decommissioned materials would follow	N

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		the waste hierarchy such that they would be reused where possible before recycling and disposal are considered. All concrete, hardstanding areas, foundations for the infrastructure and any internal tracks would be removed to a depth of up to 1 metre. All the below-ground cables would be left in situ to reduce ground disturbance and impacts to soil quality. The Order Limits would be reinstated in accordance with the **Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.13].** The detailed Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan would be subject to the approval of the local planning authorities at the time of decommissioning. Following decommissioning of the Proposed Development, the Site would be returned to landowners. Landscape structural planting (such as trees, hedgerows, scrub) created to deliver biodiversity mitigation and enhancement associated with the Proposed Development would be left in situ, with the exception of proposed planting within Tb2 which would need to be removed to allow the releveling of this field. Otherwise, it is assumed the landowner would return the land to agricultural use when it is handed back (including any permissive pathways).	
Design			
Height	Comments that reducing the height of the solar panels	At Phase One Consultation, solar panels up to a height of 4m were proposed. Following Phase One Consultation, the proposed	Y

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
	should be considered to reduce the visual impact of the Proposed Development.	height of the solar panels was reduced across the majority of the Site to 3.5m, and 4m in areas within Flood Zone 2 and 3. These heights were proposed at Phase Two Consultation. Following refinement of the Proposed Development following Phase Two Consultation, this has been further reduced. The maximum height of solar panels is now proposed to be 3.5m within five fields in Springwell East which are proposed within Flood Zone 2 and 3 and a maximum of 3m in all other fields proposed for Solar PV development. Heights of each element of the Proposed Development is outlined in **ES Volume 2, Figure 3.2: Height Parameters [EN010149/APP/6.2]**. The design of the Proposed Development has been informed by technical landscape and visual analysis. The landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Development are set out in detail in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010149/APP/6.1]**.	
Location of battery storage	Comments that the BESS should not be located near to Bloxholm Wood. Specific concerns raised included impact on local wildlife site, amenity of the public footpath and proximity to residential properties such as Peacock Cottages.	The Applicant noted these concerns and as part of the design iteration of the Proposed Development, BESS is no longer proposed in proximity to Bloxholm Wood. The proposed location of the BESS has been refined as part of the design process to take into account consultation feedback, environmental surveys and updated technical information. Between Phase One and Phase Two consultations, the Applicant	Y

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		refined potential locations for BESS from four potential siting zones to two (including one near Bloxholm Wood). Following Phase Two Consultation, the Applicant refined the proposed location of the BESS to a single siting zone. This is approximately 3km from Bloxholm Wood and has been sited to reduce potential impacts on Local Wildlife Sites, public footpaths and residential properties. Further information on the design evolution of the Proposed Development and the rationale for the final design is provided in the **Design Approach Document [EN010149/APP/7.3].** The siting zone for the BESS is shown on the **Works Plans [EN010149/APP/2.3]** and is located entirely within Field Tb2 to the north of Springwell West.	
Location of battery storage	Comments opposing the location of larger elements of the Proposed Development (BESS, substation) within Springwell West due to the sensitivity of the flat, open landscape.	Springwell West is the preferred location for the proposed Springwell Substation and the BESS for a variety of reasons including: • Close proximity to the existing National Grid overhead transmission line. • Close proximity to the A15 to facilitate access and avoid impact on the local road network. • The scale of the landscape, which is larger and less intimate than Springwell Central and Springwell East, and therefore more suited to large scale infrastructure.	N

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		• The presence of existing infrastructure including prominent pylons. • Relatively few sensitive visual receptors compared to Springwell Central and Springwell East. • Notably less PRoW compared to Springwell Central and Springwell East. Following Phase One Consultation, the proposed location of the Springwell Substation and BESS was reviewed and revised as part of the design process to take account of consultation feedback, environmental surveys, and updated technical information. Between Phase One and Phase Two Consultations, the Applicant refined potential areas for the BESS and Springwell Substation from four potential siting zones to two (including one near Bloxholm Wood). Following Phase Two Application, the Applicant refined the proposed location for both the BESS and Springwell Substation to a single siting zone, being co-located in a single field. The proposed siting zone for the Springwell Substation and BESS is shown on the **Works Plans [EN010149/APP/2.3]** located entirely within Field Tb2 to the north of Springwell West. Environmental assessments indicate that Field Tb2 would be less visually exposed than central land parcels in Springwell West and would have reduced impacts on users of PRoW, Bloxholm Wood	

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		Nature Reserve, and biodiversity compared to southern parcels in Springwell West. Siting of the substation and BESS within Field Tb2 additionally allows for landscape and visual mitigation of the Proposed Development from the A15 and surrounding residential receptors. The Springwell Substation and BESS compound would be offset by 250m from the A15. Earth bunding is proposed to partially screen the lower lying elements of the compound from the road. New structure planting, in the form of tree belts and hedgerows, would support with screening and integration of the substation and BESS. This would include tree belt planting to the west, south and east of the compound, while existing woodland (Gorse Hill Covert) would provide screening to the north. Further information on the design evolution of the Proposed Development and the rationale for the final design is provided in the **Design Approach Document [EN010149/APP/7.3].** It is acknowledged in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010149/APP/6.1]** that some adverse effects on landscape and visual amenity would remain, even with mitigation in place, but this would be the case wherever this infrastructure was located within Order Limits or the wider landscape.	
Location of battery storage	Concern about the visual impact of the BESS. Specific comments included	The size and location of the Proposed Development has been carefully considered, balancing the need to maximise the grid capacity whilst also making most efficient use of the land and	Y

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
	that the proposed BESS is too large, that it would have a negative visual impact and that it should be located away from residential properties, villages, public footpaths and roads.	avoiding unacceptable impacts. The **Planning Statement [EN010149/APP/7.2]** sets out the reasoning for the Proposed Development including its size and location. Springwell West is the preferred location for the BESS for a variety of reasons including: • Close proximity to the existing National Grid overhead transmission line. • Close proximity to the A15 to facilitate access and avoid impact on the local road network. • The scale of the landscape, which is larger and less intimate than Springwell Central and Springwell East, and therefore more suited to large scale infrastructure. • The presence of existing infrastructure including prominent pylons. • Relatively few sensitive visual receptors compared to Springwell Central and Springwell East. • Notably less PRoW compared to Springwell Central and Springwell East. The proposed location of the BESS has been refined as part of the design process to take account of consultation feedback, environmental surveys, and updated technical information. Between Phase One and Phase Two consultations, the Applicant	

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		refined potential areas for BESS from four potential siting zones to two (including one near Bloxholm Wood). Following Phase Two Consultation, the Applicant refined the proposed location of the BESS to a single siting zone. The proposed siting zone for the BESS is shown on the **Works Plans [EN010149/APP/2.3]**, located entirely within Field Tb2 to the north of Springwell West. Environmental assessments indicated that Field Tb2 would be less visually exposed than central land parcels in Springwell West and would have reduced impacts on users of PRoW, Bloxholm Wood Nature Reserve, and biodiversity compared to southern parcels in Springwell West. Siting of the BESS within Field Tb2 additionally allows for landscape and visual mitigation of the Proposed Development from the A15 and surrounding residential receptors. The BESS compound would be offset by 250m from the A15. Earth bunding is proposed to partially screen the lower lying elements of the compound from the road. New structure planting, in the form of tree belts and hedgerows, would support with screening and integration of the BESS compound. This would include tree belt planting to the west, south and east of the compound, while existing woodland (Gorse Hill Covert) would provide screening to the north.	

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		Further information on the design evolution of the Proposed Development and the rationale for the final design is provided in the **Design Approach Document [EN010149/APP/7.3].** It is acknowledged in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010149/APP/6.1]** that some adverse effects on landscape and visual amenity would remain even with mitigation in place but this would be the case wherever this infrastructure was located within Order Limits or the wider landscape. As a result of the design process, the Applicant believes the proposed location for the BESS is in the most appropriate location within the Order Limits.	
Location of battery storage	Comments on the potential location of the BESS close to the A15. Comments expressing support felt that it was an appropriate location. Other comments opposed the potential location, with specific concerns including security and safety issues.	Springwell West is the preferred location for the BESS for a variety of reasons including: • Close proximity to the existing National Grid overhead transmission line. • Close proximity to the A15 to facilitate access and avoid impact on the local road network. • The scale of the landscape, which is larger and less intimate than Springwell Central and Springwell East, and therefore more suited to large scale infrastructure. • The presence of existing infrastructure including prominent pylons.	Y

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		• Relatively few sensitive visual receptors compared to Springwell Central and Springwell East. • Notably less PRoW compared to Springwell Central and Springwell East. The proposed location of the BESS has been refined as part of the design process to take account of consultation feedback, environmental surveys, and updated technical information. Between Phase One and Phase Two consultations, the Applicant refined potential areas for BESS from four potential siting zones to two (including one near Bloxholm Wood). Following Phase Two Consultation, the Applicant refined the proposed location of the battery storage to a single siting zone. The proposed siting zone for the BESS is shown on the **Works Plans [EN010149/APP/2.3]**, located entirely within Field Tb2 to the north of Springwell West. Environmental assessments indicated that Field Tb2 would be less visually exposed than central land parcels in Springwell West and would have reduced impacts on users of PRoW, Bloxholm Wood Nature Reserve, and biodiversity compared to southern parcels in Springwell West. Siting of the BESS within Field Tb2 allows for landscape and visual mitigation of the Proposed Development from the A15 and surrounding residential receptors. The BESS compound would be offset by 250m from the A15. Earth bunding is proposed to	

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		partially screen the lower lying elements of the compound from the road. New structure planting, in the form of tree belts and hedgerows, would support with screening and integration of the BESS compound. This would include tree belt planting to the west, south and east of the compound, while existing woodland (Gorse Hill Covert) would provide screening to the north. Further information on the design evolution of the Proposed Development and the rationale for the final design is provided in the **Design Approach Document [EN010149/APP/7.3].** It is acknowledged in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010149/APP/6.1]** that some adverse effects on landscape and visual amenity would remain even with mitigation in place but this would be the case wherever this infrastructure was located within Order Limits or the wider landscape. The Applicant is committed to developing a battery storage facility that would provide safe, dependable operation and has consulted the Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service as part of developing the battery storage element of the Proposed Development. Prior to commencement of the construction of the BESS, an emergency response plan would be prepared by the Applicant in consultation with Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service and other relevant stakeholders. This would be maintained and reviewed regularly throughout the operating life of the BESS. The plan would be developed in accordance with National Fire Chief	

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		Council guidance, other guidance and best practice in place at the time. The **Outline Battery Safety Management Plan (Battery Commitments) [EN010149/APP/7.14]** sets out the key fire safety and security provisions for the BESS proposed to be installed at the Proposed Development including measures to reduce fire risk and fire protection measures including for: • Procurement and testing • Safe BESS design • Safe BESS construction • Safe BESS operation • End of life/BESS disposal Further detail on battery safety and fire risk (including toxic gases) in relation to the battery storage is included within the **BESS Plume Assessment [EN010149/APP/7.19].** Typical security measures are described in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010149/APP/6.1]** and illustrated in **ES Volume 2, Figure 3.1: Typical Security Details [EN010149/APP/6.2]**.	
Mitigation areas	Comments stating that there is a need for more mitigation areas.	Following Phase One Consultation, the location and quantum of mitigation areas has been reviewed and revised as part of the	N

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		design process to take account of consultation feedback, environmental surveys, and updated technical information. The Proposed Development would provide 15,563m of new hedgerow, 16ha of new tree belts and over 100ha of neutral and calcareous grassland creation as shown by the Green Infrastructure Parameters in **Appendix 1** of the **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.9]**. These habitat creation and enhancement proposals are anticipated to have a significant beneficial effect once established during the operational phase. The Proposed Development would deliver a minimum 10% Biodiversity Net Gain from habitat creation and enhancement proposals, with potential to deliver a higher BNG, as detailed in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.14: Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment [EN010149/APP/6.3]** and the **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.9].** The impact assessment and mitigation proposals to avoid significant adverse impacts and provide significant beneficial effects to biodiversity are detailed in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 7: Biodiversity [EN010149/APP/6.1]**.	
Scale	Comments that the Proposed Development is too large.	Solar development at scale is needed to help meet the urgent need for home grown, secure, renewable energy that is required by Government policy to address climate change and energy security. The scale of development is an important factor, and maximising the generating capacity of schemes improves their	N

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		economic efficiency, bringing power to market at the lowest cost possible. It is shown that larger schemes deliver more quickly and at a lower unit cost than multiple independent schemes which make up the same total capacity. The **Statement of Need [EN010149/APP/7.1],** which supports the Application, provides further detail on the need and scale for the Proposed Development. The size and location of the Proposed Development has been carefully considered, balancing the need to maximise the grid capacity whilst also making most efficient use of the land and avoiding unacceptable impacts. The **Planning Statement [EN010149/APP/7.2]** sets out the reasoning for the Proposed Development, including its size and location. The Proposed Development equates to an output of 1MW per 2.4 acres which represents an efficient use of the land for solar PV and associated infrastructure within the range identified at paragraph 2.10.17 of NPS EN-3. **Appendix 3 Policy Compliance Assessment Tables** of the **Planning Statement [EN010149/APP/7.2]** provides detailed evidence of compliance with relevant national and local policy documents and a comprehensive assessment. Following Phase One Consultation, the design of the Proposed Development was reviewed and revised to take account of stakeholder engagement, technical assessment and advice, and	

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		the outcomes of the environmental assessments. While the Order Limits increased to accommodate the Grid Connection Corridor (from 1,702ha to 1,772ha), the Applicant refined the area proposed for Solar PV development to 816ha (from 1,438ha shown as potentially suitable for solar development), as well as the potential locations for the BESS and Springwell Substation. This updated layout was presented at Phase Two Consultation for further feedback. Following Phase Two Consultation, the area proposed for Solar PV development was further reduced from 816ha to 594ha. In addition, the Order Limits reduced from 1,772ha to 1,280ha. The Applicant has set out how the design of the Proposed Development evolved in the **Design Approach Document [EN010149/APP/7.3]**.	
Screening	Comments requesting more screening along public footpaths, close to residential properties and around more visible elements of the Proposed Development, such as the battery storage.	The design of the Proposed Development has been guided by Project Principles. These are set out within the **Design Approach Document [EN010149/APP/7.3]** and include the consideration of views and the experience of people using local footpaths (Principle 5.3), local roads (Principle 1.3), as well as the individual amenity of local settlements and dwellings (Principle 1.2). A summary of how the design of the Proposed Development has responded to each of these Project Principles is provided in **Design Approach Document [EN010149/APP/7.3].**	Y

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		The Proposed Development includes a variety of mitigation measures including the provision of offsets and screening. New planting, in the form of hedgerows and tree belts, is the primary form of screening provided by the Proposed Development. This includes 15,563m of new hedgerow and 16ha of new tree belts as shown by the Green Infrastructure Parameters in **Appendix 1** of the **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.9].** The location of new planting has been informed by stakeholder engagement, technical assessment and advice, and the outcomes of EIA to mitigate the visual impacts of the Proposed Development and provide biodiversity benefit. Examples of how new planting would be used to provide screening include: • Tree belt planting is proposed to the west, south and east of Springwell Substation and BESS compound in Springwell West to mitigate views from the A15 and surrounding residential receptors. • Tree belt planting is proposed to the north of the B1191 (Heath Road) to mitigate views from the road and residential receptors. • Hedgerow planting is proposed along existing PRoW in Springwell Central and Springwell East to mitigate views from local footpaths.	

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		Further information on the rationale for new planting is provided in the **Design Approach Document [EN010149/APP/7.3]**. Effects on visual receptors including walkers, horse riders and cyclists are presented **ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010149/APP/6.1].** The impact of the Proposed Development on residential visual amenity has been assessed for each property in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 10.5: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment. [EN010149/APP/6.3].**	
Screening	Comments that the screening has the potential to alter the characteristic openness and heathland features of the local area.	The design of the Proposed Development has been developed to respond to the distinctive and unique local character of the Site, informed by relevant local studies such as the North Kesteven Landscape Character Assessment. This is set out in the **Design Approach Document [EN010149/APP/7.3]** and is one of the Project Principles (Principle 2.2) which has been used to guide the design. Proposals for new planting have been designed to complement the existing vegetation mix, structure and pattern of the landscape. For example, in Springwell East, new hedgerow planting is proposed on both sides of some PRoW to replicate the character of existing historic lanes in the landscape such as Trundle Lane. In Springwell West, tree belt planting is proposed to extend and connect with existing blocks of woodland such as Bloxholm Wood and Gorse Hill Covert. The precedent for new hedgerow planting on either side of the A15 is evident along sections of the A15 to	N

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		the north and south of the Site and was identified as the preferred approach from consultation feedback. The approach to mitigation alongside PRoW is set out in the **Design Approach Document [EN010149/APP/7.3].** The effect of mitigation planting on existing views has been taken into account in the LVIA presented in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010149/APP/6.1]**. The LVIA presented in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010149/APP/6.1]** acknowledges that in some locations new planting would foreshorten existing views but the alternative would be views of the new infrastructure which would have the same effect in any case.	
Security	Concerns raised about the security elements of the Proposed Development, including CCTV and lighting.	Security elements of the Proposed Development are necessary for safety and security reasons. This would include components such as fencing, lighting and CCTV equipment. The Applicant is committed to developing the design of these security components as sensitively as practicable to avoid unnecessary intrusion, reduce potential impacts on the local environment, integrate with the surrounding landscape, and provide appropriate levels of security. The Applicant's **Design Commitments [EN010149/APP/7.4]** include the following commitments: • The CCTV system would include passive infra-red detectors around the Solar PV development to reduce the use of lighting.	N

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		• CCTV cameras would face internally into the Solar PV development • There would be no permanent (continuous) lighting for security purposes except for at emergency exits. • Perimeter fencing around the Solar PV development would comprise a timber post and wire mesh fence to minimise visual impact. • Perimeter fencing around the Solar PV development would be offset from existing vegetation and other environmental features to reduce potential impacts. • Perimeter fencing would permit the passage of wildlife, either through a clearance at ground level or via mammal gates. A full description of the Proposed Development is provided in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description [EN010149/APP/6.1].**	
Springwell East	Comments that Springwell East would be located too close to residential properties, particularly Scopwick House and Lowfield Farm.	The design of the Proposed Development has carefully considered existing residential properties, informed by the impacts identified in the EIA, technical analysis, professional advice and stakeholder engagement (including visits by the project Landscape Architect to these properties). Following Phase One Consultation, Solar PV development was omitted from fields to the west of the Spires and Steeples Trail, resulting in a significantly greater offset from Scopwick House.	Y

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		Appropriate bespoke offsets were also established around Lowfield Farm based on visual analysis on Site. An assessment of potential effects on residential properties is set out within the **ES Volume 3, Appendix 10.5: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment [EN010149/APP/6.3]** and summarised in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010149/APP/6.1].** With specific reference to these properties and residential visual amenity: • Scopwick House: this property/group of properties has not been assessed in detail as following design iteration it would no longer lie within 200m of any above ground infrastructure. Visual effects would not be significant during any phase. • Lowfield Farm: there would be a major/moderate (significant) effect on visual amenity in year 1, reducing to moderate (not significant) at year 10. An assessment of noise and air quality impacts is set out within **ES Volume 1, Chapter 6: Air Quality** and **Chapter 12: Noise and Vibration [EN010149/APP/6.1]** which confirms that there are no likely significant noise or air quality effects anticipated at either Scopwick House or Lowfield Farm.	
Springwell Central	Comments that Springwell Central would be located too close to residential properties, including	The design of the Proposed Development has carefully considered existing residential properties, informed by the impacts identified in the EIA, technical analysis, professional	Y

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
	properties at Rowston Top, Glebe Farm, Scopwick Mill, Sheffield House.	advice and stakeholder engagement (including visits by the project Landscape Architect to these properties where possible). Following the Phase One Consultation, solar PV development was omitted from several fields to the east, south and west of the Rowston Top, resulting in a significantly greater offset from these properties. Solar PV development was also drawn back significantly from all fields surrounding Glebe Farm and further south away from Scopwick Mill. Appropriate bespoke offsets were also established around Sheffield House and adjoining properties based on visual analysis on Site. An assessment of potential effects on residential properties is set out within the **ES Volume 3, Appendix 10.5: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment [EN010149/APP/6.3]** and summarised in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010149/APP/6.1].** With specific reference to these properties and residential visual amenity: • Rowston Top: there would be a major/moderate (significant) effect on visual amenity in year 1 reducing to moderate (not significant) at year 10. • Glebe Farm: this property has not been assessed in detail as following design iteration it would no longer lie within 200m of any above ground infrastructure. Visual effects would not be significant during any phase.	

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		• Scopwick Mill: this property has not been assessed in detail as following design iteration it would no longer lie within 200m of any above ground. Visual effects would be significant during construction but not during operation. At the adjacent property (The Windmill) it is recognised that there would be a significant effect on visual amenity in both years 1 and 10 as a result of views from elevated windows. • Sheffield House: there would be a moderate (not significant) effect on visual amenity in year 1 reducing to minor (not significant) at year 10. At the adjacent Eastfield and Westfield Cottages – there would be a moderate (significant) effect on visual amenity in year 1 reducing to moderate/minor (not significant) at year 10. An assessment of noise and air quality impacts is set out within **ES Volume 1, Chapter 6: Air Quality [EN010149/APP/6.1]** and **ES Volume 1, Chapter 12: Noise and Vibration [EN010149/APP/6.1]** which confirms that there are no likely significant noise or air quality effects anticipated at Rowston Top, Glebe Farm, Scopwick Mill or Sheffield House.	
Springwell West	Comments that Springwell West would be located too close to residential properties, including Mount Farm, Toll Bar Cottage, Ashby Lodge Cottages,	The design of the Proposed Development has carefully considered carefully existing residential properties, informed by technical analysis, professional advice and stakeholder engagement (including visits by the project Landscape Architect to these properties where possible).	Y

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
	Slate House Farm and Cottages, Temple Farm, Green Man Farm, Thompson's Bottom.	Following the Phase One Consultation, solar PV development was omitted from several fields to the north of Mount Farm, resulting in a significantly greater offset from these properties. Solar PV development was also removed from Field Tb1/Bcd082 opposite Toll Bar Cottage and drawn back further south and east from Ashby Lodge Cottages. The field to the immediate south and west of Slate House Farm and Cottages was omitted and fields to the west were removed from the scheme. Appropriate bespoke offsets were also established from all other residential properties. An assessment of potential effects on residential properties is set out within the **ES Volume 3, Appendix 10.5: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment [EN010149/APP/6.3]** and summarised in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010149/APP/6.1].** With specific reference to these properties and residential visual amenity: • Mount Farm: this property (and adjacent properties) has not been assessed in detail as following design iteration it would no longer lie within 200m of any above ground infrastructure. Visual effects would not be significant during any phase. • Toll Bar Cottage: there would be a major/moderate (significant) effect on visual amenity in year 1 reducing to moderate (not significant) at year 10. At the adjacent Lupus Lair, there would be a moderate (significant) effect on visual	

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		amenity in year 1 reducing to moderate (not significant) at year 10. • Ashby Lodge Cottages (including 1-2, 3 and 4 Ashby Lodge Cottages and the Old Blacksmiths Cottage): there would be up to a major/moderate (significant) effect on visual amenity in year 1 reducing to moderate (not significant) at year 10. • Slate House Farm: this property has not been assessed in detail as following design iteration it would no longer lie within 200m of any above ground infrastructure. Visual effects would not be significant during any phase. Likewise at the adjacent Slate House Barn visual effects would not be significant. At 1-2, 3 and 4 Slate House Cottages there would be a major (significant) effect on visual amenity in year 1 reducing to moderate (not significant) at year 10. • Temple Farm and Green Man Farm: these properties have not been assessed in detail as they would not lie within 200m of any above ground infrastructure. Visual effects would not be significant during any phase. • Thompson Bottom Farm: the farm itself would not lie within 200m of any above ground infrastructure and visual effects would not be significant during any phase. At Thompson Bottom Cottages there would be a major (significant) effect on visual amenity in year 1 reducing to moderate (not significant) at year 10.	

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		An assessment of noise and air quality impacts is set out within **ES Volume 1, Chapter 6: Air Quality [EN010149/APP/6.1]** and **ES Volume 1, Chapter 12: Noise and Vibration [EN010149/APP/6.1]** which confirms that there are no likely significant noise or air quality effects anticipated at Mount Farm, Toll Bar Cottage, Ashby Lodge Cottages. Slate House Farm, Temple Farm and Green Man Farm and Thompson Bottom Farm.	
Glint and glare			
General	Comments expressing concerns about glare from solar panels.	Desk-based analysis of geometric modelling has shown that any predicted solar reflections towards dwellings, roads and railways would either not be visible or would have a low effect due to existing and proposed screening. An assessment of aviation receptors has been undertaken and instances of yellow glare are possible at RAF Cranwell, Hill Top Farm, Temple Bruer Airfield (Griffins Farm Airfield) and Cottage Farm Airfield. Instances of green glare considered to have a low impact are possible at RAF Waddington and Old Manor Farm. Based on the result of the technical assessment, the Applicant considers that the potential for yellow glare is operationally accommodatable at the identified airfields. Prior to submission of the Application, the Applicant has engaged with the Ministry of Defence and the Civil Aviation Authority on the results of its Glint and Glare Assessment. This has also involved seeking engagement with three private airfields (of	N

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		General Aviation use) to understand their operations and discuss the results of the assessment as detailed in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 5.4: Glint and Glare Study [EN010149/APP/6.3]**.	
Impact on RAF bases	Comments expressing concern about glint and glare impact on nearby RAF bases.	Following consultation and engagement with the MoD, the requested receptors including the 2-mile approach path, ATC Tower and visual circuits have been assessed in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 5.4: Glint and Glare Study [EN010149/APP/6.3]**. The results of this assessment in relation to RAF Cranwell and RAF Waddington are summarised below. RAF Cranwell: From the geometric assessment, solar reflections are geometrically possible towards the 2-mile approach path for threshold 19 and occur outside a pilot's primary field-of-view, therefore not considered significant. A low impact is predicted. Solar reflections with intensities 'potential for temporary after-image' are predicted towards sections of the circuit for 01/19. Glare occurs outside the published hours of flying and therefore is deemed operationally accommodatable (not significant). Solar reflections are not geometrically possible towards the Air Traffic Control (ATC) Tower, or 2-mile approach paths for threshold 01, 08 and 26. No impact is predicted, and mitigation is not required. RAF Waddington: Solar reflections towards the approach path for threshold 02 occur outside a pilot's field-of-view, therefore not considered significant. A low impact is predicted. Solar reflections with intensities 'low potential for temporary after-image' are predicted towards sections of the circuit for runway 02/20. The	N

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		glare intensity is considered acceptable and therefore not considered significant. A low impact is predicted. Solar reflections are not geometrically possible towards the ATC Tower and 2-mile approach paths for threshold 20. No impact is predicted. The Applicant is in ongoing engagement with the MOD regarding the outcomes noted at RAF Cranwell. While the potential for yellow glare occurs outside of its published operating hours of flying, the Applicant shared the results of its Glint and Glare Assessment and continues to welcome further engagement to discuss the assessment in more detail. Paragraph 2.10.159 of NPS EN-3 advises that: *"while there is some evidence that glint and glare from solar farms can be experienced by pilots and air traffic controllers in certain conditions, there is no evidence that glint and glare from solar farms results in significant impairment on aircraft safety".* NPS EN-3 further advises that it is unlikely that the Secretary of State would give more than limited weight to *"claims of aviation interference because of glint and glare from solar farms".*	
Health and wellbeing			
Mental health	Comments that the Proposed Development would impact the mental health of local residents.	The Planning Inspectorate agreed that human health can be scoped out of the assessment (see **ES Volume 3, Appendix 5.2: Scoping Opinion [EN010149/APP/6.3]**), on the basis that the ES should clearly set out potential impacts to human health from the Proposed Development during construction, operation and	N

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		decommissioning and cross-references to where impacts are considered and assessed within other relevant topic chapters of **ES Volume 1 [EN010149/APP/6.1].** This information is provided in Table 5.2 of **ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Approach to the EIA [EN010149/APP/6.1]**. Where an environmental assessment has concluded there are unlikely to be significant environmental impacts, it follows that there will be no impacts to human health. Where potential effects have been identified, embedded and additional mitigation measures to avoid, reduce or offset these effects have been proposed. The Applicant has developed the design of the Proposed Development in accordance with the Project Principles set out in the **Design Approach Document [EN010149/APP/7.3]**. This includes developing the design to retain all PRoW in their existing alignment during operation (Principle 5.1); protecting the amenity of the Spires and Steeples Trail (Principle 5.2); considering views and the experience of people using the Stepping Out Walks and other local footpaths (Principle 5.3); conserving the significance of heritage assets (Principle 2.4); and Protect the setting of the Scopwick and Blankney Conservation Area (Principle 2.5). Specific mitigation measures that have been incorporated into the design of the Proposed Development, in response to the Project Principles, are summarised below. Solar PV development has been discounted from specific fields within the Order Limits to break up the amount of development	

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		along the footpaths and to create green infrastructure corridors aligned to existing footpaths. For example, in Springwell East, Solar PV development was discounted from Fields By18, By20, By27, Lf03, Lf02, Md02, Md03, and Md05 to allow for the creation of green infrastructure corridors. All of these fields are adjacent to existing footpaths including the Stepping Out Scopwick Loop and the Stepping Out Blankney Circuit. As a result, there are relatively few sections of PRoW where the Solar PV development would occupy land immediately adjacent to both sides of a footpath. The exclusions of these fields from Solar PV development are secured by the spatial extents shown on the **Works Plans [EN010149/APP/2.3]**. Perimeter fencing surrounding the Solar PV development would be offset at least 15m from either side of existing and proposed statutory PRoW. In addition to this, Independent Outdoor Equipment (transformer, switchgear and central inverters) and ITS will be offset at least 50m from all existing and proposed statutory PRoW. Both of these offsets would be secured by the **Design Commitments [EN010149/APP/7.4]**. New planting, in the form of hedgerows and tree belts, would provide screening and integration of the Proposed Development where it is located close to PRoW. The location of new planting is secured in Appendix 1, of the **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.9]** and includes approximately 15,563m of new hedgerow and 16ha of new tree belts. Examples of where new planting has been used to screen	

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		views from PRoW include new hedgerow planting along the Spires and Steeples Trail and other PRoW in Springwell East. As a result of the mitigation measures summarised above the level of visual change for PRoW users would be reduced and would ensure that PRoWs can continue to be used in the same manner as pre-development of the Site. The assessment of potential impacts to recreation associated with walkers, cyclists and horse riders has been included in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 13: Population [EN010149/APP/6.1]**. The assessment concludes that there would be no significant effects to users of the PRoWs including walkers, cyclists and horse riders during the construction phase. An **Outline Public Rights of Way and Permissive Paths Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.12]** has been submitted as part of the Application. This would manage any temporary diversions or closures of PRoW during the construction phase to reduce impacts to recreation. In addition, new PRoW and permissive paths would be secured by the **Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans [EN010149/APP/2.4]** which have been developed in liaison with the Local Highway Authority and Public Right of Way Officers. This includes approximately 3.49km of additional PRoW and approximately 8.58km of additional permissive paths. The new routes are located across the Order Limits and include provision of a new off-road link between RAF Digby and Scopwick. In addition to the creation of the new routes identified above, the Proposed Development would include a permanent upgrade to	

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		the existing PRoW between Scopwick and Blankney (Spires and Steeples Trail) to bridleway status (approx. length 2,090m). This would include an upgrade of the existing surface conditions of the PRoW to better allow user access and enjoyment to 'all-weather' standard allowing year-round accessibility for non-motorised users. The surface enhancements would be secured via the **Design Commitments [EN010149/APP/7.4]** and all paths would be managed in accordance with the **Outline Public Rights of Way and Permissive Paths Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.12].**	
Physical health	Comments that the Proposed Development would impact the physical health of local residents, identifying the BESS and electromagnetic radiation as specific concerns.	The BESS and Springwell Substation have been designed and sited to account for and reduce potential environmental impacts which are presented in the **Environmental Statement [EN010149/APP/6.1-6.4]**. Applicant does not expect there to be any significant air quality or noise and vibration effects from the BESS or Springwell Substation following the implementation of mitigation measures, which includes the requirement for an operational noise modelling assessment to be carried out and for operational noise levels to be within the adopted criteria of 40 dB LAr,1hour daytime and 35dB LAr,15minute night-time which has been agreed with NKDC and secured within the **Draft DCO [EN010149/APP/3.1]**. A **BESS Plume Assessment [EN010149/APP/7.19]** has been undertaken which assesses the fire risk and thermal runaway event from the BESS and impacts on receptors. This assessment	N

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		sets out the very low likelihood of such an event (1 in 7700 years, an aggregate figure which accounts for all example BESS enclosures within the compound) along with the worst-case impacts that could occur. The **BESS Plume Assessment [EN010149/APP/7.19]** demonstrates that should a thermal runaway event occur, it would not pose significant risks to nearby receptors, including the closest residential receptors to the proposed BESS compound (approx. 440m to the south east). The BESS enclosures would be designed in line with the relevant guidance, which require assets to be laid out in a manner that limits the ability for a thermal runaway event to spread to adjacent enclosures and nearby residential receptors. In regard to electro-magnetic radiation, a study has been undertaken and is presented in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 5.5: High-level Electromagnetic Field Assessment [EN010149/APP/6.3]**. The study sets out the proposed siting zone for the cabling and includes an assessment of electromagnetic fields for underground cabling and transformer and substations. The assessment recommends a minimum clearance distance of 25m relative to public exposure limits for magnetic and electric fields related to the 400kV cable route, which is secured within the **Works Plans [EN010149/APP/2.3]**. The study concludes that there would be no effects to sensitive receptors.	

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
Landscape and visual			
A15	Concerns raised about the visual impact of the Proposed Development from the A15.	Following Phase One Consultation, mitigation measures have been embedded into the design of the Proposed Development to reduce the magnitude of change in view from the A15. This includes the incorporation of breaks in Solar PV development along the A15, the incorporation of new hedgerows along the roadside verge and the refinement of the Springwell Substation and BESS to incorporate open space between the road and this infrastructure. It is acknowledged in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010149/APP/6.1]** that during the early years of operation of the Proposed Development there would be a major/moderate adverse (significant) effect on views experienced by users of the A15. **ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010149/APP/6.1]** records that by year 10 (following the establishment of mitigation planting), the effects on views experienced by users of the A15 would reduce to moderate adverse, acknowledging that this would remain a significant effect.	Y
General	Comments expressing concern that there would be an impact on the rural character of the area which is predominately rural.	The design of the Proposed Development has been developed to respond to the distinctive and unique local character of the Site, informed by relevant local studies such as the North Kesteven Landscape Character Assessment. This is set out in the **Design Approach Document [EN010149/APP/7.3]** and is one of the	Y

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		Project Principles (Principle 2.2) which has been used to guide the design. It is acknowledged in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010149/APP/6.1]** that in the early years of operation, there would be a major/moderate adverse (significant) effect on a tightly defined tract of the landscape surrounding the Proposed Development in both Landscape Character Area (LCA) 7: Limestone Heath and LCA 11: Central Clays and Gravels. Following Phase One Consultation, mitigation measures have been embedded into the design of the Proposed Development to minimise these effects. Examples of the different types of mitigation that have been incorporated into the Proposed Development include: • Locating a greater proportion of the proposed Solar PV development in Springwell West where the scale of the landscape is larger and less intimate than Springwell Central and Springwell East. • Locating the Springwell Substation and BESS compound near to existing woodland (Gorse Covert) to provide a backdrop and vertical context to the taller elements of the Proposed Development. • Omitting Solar PV development from key topographical features in Springwell West and Springwell East.	

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		• Omitting Solar PV development from fields to break up development in Springwell East to help maintain the rural context of the landscape. • The provision of extensive new planting, in the form of tree belts and hedgerows, to screen the built elements of the Proposed Development and integrate it to the surrounding landscape. The mitigation incorporated into the design of the Proposed Development would reduce the magnitude of change in the landscape. **ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010149/APP/6.1]** records that by year 10 (following the establishment of mitigation planting), the effects on LCA 7: Limestone Heath would remain major/moderate adverse (significant) overall whilst effects in LCA11: Central Clays and Gravels would reduce to moderate adverse (significant).	
Impact on settlements	Comments that the setting of villages would be affected.	Following Phase One Consultation, additional buffers were incorporated around all settlements in the vicinity of the Proposed Development to reduce impacts on visual amenity - including Scopwick, Blankney, Ashby de la Launde and RAF Digby. Effects on visual amenity are assessed in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010149/APP/6.1].** The assessment reports that there would be no view of any element of the Proposed Development, during construction, operation and maintenance or during decommissioning from within the villages	Y

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		of Blankney, Scopwick, Kirkby Green or Ashby de la Launde and that any glimpses from the residential barracks within RAF Digby would be negligible.	
Impact on settlements	Comments that the Proposed Development would impact on the sense of rural separation between settlements, such as between Blankney and Scopwick, and Scopwick and RAF Digby.	Following Phase One Consultation, Solar PV development was omitted from fields to the west of the Spires and Steeples Trail in order to maintain the sense of rural separation between Scopwick and Blankney. Solar PV development was also drawn much further south from the B1191 to further maintain the rural separation between Scopwick and RAF Digby. Effects on visual amenity are assessed in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010149/APP/6.1].** The assessment records that in the early years of operation there would initially be a minor/negligible adverse visual effect (not significant) on users of the B1188 between Scopwick and Blankney and that by Year 10 when mitigation planting has matured, the effect would reduce to negligible (not significant). The assessment also records that in the early years of operation there would initially be a moderate adverse visual effect (significant) on users of the Spires and Steeple Trail which passes between these two villages but that by Year 10 when mitigation planting has matured, the effect would reduce to minor adverse (not significant). The assessment also reports that in the early years of operation there would initially be a moderate adverse visual effect (not significant) on users of the B1191 (Heath Road). However, this	Y

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		effect on the B1191 arises as a result primarily of views of the Proposed Development along the section of the road near the A15 rather than the section of the road between Scopwick and RAF Digby. There would be only glimpses of the Proposed Development between Scopwick and RAF Digby. By Year 10 when mitigation planting has matured, the effect on the B1191 (as a whole) would reduce to moderate/minor adverse (not significant) and any remaining glimpses of the Proposed Development between Scopwick and RAF Digby would be barely discernible. Opportunities to improve connectivity between local settlements are set out under Project Principle 5.4 and have included extending the Order Limits to provide specific enhancements arising from consultation feedback. For example, extending the Order Limits in Springwell West to provide a link between Bloxholm Wood and Brauncewell Medieval Village, providing a new PRoW to connect RAF Digby and Scopwick, as well as upgrading the Spires and Steeples Trail between Scopwick and Blankney to bridleway status (approx. length 2,090m) to better allow user access and enjoyment to 'all-weather' standard allowing year-round accessibility for non-motorised users. More information is provided in the **Design Approach Document [EN010149/APP/7.3]**.	
Landscape Character Area	Comments that the site is located within the Limestone	Effects on landscape character are assessed in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010149/APP/6.1]**. This	Y

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	Heath and Central Clays and Gravels character area which is characterised by its empty open landscape and wide-ranging views, and it is particularly sensitive due to its elevation, openness and large intensively farmed fields.	confirms that the Order Limits span LCAs 7: Limestone Heath and 11: Central Clays and Gravels. The assessment considers the sensitivity of these character areas to the type of development proposed, taking account of factors such as landform, openness and land cover amongst other things. It highlights differences in landscape character between the two character areas and notes for example that LCA 7 is more open than LCA 11. It concludes in both cases that the character of the landscape is of medium/low sensitivity to this form of development. The design of the Proposed Development has been developed to respond to the distinctive and unique local character of the Site, informed by relevant local studies such as the North Kesteven Landscape Character Assessment. This is set out in the **Design Approach Document [EN010149/APP/7.3]** and is one of the Project Principles (Principle 2.2) which has been used to guide the design. It is acknowledged in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010149/APP/6.1]** that, in the early years of operation, there would be a major/moderate adverse (significant) effect on a tightly defined tract of the landscape surrounding the Proposed Development in both LCAs. Following Phase One Consultation, mitigation measures have been embedded into the design of the Proposed Development to minimise these effects. Examples of the different types of	

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		mitigation that have been incorporated into the Proposed Development include: • Locating a greater proportion of the proposed Solar PV development in Springwell West where the scale of the landscape is larger and less intimate than Springwell Central and Springwell East. • Locating the Springwell Substation and BESS compound near to existing woodland (Gorse Covert) to provide a backdrop and vertical context to the taller elements of the Proposed Development. • Omitting Solar PV development from key topographical features in Springwell West and Springwell East. • Omitting Solar PV development from fields to break up development in Springwell East to help maintain the rural context of the landscape. • The provision of extensive new planting, in the form of tree belts and hedgerows, to screen the built elements of the Proposed Development and integrate it to the surrounding landscape. The mitigation incorporated into the design of the Proposed Development would reduce the magnitude of change in the landscape. **ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010149/APP/6.1]** records that by year 10 (following the establishment of mitigation planting), the effects on LCA 7:	

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		Limestone Heath would remain major/moderate adverse (significant) overall whilst effects in LCA11: Central Clays and Gravels would reduce to moderate adverse (significant).	
Residential amenity	Comments that there could be significant impacts on residential amenity due to the volume and proximity of solar panels.	Following Phase One Consultation, residential visual amenity assessments (RVAA) were undertaken by a Chartered Landscape Architect. This involved in-person visits to residential properties within a defined radius of the nearest infrastructure as detailed fully in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 10.5**: **Residential Visual Amenity Assessment [EN010149/APP/6.3].** The results of these assessments were used to develop bespoke design responses for each dwelling where there was potential for significant visual effects to arise. In some cases, this involved adopting greater offsets from properties and in other cases the response was to embed additional green infrastructure mitigation into the design. In addition, all those offered an RVVA were invited to attend a design workshop between Phase One and Phase Two consultations to provide feedback on the outcome of these assessments and how they would help inform the design of the Proposed Development. Further information about the design workshops is available in Chapter 3 of the **Consultation Report [EN010149/APP/5.1]**. The assessment in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010149/APP/6.1]** acknowledges that the residents of 25 dwellings would experience significant visual effects during	Y

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		year 1 but in most cases by year 10 these effects would reduce in magnitude due to the establishment of mitigation and would not be significant. It is considered likely that significant visual effects would remain at the Windmill on Heath Road reflecting the fact that views are available from elevated rooms within the converted mill.	
Topography	Comments highlighting the undulating nature of the surrounding landscape which could result in a greater degree of visibility of the Proposed Development.	Landform within and surrounding the Order Limits is discussed fully within **ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010149/APP/6.1].** It is acknowledged that the landscape in parts of the Order Limits are undulating whilst other parts are relatively flat. The design of the Proposed Development has been developed to respond to the distinctive and unique local character of the Site, informed by relevant local studies such as the North Kesteven Landscape Character Assessment. This is set out in the **Design Approach Document [EN010149/APP/7.3]** and is one of the Project Principles (Principle 2.2) which has been used to guide the design. In Springwell West and Springwell Central, the Proposed Development has been designed to respond to undulations in topography where they form notable features in the landscape. This includes a break in Solar PV development where there is a visually prominent ridge of land that crosses the A15 (between Fields Bcd106 and Bcd114 and between Fields Bcd107 and Bcd115). Solar PV development has also been discounted from	Y

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		visually prominent slopes between RAF Digby and Scopwick (Fields Bk03 and Bk07, and parts of Fields Bk06 and Bk15). The assessment in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010149/APP/6.1]** acknowledges that there would be some significant effects on landscape character within a tightly defined tract of the landscape.	
Land, soils and groundwater			
ALC	Comment that the Proposed Development should not be sited on BMV agricultural land.	Based on the ALC survey undertaken for the Order Limits, the classifications are as follows for BMV land, which comprises Grade 1, Grade 2 and Grade 3a land: • Grade 1: 6 ha (0.5% of the Order Limits) • Grade 2: 80.1 ha (6.3% of the Order Limits) • Grade 3a: 455.1 ha (35.6% of the Order Limits) Total BMV land: 541.2 ha (42.3% of the. Order Limits) The Applicant has sought to reduce impacts on BMV land and preferably use land in areas of poorer quality except where this would be inconsistent with other sustainability considerations. This has influenced both the initial site selection process and the subsequent design evolution of the Proposed Development. This includes retaining fields for arable production that comprise solely of Grade 1 or 2 land.	N

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		The quality of the soil would not be adversely affected by the Proposed Development (and may undergo improvement due to a period of not being used for agricultural purposes), despite the temporary time scale over which it will not be available for agricultural use. NPS EN-3 states that the use of lower-grade agricultural land is preferred to the use of BMV, with the position in EN-3 being that applicants should seek to utilise, where possible, "*suitable previously developed land, brownfield land, contaminated and industrial land*". The significant caveat is that paragraph 2.10.29 of EN-3 states that "*land type should not be a predominating factor in determining the suitability of the site location*". A **Site Selection Report** has also been prepared. It is included in **Appendix 1** to the **Planning Statement [EN010149/APP/7.2]**. It explains the Applicant's approach to the selection of an appropriate site to take forward as part of an application for an NSIP scale solar project. The report explains that initially, there are three fundamental attributes required to develop NSIP scale solar: suitable irradiance and topography, a connection to the National Grid, and available land. The Applicant's understanding of the land in and around the now Order Limits was also supplemented by initial conversations with Blankney Estate regarding the quality and viability of the Order Limits for agriculture. This understanding helped direct the availability of the land within the landholding and subsequent site	

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		selection at a micro level during design development. The information which has been provided to the Applicant sets out yield data across the Order Limits on a field-by-field basis from the last 13 years, as well as the landowner's own consideration of the productivity of individual parcels and its preference for continued agricultural use, whilst acknowledging that there would be a balancing of continued use for farming purposes versus the need to deliver a commercially viable project. At a site design level, the Applicant has sought to, where possible, reduce the use of BMV land, however, due to the nature of the land quality within the Order Limits and the general classification both locally and at a wider scale in Lincolnshire it has not been possible to avoid it entirely. The steps which the Applicant has taken, therefore, to avoid, reduce and subsequently mitigate impacts on BMV are explained below. It has not been possible to remove all BMV land from the Order Limits. To do so would reduce renewable energy generation capability in a location where there is available grid capacity, and at a time when the need for such development is urgent. This is a critical point and is consistent with Paragraph 2.10.30 of EN-3 which explains that solar farm developments are not prohibited on 'best and most versatile' agricultural land and that "*it is recognised that at this scale, it is likely that applicants' developments may use some agricultural land*". This point is	

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		further demonstrated by the limited availability of poorer grade land in the areas surrounding the Site. It is also important to recognise that BMV is one of several factors which influence the way design develops in the same way it is one of several criteria used in site selection. As set out earlier in this section NPS EN-3 is very clear that land type should not be a predominating factor in site selection. The Applicant considers this is relevant in both the site selection and design development process. Neither EN-1 nor EN-3 place a higher policy emphasis on the use of agricultural land in comparison to other environmental considerations but require the Applicant to justify its use. The other critical factor in the consideration of impacts on BMV is the degree of impact which it is deemed to have. The Applicant is seeking time limited consent for the Proposed Development. The **Draft DCO [EN010149/APP/3.1]** would include a requirement that each phase of the Proposed Development must be decommissioned after 40 years of operation, and the land within the Order Limit would be returned to the Landowner, expected to return to agricultural use, after which time all hard infrastructure above ground and below ground to a depth of 1metre, with the exception of cabling, would be removed from the land (as secured within the **oDEMP [EN010149/APP/7.13]**). The **Outline Soil Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.11]** provides a detailed consideration of the construction	

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		methodology, and the methods by which soil would be managed to ensure that the quality after construction, or after decommissioning, would be the same or improved from the current soil quality. Reasonable alternatives for the Proposed Development are discussed in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 4: Reasonable Alternatives Considered [EN010149/APP/6.1]**. A full assessment has been undertaken on soil and agricultural land aspects of the Proposed Development, presented in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 11: Land, Soil and Groundwater [EN010149/APP/6.1]**.	
Use of agricultural land	Comments opposing the use of agricultural land for the Proposed Development due to concerns around food security.	Food security is not an issue which is raised within the suite of Energy NPSs, the NPPF or Local Development Plan policies whilst it is recognised to be a source of national debate and has been raised in response to consultation. It is, however, referred to in the WMS 2024 which sets out that food security is an important part of our national security. Whilst food security is referenced in the 2024 WMS, nothing in that statement changes existing EN-1 and EN-3 policy with respect to BMV, not does it introduce any additional policy tests or requirements with respect to food security. The existing agricultural land use for the Proposed Development is predominantly for growing a wide range of arable crops for human consumption, animal feed and energy production. Reference is further made to the use of BMV in the 2015 Written Ministerial Statement: Planning Update (WMS	N

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		2015). The WMS 2015 is now almost ten years old and pre-dates more recent expressions of Government policy, in particular the 2023 NPSs. The Applicant considers that the demonstration of compliance with the EN-3 tests also satisfies the requirements of the 2015 WMS, albeit the WMS should be given very limited weight. Food production could continue at a lesser scale, in areas of retained agricultural land which are to be used temporarily for the installation of the cable route. The impact on quantities of food produced on a national scale would not be considered to be significant, given the temporary nature of the Proposed Development, and the area of land involved compared to the total area of land in agricultural use in the UK. This was stated to be approximately 17 million hectares in 2023 (National Statistics: Agricultural Land Use in England on 1 June 2023, DEFRA). Even without further consideration of site specifics, the total Order Limits for the Proposed Development is less than 0.01% of the total UK utilised agricultural area. Following Phase One Consultation, the Applicant undertook Agricultural Land Classification surveys, which informed the design of the Proposed Development. The Applicant has sought to minimise impacts on BMV land and preferably use land in areas of poorer quality except where this would be inconsistent with other sustainability considerations. This has influenced both the initial site selection process and the subsequent design evolution of the Proposed Development. Fields comprising of	

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		solely Grade 1 or 2 land within the Site would remain available for arable production. The Applicant notes that Grade 3a land is also classified as BMV land, however, given the large areas of Grade 3a land within the area being considered for the Proposed Development, it would not be a viable scheme on smaller land parcels, or without the use of some BMV land. By using Grade 3a land in preference to Grade 1 or Grade 2 land, the Applicant has attempted to reduce impacts to very high sensitivity soils. The Applicant provides a detailed consideration of the construction methodology, and the methods by which soil would be managed to ensure that the quality after construction, or after decommissioning, would be the same or improved from the current soil quality, as given in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 11: Land, Soil and Groundwater [EN010149/APP/6.1]** and detailed in the **Outline Soil Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.11].** The quality of the soil would not be adversely affected by the Proposed Development (and may undergo an improvement due to a period of not being used for agricultural purposes). At a site design level, the Applicant has sought to, where possible, reduce the use of BMV land, however, due to the nature of the land quality within the Order Limits and the general classification both locally and at a wider scale in Lincolnshire it has not been possible to avoid it entirely.	

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		The **Design Approach Document [EN010149/APP/7.3]** sets out Project Principles which have framed the development of the design of the Proposed Development to date. • Principle 8.1 All fields comprising solely of Grade 1 or 2 land within the site will remain available for arable production. • Principle 8.2 Prioritise the use of BMV land for arable production where practicable. • Principle 8.3 Prioritise the use of non-BMV land for habitat creation where practicable. Section 6 of the **Design Approach Document [EN010149/APP/7.3]** explains in greater detail how design measures were incorporated, and changes were made in relation to each of the Project Principles. It explains that the Applicant discounted all fields comprising solely Grade 1 or Grade 2 agricultural land from proposed built development. Fields By18 (Grade 2) and By27 (Majority Grade 1 approximately 25% Grade 2) are retained in the Order Limits and remain available for arable production and are included primarily to allow for underground cable routes and/or use of existing access tracks as indicated on the **Works Plans [EN010149/APP/2.3]**.	
Location			

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
Proximity to footpaths	Comment that the Proposed Development is located too close to footpaths.	The Applicant has developed the design of the Proposed Development to provide a sensitive response to the local PRoW network in accordance with the Project Principles set out in the **Design Approach Document [EN010149/APP/7.3].** This includes developing the design to retain all PRoW in their existing alignment during operation (Principle 5.1), protecting the amenity of the Spires and Steeples Trail (Principle 5.2), and considering views and the experience of people using the Stepping Out Walks and other local footpaths (Principle 5.3). Specific mitigation measures that have been incorporated into the design of the Proposed Development, in response to the Project Principles, are summarised below. Solar PV development has been discounted from specific fields within the Order Limits to break up the amount of development along the footpaths and to create green infrastructure corridors aligned to existing footpaths. For example in Springwell East, Solar PV development was discounted from Fields By18, By20, By27, Lf03, Lf02, Md02, Md03, and Md05 to allow for the creation of green infrastructure corridors. All of these fields are adjacent to existing footpaths including the Stepping Out Scopwick Loop and the Stepping Out Blankney Circuit. As a result, there are relatively few sections of PRoW where Solar PV development would occupy land immediately adjacent to both sides of a footpath. The exclusions of these fields from Solar PV development are	Y

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		secured by the spatial extents shown on the **Works Plans [EN010149/APP/2.3]**. Perimeter fencing surrounding the Solar PV development would be offset at least 15m from either side of existing and proposed PRoW. In addition to this, Independent Outdoor Equipment (transformer, switchgear and central inverters) and ITS would be offset at least 50m from all existing and proposed statutory PRoW. Both of these offsets would be secured by the **Design Commitments [EN010149/APP/7.4]**. New planting, in the form of hedgerows and tree belts, would provide screening and integration of the Proposed Development where it is located close to PRoW. The location of new planting is secured by **Appendix 1: Green Infrastructure Parameters** of the **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.9]** and includes approximately 15,563m of new hedgerow and 16ha of new tree belts. Examples of where new planting is proposed to screen views from PRoW include new hedgerow planting along the Spires and Steeples Trail and PRoWs in Springwell East and Springwell Central, and new tree belt planting to the south of Long Plantation. As a result of the mitigation measures summarised above the level of visual change for PRoW users would be reduced and would ensure that PRoWs could continue to be used the same as pre-development of the Site. Further details on the operational design of the Proposed Development and how it has responded	

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		to the each of the Project Principles is provided in the **Design Approach Document [EN010149/APP/7.3]**.	
Proximity to RAF Digby	Comment that the site boundary extends around the eastern and southern perimeter of RAF Digby and the Applicant should engage directly with the MOD with specific reference to any potential electromagnetic interference impacts.	The Applicant accepts the site falls within the MoD technical safeguarding zones. The Applicant engaged with the MoD following Phase Two Consultation to supply additional technical information including around Electromagnetic Fields and Electromagnetic Compatibility. The Applicant additionally removed five fields proposed for Solar PV development south of RAF Digby following Phase Two Consultation and in liaison with the MOD. Following the removal of these areas, the Order Limits were able to be reduced away from the southern perimeter of RAF Digby, though two of the identified fields remain within the Order Limits to facilitate the cable route. The Applicant is not aware of any adverse effect from the Proposed Development in connection with the zones identified but will continue to engage with the MoD in this respect. The Applicant has also included a **High-level Electromagnetic Field Assessment** as part of its Application (see **ES Volume 3, Appendix 5.5: EN010149/APP/6.3]**). The study sets out the proposed siting zone for the cabling and includes an assessment of electromagnetic fields for underground cabling and transformer and substations. The assessment recommends a minimum clearance distance of 25m relative to public exposure limits for magnetic and electric fields related to the 400kV cable route,	Y

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		which is secured within the **Works Plans [EN010149/APP/2.3]**. The study concludes that there would be no effects to sensitive receptors.	
Proximity to roads	Comments that the Proposed Development is located too close to the A15, B1191 and B1188.	The design of the Proposed Development has been guided by Project Principles. These are set out with the **Design Approach Document [EN010149/APP/7.3]** and include the consideration of views and the experience of people using the local road network (Principle 1.3). A summary of how the design of the Proposed Development has responded to each of the Project Principles is provided in **Design Approach Document [EN010149/APP/7.3]** and includes a variety of mitigation measures. This includes the provision of offsets and screening which would be secured by the spatial extents shown on the **Works Plans [EN010149/APP/2.3]** and **Appendix 1: Green Infrastructure Parameters** of the **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.9].** A summary of the mitigation measures proposed for the A15, B1191 and B1188 is provided as follows. • Along the A15, Solar PV development would be offset by a minimum of 25m from this road. This would ensure that the proposed built development would not be overbearing on the A15, enabling the retention of long-distance views from the road. Gaps in the Solar PV development are proposed to break up the view and experience of the Proposed Development when travelling along the road. This includes no	Y

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		Solar PV development in Field Bcd082, between Fields Bcd106 and Bcd114 and between Fields Bcd107 and Bcd115. Within Field Tb2, the Springwell Substation and BESS compound would be offset by 250m from the A15, with an Earth Bund proposed to partially screen the lower lying elements of the compound from the road. New structure planting, in the form of tree belts and hedgerows, would soften views of the Proposed Development from the A15 and screen it in some locations. This would include new hedgerows (or improvements to existing hedgerows where they are present) alongside the A15 for the full length of the road where it passes through Springwell West. • Along the B1191 (Heath Road) extensive blocks of vegetation are proposed where Solar PV development is proposed adjacent to the road. Elsewhere, Solar PV development is set well back from either side of the road. • Along the B1181 (Lincoln Road), Solar PV development would be set well back from the road (approximately 300m) in both Springwell Central and Springwell East and would be screened by existing mature hedgerows for the vast majority of the road. It is assessed in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010149/APP/6.1]** that there would be some significant visual effects on users of the A15 during construction, operation and decommissioning and on users of the B1191 (Heath Road) during construction only. There would also be some significant	

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		visual effects on users of the minor roads leading from the A15 to Temple Bruer and Thompson Bottom Farm. Effects on other roads would not be significant. A Glint and Glare Assessment has been undertaken (**ES Volume 3, Appendix 5.4: Glint and Glare Study [EN010149/APP/6.3]**) which includes an assessment of the A15, B1191 and B1188. Solar reflections are geometrically possible towards: • A 4.0km section of the A15; • Separate 3.0km and 1.4km sections of the B1911; and • Separate 2.4km and 1.1km sections of the B1188. Screening in the form of existing and proposed vegetation, buildings and/or intervening terrain is predicted to significantly obstruct views of reflecting panels, such that solar reflections would not be experienced. A temporary screen would be implemented along a short section of the A15 during the interim for proposed vegetation to reach a sufficient height and density to mitigate impacts.	
Proximity to villages	Comments that the Proposed Development is located too close to villages, including Scopwick, Kirkby Green, Blankney and Ashby de la Launde. Other	Following Phase One Consultation, the design of the Proposed Development was reviewed and revised to take account of feedback from consultation, technical assessment and advice, and the outcomes of initial environmental assessments. This included removal of areas proposed for Solar PV development to provide appropriate offsets to local settlements and dwellings and	Y

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
	comments requested that buffers and screening measures are applied to reduce impact on surrounding villages.	to provide a sensitive response to sequential views and the experience of people using the local road and PRoW network between settlements. As a result of these change, additional offsets have been incorporated to Scopwick, Blankney, Ashby de la Launde and RAF Digby which would be secured by the spatial extents shown on the **Works Plans [EN010149/APP/2.3].** With regard to screening, the Proposed Development includes extensive areas of new planting as the primary form of screening. This includes approximately 15,563m of new hedgerow and 16ha of new tree belts as secured by **Appendix 1: Green Infrastructure Parameters** of the **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan, [EN010149/APP/7.9]**. Some examples of how new planting is proposed to provide screening include: • Tree belt planting is proposed to the west, south and east of the Springwell Substation and BESS compound in Springwell West to mitigate views from the A15 and surrounding residential receptors. • Tree belt planting is proposed to the north of the B1191 (Heath Road) to mitigate views from the road and residential receptors • Hedgerow planting is proposed along existing PRoW in Springwell Central and Springwell East to mitigate views from local footpaths.	

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		As a result of the design changes since Phase One Consultation, **ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010149/APP/6.1]** concludes that the Proposed Development would not impact the character of local villages and would not be visible from any locations within them except for potentially glimpsed views from RAF Digby. Along the B1191 (Heath Road) and B1181 (Lincoln Road) Solar PV development would generally be set well back or screened by existing vegetation and new planting. Along local footpaths, offsets and new hedgerows would help to screen and integrate the Proposed Development with the rural landscape.	
Noise and vibration			
Construction	Comments expressing concern about noise during construction.	Potential noise impacts during the construction phase of the Proposed Development were identified at one property in the vicinity of the Order Limits between Ashby de la Launde and Scopwick. Though elevated noise levels associated with construction noise may be observed for short periods of time, the Applicant is proposing additional mitigation, including temporary hoarding to screen construction activities close to residential properties, controlling and limiting noise from reversing alarms and quieter pilling techniques for the solar frames close to residential properties, to reduce potential noise impacts to minor adverse (not significant).	N

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		Noise impacts have been assessed and are detailed in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 12: Noise and Vibration [EN010149/APP/6.1]**.	
Battery storage	Query if the BESS would produce noise and how disruptive this would be to local properties.	Noise from the BESS is generally considered to be from the cooling fans and transformers. The operational noise has been assessed in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 12: Noise and Vibration [EN010149/APP/6.1]** with no adverse impacts anticipated. More specifically, assessments covering the operational phase assume that all plant would operate at 100% capacity for both daytime and night-time as a reasonable worst-case scenario. The layout of the Proposed Development has been designed so that surrounding noise sensitive receptors are not exposed to levels higher than 40 dB $L_{Ar,1hour}$ during the daytime and 35 dB $L_{Ar,15minute}$ during the night-time (agreed with NKDC). These levels are adhered to through the proposed implementation of acoustic barriers around Springwell Substation and the BESS Compound. These rating levels are considered to be low, but due to the rural nature of the Proposed Development, ambient noise levels may be influenced by the BESS during quiet periods, such as the early morning hours.	N

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
Light pollution	Concern about light pollution from the Proposed Development.	Throughout the construction phase of the Proposed Development, the use of motion detection or manually operated lighting would be used to avoid constant lighting. A detailed lighting scheme is secured within the **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.7].** During the operational phase of the Proposed Development, no part of the Proposed Development would be continuously lit. CCTV cameras would use night-vision technology, which would be monitored remotely, avoiding the need for night-time lighting. For security requirements, Passive Infra-red Detector (PID) systems (or similar) would be installed around the perimeter of Solar PV development to provide the CCTV's night vision functionality and would be sited away from residential properties to avoid any light spill that could lead to sleep disturbances or anxiety. The operational lighting design seeks to limit any impacts on sensitive receptors by directing lighting downwards and away from the Site boundary and existing vegetation. This is secured within the **Design Commitments [EN010149/APP/7.4]**.	N
Population			
Employment	Comments that there would be a loss of jobs from the Proposed Development.	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 13: Population [EN010149/APP/6.1]** has considered the potential impacts to employment including agricultural jobs and jobs associated with the Proposed Development. The assessment concludes that there would be no significant adverse impacts to employment as a result of the Proposed Development. This is because farming operations	N

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		currently occurring within the Order Limits would be transitioned to nearby agricultural sites and therefore there would be no net loss of jobs.	
Impact on local businesses	Comment that local businesses would be impacted from the Proposed Development.	The businesses located within the Order Limits are agricultural land holdings. The impact to agricultural operations is addressed fully in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 13: Population [EN010149/APP/6.1].** The assessment concludes that there would be no significant impacts to agricultural land holdings during construction, operation and decommissioning. This is because farming operations currently occurring within the Order Limits would be transitioned to nearby agricultural sites and therefore there would be no net loss of jobs. Impacts to businesses were scoped out of further assessment due to professional judgement and experience on other similar schemes. Whilst there is the potential for businesses to benefit associated with the increased uptake in accommodation, effects to businesses were deemed not significant and thus were not assessed further. This approach was agreed with PINS at Scoping (see **ES Volume 3, Appendix 5.1: Scoping Opinion [EN010149/APP/6.3]**). The Proposed Development would require a maximum number of 650 workers during peak periods of the construction phase. Impacts associated with Gross Value Added to the local economy are assessed fully in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 13: Population [EN01046/APP/6.1]**. Whilst there would be beneficial impacts to	N

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		the local economy as a result of an increased expenditure and local Gross Value Added as a result of increased employment opportunities, these impacts were determined to be not significant at the scoping stage and thus were not further assessed. The **Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Plan [EN010149/APP/7.20]** presents how the Applicant would promote opportunities for local businesses to win work arising from the development. These would focus, in the main, upon opportunities connected directly to the construction processes on site and throughout the construction and manufacturing supply chain. The Plan also describes how it would promote opportunities for local people to gain access to jobs, upskilling and re-skilling opportunities. Both strands would contribute towards economic benefits.	
Impact on property prices	Comments that the Proposed Development would have an impact on property prices.	Published research and evidence to date in consideration of property values and large-scale solar development has not provided any conclusive evidence that large-scale solar development negatively affects the property market. The Applicant has sought to minimise likely significant effects, in particular visual effects and impacts to residential amenity in relation to properties in closest proximity to or within the Proposed Development. The approach to limiting visual effects is reported in the **Design Approach Document [EN010149/APP/7.3]**.	N

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		As a result of the offsets that have been incorporated into the Proposed Development, the landscape and visual assessment confirms that the development would not impact the character of local settlements (Scopwick, Blankney, Kirkby Green, RAF Digby and Ashby de la Launde) and would not be visible from any locations within them except for potentially glimpsed views from RAF Digby. An assessment of potential effects on residential properties is set out within **ES Volume 3, Appendix 10.5: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment [EN010149/APP/6.3]** and summarised in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010149/APP/6.1]**. Whilst a small number of residential properties would have some view of the Proposed Development, the design approach and mitigation measures proposed ensure the visual effects would not be overbearing at any dwelling. Should any parties believe that their property has decreased in value as a direct result of the physical impacts from the operation of the Proposed Development such as noise and vibration, they may be eligible to claim for compensation under Part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1973. Compensation is not payable for loss of value as a result of diminished a view/visual amenity related impact.	
Impact on tourism	Comment that there could be an impact on tourism from the Proposed	Potential impacts on businesses as a result of the Proposed Development were scoped out of the EIA. This approach was	N

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
	Development. Some comments raise that people would not be attracted to the area to use public footpaths anymore, with resultant loss of business from holiday lets and historic sites of interest.	verified by PINS in its Scoping Opinion (see **ES Volume 3, Appendix 5.2: Scoping Opinion [EN010149/APP/6.3]**). • Impacts to businesses are indirectly assessed through the consideration of agricultural land holdings, occupancy and tourism as detailed in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 13: Population [EN010149/APP/6.1]**. No significant effects on the occupancy rates of local accommodation providers during the construction or operational phases of the Proposed Development are expected, and therefore no impact on hospitality and tourist businesses is anticipated. • The Population chapter acknowledges that there could be a reduction in the use of PRoW network and the Stepping Out Network during the construction phase due to visual impacts associated with construction and project infrastructure. However, as these footpaths form part of a wider connected network, alternative paths could continue to be used and therefore there would be no impacts on businesses that rely on tourism. • There are no listed buildings within the Order Limits and the desk-based assessment (**ES Volume 3, Appendix 9.1: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment and Stage 1 Setting Assessment [EN010149/APP/6.3]**) has not identified any historic buildings within the Order Limits of more than low importance. All heritage assets within the Order Limits have been considered within the desk-based assessment and	

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		those where significant effects are predicted have been considered within the ES.	
Public Rights of Way and permissive footpaths			
Amenity	Comments that there is an opportunity to improve the amenity of new and existing footpaths through updated signage, benches and parking.	The design of the Proposed Development has been guided by Project Principles. These are set out with the **Design Approach Document [EN010149/APP/7.3]** and include enhancements to the footpath and cycle network by providing new and improved routes (Principle 5.4) and opportunities for education and interpretation of the Proposed Development and the Site (Principle 6.2). New PRoW and permissive paths would be secured by the **Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans [EN010149/APP/2.4]** and have been developed in liaison with the Local Highway Authority and PRoW officers. This includes approximately 3.49km of additional PRoW and approximately 8.58km of additional permissive paths. New routes are proposed across the Order Limits and include provision of a new off-road link between RAF Digby and Scopwick. In addition to the creation of the new routes identified above, the Proposed Development would include a permanent upgrade to the existing PRoW between Scopwick and Blankney (Spires and Steeples Trail) to bridleway status (approx. length 2,090m). This would include an upgrade of the existing surface conditions of the PRoW to better allow user access and enjoyment to 'all-weather' standard allowing year-round accessibility for all users. The surface enhancements would be	Y

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		secured via the **Design Commitments [EN010149/APP/7.4]**. All paths would be managed in accordance with the **Outline Public Rights of Way and Permissive Paths Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.12]**. The Proposed Development would also provide waymarking, signage and interpretation along the existing and proposed network of footpaths within the Order Limits. This would be secured by the **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.9]**. It would include the provision of informal, low-key interpretation boards at appropriate points across the Order Limits that would allow the local community to learn and engage with nature. Information could also be provided on the solar farm, climate change, local history and ecology and the benefits of renewable energy.	
Construction	Request for more information about the impact on public footpaths during the construction phase.	An assessment of pedestrian amenity is presented in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport [EN010149/APP/6.1]**. This includes assessment of temporary diversions to limit increases to journey times. During the construction phase, any requirements to divert existing PRoW would be temporary and across maximum periods of six months. At this stage, no closures of PRoW are anticipated. Any impacts during construction are expected to be minimal, and managed in the first instance via banksperson allowing all users to access PRoW safely and may include secure fencing and signage for all users.	N

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		The Applicant has produced an **Outline Public Rights of Way and Permissive Paths Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.12]** which sets out how the Applicant is proposing to manage PRoW and permissive pathways to ensure they are safe and accessible throughout the lifetime of the Proposed Development. Any diversion requirements would be outlined at detailed design, in line with the potential routes identified within the **Outline Public Rights of Way and Permissive Paths Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.12]**. The Applicant has engaged with LCC Highways and PRoW officers on requirements for PRoW crossings and temporary closures during construction and potential diversion options in Springwell East.	
Existing footpaths	Comments that the Proposed Development should not result in existing bridleways and footpaths being closed.	All existing permissive pathways and PRoW would be retained during the operation of the Proposed Development. In addition, the Applicant has developed the design on the Proposed Development to create an enhanced and better-connected footpath and cycle network. This includes approximately 3.49km of additional PRoW and approximately 8.58km of additional permissive paths. These are secured by the **Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans [EN010149/APP/2.4]**. During the construction phase there may be a requirement to temporarily close PRoW for a duration of up to six months. Any closure or diversion requirements would be outlined at detailed design, in line with the potential routes identified within the	N

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		Outline Public Rights of Way and Permissive Paths Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.12]. The Applicant has engaged with LCC Highways and PRoW officers on requirements for PRoW crossings and temporary closures during construction and potential diversion options in Springwell East. The Applicant has produced an **Outline Public Rights of Way and Permissive Paths Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.12]** which sets out how the Applicant is proposing to manage PRoW and permissive pathways to ensure they are safe and accessible throughout the lifetime of the Proposed Development. Consideration of Public Right of Way users during the construction phase of the Proposed Development is outlined within **ES Volume 1, Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport [EN010149/APP/6.1]**.	
Existing footpaths	Comments that there are a number of public footpaths in Springwell East that should be considered in the design of the Proposed Development.	The Applicant has developed the design of the Proposed Development to provide a sensitive response to the local PRoW network in accordance with the Project Principles set out in the **Design Approach Document [EN010149/APP/7.3]**. This includes developing the design to retain all PRoW in their existing alignment during operation (Principle 5.1), protecting the amenity of the Spires and Steeples Trail (Principle 5.2), and considering views and the experience of people using the Stepping Out Walks and other local footpaths (Principle 5.3).	Y

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		Specific mitigation measures that have been incorporated into the design of the Proposed Development in Springwell East in relation to the PRoW are summarised as below. Solar PV development has been discounted from specific fields within the Order Limits to break up the amount of development along the footpaths and to create green infrastructure corridors aligned to existing footpaths. For example, in Springwell East, Solar PV development was discounted from Fields By18, By20, By27, Lf03, Lf02, Md02, Md03, and Md05 to allow for the creation of green infrastructure corridors. All of these fields are adjacent to existing footpaths including the Stepping Out Scopwick Loop and the Stepping Out Blankney Circuit. As a result, there are relatively few sections of PRoW where the Solar PV development would occupy land immediately adjacent to both sides of a footpath. The exclusions of these fields from Solar PV development are secured by the spatial extents shown on the **Works Plans [EN010149/APP/2.3]**. Perimeter fencing surrounding the Solar PV development would be offset at least 15m from either side of existing and proposed statutory PRoW. In addition to this, Independent Outdoor Equipment (transformer, switchgear and central inverters) and ITS would be offset at least 50m from all existing and proposed statutory PRoW. Both of these offsets would be secured by the **Design Commitments [EN010149/APP/7.4]**.	

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
		New planting, in the form of hedgerows and tree belts, would provide screening and integration of the Proposed Development where it is located close to PRoW. The location of new planting is secured by **Appendix 1: Green Infrastructure Parameters** of the **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan, [EN010149/APP/7.9]** and includes approximately 15,563m of new hedgerow and 16ha of new tree belts. In Springwell East, this includes new hedgerow planting along the Spires and Steeples Trail and other PRoW. In addition to the mitigation measures identified above, the Proposed Development would include a permanent upgrade to the existing PRoW between Scopwick and Blankney to bridleway status (approx. length 2,090m). This would include an upgrade of the existing surface conditions of the trail to better allow user access and enjoyment to 'all-weather' standard allowing year-round accessibility for all users. The potential effects on PRoW and their users are a key design consideration and have been fully assessed within **ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual** and **Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport [EN010149/APP/6.1]**. Springwell East in particular has been considered in detail within the **Outline Public Rights of Way and Permissive Paths Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.12]** with a list of potential diversion routes noted within.	

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
Location of new footpaths	Request that any proposals for new footpaths are away from residential properties/neighbouring landowners.	The design of the Proposed Development has evolved in response to the environmental assessment process, consultation feedback and engagement with stakeholders as set out in the **Design Approach Document [EN010149/APP/7.3]**. Following Phase One Consultation, the Applicant refined its proposals for new footpaths to locate them away existing residential properties and avoid intrusion. For example, the proposal to create a new footpath linking RAF Digby to Scopwick has been revised to join the existing footpath on the B1191 (Heath Road) and avoid being located to the rear of residential properties. Proposals to provide footpaths to the rear of properties at RAF Digby and Glebe Farm have also been removed and revised based on consultation feedback and discussions with LCC as Local Highways Authority.	Y
Mitigation	Comments regarding approach to mitigating visual effects on public footpaths. Suggestions included increasing offsets, introducing new planting and removing solar along footpaths to break up views. Other comments highlighted the need to ensure that footpaths did not feel	The Applicant has developed the design of the Proposed Development to provide a sensitive response to the local PRoW network in accordance with the Project Principles set out in the **Design Approach Document [EN010149/APP/7.3].** This includes developing the design of the Proposed Development to retain all PRoW in their existing alignment during operation (Principle 5.1), protecting the amenity of the Spires and Steeples Trail (Principle 5.2), and considering views and the experience of people using the Stepping Out Walks and other local footpaths (Principle 5.3).	Y

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
	claustrophobic or narrow due to the Proposed Development or new planting.	Specific mitigation measures that have been incorporated into the design of the Proposed Development, in response to the Project Principles, are summarised below. Solar PV development has been discounted from specific fields within the Order Limits to break up the amount of development along the footpaths and to create green infrastructure corridors aligned to existing footpaths. For example, in Springwell East, Solar PV development was discounted from Fields By18, By20, By27, Lf03, Lf02, Md02, Md03, and Md05 to allow for the creation of green infrastructure corridors. All of these fields are adjacent to existing footpaths including the Stepping Out Scopwick Loop and the Stepping Out Blankney Circuit. As a result, there are relatively few sections of PRoW where the Solar PV development would occupy land immediately adjacent to both sides of a footpath. The exclusions of these fields from Solar PV development are secured by the spatial extents shown on the **Works Plans [EN010149/APP/2.3].** Where Solar PV development is proposed adjacent to footpaths, mitigation measures are proposed to reduce potential impacts on footpath users and create green infrastructure corridors. This includes a **Design Commitment [EN010149/APP/7.4]** to offset the perimeter fencing surrounding the Solar PV development by at least 15m to all PRoW. Larger offsets would also be provided to PRoWs in Fields C6, Lf05, Lf04, and By11 as secured by the **Works Plans [EN010149/APP/2.3].** These offsets would provide open space along the existing footpaths to create variation and	

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		interest for users. In other areas footpaths would be located within a wide walking corridor (at least 15m wide) bounded on either side by existing or proposed hedgerows, while elsewhere footpaths are bounded by a hedgerow on one side and open agricultural fields on the other. New planting, in the form of hedgerows and tree belts, would provide screening and integration of Solar PV development where it is located adjacent to PRoW. The location of new planting is secured by **Appendix 1: Green Infrastructure Parameters** of the **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.9]** and includes approximately 15,563m of new hedgerow and 16ha of new tree belts. Examples of where new planting is proposed to screen views from PRoW include new hedgerow planting along the Spires and Steeples Trail and PRoWs in Springwell East and Springwell Central, and new tree belt planting to the south of Long Plantation. Potential effects on Public Rights of Way and users is fully assessed within **ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010149/APP/6.1]**.	
New footpaths	Suggestions for footpaths, which included:	The design of the Proposed Development has been guided by Project Principles. These are set out with the **Design Approach Document [EN010149/APP/7.3]** and include enhancements to the footpath and cycle network by providing new and improved	Y

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
	• A new footpath between Scopwick House and Scopwick along B1188. • A new footpath to be provided connecting New England Lane to Brauncewell PF8. • A new footpath between RAF Digby and Scopwick. • Provision of more circular walking routes • Provision of cycle friendly paths • Provision of bridleways	routes to increase connectivity and link local settlements such as RAF Digby, Scopwick and Blankney (Principle 5.4). New PRoW and permissive paths are shown on, and would be secured by **Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans [EN010149/APP/2.4**. Proposals for new footpaths have been developed in liaison with the Local Highway Authority and PRoW officers, and in response to consultation feedback. The Proposed Development includes approximately 3.49km of additional PRoW and approximately 8.58km of additional permissive paths. With specific reference to the suggestions from Phase One Consultation, the Applicant's proposals include: • A new footpath connecting New England Lane to Brauncewell PF8 • A new PRoW between RAF Digby and Scopwick along the B1191 (Heath Road). • Provision for more circular walks via new permissive paths at Bloxholm Woods. • Upgrades to the existing PRoW between Scopwick and Blankney (Spires and Steeples Trail) to bridleway status (approx. length 2,090m). This would include an upgrade of the existing surface conditions of the PRoW to better allow user access and enjoyment to 'all-weather' standard allowing year-round accessibility for non-motorised users.	

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		The Proposed Development does not include a new footpath between Scopwick House and Scopwick along the B1188. It is considered that upgrades to the Spires and Steeples Trail provides a suitable off-road alternative for non-motorised users.	
New footpaths	Comment noting that a surfaced cycleway between Scopwick and Blankney is an objective of the Neighbourhood Plan.	The Applicant is also proposing to permanently upgrade the existing surface conditions of the Spires and Steeples Trail between Scopwick and the B1188 near Blankney to bridleway status (approx. length 2,090m). This would allow better user access and enjoyment to 'all-weather' standard allowing year-round accessibility for non-motorised users. The surface enhancements would be secured via the **Design Commitments [EN010149/APP/7.4]**.	Y
Principle of development	Comments stating that no one would use new or existing footpaths due to the impact of the Proposed Development.	The Applicant has developed the design of the Proposed Development to provide a sensitive response to the local PRoW network, including the three routes identified, and protect the cultural heritage of the landscape in accordance with the Project Principles set out in the **Design Approach Document [EN010149/APP/7.3].** This includes developing the design to retain all PRoW in their existing alignment during operation (Principle 5.1); protecting the amenity of the Spires and Steeples Trail (Principle 5.2); considering views and the experience of people using the Stepping Out Walks and other local footpaths (Principle 5.3); conserving the significance of heritage assets (Principle 2.4); and Protect the setting of the Scopwick and Blankney Conservation Area (Principle 2.5).	N

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		This includes discounting Solar PV development from fields within the Order Limits to break up the amount of development along the footpaths, and proposals to create green infrastructure corridors aligned to existing footpaths. The exclusions of fields from Solar PV development are secured by the spatial extents shown on the **Works Plans [EN010149/APP/2.3].** Perimeter fencing surrounding the Solar PV development would be offset at least 15m from either side of existing and proposed statutory PRoW. In addition to this, Independent Outdoor Equipment (transformer, switchgear and central inverters) and ITS would be offset at least 50m from all existing and proposed statutory PRoW. Both of these offsets would be secured by the **Design Commitments [EN010149/APP/7.4]**. New planting, in the form of hedgerows and tree belts, would provide screening and integration of the Proposed Development where it is located close to PRoW. The location of new planting is secured in **Appendix 1**, of the **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.9]** and includes approximately 15,563m of new hedgerow and 16ha of new tree belts. Examples of where new planting has been used to screen views from PRoW include new hedgerow planting along the Spires and Steeples Trail and other PRoW in Springwell East. As a result of the mitigation measures summarised above the level of visual change for PRoW users would be reduced and would ensure that PRoWs can continue to be used in the same	

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		manner as pre-development of the Site. Further details on the operational design of the Proposed Development and how it has responded to the each of the Project Principles is provided in the **Design Approach Document [EN010149/APP/7.3]**. The LVIA presented in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010149/APP/6.1]** includes an assessment of impacts to visual amenity of PRoW as a rest of the Proposed Development. The assessment of potential impacts to recreation associated with walkers, cyclists and horse riders has been assessed in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 13: Population [EN010149/APP/6.1]**. The Applicant has also sought to create an enhanced and better-connected footpath and cycle network. This includes approximately 3.49km of additional PRoW and approximately 8.58km of additional permissive paths, which are secured by the **Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans [EN010149/APP/2.4].** The Proposed Development would also include a permanent upgrade to the existing PRoW between Scopwick and Blankney (Spires and Steeples Trail) to bridleway status (approx. length 2,090m). This would include an upgrade of the existing surface conditions of the PRoW to better allow user access and enjoyment to 'all-weather' standard allowing year-round accessibility for non-motorised users. The surface enhancements would be secured via the **Design Commitments [EN010149/APP/7.4]**.	

Topic	Summary of comment	Applicant's response	Change (Y/N)
Spires and Steeples Trail	Comments highlighting the need to consider impacts on Spires and Steeples Trail, which is a popular walking route. Suggestions for mitigating impact included providing buffers along the route.	The design of the Proposed Development has been guided by the Project Principles set out within the **Design Approach Document [EN010149/APP/7.3].** This includes developing the design to protect the amenity of the Spires and Steeples Trail, avoiding any Solar PV development between the route and the B1188 (Principle 5.2). This has included discounting Solar PV development from all adjoining fields within the Order Limits west of the footpath (Fields C7, Md03, Md04 and Md05) and north of Scopwick (Field Md02). As a result, Solar PV development would only be located adjacent to the Spires and Steeples Trail for a short stretch of the route (approx. 250m in Fields C6, C8 and C9). This would minimise the potential visual effects on users of the footpath and ensure no views of the churches at Blankney or Scopwick would be interrupted by the Proposed Development. This is secured by the spatial extents shown on the **Works Plans [EN010149/APP/2.3].** Where Solar PV development is proposed adjacent to the Spires and Steeples Trail, mitigation measures are proposed to reduce the potential effects on footpath users. This includes a **Design Commitment [EN010149/APP/7.4**] to offset the perimeter fencing surrounding Solar PV development by at least 15m to all PRoW. In addition to this, a larger offset would be provided at the north-west corner of Field C6 where the footpath follows the corner of the field boundary.	Y

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		Mitigation planting, in the form of new hedgerows, is proposed along the western boundaries of Fields C8 and C9 and along the northern boundary of Field C6. At these locations the path would be located within a wide (minimum 15m) walking corridor bounded on either side by existing or proposed hedgerows. Once these hedgerows have established to a height of 3.5m there would be no views of the Proposed Development through the vegetation, except potentially heavily filtered glimpses in winter months, but this would be barely discernible. The location of mitigation planting would be secured by the Green Infrastructure Parameters set out in **Appendix 1** of the **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.9].** In addition to the mitigation measures identified above, the Applicant is proposing to upgrade parts of the Spires and Steeples Trail within the Order Limits to Bridleway status, with the surface of the path improved in accordance with the **Design Commitments [EN010149/APP/7.4].** Specific regard has been made to the Spires and Steeples Trail during construction to maintain the use of this route and facilitate safe construction via crossing points including provision of a banksperson. Following Phase Two Consultation, the siting zone for the Primary Construction Compound in Springwell East was relocated to Field C8 as shown in **ES Volume 2, Figure 3.10: Location of Primary and Secondary Construction**	

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		Compounds [EN010149/APP/6.2]. Relocating the compound and the associated access reduces potential impacts on the Spires and Steeples Trial by reducing the potential extent of the compound adjacent to the PRoW from 900m to 150m. It would also reduce the requirement for operational and construction vehicles to use the route. Engagement with LCC Highways and PRoW officers has been undertaken throughout the pre-application period, including on the Spires and Steeples Trail. An **Outline Public Rights of Way and Permissive Paths Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.12]** has also been developed, with management measures within the Plan agreed with the Local Planning Authorities.	
Traffic and transport			
Local road network	Comments expressing concern that the local road network is not suitable for the potential large volume of construction traffic. Other comments suggested improvements to the road network such as changes to speed limits and upgrading the condition of the road before construction begins.	A detailed assessment of the suitability of the local road network for construction traffic, including HGV movements, has been undertaken in consultation with the Local Highways Authority. Where necessary, and following discussions with the Local Highways Authority, junction mitigation and other minor works are proposed. The location of improvements include the A15/B1191 junction, A15/Gorse Hill Lane junction, provision of two passing bays on Temple Road, widening the carriageway on B1191 south of Ashby de la Launde, road marking improvements at	N

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	Specific reference made to the B1191, B1188 and Temple Road.	B1191/Navenby Lane junction and B1191/RAF Digby junction and are outlined in the **Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans [EN010149/APP/2.4]**. No alterations were required to the B1188 to facilitate the construction of the Proposed Development, as discussed and agreed with LCC Highways. Assessments presented in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport [EN010149/APP/6.1]** and **ES Volume 3, Appendix 14.1: Transport Assessment [EN010149/APP/6.3]** conclude that there would be no significant residual effects from construction traffic.	
Maintenance	Request for the Applicant to maintain farm tracks leading to residential properties within the Proposed Development, such as Trundle Lane and Rowston Top.	Existing farm tracks are proposed to be utilised for construction tracks. No resurfacing or changes to tracks solely used for residential properties are proposed. Construction tracks close to residential properties have been removed from the Proposed Development where feasible, such as near Rowston Top. Where farm tracks are used for construction, operation or decommissioning purposes, and fall within the Order Limits (such as Trundle Lane), the Applicant has a commercial agreement with the Landlord for use, including contributions towards maintenance costs. The construction of new access tracks within the site would be made from compacted stone which is a sustainable solution to reduce the impact of the works. Permeable surfaces reduce the	N

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		impact of surface water flooding and allow the water to soak into the ground through the surface as per the existing situation. Existing access tracks would be improved with compacted stone where the track requires improvement to support the Proposed Development activities. During operation the tracks would be kept in a suitable condition to accommodate operational traffic. Access to existing properties via existing roads or access tracks would be maintained throughout the duration of the Proposed Development (construction, operation and decommissioning). For details of the proposed access tracks please see **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010149/APP/6.1]** and **Works Plans [EN010149/APP/2.3]**.	
Road safety	Comments highlighting current safety issues on the local road network. Specific reference made to the A15, B1202 and B1191.	The Applicant has assessed the likely significant effects arising from the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of the Proposed Development on traffic and transport, including the A15, B1202 and B1191. In undertaking its assessments, the Applicant has followed the IEMA 2023 guidelines which outlines assessment requirements pursuant to road safety. This included assessment of accident clusters in consultation with LCC as the Local Highways Authority and review of the most recent Personal Injury Collision (PIC) data available as provided by the Authority. **ES Volume 1, Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport [EN010149/APP/6.1]** and **ES Volume**	N

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		3, Appendix 14.1: Transport Assessment [EN010149/APP/6.3] outline these assessments. The assessments show that, with the proposed embedded mitigation, and management across the Order Limits in place (set out in **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.8]**), there would be no material impacts in terms of capacity or significant effects in relation to road safety.	
Water			
Flooding	Comments stating that there is a problem with flooding in the local area, and the Proposed Development should not exacerbate this. Comment that some areas of the site are at a high risk of flooding (Flood Zone 3).	It is confirmed within the **Flood Risk Assessment [EN010149/APP/7.16]** that there are areas within the Site and locally which are at risk from flooding as identified with the Flood Map for Planning and Environment Agency Risk of Flooding from Surface Water mapping (see **Flood Risk Assessment [EN010149/APP/7.16]**). It is acknowledged within the assessment that a limited number of fields are within Flood Zone 3 and further analysis to understand the flood risk has been undertaken. The results of this analysis are presented in the **Flood Risk Assessment [EN010149/APP/7.16]**. The **Flood Risk Assessment [EN010149/APP/7.16]** confirms there would be no increase in flood risk offsite as a result of the Proposed Development. As part of the embedded mitigation, only Solar PV modules (with string inverters) would be placed within Flood Zone 3. There be would no change in ground levels and therefore no change of flood plain storage volumes, ensuring	N

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		no flood displacement and no increase in fluvial flooding offsite. The panels in Flood Zone 3 and Flood Zone 2 would be a minimum height of 0.8m from the ground which is sufficient to be above anticipated flood depths. As part of the **Outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy** (which forms an appendix to the **Flood Risk Assessment [EN010149/APP/7.16]**) it is confirmed there would be no increased rate of surface water runoff from the Proposed Development. Therefore, it is concluded there is no increased risk of flooding from the Proposed Development.	
Runoff	Concerns about water runoff from the panels and potential flooding impacts on local villages, such as Kirkby Green.	The **Flood Risk Assessment [EN010149/APP/7.16]** has confirmed there would be no flooding impacts on local villages (including Kirkby Green). The guidance provided within NPS EN-3 in Paragraph 3.10.75 states that: '*as solar PV panels will drain to the existing ground, the impact will not, in general, be significant*'. This confirms the assumption that Solar PV modules can be treated as permeable features as part of the **Outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy** (which forms an appendix to the **Flood Risk Assessment [EN010149/APP/7.16]**), therefore surface water runoff would not be increased as a result of the Solar PV modules and there would be no increase of flood risk at local villages as a result. As a precautionary measure, the **Outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy** recommends the inclusion of a swale feature at field boundaries downslope of Solar PV modules to intercept	N

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		surface water runoff and enhance the potential for attenuation and infiltration. The swales are described as part of the **Outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy** (which forms an appendix to the **Flood Risk Assessment [EN010149/APP/7.16]**).	
Source Protection Zone	Comment that some areas of the site supply potable groundwater within source protection zone (SPZ) 1, 2 and 3.	Based on the design of the Proposed Development, and the siting of infrastructure, the Zone 1 (most sensitive) SPZ around Scopwick would only be close to locations which are proposed to be used as a community growing area, or for retained agricultural land. Where there is the larger Zone 3 SPZ towards the south, there is an area of Solar PV development alongside Green Infrastructure, however no other infrastructure (such as the BESS or Springwell Substation) is located within this area as secured within the **Works Plans [EN010149/APP/2.3]**. The requirements of the **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.7]**, **Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.10]** and **Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.13]** would ensure best practice management of activities to protect groundwater resources in these areas.	N

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