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# **SCOPING OPINION:**

## **Proposed Gate Burton Energy Park**

**Case Reference: EN010131**

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Adopted by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) pursuant to Regulation 10 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017

**20 December 2021**



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# 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.0.1 On 12 November 2021, the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) received an application for a Scoping Opinion from Gate Burton Energy Park Ltd (the Applicant) under Regulation 10 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) for the proposed Gate Burton Energy Park (the Proposed Development). The Applicant notified the Secretary of State (SoS) under Regulation 8(1)(b) of those regulations that they propose to provide an Environmental Statement (ES) in respect of the Proposed Development and by virtue of Regulation 6(2)(a), the Proposed Development is 'EIA development'.
- 1.0.2 The Applicant provided the necessary information to inform a request under EIA Regulation 10(3) in the form of a Scoping Report, available from:  
<http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/document/EN010131-000010>
- 1.0.3 This document is the Scoping Opinion (the Opinion) adopted by the Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS. This Opinion is made on the basis of the information provided in the Scoping Report, reflecting the Proposed Development as currently described by the Applicant. This Opinion should be read in conjunction with the Applicant's Scoping Report.
- 1.0.4 The Inspectorate has set out in the following sections of this Opinion where it has/has not agreed to scope out certain aspects/ matters on the basis of the information provided at as part of the Scoping Report.
- 1.0.5 Before adopting this Opinion, the Inspectorate has consulted the 'consultation bodies' listed in Appendix 1 in accordance with EIA Regulation 10(6). A list of those consultation bodies who replied within the statutory timeframe (along with copies of their comments) is provided in Appendix 2. These comments have been taken into account in the preparation of this Opinion.
- 1.0.6 The Inspectorate has published a series of advice notes on the National Infrastructure Planning website, including [Advice Note 7: Environmental Impact Assessment: Preliminary Environmental Information, Screening and Scoping \(AN7\)](#). AN7 and its annexes provide guidance on EIA processes during the pre-application stages and advice to support applicants in the preparation of their Environmental Statement (ES).
- 1.0.7 Applicants should have particular regard to the standing advice in AN7, alongside other advice notes on the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) process, available from:  
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/>

## 2. OVERARCHING COMMENTS

### 2.1 Description of the Proposed Development

(Scoping Report Sections 2 and 3)

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
2.1.1	2.1.3	Construction compounds	The ES should provide details regarding the location and proposed duration of construction compounds required and assess impacts from the construction, operation and decommissioning of these features where significant effects are likely to occur.
2.1.2	2.1.2	Offsite electrical compound and control building	The ES should provide details regarding the location of the off-site electrical compound and control building and assess any impacts from the construction, operation and decommissioning of this feature where significant effects are likely to occur.
2.1.3	2.1.9	Maximum parameters and project description	<p>The ES should describe the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The maximum parameters of the Proposed Development including the maximum footprint of development, the maximum size and heights of development components and the maximum capacities for output and storage;</li> <li>• the likely foundation design for the solar panels and their construction method e.g. if piling will be required; and</li> <li>• The locations and voltages of overhead and underground cables.</li> </ul>
2.1.4	2.3.3	Impacts from watercourse crossings	The method of watercourse crossings is currently unknown, including whether they will be above or below ground. The ES should justify the methods chosen for watercourse crossings, taking into account



ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			potential impacts from the method chosen and assess any significant effects where they are likely to occur.
2.1.5	1.2.1	Overhead/underground cabling options and associated impacts	The installation of cables either above or below ground will have different impacts and effects. When the cabling options have been confirmed, the ES should justify the cabling method and assess potential impacts to receptors where significant effects are likely to occur across all applicable aspect Chapters. Where relevant this should include consideration of impacts on waterways traffic due to overhead cabling e.g. on the River Trent.
2.1.6	2.1.42	New site access	A new access is proposed on the northern side of Cottam Road located in the vicinity of the existing power station access. The ES should consider the potential to use a shared access with the existing access at the power station. The Applicant's attention is drawn to Nottinghamshire County Council's (NCC) response on this matter.

## 2.2 EIA Methodology and Scope of Assessment

(Scoping Report Section 5)

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
2.2.1	5.1.3	Scoping table	The Inspectorate advises the use of a table to identify any changes in the parameters/options of the Proposed Development presented in the Scoping Report to that presented in the ES. It is also advised to provide a table demonstrating how the matters raised in the Scoping Opinion have been addressed in the ES and/or associated documents.
2.2.2	Appendix A	Transboundary	The Applicant is of the view that due to the nature, scale and location of the Proposed Development, significant effects on the environment in any European Economic Area (EEA) state are unlikely to occur. The Inspectorate agrees that it is unlikely for significant transboundary effects on the environment of any EEA state based on the information provided in Table A1, Appendix A of the Scoping Report.

### 3. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT COMMENTS

#### 3.1 Climate Change

(Scoping Report Section 6)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.1.1	Table 6-2	Precipitation change in-combination climate change impacts	<p>Table 6-2 states that no significant in-combination effects on surface water or groundwater levels are expected as a result of precipitation change and therefore it is scoped out. No drainage or flood risk modelling is presented to support this assertion.</p> <p>Solar panels have potential to alter runoff rates and patterns. In the absence of more detailed information regarding drainage design and controls, the Inspectorate does not agree to scope this matter out.</p>
3.1.2	Table 6-2	Temperature change in-combination impacts	<p>Although limited information is provided to scope out this matter, considering the nature of the Proposed Development, the Inspectorate is content to scope out in-combination impacts on receptors from temperature increases.</p>
3.1.3	Table 6-2	Sea level rise in-combination and climate resilience impacts	<p>The Inspectorate is content to scope these matters out on the basis that the Proposed Development is not located in an area that is susceptible to sea level rise.</p>
3.1.4	Table 6-2	Wind in-combination impacts	<p>Considering the nature of the Proposed Development, the Inspectorate is content to scope out in-combination impacts from wind as the Proposed Development is not likely to alter wind patterns.</p>

## 3.2 Cultural Heritage

(Scoping Report Section 7)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.2.1	n/a	n/a	No matters have been proposed to be scoped out of the assessment

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.2.2	Tables 7-1 and 7-2	Heritage assessment criteria	The Scoping Report does not explain where the criteria set out in Tables 7-1 and 7-2 have derived from. Any guidance used in the ES assessments should be appropriately referenced within each aspect Chapter.
3.2.3	2.1.2 and section 7.4	Off-site electrical compound and construction compounds	Currently, the locations of offsite construction areas are unknown, meaning that the baseline is currently incomplete. The ES should identify any potential receptors and impact pathways from these off-site elements and undertake an assessment where significant effects are likely to occur.
3.2.4	7.7.1	Worst-case scenario	Where access is not available to land to undertake appropriate surveys to inform the baseline, it is stated that professional judgement will be used to determine the baseline from available research and data to assess archaeological potential. This worst-case assessment approach should be agreed with the County Archaeologist where possible.
3.2.5	7.5.1, 7.5.2, 9.5.3 and 9.5.4	Indirect effects on heritage assets	The Proposed Development has potential to alter drainage patterns and this could indirectly affect below ground heritage assets. The ES should provide commentary on the likelihood of indirect impacts on

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			heritage assets to arise and outline any necessary mitigation measures to address significant effects where they are likely to occur.

### 3.3 Ecology and Biodiversity

(Scoping Report Section 8)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.3.1	n/a	n/a	No matters have been proposed to be scoped out of the assessment

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.3.2	8.4.5	Veteran trees	Veteran trees are not referenced in the Scoping Report. The ES should identify any veteran trees outside of the ancient woodland copses and assess any significant effects on these receptors where they are likely to occur.
3.3.3	8.4.6 and 8.6.5 to 8.6.7	Japanese knotweed	A desk study has identified that there are five invasive species located on/within 2km of the site including Japanese knotweed ( <i>Reynoutria japonica</i> ) which is easily spread through dispersion of its rhizome fragments, stems and crown. An overarching methodology to applying mitigation is set out in paragraphs 8.6.5 to 8.6.7 where biodiversity net gain is mentioned, but biosecurity measures are only referenced in the context of new planting. For clarity, the ES should detail how biosecurity measures will avoid or mitigate the spread/impact of invasive species within the study area.
3.3.4	Section 2.5 and 8.6.4	Decommissioning	Scoping Report section 2.5 states that decommissioning will be considered in the relevant Chapters of the ES however, Scoping Report paragraph 8.6.4 only states that impacts on biodiversity features during decommissioning will be similar to those during construction and not whether/how this will be assessed. In light of the proposed biodiversity enhancements within the site, the ES

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			should explain how the decommissioning assessment takes into account the increased biodiversity value of the site.

### 3.4 Water Environment

(Scoping Report Section 9)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.4.1	9.5.7	Sewer impacts during operation	The Proposed Development will not discharge foul water and will not be connected to a mains foul drainage system during operation therefore no impacts are anticipated. The Inspectorate is content to scope this impact out on this basis.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.4.2	9.4.12 and 9.5.4	Peat deposits	The baseline identifies sparse patches of peat deposits in the study area where solar panels are to be located. Considering the potential need for piled foundations as stated in paragraph 9.5.4 there is potential to disturb peat deposits that are carbon sinks and natural barriers against flooding. The ES should demonstrate how effects on peat deposits have been avoided and where this is not possible, the ES should assess impacts from peat disturbance where significant effects are likely to occur.
3.4.3	9.5.3	Drilling fluid	Breakout of drilling fluids is included as a potential impact from the Proposed Development. Should drilling fluid be used in construction, a breakout plan should be produced, submitted and secured in the application.
3.4.4	9.6.6	Water quality surveys	The ES should describe the existing quality of waters affected by the Proposed Development. Scoping Report paragraph 9.6.6. states that no water quality monitoring is proposed beyond a site walkover survey due to the nature of the development.



ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			Given that there are a number of water bodies within the site boundary, the topography of the site slopes towards a Water Framework Directive waterbody (the River Trent) and construction impacts may alter water quality (as highlighted in paragraph 8.6.1), surface water quality surveys should be undertaken to inform the baseline and reported in the ES.
3.4.5	9.6.9	Water Framework Directive Assessment (WFD)	Scoping Report paragraph 9.6.9 states that a screening and scoping Water Framework Directive (WFD) assessment will be provided with the preliminary environmental information report (PEIR) and if, following this, further assessment is required, this will be provided with the ES. The screening and scoping WFD assessment should also be provided with the ES. Where there are any alterations to the Proposed Development between submission of the PEIR and ES that influence the WFD assessment, the assessments should be updated accordingly.
3.4.6	9.6.22	Local, regional and national effects	Whilst these terms are defined in relation to effects in Scoping Report paragraph 9.6.22, there is no explanation as to how this will influence the conclusions regarding significance. The ES should explain this.
3.4.7	Section 9.7	Visual surveys access and desk based studies	Where surveys are not undertaken due to access limitations, this should be justified in the ES and the desk based approach agreed with relevant consultees where possible.
3.4.8	Section 9.4	Existing dredging disposal sites	The Canal and Rivers Trust have identified that there are existing dredging disposal sites along the River Trent which present a potential contamination risk should they be disturbed. The ES should identify if and where these sites could be impacted by the Proposed Development and assess any significant effects from the disturbance of these sites where they are likely to occur.

### 3.5 Landscape and Visual Amenity

(Scoping Report Section 10)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.5.1	10.7.9	Lighting assessment	<p>Scoping report paragraph 10.7.9 states that an assessment of construction lighting is scoped out as it will be temporary in nature.</p> <p>Limited information is presented regarding the lighting proposed (during construction or operation) or the receptors that could be affected by lighting. The ES should clearly explain the construction and operational lighting strategy and any measures necessary to avoid or mitigate lighting effects. This should address issues of directionality and the effect of intermittent lighting on receptors.</p>

## 3.6 Noise and Vibration

(Scoping Report Section 11)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.6.1	11.5.7 and Table 17-1	Operational vibration	<p>Scoping Report paragraph 11.5.7 and Table 17-1 do not align. 11.5.7 proposes to scope out operational impacts only and Table 17-2 proposes to scope out vibration during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases on the basis that no major vibration sources are introduced as part of the Proposed Development. Considering Scoping Report paragraph 2.3.3 identifies potential sources of vibration during construction which also may include piling (paragraph 9.5.3), and the distance of piling activity from receptors has not currently been identified. The Inspectorate considers that vibration effects from piling should be assessed where significant effects are likely.</p> <p>Paragraph 11.5.7 states that during operation, there would be no sources of vibration impact. Based on the characteristics of the Proposed Development, the Inspectorate agrees that operational vibration effects may be scoped out from further assessment.</p>
3.6.2	Table 17-1	Operational noise	<p>The Scoping Report states that cables are not anticipated to produce any noise during operation and traffic movements are low (7 operational arrivals and 7 departures daily at the site from light vehicles for maintenance and deliveries). The Inspectorate agrees that based on the predicted number of vehicles, significant noise effects are unlikely and may be scoped out from further assessment.</p> <p>However, cable infrastructure is anticipated to be in the range of 132 – 400kV. At higher voltages, there is limited potential for noise emissions from conductors on overhead lines under certain meteorological conditions. The ES should consider the potential for</p>

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			significant noise effects, where cable routes are in close proximity to residential receptors.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.6.3	Section 11.2 and Table 11-1 and section 11.6	Sensitive receptors	The ES should explain the methodology and any guidance used to inform the assessment of receptor sensitivity and the selection of receptors identified for further assessment.
3.6.4	Section 11.5	Mitigation	Operational mitigation measures, including the noise limits to be achieved at the boundary of the site or the boundary of any operational plant installation (where relevant) should be agreed with the local Environmental Health Officer (EHO), where possible.
3.6.5	Section 11.6	Assessment method	The Scoping Report explains that BS5228:2009+A1:2014 will be used to assess construction noise and vibration effects and that BS4142:2014 will be used to assess operational noise but then references the significance criteria in Scoping Report Chapter 5 for assessment. It is unclear why the standard BS5228 methods such as the 'ABC' method or '5dB' change method have not been adopted or the significance criteria provided in BS4142. The Inspectorate considers that the ABC method and significance criteria in BS4142 should be adopted unless otherwise justified and agreed with the local EHO, where possible.

### 3.7 Socio-Economics and Land Use

(Scoping Report Section 12)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.7.1	12.6.17	Impacts from Grid Connection Corridor	<p>Scoping Report paragraph 12.6.17 proposes to scope out the construction, decommissioning and operational impacts of the grid connection corridor on socio-economic receptors and land use if Public Rights of Way (PRoW) closures are avoided. The Inspectorate does not consider that this mitigates potential impacts to land use and therefore does not agree to scope out impacts to land use, such as agricultural use, should PRoW closures be avoided.</p> <p>However, the Inspectorate is content to scope out impacts to socio-economic receptors should the grid connection corridor avoid PRoW closures.</p>

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.7.2	12.4.2 and 12.6.2	Census data	New census data is set to be published in spring 2022. This should be used to inform baseline data and the ES assessment.
3.7.3	12.6.4	EIA guidance	Scoping Report paragraph 12.6.4 states that the assessment will follow 'standard EIA guidance'. It is unclear what guidance is referred to in this context. The ES should set out and clearly reference the methodological approach adopted.
3.7.4	12.6.13	Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Survey	Scoping Report paragraph 12.6.13 states that "an Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) soil survey will be undertaken for the land parcels within the Site boundary, as deemed necessary." The Inspectorate considers that baseline survey information should be provided for all land parcels within the site boundary and where possible, the ES

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			should demonstrate how effects on best and most versatile land have been avoided.
3.7.5	12.6.14	Continued agricultural use of land beneath panels	Scoping report paragraph 12.6.14 states that there is potential for continued use of the land beneath the solar panels during operation such as grazing. Any potential impacts from the use of the land beneath the solar panels should be assessed in the ES where significant effects are likely to occur.

### 3.8 Transport and Access

(Scoping Report Section 13)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.8.1	2.4.1 and 13.5.13	Traffic impacts during operation	<p>It is anticipated that there will be 7 operational arrivals and 7 departures daily at the site from light vehicles for maintenance and deliveries. A transport assessment is proposed to be submitted with the application and will include further details on operational traffic.</p> <p>Paragraph 2.4.1 states that there would be 10-20 visits per week from 4 wheel-drive or medium sized van vehicles.</p> <p>On the basis of the low anticipated operational traffic volumes, the Inspectorate is content to scope this matter out from further assessment. The ES project description should confirm the likely operational traffic flows.</p>
3.8.2	Table 17-1	Hazardous loads	<p>Scoping Report Table 17-1 states that "There are no nearby road features which suggest that the transfer of materials poses a risk beyond that which would be expected on the general highway network." Limited explanation is provided in Chapter 13 of the Scoping Report to support this conclusion. The Inspectorate has considered the characteristics of the Proposed Development and considers that this matter may be scoped out from further assessment, however the ES should explain the measures employed to ensure safe vehicular transport of components such as panels and batteries to and from the site.</p>
3.8.3	Table 17-1	Traffic impacts during decommissioning	<p>This is proposed to be scoped out due to uncertainties in relation to future traffic flows. The Inspectorate accepts that a full assessment of traffic impacts may not be possible at the current time, however, the ES should provide commentary on the likely transport impacts of the</p>

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			decommissioning process in light of comments in section 3.10 of this Opinion regarding component refurbishment, where possible.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.8.4	13.6.2	Traffic count surveys	Traffic count surveys are only proposed to be undertaken where 'considered necessary' to inform baseline conditions. The ES should be informed by robust baseline data and provide evidence of agreement with the Local Highway Authority regarding the need for traffic surveys, where possible.
3.8.5	Chapter 13	Construction traffic routing and Affected road network (ARN)	Building on information contained in Figure 13-1 of the Scoping Report, the ES should clearly identify the full extent of the ARN and construction traffic routing to inform the assessment of traffic impacts. National Highways should be consulted where effects on the Strategic Road Network are identified.
3.8.6	6.4.2, 13.4.8- 13.4.21	Rail operations	Limited reference is provided in the Scoping Report to the railway line that bisects the site. Paragraph 6.4.2 states that the Proposed Development is not anticipated to impact the operation of the railway but does not provide any supporting explanation. In light of its proximity to the railway line, the ES should explain whether the Proposed Development has considered opportunities to import materials by rail, to avoid impacts on the road network. The ES should also explain any measures required to ensure operational railway safety where significant effects are likely to occur and should describe and secure any associated embedded/additional mitigation. Measures to avoid impacts on operational rail assets such as bridges and level crossings should be set out in the ES, in particular for Clay Lane which has restricted height and width.



### 3.9 Human Health

(Scoping Report Section 14)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.9.1	Table 17-2	Human Health	<p>Scoping Report Chapter 14 addresses Human health with nothing reported to be scoped out however, Table 17-2 identifies Human Health as a topic to be 'scoped out' on the basis it is assessed in other relevant Chapters. This is not consistent with the description in Scoping Report Chapter 14.</p> <p>For clarity, the Inspectorate considers that the ES should include an assessment of Human Health based on the approach set out in in Chapter 14 of the Scoping Report.</p>

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.9.2	Section 14.2	Planning policy context and guidance	The Inspectorate considers that the ES should refer to the Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy, The Nottinghamshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and The Nottinghamshire Spatial Planning and Health Framework as highlighted by NCC in their consultation response.

### 3.10 Other Environmental Topics

(Scoping Report Section 15)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.10.1	15.2.6 and Table 17-2	Air Quality during operation	Minimal traffic movements are anticipated during operation: it is anticipated that there will be 7 operational arrivals and 7 departures daily at the site from light vehicles for maintenance and deliveries. On this basis, the Inspectorate is content to scope this matter out. The ES project description should confirm that there are no emissions from operational plant that require further assessment.
3.10.2	2.3.5, 15.2.10 and Table 17-2	Air quality from traffic during construction	<p>Whilst Scoping Report Table 17-2 does not scope out the need for construction vehicle air quality assessment, Scoping Report paragraph 15.2.10 states that the anticipated number of vehicle movements during construction and decommissioning will be below the threshold of that required for assessment in line with guidance. Paragraph 2.3.5 of the Scoping Report suggests that a peak of 60 HGVs per day is the likely worst-case over the predicted construction period.</p> <p>On the basis that the predicted HGV movements do not exceed the 200 HGV per day threshold, the Inspectorate is content to scope this matter out from further assessment. The ES must provide up to date information on the anticipated construction programme and the predicted number of HGV movements to confirm that the thresholds are not exceeded.</p>
3.10.3	15.3 and Table 17-2	Glint and Glare assessed as a separate Chapter	The Inspectorate is content that glint and glare do not need to be assessed as a standalone Chapter, however both matters should be addressed in the ES LVIA Chapter and supported by detailed calculations as appropriate.

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.10.4	15.3.5	Impacts to boats from glint and glare	The glint and glare assessment stated to underpin the LVIA Chapter does not include boats as receptors. The glint and glare assessment should assess impacts to boats and where significant effects on these receptors are likely, this should be assessed and reported in the ES.
3.10.5	15.4 and Table 17-2	Ground Conditions	A preliminary risk assessment is proposed and the impact of maintenance activities is proposed to be scoped out. The Inspectorate agrees that maintenance activities may be scoped out from further assessment, although the ES should explain what such activities comprise and any measures to manage effects. For the avoidance of doubt, until the results and recommendations of the PRA are known, there is insufficient evidence to support scoping out an assessment of ground conditions. The assessment of impacts on ground conditions should consider the potential for sterilisation of mineral resources.
3.10.6	15.5, Table 17-2 and Appendix B	Major Accidents and Disasters	<p>A standalone Chapter for major accidents and disasters is not proposed on the basis that potential accidents and disasters will be assessed in other Chapters where relevant. The Inspectorate has considered the characteristics of the Proposed Development and agrees with this approach. The Applicant's attention is drawn to the Health and Safety Executive's comments relating to potential hazards and receptors to be addressed within the ES.</p> <p>The Inspectorate considers that the risk of battery fire/explosion should be addressed in the ES, including any measures designed to minimise impacts on the environment in the event such an occurrence.</p>
3.10.7	15.6 and Table 17-2	Telecommunications, Television Reception and Utilities	Scoping Report paragraph 15.6.2 suggests that existing infrastructure will be identified through consultation and a desk based study and will inform the design and protective provisions to avoid impacts to receptors. The ES should explain the findings of the desk based study

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			and any required mitigation measures but is otherwise content to scope this matter out.
3.10.8	15.7.9 and Table 17-2	Waste	<p>Large scale earthworks are not anticipated and construction waste streams are proposed to be addressed in a site waste management plan as part of the Construction Environmental Management Plan. Decommissioning is anticipated to be 60 years into the future and addressed through an Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (ODEMP). The Scoping Report suggests that with these measures in place, significant effects are unlikely.</p> <p>Solar developments are typically considered to be 30-40 year developments with panel degradation cited as a limiting factor on project lifespan. On that basis, the Inspectorate considers that it is likely that all panels would have to be replaced at least once during the operational life of the project. This means that there is a potential need for substantial removal of panel waste prior to the end of the stated operational period that should be addressed within the ES and/or ODEMP.</p> <p>The ES should include an assessment of the likely impact of component replacement (e.g. batteries and panels) and outline what measures, if any, are in place to ensure that these components are able to be diverted from the waste chain. The ES should assess the likely significant effects from waste at decommissioning to the extent possible at this time.</p>
3.10.9	12.6.17 and Table 17-2	EMF	<p>Scoping Report Table 17-2 proposes to scope out impacts from EMF but provides no reasoning.</p> <p>Cables are proposed to be between 132-400kV. In line with relevant guidance (DECC Power Lines: Demonstrating compliance with EMF public exposure guidelines, A Voluntary Code of Practice 2012),</p>

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			cables above 132kV have potential to cause electro-magnetic field effects. The Inspectorate considers that the ES should demonstrate the design measures taken to avoid the potential for EMF effects on receptors.

## APPENDIX 1: CONSULTATION BODIES FORMALLY CONSULTED

**TABLE A1: PRESCRIBED CONSULTATION BODIES<sup>1</sup>**

SCHEDULE 1 DESCRIPTION	ORGANISATION
The Health and Safety Executive	Health and Safety Executive
The National Health Service Commissioning Board	NHS England
The relevant Clinical Commissioning Group	NHS Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group
	NHS Bassetlaw Clinical Commissioning Group
Natural England	Natural England
The Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England	Historic England
The relevant fire and rescue authority	Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service
	Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service
The relevant police and crime commissioner	Lincolnshire Police and Crime Commissioner
	Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner
The relevant parish council(s) or, where the application relates to land [in] Wales or Scotland, the relevant community council	Scrampton Civil Parish
	Marton Civil Parish
	Gate Burton Civil Parish
	Snaith Civil Parish
	Willingham Civil Parish

<sup>1</sup> Schedule 1 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (the 'APFP Regulations')

<b>SCHEDULE 1 DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>ORGANISATION</b>
	Kelby Civil Parish
	Upton Civil Parish
	Treswell Civil Parish
	South Leverton Civil Parish
	North Leverton with Habbleshthorpe Civil Parish
	Sturton Le Steeple Civil Parish
	Rampton and Woodbeck Civil Parish
	Cottam Civil Parish
The Environment Agency	The Environment Agency (Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire and East Midlands)
The Marine Management Organisation	Marine Management Organisation (MMO)
The Civil Aviation Authority	Civil Aviation Authority
The Relevant Highways Authority	Nottinghamshire County Council
	Lincolnshire County Council
The relevant strategic highways company	National Highways (Midlands)
The relevant internal drainage board	Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board
	Scunthorpe and Gainsborough Water Management Board
	Isle of Axholme and North Nottinghamshire Water Level Management Board
The relevant internal drainage board	Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board
The Canal and River Trust	The Canal and River Trust

<b>SCHEDULE 1 DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>ORGANISATION</b>
Public Health England, an executive agency of the Department of Health	UK Health and Security Agency
The Crown Estate Commissioners	The Crown Estate
The Forestry Commission	East and East Midlands
The Secretary of State for Defence	Ministry of Defence

**TABLE A2: RELEVANT STATUTORY UNDERTAKERS<sup>2</sup>**

<b>STATUTORY UNDERTAKER</b>	<b>ORGANISATION</b>
The relevant Clinical Commissioning Group	NHS Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group
	NHS Bassetlaw Clinical Commissioning Group
The National Health Service Commissioning Board	NHS England
The relevant NHS Trust	Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS Trust
	East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust
The relevant NHS Foundation Trust	Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
Railways	Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd
	Highways England Historical Railways Estate
Road Transport	The Dunham Bridge Company
Canal Or Inland Navigation Authorities	The Canal and River Trust
	East Midland Waterways

<sup>2</sup> 'Statutory Undertaker' is defined in the APFP Regulations as having the same meaning as in Section 127 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008)



STATUTORY UNDERTAKER	ORGANISATION
Civil Aviation Authority	Civil Aviation Authority
Licence Holder (Chapter 1 Of Part 1 Of Transport Act 2000)	NATS En-Route Safeguarding
Universal Service Provider	Royal Mail Group
The relevant Environment Agency	The Environment Agency (Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire and East Midlands)
The relevant water and sewage undertaker	Anglian Water
	Severn Trent
The relevant public gas transporter	Cadent Gas Limited
	Last Mile Gas Ltd
	Energy Assets Pipelines Limited
	ESP Networks Ltd
	ESP Pipelines Ltd
	ESP Connections Ltd
	Fulcrum Pipelines Limited
	Harlaxton Gas Networks Limited
	GTC Pipelines Limited
	Independent Pipelines Limited
	Indigo Pipelines Limited
	Leep Gas Networks Limited
	Murphy Gas Networks limited
	Quadrant Pipelines Limited
	Squire Energy Limited
	National Grid Gas Plc
	Scotland Gas Networks Plc

STATUTORY UNDERTAKER	ORGANISATION
	Southern Gas Networks Plc
The relevant electricity distributor with CPO Powers	Eclipse Power Network Limited
	Energy Assets Networks Limited
	ESP Electricity Limited
	Forbury Assets Limited
	Fulcrum Electricity Assets Limited
	Harlaxton Energy Networks Limited
	Independent Power Networks Limited
	Indigo Power Limited
	Last Mile Electricity Ltd
	Leep Electricity Networks Limited
	Murphy Power Distribution Limited
	The Electricity Network Company Limited
	UK Power Distribution Limited
	Utility Assets Limited
	Vattenfall Networks Limited
	Western Power Distribution (East Midlands) plc
	National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc
	National Grid Electricity System Operator Limited

**TABLE A3: SECTION 43 LOCAL AUTHORITIES (FOR THE PURPOSES OF SECTION 42(1)(B))<sup>3</sup>**

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY<sup>4</sup></b>
West Lindsey District Council
Bassetlaw District Council
Nottinghamshire County Council
Lincolnshire County Council
North Kesteven District Council
Lincoln City Council
Newark and Sherwood District Council
Mansfield District Council
Bolsover District Council
East Lindsey District Council
North East Lincolnshire Council
North Lincolnshire Council
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
Rutland County Council
North Northamptonshire Council
Nottingham City Council
Peterborough City Council
Cambridgeshire County Council
Nottinghamshire County Council
Norfolk County Council

<sup>3</sup> Sections 43 and 42(B) of the PA2008

<sup>4</sup> As defined in Section 43(3) of the PA2008

LOCAL AUTHORITY <sup>4</sup>
Derbyshire County Council
Leicestershire County Council
Lincolnshire County Council

**TABLE A4: NON-PRESCRIBED CONSULTATION BODIES**

ORGANISATION
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority

## APPENDIX 2: RESPONDENTS TO CONSULTATION AND COPIES OF REPLIES

CONSULTATION BODIES WHO REPLIED BY THE STATUTORY DEADLINE:
Anglian Water
Bassetlaw District Council
Bolsover District Council
Canal and River Trust
Doncaster Council
Environment Agency
Forestry Commission
Historic England
The Health and Safety Executive
Leicestershire County Council
Lincolnshire County Council
Mansfield District Council
Ministry of Defence
National Grid
National Highways
NATS
Network Rail
Newark and Sherwood District Council
NHS Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group
North Kesteven District Council
North Northamptonshire Council
Nottingham City Council

Nottinghamshire County Council
Peterborough City Council
Severn Trent Water
UK Health Security Agency
West Lindsey District Council
Witham Internal Drainage Board

Emily Park  
Environmental Services  
The Planning Inspectorate

[www.anglianwater.co.uk](http://www.anglianwater.co.uk)  
Our ref ScpR.GBSP.NSIP.21.ds

[GateBurtonSolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:GateBurtonSolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

13 December 2021

Dear Emily

**Gate Burton Energy Park Scoping consultation**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the scoping report for the above project.

Anglian Water is the appointed water undertaker for the above site and the sewerage undertaker for the eastern section of the Solar PV area shown on Figure1-1. Anglian Water is also the statutory water supply provider for the areas shown for the Grid Connection Corridor Options. The following response is submitted on behalf of Anglian Water in its statutory capacity and relates to potable water and water assets along with wastewater and water recycling assets. We would consider that Anglian Water should be included on the list of consultees to be drawn up by the applicant to follow their proposed approach to assessment and consultation on page 173, Appendix B, 5.7.

Engagement, the draft DCO Order and assisting the applicant

Anglian Water would welcome the instigation of discussions with Gate Burton Energy Park Ltd prior to the project layout and initial design fix for the onshore infrastructure and to assist the applicant before the submission of the Draft DCO for examination. We would recommend discussion on the following issues:

1. The Draft DCO Order including protective provisions specifically to ensure Anglian Water's services are maintained during construction
2. Requirement for potable and raw water supplies
3. Requirement for wastewater services
4. Impact of development on Anglian Water's assets and the need for mitigation
5. Pre-construction surveys

- Anglian Water

Anglian Water's works to support the construction and operation of national infrastructure projects are conducted in accordance with the Water Industry Act 1991. We would expect that the Environmental Statement would include reference to existing water supply and water recycling infrastructure managed by Anglian Water and the provision of replacement infrastructure and the requirements for new infrastructure. Maps of Anglian Water's assets are available to view at the following address:

<http://www.digdat.co.uk/>

- The Scheme – Existing infrastructure

There are existing Anglian Water assets including water mains within the site and water and wastewater infrastructure near the site or within roads which serve the site and the surrounding community. Anglian Water works with developers including those constructing projects under the 2008 Planning Act to ensure requests for alteration of sewers, wastewater and water supply infrastructure is planned to be undertaken with the minimum of disruption to the project and customers.

We note that at paragraph 2.1.45 (page 18) the report refers to surface water drainage and that point makes no reference to the need for connection to the public sewer network. At Table 6-1 however with regard to GHG emissions reference is made to 'Provision of clean water, and treatment of wastewater.' This is stated to be both for construction and operational stages. Anglian Water notes that at paragraph 9.4.34 the applicant advises that information on water quality, supply and discharges will be sought from the Environment Agency. Bullet point 1 in paragraph 9.5.2 refers to the possible pollution of surface and groundwater during construction including from foul waste water. Bullet point 7 identifies 'potential impacts on local water supplies'. Operational impacts listed in paragraph 9.5.4 include water from offices and maintenance activities.

Anglian Water understands from paragraph 9.5.7 that 'there will be no will be no foul water discharge from the Scheme and no mains connected foul water drainage systems are deemed necessary. As such, impacts on foul sewer capacity is scoped out of further assessment.' This appears to be the only reference to the need for upgraded and additional sewerage infrastructure or water supply for construction or operation. Anglian Water recommends that the Environmental Statement should include reference to identified impacts on water supply, the sewerage network and sewage treatment both during construction and operation. Further advice on water and wastewater capacity and options can be obtained by contacting Anglian Water's Pre-Development Team [planningliaison@anglianwater.co.uk](mailto:planningliaison@anglianwater.co.uk)).

There are rising mains and sewers on site which serve the local community. These are mainly located within the local roads near Knaith Park. This does create a potential pathway for pollution as well as potential impact on local communities if these wastewater services are interrupted. Given that sewer flood risk (Table 9-4) is identified, the construction stage or operational (maintenance) stage risks to the sewer network should not be scoped out.



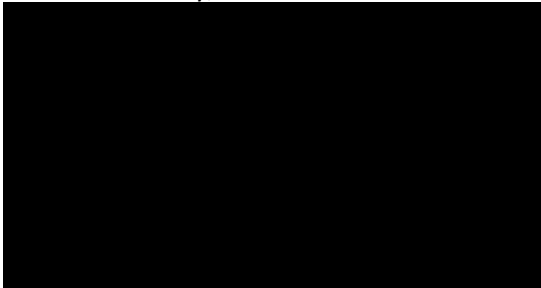
With regard to the risk to water and wastewater infrastructure the applicant correctly at Table 15-2 (page 137) identifies the risk to employees and local residents from the scheme affecting above and below ground utilities including water and sewage. The risk and mitigation the applicant proposes should therefore be set out in the appropriate chapter. The water and sewer assets should then be identified and protected through Protective Provisions in the draft Order. Anglian Water welcomes the intention (paragraph 15.6.1) to consult with water utilities providers to inform the scheme and draw up appropriate protective provisions.

#### Surface drainage

Anglian Water welcomes that a Surface Water Drainage Strategy (paragraph 9.6.10) and that SuDS will be used to manage surface waste (9.6.11 and 9.7.8). Anglian Water would welcome clarification that the impacts on the local drainage/ sewerage network (paragraph 15.4.5) will be designed out of the scheme given that there will be no mains foul connection and only SuDS will be used for both construction and operational stages. This should also remove the questions posed by Point 10. At Table 15-1 which suggests there may still be a need to connect surface water runoff to a sewerage network.

Please do not hesitate to contact me as Anglian Water's NSIP lead should you require clarification on the above response or during the pre- application to decision stages of the project.

Yours sincerely,



Darl Sweetland MRTPI  
Spatial Planning Manager

Cc  
[enquiries@lowcarbon.com](mailto:enquiries@lowcarbon.com)

## **21/01692 /PREAPP - Cottam and Surrounding Land (Gate Burton Energy Park) – Archaeology Advice**

Thank you for consulting me on this pre-application enquiry.

The majority of the site lies in Lincolnshire with the proposed connection routes located in Nottinghamshire running to Cottam Power Station.

The development is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project and will be subject to a Development Control Order application decided by the Secretary of State following investigation from the Planning Inspectorate.

The applicant has prepared an Environmental Impact Scoping Report with the aim of identifying the requirements for an Environmental Statement which will necessarily accompany the DCO application. Chapter 7 concerns cultural heritage and the following advice focuses on the cable routes located in Nottinghamshire. The Scoping Report suggests that the connection cable routing may not fall within the DCO application, depending on the methodology employed, however I suggest that the approach to cultural heritage should follow the same level of investigation and provide the same baseline evidence to support whichever application process is followed.

Three wide, interlinked corridors are proposed, one of which will form the final route. All three traverse a landscape of rich archaeological potential containing known designated and non-designated assets spanning all periods. Of particular note are numerous assets associated with pre-historic and Roman date located along the known Roman road (Margary 28a) running between Lincoln and Doncaster and the Roman settlement at Littleborough (*Segelocvm*) on the west bank of the River Trent crossing (a scheduled monument).

There is also a very high potential for as yet unknown heritage assets dating to all periods.

The current route corridors have been positioned to try to avoid, as far as possible, the majority of known designated and undesignated assets recorded on the Nottinghamshire HER, however there will still be impact to known assets particularly on the western proposed route which crosses areas of intensive pre-historic and Roman settlement and agricultural activity.

To assess the likely impact of the development and significance of all archaeological remains and heritage assets, Chapter 7 of the scoping report proposes presenting desk-based sources, undertaking a walkover survey, followed by field investigation comprising geophysical survey and further intrusive evaluation.

It will be particularly important to provide sufficient information on the character, significance, date and extent of all archaeological remains that will be impacted by the proposed development. This includes known and as yet unknown assets and will be required to inform the appropriate level of mitigation work necessary on the chosen cable route. The nature and scope of the mitigation work will need to be agreed prior to submission of the DCO application.

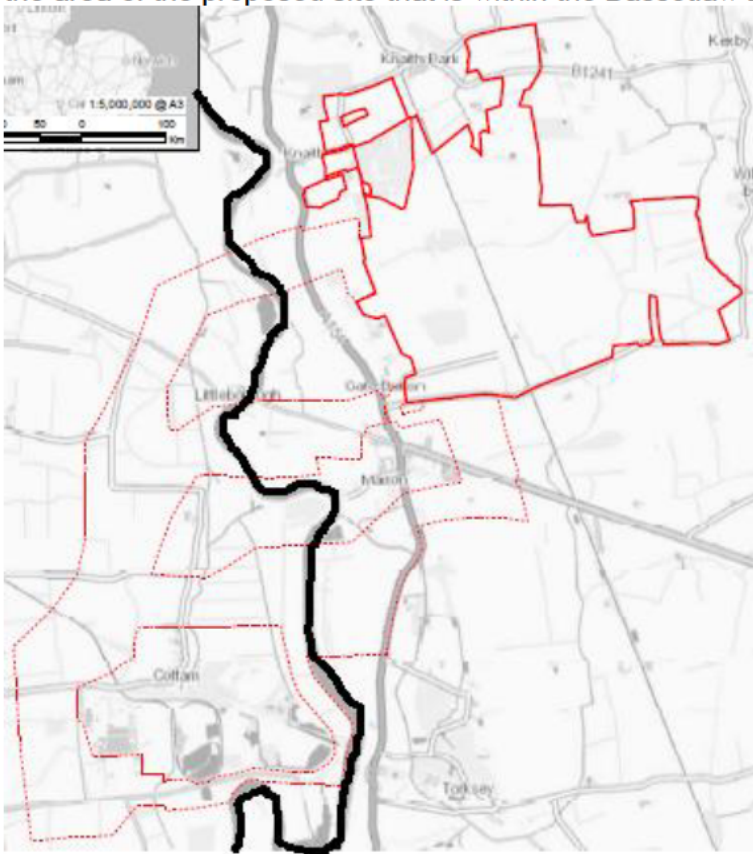
The scope of information presented in the cultural heritage chapter will therefore be sufficient if the stated desk-based, geophysical and intrusive evaluation data is presented in the ES and an appropriate mitigation strategy has been agreed for submission with the DCO application.

The applicant should ensure that sufficient time is given to collect and process the required data so that their projected timetable for the DCO process can be adequately met. This includes factoring in land access and managing the work around crops, harvest and general agricultural activities.

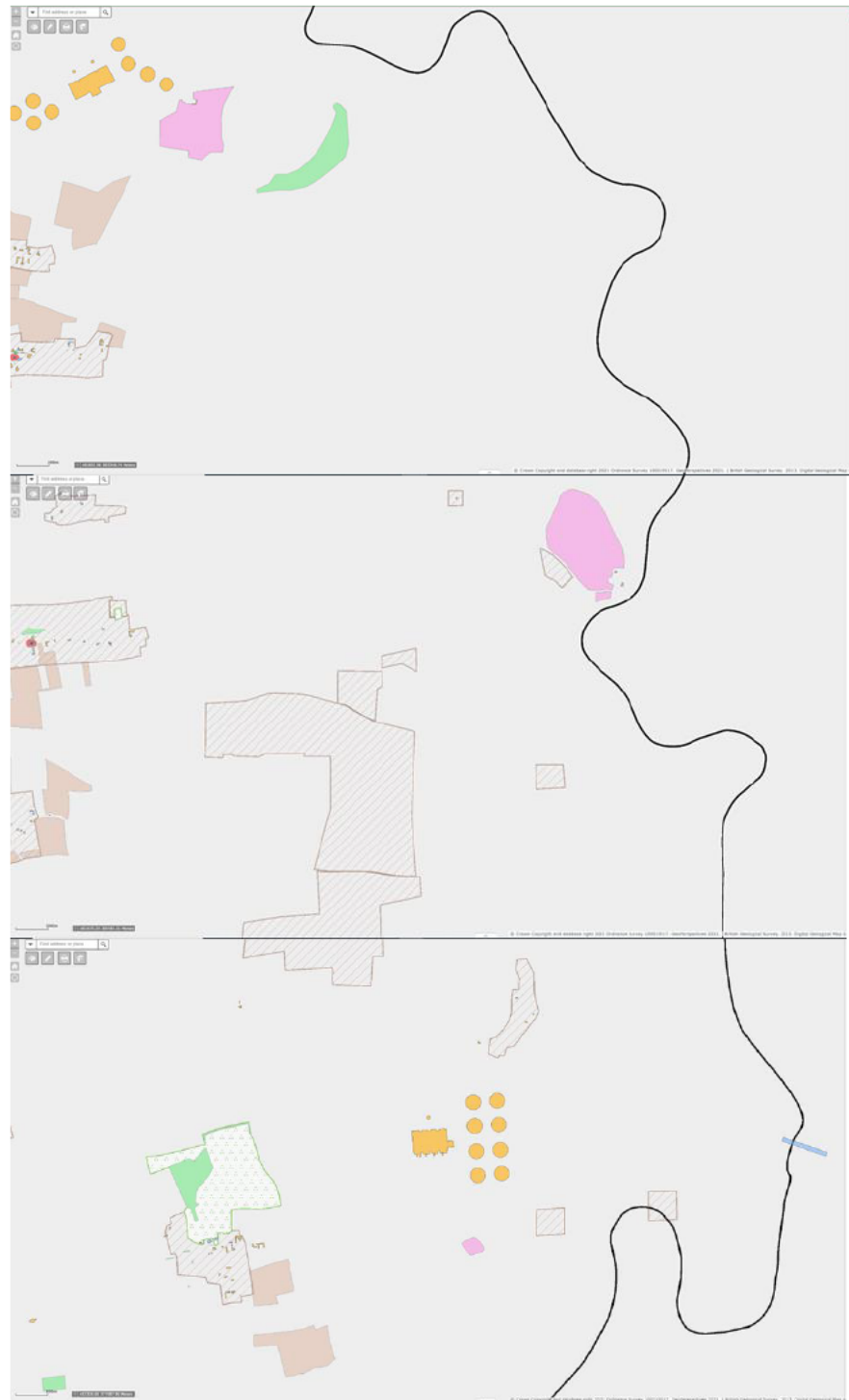
Currently, the approach and scope for the EIA and ES presented by the applicant is considered appropriate and is welcomed. I would be happy to discuss the above in more detail if that would be helpful.

## Bassetlaw District Council Heritage/Conservation Consultation

*The purpose of this document is to outline the policies that Conservation would consider and highlight issues and recommendations to inform the development of a full planning/ listed building consent application, dependant on level of information provided to the Council by applicant.*

<b>From: Joseph Freegard</b> <i>Conservation Officer</i>		<b>To: Clare Cook</b> <i>Development Team Officer</i>	
<b>Application ref:</b> 21/01692/PREAPP		<b>Date:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2021	
<b>Proposal</b>	the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) generating panels and on-site energy storage facilities across a proposed site in Lincolnshire together with grid connection infrastructure.		
<b>Location</b>	Cottam and surrounding land		
<b>Date consulted</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	<b>Site visit date</b>	Previous visit
<b>Heritage Assets affected</b>			
<p>A wide range of heritage assets to the west of the River Trent (black on the map below) may be affected by the proposed development. This is the area of the proposed site that is within the Bassetlaw District.</p> 			
<p>Some of the many heritage assets that may be affected by the proposed development are highlighted on the below maps. These include several listed buildings (blue on the maps below), several scheduled ancient monuments (pink), war memorials (red poppies), several non-designated heritage assets (orange), several areas of archaeological interest (hashed brown), several areas of ridge &amp; furrow (brown), an unregistered park &amp; garden (edged green) and several other heritage assets. These can be viewed in more detail on the Council's 'Bassetlaw Heritage Mapping' web page:</p>			

<https://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-services/conservation-and-heritage/bassetlaw-heritage-mapping/>.



**Relevant documents, appraisals, guidance, SPGs, etc**

- Historic England: The Setting of Heritage Assets; Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3 (Second Edition) – December 2017.
- Historic England: Commercial Renewable Energy Development and the Historic Environment; Historic England Advice Note 15 – February 2021.

Historic Environment Checklist	
Criteria	
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990	Section 66(1)
Relevant LDF Core Strategy & Development Management Policies	<u>Strategic Objectives</u> : SO9. <u>Development Management Policies</u> : DM8.
Relevant NPPF paragraphs	189, 193, 194, 195, 197, 199, 200, 203, 206
Historic England GPA	GPA 2 (Decision-Making) & GPA 3 (Setting)
Relevant NPPG paragraphs	Section 18a – 'Historic Environment'
Site Analysis:	<p>The site comprises a large area, part of which is in Lincolnshire and part of which is within the Bassetlaw District. The potential site for development within Bassetlaw comprises a roughly triangular area of land ranging from just north of the Littleborough Segelocum Roman town to the north, just south of the Torksey Viaduct to the south east and the area around Rampton to the south west. The site is wide and varied in terms of character and land use. Most of the land is low-lying and flat, and tall structures, such as the power station cooling towers, chimneys and church towers, are visible for several miles in all directions.</p>
Assessment of Proposal:	<p>The proposal is for the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) generating panels and on-site energy storage facilities across a proposed site in Lincolnshire together with grid connection infrastructure. It has been indicated that the principal infrastructure would be as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Solar PV modules;</li> <li>- PV module mounting structures;</li> <li>- Inverters;</li> <li>- Transformers;</li> <li>- High voltage (HV) switchgear and control equipment (housed inside a building);</li> <li>- Onsite cabling;</li> <li>- An energy storage system;</li> <li>- Onsite electrical compounds comprising of substations and control buildings;</li> <li>- A circa 6km electrical connection route to connect with the National Grid at Cottam Substation;</li> <li>- An off-site electrical compound comprising of a substation and control building;</li> <li>- A spare parts storage building or enclosure;</li> <li>- Fencing and security measures;</li> <li>- Access tracks; and</li> <li>- Landscaping and biodiversity enhancement.</li> </ul> <p>The majority of the development proposed to take place would be within Lincolnshire rather than Bassetlaw. However, the development proposed outside of Bassetlaw may impact on the setting of a range of heritage assets within. This would depend upon the scale, design and materials of the proposed additions and their proximity to the River Trent. Without full details of proposals, Conservation cannot give an informed view as to the impact the development would have on the setting of heritage assets within Bassetlaw. However, in general terms, the low-lying nature of the</p>

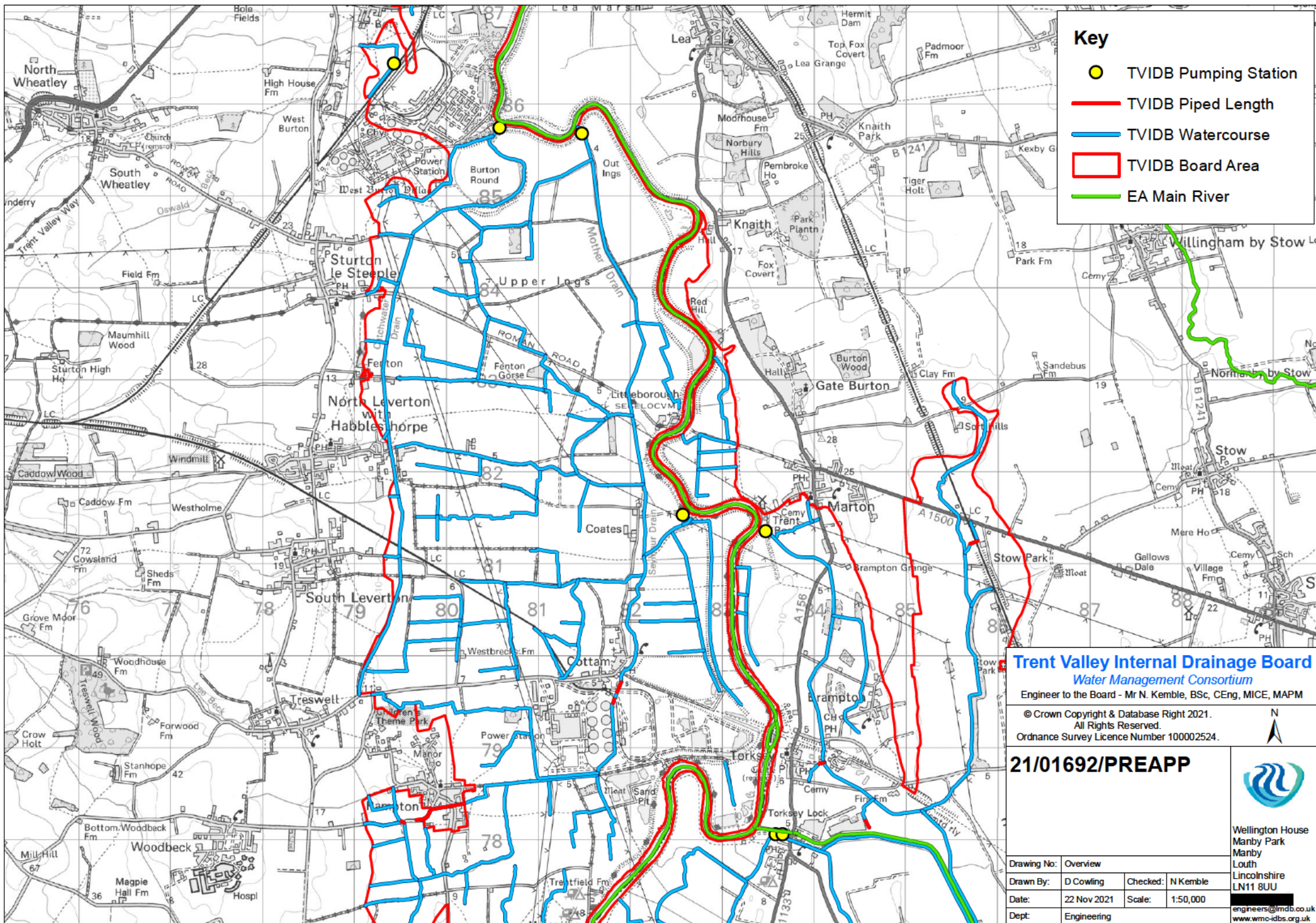


	<p>land means than any taller structures are likely to have some impact on setting. The degree of this impact would depend on the scale and nature of the structures. That impact would also have to be weighed against the public benefits of the scheme, which Conservation acknowledges are considerable.</p> <p>The submitted plans indicate a range of options for a series of grid connection corridor options within Bassetlaw. It is indicated that both underground and overhead grid connection corridor options are being considered. It is stated that 'if the cable is underground, this is likely to be installed using an open trench method requiring a 30m to 40m working width, with trench widths approximately 2m wide and up to 2m deep. Where other specific techniques are required such as micro-tunnelling, boring, or horizontal directional drilling (HDD) this will be investigated'.</p> <p>Both underground and overhead grid connection corridor options would likely have some level of impact upon the significance and setting of a range of heritage assets, depending on location, scale, design and materials. Some of the many heritage assets that may be affected by the proposed development include several listed buildings, several scheduled ancient monuments, war memorials, several non-designated heritage assets, an unregistered park &amp; garden and several other heritage assets. Without full details, Conservation cannot give an informed view as to the exact implications for heritage assets in the area affected. However, in general, there are two main concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excavations are likely to be harmful to sites of archaeological significance. In particular, the route taken close to or through the Segelocum Roman town Scheduled Ancient Monument needs to be carefully considered, so as to avoid or minimise any harm to that important asset. Our Archaeologist at Lincolnshire County Council, and the Ancient Monument inspectors at Historic England, should be consulted in this.</li> <li>• New overhead lines and associated pylons would have some impact on the setting of a range of heritage assets in the area, especially having in mind the low-lying and flat topography of this part of the District.</li> </ul> <p>In both the above cases, the impact on all heritage assets affected needs to be clearly identified; The mitigation strategies should be clearly explained; Discounted alternative and less harmful routes need to be shown; and the public benefits of the project need to be clearly set out, including any benefits to local residents and businesses.</p>
<b>Recommendation:</b>	<p>Conservation has identified the range of heritage assets in the area, and has indicated the likely concerns based on the information submitted. However, without full details of exact proposals, it is not possible to give a more informed view than that given above. It is also recommended the Council's Archaeologist and Historic England both be consulted.</p> <p>In reaching the above views, Conservation has had regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 66(1) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990;</li> <li>• Policy DM8 of the Bassetlaw Core Strategy (December 2011);</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paragraphs 189, 193, 194, 195, 197, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203 &amp; 206 of the Revised NPPF (July 2021).</li> </ul>
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***These are the views of the Conservation Team covering heritage aspects of the scheme only and should be taken into account alongside other material planning considerations in determining the merits of the proposal.***





**MEMO**

**FROM:** Environmental Health Manager

**TO:** Planner Development Manager

**FAO:** Ms C Cook

**OUR REF:** WK/000142212

**YOUR REF:** 21/01692/PREAPP

**DATE:** 01 December 2021

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**SUBJECT:** Location: Cottam and Surrounding Land  
Application for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Gate Burton Energy Park.

**LOCATION:** Street Record, Outgang Lane, Cottam, Nottinghamshire

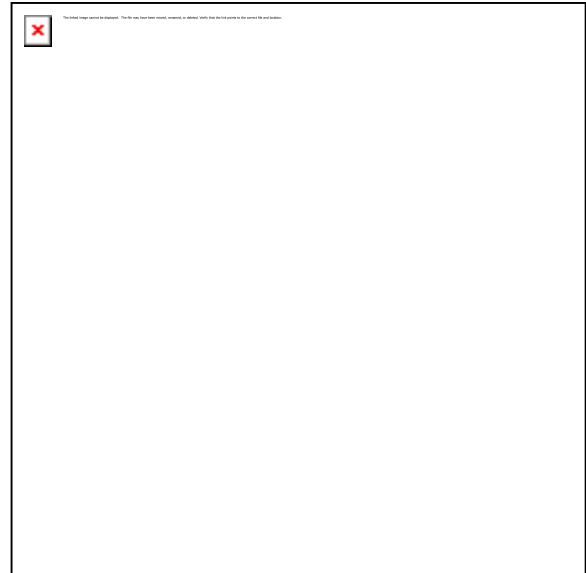
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The Environmental Health team would like to make the following observations/comments.

To discuss any of these comments please ring [REDACTED] and ask for the relevant officer.

	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Officer</b>
Extraction/ Ventilation:-	The development is unlikely to have need for extraction/ventilation. I therefore have no comments or recommendations with regards to extraction/ventilation for this development.	Neighbourhood EHO/TO
Noise:-	The development is unlikely to affect the environment with regards to noise. I therefore have no comments or recommendations with regards to noise. Any problems arising can be dealt with under provisions of the Environmental Protection Act.	Neighbourhood EHO/TO
Lighting:-	The development is unlikely to be affected by light in the area and is also unlikely to affect the environment with regards to lighting. I therefore have no comments or recommendations with regards to lighting for this development. Any problems arising can be dealt with under provisions of the Environmental Protection Act.	Neighbourhood EHO/TO

Environmental Health Services



**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT**

**HIGHWAY REPORT ON PROPOSALS FOR DEVELOPMENT (PRE-PLANNING APPLICATION  
ADVICE)**

<b>DISTRICT:</b>	Bassetlaw	Date received	18/11/2021
<b>OFFICER:</b>	Clare Cook	by D.C.	
<b>PROPOSAL:</b>	Application for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Gate Burton Energy Park	D.C. No.	21/01692/PREAPP
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Cottam and Surrounding Land		
<b>APPLICANT:</b>	Gate Burton Energy Park Ltd		

The area Rights of Way Officer should be consulted. The Grid Connection Corridor (GCC) has the potential to affect several public rights of way in Nottinghamshire.

The Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report confirms that the Application will be supported by a Transport Assessment (TA). As the site is in Lincolnshire, the expected traffic impact on the Nottinghamshire highway network would appear to be confined to traffic associated with the GCC. Local roads in Nottinghamshire are otherwise protected from construction traffic by the intervening River Trent. The nearest Nottinghamshire road crossing is the A57 Dunham Bridge to the south which is likely to be suitable for construction traffic. Nottinghamshire County Council as local highway authority for the Nottinghamshire road network would therefore wish to see the traffic impact of construction traffic associated with the GCC to be covered in a discrete chapter within the TA to prepared in accordance with Planning Practice Guidance. Environmental impacts, to be dealt with in accordance with the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) Guidelines for the Environmental Assessment of Road Traffic (1993), should form a separate section within the chapter to avoid confusion.

It is noted that the Construction Traffic Management Plan will include a chapter on construction worker travel patterns and measures to encourage travel by alternative modes to single occupancy vehicle. This should include the construction of the GCC. During operation, the impact of the development on the Nottinghamshire highway network is likely to be negligible. A full Travel Plan is not considered necessary.

The Scoping Report suggests that the route of the GCC is expected to cross Littleborough Road, Thornhill Lane, Northfield Road, Coates Road, Broad Lane, Headstead Bank and Town

Street. However, there is no plan of the proposed corridor at this stage or an indication of vehicle numbers specifically associated with the construction of the GCC. It is also suggested that a new access is expected to be constructed in the vicinity of the existing power station access to provide construction vehicle access to the GCC works in that area. These will require covering in detail within the TA to ensure that the effected roads are capable of accommodating construction traffic, and that essential access can be maintained during the works. It should also be clarified as to why it is necessary to construct a new access when the power station access could presumably serve the same purpose.

Martin Green  
Principal Officer  
22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021



FAO : Emily Park  
The Planning Inspectorate  
Environmental Services  
Central Operations  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN

Our Ref: 21/01692/PREAPP  
Your Ref: EN010131-000006  
Officer: Clare Cook  
Email: [planning@bassetlaw.gov.uk](mailto:planning@bassetlaw.gov.uk)

13 December 2021

Dear Sirs,

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017(the EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11**

**Application by Gate Burton Energy Park Ltd (the Applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Gate Burton Energy Park (the Proposed Development)**

**Scoping consultation and notification of the Applicant's contact details and duty to make available information to the Applicant if requested**

I refer to your letter and enclosures dated 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021 regarding the above development.

The District Council understands that its views are sought, as a statutory consultee on the scoping opinion which has been submitted to the Secretary of State under the terms of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. The District Council also understands that the Secretary of State will consult all the relevant statutory bodies in respect of this scoping opinion.

This project is cross border with the main element of the proposed solar farm being within West Lindsey District Council and the cabling element being within Bassetlaw District Council. The scoping report refers to the fact that the exact detailing of the cabling is not yet known, although it does give some parameters in respect of cabling above or below ground. It is also understood that the exact location of the proposed cabling is not yet known nor is whether an off site sub station / control building will be required.

The submitted scoping report contains the following chapters and I comment on them accordingly:

**The Scheme**

As aforementioned details of the proposed cabling / associated structure and their locations are not yet known. This is fundamental when assessing the impact of the development. This will require further clarification and detailed site location plan/s will be required for the purposes of the EIA.

The same applies for the majority of this chapter in that at this point in time specific details are not yet known and the scheme is therefore based upon different options which in

turn makes it difficult to scope the project to any detail.

I am unable to find details in respect to the description of the site, albeit this can be deduced from elements of the report. It is considered that a section on the description of the site is essential in order to set the scene for the EIA. This should take a holistic approach to the development including physical and built characteristics in order to build up a picture as to how the development sits in its surroundings.

### **Alternatives Considered**

This section is thin with little detail contained in respect of any alternative sites. The report gives an indication as to what an alternative analysis is likely to contain. It is considered that given that this site has already been chosen that the alternative analysis would have already been completed.

### **Consultation**

In terms of consultation this needs further detail in respect of how this will be undertaken. The District Council is supportive of the broad principles in respect of consultation; however it is key that public consultation is meaningful and wide reaching. It would be useful to understand what is meant by 'local community', it will be important that a number of methods are used to engage people both in Bassetlaw and West Lindsey. The District is happy to assist the developer in this regard.

Consultation with the Parish Councils will also need to be a key aspect of the proposal; however this will be more important once the exact routes and detail in respect of the cabling is known so the relevant parishes can be consulted.

### **Comments on the general approach**

The general approach of the scoping opinion is considered to be acceptable and in line with the requirements. However there are parts of the scoping report whereby the cabling has been separated from the main solar infrastructure; this is not considered to be acceptable. The proposed development should be assessed comprehensively and its impact assessed comprehensively. The impact should not be scoped out because it relates to one element of the scheme. The cabling is a crucial part of the scheme and should be assessed in as much detail as the main solar farm; the topics scoped in and out of the scoping opinion should be the same for both elements of the scheme.

The issue of cumulative impact will need to be carefully considered as there are other NSIP projects in this locality for similar developments along with planning applications for the same. Whilst renewable energy is supported the ES must ensure that these cumulative impacts are assessed within both Bassetlaw and West Lindsey. The approach in this regard is supported and will be key to the ES.

Each topic chapter should assess mitigation, this should be detailed and include a schedule of deliverable environmental commitments along with monitoring and control mechanisms. The order for mitigations should be avoid, minimise or reduce impact and remedy or compensate.

The ES should contain an appendix which sets out the evidence base documents that are to be used to inform the baseline would be welcomed. The evidence should be up to date and in accordance with the Regulations the District would be happy to assist in providing evidence where possible.

It should be noted that the report takes an inconsistent approach to referencing the emerging Bassetlaw Local Plan . Some sections reference it and relevant policies and others don't eg climate change does (6.3.2), but cultural heritage and others don't. The emerging local plan should be referenced for all sections given the timescales envisaged for this proposal.

The scoping report should reference the Environment Act as opposed to the Environment Bill and it is considered that reference should be made to the Government's Zero Carbon Strategy.

1.2.10: The Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan (Review), adopted 11 November 2021, is absent from the list of relevant development plan documents

2.1.48 Biodiversity and Landscaping: References to directly-relevant neighbourhood plans are missing, specifically Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan (Review) Policies 2a and 2b, and Rampton & Woodbeck Neighbourhood Plan Policy 10.

## **Proposed Topics**

### **Climate Change**

The Council comments as follows in respect of climate change:

The methodology for climate and biodiversity related assessments are sound. The outlined method uses best practice cradle to grave style LCA boundaries and data collection that will give the most accurate comparisons for the EIA.

#### **6.3 Planning Policy Context and Guidance**

For the avoidance of doubt, relevant Neighbourhood Plan Policies, as integral parts of the Development Plan, should be stated explicitly. Their current mention in paragraph 6.3.3 implies that they have not been afforded due consideration. These are as follows:

- Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan (Review): Policy 4 (Reducing the risk of flooding)

### **Cultural Heritage**

#### **7.3 Planning Policy Context and Guidance**

As per the comments for Section 6 of the report, the following Neighbourhood Plan policies / supporting studies are of relevance to this theme, and should be referenced explicitly:

- Rampton & Woodbeck Neighbourhood Plan: Policy 6 (Heritage Assets in Rampton and Woodbeck)
- Rampton & Woodbeck Neighbourhood Plan: Character Assessment
- Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan (Review): Policy 6 (Protecting the historical environment)
- Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan (Review): Design Code
- Treswell & Cottam Neighbourhood Plan: Policy 2 (Design Principles)
- Treswell & Cottam Neighbourhood Plan: Character Assessment

### **Conservation**

Please see the attached response from the Council's Conservation Officer in summary the following advice is offered:

The majority of the development proposed to take place would be within Lincolnshire rather than Bassetlaw. However, the development proposed outside of Bassetlaw may impact on the setting of a range of heritage assets within. This would depend upon the scale, design and materials of the proposed additions and their proximity to the River Trent. Without full details of proposals, Conservation cannot give an informed view as to the impact the development would have on the setting of heritage assets within Bassetlaw. However, in general terms, the low-lying nature of the land means that any taller structures are likely to have some impact on setting. The degree of this impact would depend on the scale and nature of the structures. That impact would also have to be weighed against the public benefits of the scheme, which Conservation acknowledges are considerable.

The submitted plans indicate a range of options for a series of grid connection corridor options within Bassetlaw. It is indicated that both underground and overhead grid connection corridor options are being considered. It is stated that 'if the cable is underground, this is likely to be installed using an open trench method requiring a 30m to 40m working width, with trench widths approximately 2m wide and up to 2m deep. Where other specific techniques are required such as micro-tunnelling, boring, or horizontal directional drilling (HDD) this will be investigated'.

Both underground and overhead grid connection corridor options would likely have some level of impact upon the significance and setting of a range of heritage assets, depending on location, scale, design and materials. Some of the many heritage assets that may be affected by the proposed development include several listed buildings, several scheduled ancient monuments, war memorials, several non-designated heritage assets, an unregistered park & garden and several other heritage assets. Without full details, Conservation cannot give an informed view as to the exact implications for heritage assets in the area affected. However, in general, there are two main concerns:

- Excavations are likely to be harmful to sites of archaeological significance. In particular, the route taken close to or through the Segelocum Roman town Scheduled Ancient Monument needs to be carefully considered, so as to avoid or minimise any harm to that important asset. Our Archaeologist at Lincolnshire County Council, and the Ancient Monument inspectors at Historic England, should be consulted in this.
- New overhead lines and associated pylons would have some impact on the setting of a range of heritage assets in the area, especially having in mind the low-lying and flat topography of this part of the District.

In both the above cases, the impact on all heritage assets affected needs to be clearly identified; The mitigation strategies should be clearly explained; Discounted alternative and less harmful routes need to be shown; and the public benefits of the project need to be clearly set out, including any benefits to local residents and businesses.

Conservation has identified the range of heritage assets in the area, and has indicated the likely concerns based on the information submitted. However, without full details of exact proposals, it is not possible to give a more informed view than that given in the attached response.

### Archaeology

Please see enclosed response from the Council's Archaeological Consultation. In summary the following comments are made:



The Scoping Report suggests that the connection cable routing may not fall within the DCO application, depending on the methodology employed, however I suggest that the approach to cultural heritage should follow the same level of investigation and provide the same baseline evidence to support whichever application process is followed.

Three wide, interlinked corridors are proposed, one of which will form the final route. All three traverse a landscape of rich archaeological potential containing known designated and non-designated assets spanning all periods. Of particular note are numerous assets associated with pre-historic and Roman date located along the known Roman road (Margary 28a) running between Lincoln and Doncaster and the Roman settlement at Littleborough (*Segelocvm*) on the west bank of the River Trent crossing (a scheduled monument).

There is also a very high potential for as yet unknown heritage assets dating to all periods.

The current route corridors have been positioned to try to avoid, as far as possible, the majority of known designated and undesignated assets recorded on the Nottinghamshire HER, however there will still be impact to known assets particularly on the western proposed route which crosses areas of intensive pre-historic and Roman settlement and agricultural activity.

To assess the likely impact of the development and significance of all archaeological remains and heritage assets, Chapter 7 of the scoping report proposes presenting desk-based sources, undertaking a walkover survey, followed by field investigation comprising geophysical survey and further intrusive evaluation.

It will be particularly important to provide sufficient information on the character, significance, date and extent of all archaeological remains that will be impacted by the proposed development. This includes known and as yet unknown assets and will be required to inform the appropriate level of mitigation work necessary on the chosen cable route. The nature and scope of the mitigation work will need to be agreed prior to submission of the DCO application.

The scope of information presented in the cultural heritage chapter will therefore be sufficient if the stated desk-based, geophysical and intrusive evaluation data is presented in the ES and an appropriate mitigation strategy has been agreed for submission with the DCO application.

The applicant should ensure that sufficient time is given to collect and process the required data so that their projected timetable for the DCO process can be adequately met. This includes factoring in land access and managing the work around crops, harvest and general agricultural activities.

## **Ecology and Biodiversity**

### **8.3: Planning Policy Context and Guidance**

The following Neighbourhood Plan policies are of relevance to this theme, and should be referenced explicitly:

- Rampton & Woodbeck Neighbourhood Plan Policy 10 (The protection of the Parish landscape).
- Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan (Review) Policies 2a (Protecting the landscape character, significant green gaps and key views) and 2b (Enhancing biodiversity)

The approach set out in this chapter seems acceptable in principle. The following points are given:

Regarding Section 8 with Biodiversity

#### Section 8.3.14 Other guidance

-A key guidance document 'Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services' is missing from the list. This is the most recent Defra approved strategy for biodiversity in the UK.

#### -Section 8.6.3 & 8.6.7 Potential Mitigation and Enhancement

-Here lists measures from BNG (Biodiversity Net Gain) related to development, but lacks inclusion from the 'Biodiversity 2020' above for meaningful policy to enhance local biodiversity. The core 4 principles **must** be included in their enhancement criteria: Better, Bigger, More, Joined.

This is particularly important for the proposed site as the Burton wood located at the centre of their proposed site could be a key biological hub for the surrounding sites discussed; Stag Wood, Knaith Park and Thurlby wood to the north; and Littleborough Lagoods and Out Ings to the west/south west. Therefore, the development should be considered an opportunity to promote wildlife corridors between these locations as a central enhancement aim to local biodiversity

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust is generally satisfied with the approach taken.

Lighting, even during construction phase, has the potential to impact on ecology and given the fact that there are still unknowns in respect of the location and design of this proposal it is considered that lighting should remain in the EIA and its effect on ecology should form part of this chapter.

It is welcomed that nothing is proposed to be scoped out of this chapter

### **Water Environment**

#### 9.3: Planning Policy Context and Guidance

The following Neighbourhood Plan policies are of relevance to this theme, and should be referenced explicitly:

- Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan (Review): Policy 4 (Reducing the risk of flooding),

Please see responses from Trent Valley Drainage Board.

Nottinghamshire Local Lead Flood Authority has confirmed that it is satisfied with the approach that has been taken at this stage

It is welcomed that nothing is proposed to be scoped out of this chapter

### **Landscape and Visual Amenity**

#### 10.3: Planning Policy Context and Guidance

As above, the following Neighbourhood Plan policies / supporting studies are of relevance to this theme, and should be referenced explicitly:

- Rampton & Woodbeck Neighbourhood Plan: Character Assessment
- Rampton & Woodbeck Neighbourhood Plan: Policy 10 (The Protection of the Parish Landscape)
- Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan (Review): Design Code
- Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan (Review): Policy 2a (Protecting the landscape character, significant green gaps and key views)
- Treswell & Cottam Neighbourhood Plan: Character Assessment
- Treswell & Cottam Neighbourhood Plan: Policy 2 (Design principles)

This is one of the key considerations for the District. However again it is not yet known the form of the proposed cabling and therefore it is difficult to assess the methodology for scoping purposes.

Once the details are known early discussions are recommended with both District's to set out how the landscape and visual assessment chapter will be developed and the proposed viewpoints should be agreed with the local authorities prior to commencement of the ES.

### **Noise and Vibration**

Given the fact that the details of the design and location of the proposed cabling is not yet known it is considered that ground vibration or noise should not be scoped out of the ES.

Advice from the Environmental Health Officer states:

*The noise sensitive receptors have been identified within West Lindsey District, but not for those receptors in the Bassetlaw District who may be within the cable corridors. I recognise that the location of the cable corridors have not yet been determined, but would request that the Environmental Impact Assessment identify the corridors, details whether the cabling will be above ground or below ground and identify the noise sensitive receptors so that the likely impact of any noise can be adequately assessed."*

### **Socio Economic and Land Use**

In terms of the proposed cabling area social economic receptors are proposed to be scoped into the ES which is welcomed. However the report goes on to say that these will be scoped out if the routes do not affect public right of ways. This is not considered to be acceptable. In any event the amount of cabling required for this proposed will impact on socio economic and land use of the area and should be scoped in regardless of whether it affects PROW or not (also see comments below from the public rights of way officer).

### **Transport and Access**

Please see the response from NCC Highways in summary this reads as follows:

The Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report confirms that the Application will be supported by a Transport Assessment (TA). As the site is in Lincolnshire, the expected traffic impact on the Nottinghamshire highway network would appear to be confined to traffic associated with the GCC. Local roads in Nottinghamshire are otherwise protected from construction traffic by the intervening River Trent. The nearest Nottinghamshire road crossing is the A57 Dunham Bridge to the south which is likely to be suitable for construction

traffic. Nottinghamshire County Council as local highway authority for the Nottinghamshire road network would therefore wish to see the traffic impact of construction traffic associated with the GCC to be covered in a discrete chapter within the TA to prepared in accordance with Planning Practice Guidance. Environmental impacts, to be dealt with in accordance with the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) Guidelines for the Environmental Assessment of Road Traffic (1993), should form a separate section within the chapter to avoid confusion.

It is noted that the Construction Traffic Management Plan will include a chapter on construction worker travel patterns and measures to encourage travel by alternative modes to single occupancy vehicle. This should include the construction of the GCC. During operation, the impact of the development on the Nottinghamshire highway network is likely to be negligible. A full Travel Plan is not considered necessary.

The Scoping Report suggests that the route of the GCC is expected to cross Littleborough Road, Thornhill Lane, Northfield Road, Coates Road, Broad Lane, Headstead Bank and Town Street. However, there is no plan of the proposed corridor at this stage or an indication of vehicle numbers specifically associated with the construction of the GCC. It is also suggested that a new access is expected to be constructed in the vicinity of the existing power station access to provide construction vehicle access to the GCC works in that area. These will require covering in detail within the TA to ensure that the effected roads are capable of accommodating construction traffic, and that essential access can be maintained during the works. It should also be clarified as to why it is necessary to construct a new access when the power station access could presumably serve the same purpose.

In terms of public rights of way Nottinghamshire County Council's public rights of way officer comments as follows:

The Rights of Way Team welcome the provisions set out in the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report for the protection and enhancement of the network of Public Rights of Way within the proposed development site. This response focuses on the area affected by the Grid Connection Corridor Options and the associated buffer zone as the proposed solar facility is situated in Lincolnshire and does not impact directly on the PROW of Nottinghamshire. For the same reason, I have not considered the Glint and Glare connotations with regards the PROW network.

The EIA Scoping Report references approximately 11km of PROW in Nottinghamshire to be potentially impacted by the Grid Connection Corridor Options. The Report outlines two proposals for cable connections between the solar site and the site of Cottam Power Station. In the case of an array of overhead power lines the visual impact to the PROW network should take into account at least a further 1km buffer zone. This would increase the PROW affected to a potential 40-50Km of footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways and byways open to all traffic. For this reason we would request trenching the cables as the preferred methodology for the protection of the green infrastructure network within the wider landscape. The report states (12.6.17) that the impacts are limited to the construction and decommissioning phases, with nil during the operation phase. However, an overhead power cable network would have permanent visual impacts to the PROW and we request that full consideration during all phases is afforded during the assessment of the impact of the Scheme on the baseline socioeconomic conditions.

It is noted that temporary closures will be necessary during the construction phase and it is requested that these closures, wherever practicable, are employed sensitively to optimise the connectivity of the wider PROW network. The Rights of Way team would welcome discussions regarding the enhancement and improvements to the Public Rights of Way network.

These comments have been provided by Via East Midlands Limited on behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council, in its capacity as Highway Authority, through Via's continuing role of providing operational services on behalf of the County Council.

### **Human Health and Wellbeing**

Human Health is given its own topic in the main body of the scoping report; however in table 17-2 this is put into the Environmental Topics Chapter and is proposed to be scoped out. This is not agreed and the District consider that human health and well being should be scoped into the ES as it needs to be assessed holistically with other impacts such as air quality, noise and vibration etc.

### **Environmental Topics including:**

Air quality  
Glint and glare  
Ground conditions  
Major accidents/disasters  
Telecommunications, television reception, utilities  
Waste

The approach taken to these elements of the ES are considered to be acceptable.

This forms a response from Bassetlaw District Council on the applicant's scoping opinion for the Gate Burton NSIP and we would be grateful if the comments contained within it can be considered as part of your formal scoping response.

Yours faithfully



Development Team Manager

Enc

Archaeological Advice  
The Coal Authority Response  
Bassetlaw Conservation Manager Response  
Trent Valley Drainage Board response and map  
Nottinghamshire County Council Highway Officer's response  
Bassetlaw Climate Change Officer Response  
Bassetlaw Environmental Health Response  
Nottinghamshire County Council Local Lead Flood Authority Response  
Nottinghamshire Wildlife Response  
Nottinghamshire County Council Public Rights of Way Officer Response  
Nottinghamshire County Council Response

Hi Clare,

From what I read, their methodology for climate and biodiversity related assessments are sound. They are using frameworks from notable, regulated and/or compliant sources.

I have nothing to add/request from their section 6 on climate change. Their outlined method uses best practice cradle to grave style LCA boundaries and data collection that will give the most accurate comparisons for the EIA.

Regarding Section 8 with Biodiversity, I do have some additional points/requests:

Section 8.3.14 Other guidance

-They are missing a key guidance document 'Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services'. This is the most recent Defra approved strategy for biodiversity in the UK.

-Section 8.6.3 & 8.6.7 Potential Mitigation and Enhancement

-Here lists measures from BNG (Biodiversity Net Gain) related to development, but lacks inclusion from the 'Biodiversity 2020' above for meaningful policy to enhance local biodiversity. The core 4 principles **should** (must\* if I could write this?) be included in their enhancement criteria: Better, Bigger, More, Joined.

This is particularly important for their proposed site as the Burton wood located at the centre of their proposed site could be a key biological hub for the surrounding sites discussed; Stag Wood, Knaith Park and Thurlby wood to the north; and Littleborough Lagoons and Out Ings to the west/south west. Therefore, their development should be considered an opportunity to promote wildlife corridors between these locations as a central enhancement aim to local biodiversity.

I hope that is written in a fashion that is useful for you Clare, but if you need anything different, please just let me know!

Thanks,  
Mack C

Robert Craighead  
Climate Change Officer

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Gate Burton Solar Project](#)  
**Subject:** Your ref: EN010131-000006 (Our ref: 21/00706/NCO) - Proposed Gate Burton Energy Park  
**Date:** 23 November 2021 11:04:35

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Dear Emily Park,

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11**

**Application by Gate Burton Energy Park Ltd (the Applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Gate Burton Energy Park (the Proposed Development)**

**Scoping consultation and notification of the Applicant's contact details and duty to make available information to the Applicant if requested**

**Your ref: EN010131-000006**

Thank you for the notification letter received by e-mail on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021 regarding the above proposals.

I am writing to inform you that Bolsover district Council has no comments to make in respect of this submission.

Kind regards,

Peter Sawdon  
Principal Planner  
Planning Department  
Bolsover District Council  
The Arc  
High Street  
Clowne  
Derbyshire  
S43 4JY

Tel: [REDACTED]  
Website: [www.bolsover.gov.uk](http://www.bolsover.gov.uk)

The contents of this e-mail represent my personal, professional, views, and do not necessarily represent the views of the Local Planning Authority, unless this is specifically stated in the e-mail.

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Environmental Services  
Central Operations  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN

Your Ref: EN010131-000006

Our Ref: IPP-148

Friday 26 November 2021

By email to [gateburtonsolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:gateburtonsolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

Dear Sir/Madam

## Proposal: Gate Burton Energy Park EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation

Thank you for your consultation on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping in relation to the Gate Burton Energy Park proposal.

The Canal & River Trust are the charity who look after and bring to life 2000 miles of canals & rivers. Our waterways contribute to the health and wellbeing of local communities and economies, creating attractive and connected places to live, work, volunteer and spend leisure time. These historic, natural and cultural assets form part of the strategic and local green-blue infrastructure network, linking urban and rural communities as well as habitats. By caring for our waterways and promoting their use we believe we can improve the wellbeing of our nation.

The Trust are landowner and navigation authority for parts of the River Trent. This includes the River Trent to the immediate west of the main application site, to which cable crossings are proposed. It is likely that the proposed project would require the construction of power cables across our network. We note that it is not known if these are to be sited below or above the river.

We advise that the following matters are likely to be of relevance to the Trust, which we believe should be accounted for within the EIA.

### Landscape and Visual Amenity

#### Grid Corridor Connection

We advise that this Chapter of the EIA should seek to assess the impact of the grid corridor connections upon the outward appearance and setting of the River Trent, which would be crossed.

Paragraph 10.2.4 of the Scoping Report identifies that receptors within 500m of the grid corridor option boundary will be considered. This would include the River Trent. **We request that, in the event that an above ground crossing of the Trent be proposed, viewpoints in the assessment should include locations at the position of the crossing, so that the impact can be fully judged and assessed. We advise that the**

#### Canal & River Trust

Fradleu Junction, Alrewas, Burton-upon-Trent, Staffordshire DE13 7DN

[E canalrivertrust.org.uk/contact-us](https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/contact-us) [W canalrivertrust.org.uk](https://canalrivertrust.org.uk)



assessment should also explore the impact of any substations or ancillary equipment should they be sited in proximity to the river.

To minimise the operational impacts of new crossings of the waterway network, **the Trust considers that it is appropriate for new crossings to be sited underground, below the waterway**, where feasible and practical. This is necessary to avoid any reduction in navigational head height for vessels, and to minimise any adverse visual impact caused by the presence of overhead pipelines above the waterway. The existing river corridor is characterised by a relatively flat, low landscape and the river is quite discrete in the wider setting. Above ground crossing points would have a significant visual impact in this context. Cables can be installed below the waterway via directional drilling or boring, which has been evidenced elsewhere on our network. **In the event that an above-ground solution is proposed for the river crossing, we advise that full justification for this should be provided within the Alternative Options chapter of the EIA.**

#### Long Distance Views of the Solar Park

Changes to the landform to accommodate the solar plant could impact upon long distance views from the River Trent, which could impact upon the outward character of the wider river corridor. We advise that the LVIA should include a general assessment of the impact of changes to the land form as seen from the waterway. We note that paragraph 10.6.9 of the Scoping Report identifies that the LVIA will take account of the Glint and Glare Assessment. We advise that this should include impacts viewed from the River Trent, as glint and glare impacts could occur over long distances and could impact boaters.

#### **Water Environment**

The Trust advises that consideration is required to ensure that the water quality of the River Trent is not harmed during the construction phase of development. The River Trent would lie within the Grid Corridor Option Corridor for the proposal, and lies within the study area covered in chapter 9 of the Scoping Report (and is specifically referred to in paragraph 9.4.21).

Paragraph 9.5.3 identifies a range of risks to the water environment, which would apply to the Trent and interconnected watercourses and groundwater, during the construction and decommissioning phases of the development. **We advise that these should be fully explored in the EIA, including an assessment of measures to reduce the risks** (through siting works away from the Trent as suggested in paragraph 9.5.5 and through the adoption of robust construction and environmental management techniques).

#### **Ground Conditions (In relation to works in proximity to the River Trent)**


The banks of the River Trent consist of sloping land, which lie within the Grid Corridor Connection area. It is important to ensure that adverse loading onto these (from construction plant and equipment or from new structures associated with the crossing) does not occur that could result in a collapse of the bank into the river.

Appendix B states that the risk of landslides will be considered as part of the geotechnical design, ensuring that the risk is designed out. **We advise that full information upon the location of construction works and accesses in addition to the position of permanent structures associated with the crossing of the Trent (including cross sections to show the land form as necessary) may likely be required to demonstrate that this risk can be fully discounted at application stage.**

The Trust is aware of existing dredging disposal sites alongside the Trent, which may consist of heightened levels of contamination. These would need to be considered in the event of a crossing disturbing these areas. The Trust can advise the applicant further on these locations if required.

#### **Canal & River Trust**

Fradley Junction, Alrewas, Burton-upon-Trent, Staffordshire DE13 7DN

 [canalrivertrust.org.uk/contact-us](mailto:canalrivertrust.org.uk/contact-us) [W canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://canalrivertrust.org.uk)

## Impact on Navigational Safety

Should the proposals include the incorporation of a new cable crossing above the River Trent, then full consideration would be required to ensure that the cable is installed at an appropriate height so as to not hinder the passage or safety of river users. Account would need to be given towards the height of vessels that utilise or could utilise the waterway, as well as the height of other cable crossings that may be present upon the existing stretch of navigation.

The installation of cables above the waterway may also require a closure of the navigation to boat traffic, which would result in temporary disruptions to the movement of navigable craft.

We therefore request that the EIA includes account for the permanent and temporary impacts of works on the safety and passage of navigable craft on the Trent within the Transport and Access Chapter in the event that an above-ground cable crossing of the river is proposed.

Consideration would also be required with regards to ensuring that any new crossings do not harm the provision of any existing moorings on the navigation.

As advised above, to minimise the operational impacts of new crossings of the waterway network, including the need to safeguard an appropriate and safe navigational head height for vessels, we strongly advise that measures to install the cable below the waterway are considered prior to the adoption of an above-surface crossing.

## Further Advice for the Applicant in our Capacity as Landowner and Navigation Authority

### Walkover/Survey Work

Pre-works surveys or investigations on the Trust's land or on the river would require the Trust's consent via the Code of Practice. We advise that the applicant may wish to contact our Works Engineer via switchboard on [REDACTED] or at [Enquiries.TPWNorth@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:Enquiries.TPWNorth@canalrivertrust.org.uk) in order to seek consent to undertake works. New crossings of our land may also require the approval of the Trust in our position as landowner and navigation authority. Contact should be made by the applicant through the Trust's utilities section at [utilitiesenquiry@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:utilitiesenquiry@canalrivertrust.org.uk) to ensure that any relevant consent (if necessary) is approved prior to the commencement of works.

Work to construction crossings over or under our network would also likely need to comply with the Trust's "Code of Practice for Works affecting the Canal & River Trust". The applicant is advised to contact the Canal & River Trust's Works Engineering Team via switchboard on [REDACTED] or at [Enquiries.TPWNorth@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:Enquiries.TPWNorth@canalrivertrust.org.uk) for further advice.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any queries you may have.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Tucker MRTPI  
Area Planner

[REDACTED]@canalrivertrust.org.uk

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/specialist-teams/planning-and-design>

Canal & River Trust

Erddley Junction, Alrewas, Burton-upon-Trent, Staffordshire DE13 7DN

[REDACTED] [canalrivertrust.org.uk/contact-us](mailto:canalrivertrust.org.uk/contact-us) [W canalrivertrust.org.uk](https://canalrivertrust.org.uk)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Gate Burton Solar Project](#)  
**Subject:** EN010131 - Gate Burton Energy Park - EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation  
**Date:** 09 December 2021 14:39:54  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)

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Dear Katie,

Thank you for your consultation on the scoping opinion for the proposed energy park.

The council has no comments to make and considers that the issues in relation to transportation and air quality will be included as part of the ES sufficient for officers to form a judgement on potential impacts on Doncaster MBC.

Kind Regards,

**Andrea Suddes MSc MRTPI**  
Principal Planning Officer  
Development Management

**Tel:** [REDACTED]  
**E-Mail:** [REDACTED]@[doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:doncaster.gov.uk)  
**Address:** Directorate of Development, Civic Office, Waterdale, Doncaster, DN1 3BU

**Please note that owing to current circumstances relating to Covid-19 there will inevitably be disruption to the day to day running of the Planning Service and this will include the processing of planning and building regulation applications and other work areas. Officers are still working remotely and have full access to emails but may be required to assist other essential Council services during this challenging time. We are confident our contingency plans enable us to operate effectively, but we may need to make difficult choices in relation to other priorities if required. Public safety and Dangerous Structures remains the priority of our Building Control Team and the normal reporting procedures in this regard should continue to be followed. Thank you for your understanding.**

cid:image001.jpg@01D5EB2E.C7C99ECO



\*\*\*\*\*

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Gate Burton Solar Project](#)  
**Cc:** [enquiries@lowcarbon.com](mailto:enquiries@lowcarbon.com) [REDACTED] [haecom.com](#)  
**Subject:** EN010131 - Gate Burton Energy Park - EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation our ref PL00759388  
**Date:** 13 December 2021 20:13:50

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**Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11**

**Application by Gate Burton Energy Park Ltd (the Applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Gate Burton Energy Park (the Proposed Development)**

**EN010131 - Gate Burton Energy Park - EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation our ref PL00759388**

**Historic England Advice**

Thank you for consulting Historic England we welcome the scoping-in of Cultural Heritage.

In the case of both the Scheduled Monument at Heynings Priory (1008685) in especially respect of the main arrays and *Segelocum* / Littleborough Roman Town (1003639) the extent of nationally important remains is likely to be greater than the area designated as a scheduled monument, designations being necessarily based upon information available at a specific point time.

At the Roman settlement of Littleborough significant geophysical survey work has been carried out since designation and early and detailed consultations should be made directly with Nottinghamshire County Council Historic Environment Record (not simply via Heritage Gateway). At Heyning Priory the religious establishment needs to be understood in the context of the accrual, consolidation and tenancing of land and interests through the pre-reformation period and the adaptation and reorientation of landholdings following the dissolution. It is crucial in understanding both sites in their landscape context that the dynamic nature of these places is understood and great attention is paid both to their relationship to pre-existing settlement and their afterlives in the early medieval and post-medieval periods respectively.

The statutory record for Heynings Priory can be found at <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1008685?section=official-listing> but further discussion of it as a nunnery and at times a joint house of men and women, can be found at [https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results\\_Single.aspx?uid=891738&search=all&criteria=heynings+priory&resourceID=19191](https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=891738&search=all&criteria=heynings+priory&resourceID=19191). Nunneries are often less well documented and poorer than their male counterparts and as such require especial research diligence.

Techniques of survey need to appropriate to the archaeological potential of sites and in the context of the land on the left Trent bank opposite from Torksey consideration should be given to the results of recent work on the right bank by the University of York at Torksey with consideration to both wind-blown deposits and early medieval artefact scatters.

Archaeological landscape setting matters are not restricted to fixed point visual intrusions and a robust and structured approach which encompasses archaeological landscape setting and kinetic experiences of movement (both by land and water)

through the landscape are of great importance (see out GPA 3 Setting of Heritage Assets <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa3-setting-of-heritage-assets/heag180-gpa3-setting-heritage-assets/>).

A fixed 1km buffer is not in its self a sufficiently robust approach hence we welcome the flexible approach going out to 5km noted at 7.2.2, allowance should be made for understanding the topographic and tenorial context of the proposed development site, visual relationships to more distant but important assets such as the Grade I listed church and associated scheduled monument at Stow will require consideration.


At Knaith the relationship of the Grade II Park Farm South Farmhouse and the significance of the undesignated Knaith Park need to be understood in their own right and as a complex of related features with the Priory. The Grade II\* listed Gate Burton Hall (1359458) with associated Grade II listed Walled Garden, Church of St Helen, Old Rectory and Gate Burton Hall Cottages, the Temple folly 'Burton Chateau listed at GII\* (106408) and undesignated former mill site to south form a second focus whose relationship with Knaith Park should be explored as highlighted at 7.4.5 and 7.4.6. The importance of landscape change and settlement desertion / emparkment is well observed and the role of both secular and religious landholders in that process should be understood. This will require detail archive cartographic and textual work alongside and integrated with an iterative programme of archaeological assessment (close consultation with both Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment specialist will be of obvious importance. Cropmarks are noted at SK8374084090 on the NHRE and further review of aerial photo evidence combined with existing and new lidar and geophysical survey data is likely to give a basis for initial characterisation and trial trenching (in which regard we refer you the county archaeological advisors.

Yours sincerely

Tim Allen

Tim Allen MA FSA  
Development Advice Team Leader (North)

Midlands Region  
Historic England  
The Foundry, 82 Granville Street, Birmingham B1 2LH

Direct Line   
<http://www.historicengland.org.uk/> | [@HistoricEngland](https://twitter.com/HistoricEngland)



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FAO: Emily Park (Senior EIA Advisor)

**Our ref:** AN/2021/132495/01-L01  
**Your ref:** EN010131-000006

By email:

[GateBurtonSolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:GateBurtonSolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

**Date:** 09 December 2021

Dear Emily

**Gate Burton Energy Park Ltd – Development Consent Order (DCO)  
Gate Burton, Lincolnshire**

Thank you for referring the above consultation on 15 November 2021.

We have reviewed the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) scoping report undertaken by AECOM, dated November 2021 and have the following comments to make on it for issue under our remit:

**Water environment (Chapter 9)**

We have reviewed Chapter 9 in respect of the approach to flood risk and are satisfied that the scoping report has accurately identified the flood risk. A flood risk assessment (FRA) will be submitted to support the DCO and should consider runoff from the site and ensure this is managed to greenfield runoff rate.

We also support the proposal to undertake a Screening and Scoping Assessment to ensure Water Framework Directive (WFD) objective compliance.

**Other environmental topics (Chapter 15)**

Ground conditions (15.4)

We have reviewed Chapter 15 in respect of the approach to groundwater and contaminated land and are satisfied that a Preliminary Risk Assessment will be submitted to support the DCO and identify any issues.

Waste (15.7)

We have reviewed Chapter 15 in respect of waste and are satisfied that no significant impacts are expected from waste and that it can be scoped out of the EIA.

**Environment Agency**

Nene House (Pychley Lodge Industrial Estate),  
Pychley Lodge Road, Kettering, Northants, NN15 6JQ  
Email: [LNplanning@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:LNplanning@environment-agency.gov.uk)  
[www.gov.uk/environment-agency](http://www.gov.uk/environment-agency)

Customer services line: [REDACTED]

*Calls to 03 numbers cost the same as calls to standard geographic numbers (i.e. numbers beginning with 01 or 02).*

Cont/d..



Should you require any additional information, or wish to discuss these matters further, please do not hesitate to contact me on the number below.

Yours sincerely

**Keri Monger**  
**Sustainable Places - Planning Adviser**

Direct dial [REDACTED]

Direct e-mail [REDACTED]@[environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@environment-agency.gov.uk)

**Forest Services**

East and East Midlands  
Santon Downham  
Brandon  
Suffolk IP27 0TJ

Environmental Services Central  
Operations Temple Quay House 2  
The Square  
Bristol,  
BS1 6PN

**Tel****Fax**

[eandem@forestrycommission.gov.uk](mailto:eandem@forestrycommission.gov.uk)

2nd December 2021

**Area Director:** Steve Scott

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Application by Gate Burton Energy Park Ltd (the Applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Gate Burton Energy Park (the Proposed Development) Scoping consultation**

Thank you for consulting the Forestry Commission on this scoping document. As the Governments forestry experts we endeavour to provide as much relevant information to enable the project to reduce any impact on irreplaceable habitat such as Ancient Semi Natural Woodland as well as other woodland.

We are particularly concerned about any impact on Ancient Semi Natural Woodland and will expect to see careful consideration of any impact and any weightings which might be applied to any scoping assessments

Several areas of woodland can be found within the site boundary and the document in Chapter 8, 8.8.1 the assumption that all woodland will be retained, this is very positive.

Burton Wood an Ancient Semi Natural Woodland is marked on the map figure 1.3a Environmental Constraints.

1. Park Plantation
2. Jubilee Plantation
3. Park Wood
4. Broom Hills

These four woods all appear to be isolated with the site boundary going round this area which would isolate it within the landscape this area also seems to have been discounted as being relevant yet the site surrounds it, the impacts on these woodlands also need to be included, the plantation woodland will need



management and access for machinery depending on age and depending on the proximity to the boundary may need plans for managing root protection. As some of this woodland appears to be replanted woodland on an ancient woodland site it has to be treated as ancient woodland.

Long Nursery (10Ha) and Quilters( 1.5ha) measurements approximate, are not marked as woodland on the constraints map but sit within the site. Given the assumption mentioned in Chapter 8 we assume these will be kept. The non-marked woodland should be marked as a constraint as it is a habitat which will be required to be considered if the intention is to deliver biodiversity net gain. Retention as already mentioned is applauded however it also it needs to be acknowledged that woodlands have to be managed and that this will require access for machinery at times and allowances need to be made for this.

Any loss of woodland should it become necessary, the ASNW is irreplaceable, would require a compensatory plan to be in place and the requisite space to deliver extra woodland would have to be factored in.

Chapter 8, 8.3.12 States the various NPPF paragraphs but doesn't go on to outline that 180 covers ASNW and how the assessments of potential impacts will be done for Burton Wood. This ASNW appears as an island at the moment we would hope that it could be linked up to other woodland present on site or extended to improve its resilience, as a minimum it requires a significant buffer and a plan to avoid compaction of roots. Whatever is considered, an assessment of the impacts of any works near to this does need to be considered using the [Standing Advice on Ancient Woodland](#) – plus supporting [Assessment Guide and Case Decisions](#).

The document suggests that there will be field boundary enhancement and we would welcome the planting of more trees, both as screens to nearby settlements and to deliver biodiversity net gain. Section 8.6.7 Potential Mitigation and enhancement, we suggest that it is necessary to be quite clear on the trees and woodland on the site in order to ascertain a baseline for net gain.

In addition to protection of Ancient Semi natural Woodland the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) sets out the UK government's approach to sustainable forestry and woodland management, including standards and requirements as a basis for regulation, monitoring and reporting requirements. The UKFS has a general presumption against deforestation. Page 23 of the Standard states that: "Areas of woodland are material considerations in the planning process...."

Included within any assessment should be an indication of any woodlands under an existing woodland grant scheme and / or a felling licence agreement to

ensure these agreements will not be negatively impacted and *public money wasted*. The Forestry Commission can provide that information if required.

Following assessment, the environmental statement will need to set out requirements for any compensatory woodland, any protection measures such as root protection zones and buffering requirements.

We will be interested to see the Framework Biodiversity and Landscape Management Plan when available.

Yours sincerely,



**Corinne Meakins**  
(Pronouns she/her)

Local Partnership Advisor  
Forestry Commission East and East Midlands Area  
Mobile 

CEMHD Policy - Land Use Planning,  
NSIP Consultations,  
Building 1.2,  
Redgrave Court,  
Merton Road,  
Bootle, Merseyside  
L20 7HS.

HSE email: [NSIP.applications@hse.gov.uk](mailto:NSIP.applications@hse.gov.uk)

FAO Emily Park  
The Planning Inspectorate  
Temple Quay House  
Temple Quay  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN  
By email only

Dear Ms Park

1 December 2021

**PROPOSED GATE BURTON ENERGY PARK (the project)  
PROPOSAL BY GATE BURTON ENERGY PARK LIMITED (the applicant)  
INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2017 (as  
amended) REGULATIONS 10 and 11**

Thank you for your letter of the 15 November 2021 regarding the information to be provided in an environmental statement relating to the above project. HSE does not comment on EIA Scoping Reports but the following information is likely to be useful to the applicant.

**HSE's land use planning advice**

Will the proposed development fall within any of HSE's consultation distances?

According to HSE's records for the solar PV DCO application boundary:

There is one major accident hazard pipelines within the proposed DCO application boundary for this nationally significant infrastructure project; HSE reference 11166 operated by Uniper

According to HSE's records for the Grid connector corridor options DCO application boundary

There are four major accident hazard sites and one major accident hazard pipelines within the proposed DCO application boundary for this nationally significant infrastructure project.

The major accident hazard sites are :

HSE reference H4154 EDF Energy (Thermal Generation) Ltd, Cottam Power Station, Nottinghamshire

HSE reference H4266 The Oil and Pipelines Agency, Stow PB

HSE reference H4156 EDF Energy (Thermal Generation) Ltd, Nottinghamshire

The major accident pipeline is:

HSE reference 11166 operated by Uniper

These are based on the current configuration as illustrated in, for example, Figure 1.1: Site Location of the Gate Burton Energy Park Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report November 2021 Gate Burton Energy Park Limited

HSE's Land Use Planning advice would be dependent on the location of areas where people may be present. When we are consulted by the Applicant with further information under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008, we can provide full advice.

### Hazardous Substance Consent

The presence of hazardous substances on, over or under land at or above set threshold quantities (Controlled Quantities) will probably require Hazardous Substances Consent (HSC) under the Planning (Hazardous Substances) Act 1990 as amended. The substances, alone or when aggregated with others for which HSC is required, and the associated Controlled Quantities, are set out in The Planning (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2015 as amended.

HSC would be required to store or use any of the Named Hazardous Substances or Categories of Substances at or above the controlled quantities set out in Schedule 1 of these Regulations.

Further information on HSC should be sought from the relevant Hazardous Substances Authority.

### Consideration of risk assessments

Regulation 5(4) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 requires the assessment of significant effects to include, where relevant, the expected significant effects arising from the proposed development's vulnerability to major accidents. HSE's role on NSIPs is summarised in the following Advice Note 11 Annex on the Planning Inspectorate's website - [Annex G – The Health and Safety Executive](#). This document includes consideration of risk assessments on page 3.

### Explosives sites

HSE has no comment to make as there are no licensed explosives sites in the vicinity.

### Electrical Safety

No comment from a planning perspective.

At this time, please send any further communication on this project directly to the HSE's designated e-mail account for NSIP applications at [nsip.applications@hse.gov.uk](mailto:nsip.applications@hse.gov.uk). We are currently unable to accept hard copies, as our offices have limited access.

Yours sincerely,

*Monica*

Monica Langton  
CEMHD4 NSIP Consultation Team

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Gate Burton Solar Project](#)  
**Subject:** FW: EN010131 - Gate Burton Energy Park - EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation  
**Date:** 17 November 2021 12:27:48  
**Attachments:** [EN010131 Gate Burton Energy Park - Statutory consultation letter.pdf](#)

---

Good Afternoon

We welcome the information and awareness regarding this scheme.

We do not have any comments at this time and will continue to monitor this as the plans develop.

Kind Regards  
Emily

**Emily Turk**  
**S106 Administrator**

**NHS Lincolnshire CCG**  
**Cross O'Cliff Court,**  
**Bracebridge Heath, Lincoln, LN4 2HN**  
**Tel:** [REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Gate Burton Solar Project](#)  
**Subject:** FW: EXTERNAL EMAIL:FAO Head of Planning: EN010131 - Gate Burton Energy Park - EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation  
**Date:** 26 November 2021 09:05:21  
**Attachments:** [EN010131 Gate Burton Energy Park - Statutory consultation letter.pdf](#)

---

Good Morning

Thank you for your attached consultation letter, Mansfield District Council's Planning Team would comment as follows:

Given the intervening separation distance between the potential site and the district, I can confirm that Mansfield District Council has no comments to make on this Scoping Opinion Consultation. However, we would like to bring to your attention the Sherwood Forest potential future Special Protection Area (SPA), as the buffer to this is extensive and may need consideration within the Environment Statement.

Can I also request, that Mansfield DC please be consulted when the application is lodged, so that we can go through the details and make any formal comments at that stage?

Robbie Steel  
Major Projects and Growth Team Leader  
Mansfield District Council

Regards  
Denise

Denise Calderwood  
Technical Support and Land Charges Team Leader  
Planning and Regeneration  
Tel. [REDACTED]  
Email [\[REDACTED\]@mansfield.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@mansfield.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.mansfield.gov.uk](http://www.mansfield.gov.uk)  
Twitter: @MDC\_News  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/mymansfield](https://www.facebook.com/mymansfield)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Gate Burton Solar Project](#)  
**Subject:** Gate Burton Energy Park - scoping opinion consultation  
**Date:** 01 December 2021 11:32:24

---

Dear Sir/Madam,

Leicestershire County Council has no comments to make on the document.

Regards,  
LRJ

**Luke Raddon Jackson**

Growth Manager  
Chief Executive's Department  
Leicestershire County Council  
Tel: [REDACTED]  
[www.leics.gov.uk](http://www.leics.gov.uk)

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Warren Peppard  
Head of Development Management  
Lincolnshire County Council  
County Offices  
Newland  
Lincoln LN1 1YL  
Tel: [REDACTED]  
HighwaysSUDsSupport@lincolnshire.gov.uk

To: The Planning Inspectorate

Application Ref:

EN010131-000006

Proposal: **Solar farm**

Location: **Gate Burton Energy Park**

With reference to the above scoping consultation received 15 November 2021

Notice is hereby given that the County Council as Local Highway and Lead Local Flood Authority:

**Does not have any comments.**

**CONDITIONS (INCLUDING REASONS) /REASONS FOR REFUSAL**

The EIA Scoping Report dated November 2021 by AECOM for the Gate Burton Energy Park includes the proposed scope for a Transport Assessment, Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy. These scopes are acceptable to LCC as Local Highway and Lead Local Flood Authority.

Case Officer:

[REDACTED]

Date: 10 December 2021

**for Warren Peppard  
Head of Development Management**





# Ministry of Defence

Emily Park  
C/O National Infrastructure Planning  
Temple Quay House  
Temple Quay  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN

# Defence Infrastructure Organisation

Safeguarding Department  
Statutory & Offshore  
Defence Infrastructure Organisation  
St Georges House  
DIO Head Office  
DMS Whittington  
Lichfield  
Staffordshire  
WS14 9PY

Tel: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [DIO-safeguarding-statutory@mod.gov.uk](mailto:DIO-safeguarding-statutory@mod.gov.uk)

[www.mod.uk/DIO](http://www.mod.uk/DIO)

13 December 2021

Your reference: EN010131  
Our reference: DIO/10053263/2021

Dear Emily

## **MOD Safeguarding-EAST 1 WAM Network**

Proposal: Application for an Order granting Development Consent for the Gate Burton Energy Park. The Scheme comprises the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) generating panels and on-site energy storage facilities across a proposed site in Lincolnshire together with grid connection infrastructure. The Scheme would allow for the generation, storage and export of up to 500 megawatts (MW) electrical generation capacity.

Location: Land to the West of Sturton On Stowe Lincolnshire

Grid Ref's: E 488982 N 382447
E 487223 N 383537
E 485503 N 386090
E 482881 N 384873
E 488347 N 383994
E 481402 N 383385
E 480490 N 378398
E 483413 N 378742

Thank you for consulting the Ministry of Defence (MOD) on the above proposed development which was received by this office on the 15/11/2021.

This relates to a scoping application for an Order granting Development Consent for the Gate Burton Energy Park. The Scheme comprises the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) generating panels and on-site energy storage facilities across a proposed site in Lincolnshire together with grid connection infrastructure

I can confirm the MOD has no safeguarding concerns to this proposal.

I trust this is clear however should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Mr Chris Waldron.

Mr Chris Waldron  
Assistant Safeguarding Manager

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Gate Burton Solar Project](#)  
**Subject:** RE: EXT || FAO Spencer Jefferies: EN010131 - Gate Burton Energy Park - EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation  
**Date:** 13 December 2021 16:24:23  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)

---

Good afternoon,

Thank you for sending through the scoping documentation

National Grid have electrical apparatus within the vicinity and we would like to be consulted as you progress with your development.



Kind Regards

**Spencer Jefferies BSc AssocRTPI**

Town Planner  
Land Rights and Acquisitions, UK Land and Property  
**nationalgrid**

[REDACTED]@nationalgrid.com

National Grid House, (Floor C2), Warwick Technology Park, Gallows Hill, Warwick, CV34 6DA  
[nationalgrid.com](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

In order to deal with your query/request, we may need to collect your personal data. For more information on National Grid's privacy policy in respect of your personal data, please see attached link: <https://www.nationalgrid.com/group/privacy-policy>

Advance notice of holiday:



Our ref:  
Your ref: EN010131-000006

Martin Seldon  
Assistant Spatial Planner  
Floor 9  
The Cube  
199 Wharfside Street  
Birmingham B1 1RN

The Planning Inspectorate  
Environmental Services  
Central Operations  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN

Direct Line: [REDACTED]  
1 December 2021

FAO Emily Park

Dear Emily

**APPLICATION BY GATE BURTON ENERGY PARK LTD (THE APPLICANT) FOR AN ORDER GRANTING DEVELOPMENT CONSENT FOR THE GATE BURTON ENERGY PARK (THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT)**

Thank you for your letter of 15 November 2021 regarding a Scoping Opinion on an Environmental Statement for the above proposed development.

The site of the proposed development is located a significant distance away from the motorway and trunk road network. National Highways therefore has no comments on this proposal.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Martin Seldon  
OD Midlands Spatial Planning Team  
Email [REDACTED]@highwaysengland.co.uk

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Gate Burton Solar Project](#)  
**Subject:** RE: EN010131 - Gate Burton Energy Park - EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation [SG32409]  
**Date:** 16 November 2021 15:30:43  
**Attachments:** [~WRD3474.jpg](#)  
[image001.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)  
[image008.jpg](#)

---

Our Ref: SG32409

Dear Sir/Madam

The proposed development has been examined from a technical safeguarding aspect and does not conflict with our safeguarding criteria. Accordingly, NATS (En Route) Public Limited Company ( NERL ) has no safeguarding objection to the proposal.

However, please be aware that this response applies specifically to the above consultation and only reflects the position of NATS (that is responsible for the management of en route air traffic) based on the information supplied at the time of this application. This letter does not provide any indication of the position of any other party, whether they be an airport, airspace user or otherwise. It remains your responsibility to ensure that all the appropriate consultees are properly consulted.

If any changes are proposed to the information supplied to NATS in regard to this application which become the basis of a revised, amended or further application for approval, then as a statutory consultee NERL requires that it be further consulted on any such changes prior to any planning permission or any consent being granted.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

NATS Safeguarding

E: [natssafeguarding@nats.co.uk](mailto:natssafeguarding@nats.co.uk)

4000 Parkway, Whiteley,  
Fareham, Hants PO15 7FL  
[www.nats.co.uk](http://www.nats.co.uk)



From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Town Planning LNF](#)  
To: [Gate Burton Solar Project](#)  
Subject: Ref EN010131-000006 - Gate Burton Energy Park Scoping Consultation  
Date: 03 December 2021 15:03:06  
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

---

OFFICIAL

**FAO: Emily Park**

**Your Ref: EN010131-000006**

**Proposed scheme: Gate Burton Energy Park Scoping consultation**

I refer to your letter of 15 November 2021 in respect of the consultation on the Gate Burton Energy Park scheme.

Network Rail is a statutory undertaker responsible for maintaining and operating the railway infrastructure and associated estate. It owns, operates, maintains and develops the main rail network. Network Rail aims to protect and enhance the railway infrastructure therefore any proposed development which is in close proximity to the railway line or could potentially affect Network Rail's specific land interests, will need to be carefully considered.

#### **Impact on Network Rail Infrastructure**

Network Rail has been reviewing the information provided and note that the proposed development is situated along a large extent of the Lincoln to Gainsborough railway line. We also note that the proposals include using the access under the railway at Clay Lane off the Gainsborough Road (A156) for construction and subsequent site access purposes. In view of this, the EIA should consider of the impact of the proposed development upon operational railway safety. This should include a transport assessment section considering the impact that haulage routes associated with the construction and operation of the scheme may have on operational railway assets and such as railway bridges with low clearance, bridges with weight restrictions and railway level crossings. In particular in this instance, it should consider the suitability of the proposed access via Clay Lane for construction and access purposes, given the limited height and width of the structure.

We note that the scheme includes the use of solar panels and the EIA should include a Glint and Glare study that considers the impact of the scheme upon the adjacent railway, in particular relating to potential train driver distraction and obscuring/conflict with railway signals in the vicinity.

Should any part of the scheme require the use of, or access across railway land including the operational railway itself, the developer will be required to obtain the necessary agreements and consents (easement agreements, licences etc) from Network Rail going forward.

#### **Summary**

Network Rail would be grateful if the comments above are considered by The Planning Inspectorate. Network Rail would welcome further discussion and negotiation with The Planning Inspectorate and Gate Burton Energy Park Ltd in relation to the proposed development as required going forward. If you have any questions or require more information in relation to the above please let me know.

Kind regards



**Matt Leighton**  
Town Planning Technician  
**Diversity and Inclusion Champion**  
Network Rail Property - Eastern Region  
George Stephenson House, Toft Green, York, YO1 6JT

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

Emily Park  
The Planning Inspectorate  
Environmental Services  
Central Operations  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN

[www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk](http://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk)

Telephone: 01636 650000  
Email: [planning@nsdc.info](mailto:planning@nsdc.info)

Our ref: 21/02430/NPA  
Your ref: EN010131-000006

Date: 22 November 2021

Sent via e-mail to:

[gateburtonsolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:gateburtonsolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

Dear Ms Park

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017(the EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11**

**Application by Gate Burton Energy Park Ltd (the Applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Gate Burton Energy Park (the Proposed Development)**

**Scoping consultation and notification of the Applicant's contact details and duty to make available information to the Applicant if requested**

I refer to the above consultation received by this Authority on 16 November 2021 which relates to the proposed installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) generating panels and on-site energy storage facilities together with grid connection infrastructure on a site approximately 4km south of Gainsborough in Lincolnshire.

I can advise that Newark & Sherwood District Council have no comments to make on the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report (by AECOM Dated Nov 2021).

Please note that this matter has not been formally reported to the District Council's Planning Committee. In these circumstances the comments are those of an Officer of the Council under delegated power arrangements.

If you require any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact my colleague, Helen Marriott, the case officer, who has dealt with this consultation, on 01636 655793.

Yours sincerely



Lisa Hughes - Business Manager – Planning Development





**North Kesteven**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Neighbouring Authority Consultation

Name and address of applicant

Name and address of agent (if any)

Katie Norris  
Environmental Services  
Central Operations  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN

### Notice of comments made to the proposal

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**Application number:** 21/1760/NEIAUT

---

**Proposal:** Proposed Gate Burton Energy Park

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**Location:** Gate Burton Energy Park

---

North Kesteven District Council hereby raises the below comments to the proposed development as referred to above.

North Kesteven District Council does not wish to make detailed comments in relation to the scope of the Environmental Statement in relation to the proposed Gate Burton Energy Park but would offer the following observations. The Gate Burton Energy Park is one of a number of relatively recently publicised large scale solar farms proposed in Lincolnshire and which are collectively subject to the provisions of the Planning Act (2008) and as such are classified as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs). This includes the proposed circa 500MW Heckington Fen solar park being promoted by Ecotricity in North Kesteven District and which has been accepted by the Planning Inspectorate and where an application for Development Consent Order is expected to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate by the 4th Quarter 2022. Other NSIP proposals more local to the Gate Burton site as also accepted by PINS include those being prepared by Cottam Solar Project Limited and West Burton Solar Project Limited.

The Gate Burton Energy Park is located around 50km from the Heckington Fen solar park and therefore cumulative construction and operational impacts are likely to be negligible across the majority of EIA topic areas as listed in the AECOM Scoping Request document. There will be no intervisibility between the Gate Burton and Heckington proposals. However whilst paragraph 12.6.3 of the EIA Scoping Request states that 'an Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) soil survey will be undertaken for the land parcels within the Site boundary, as deemed necessary', Chapter 12 'Socio-Economics and Land Use' does not commit to assessing cumulative

Date: 6th December 2021

District Council Offices, Kesteven Street  
Sleaford, Lincolnshire, NG34 7EF

  
Development Manager



agricultural land impacts associated with the development of the respective large scale solar proposals. Whilst Lincolnshire has a large quantity and high relative proportion of BMV agricultural land, the potential development of four substantial NSIP-scaled solar farms (as currently registered with PINS) has the potential to result in a degree of cumulative adverse impact stemming from temporary loss of opportunity for the continued cultivation of potential BMV land. We would therefore request that West Lindsey and Bassetlaw District Councils give consideration to this issue being specifically scoped in to the ES.



**North  
Northamptonshire  
Council**

Development Management  
North Northamptonshire Council  
Swanspool House  
Doddington Road  
Wellingborough  
NN8 1BP  
Tel: 0300 126 3000  
[www.northnorthants.gov.uk](http://www.northnorthants.gov.uk)

Emily Park  
Temple Quay House  
Temple Quay  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN

Email: [REDACTED]@northnorthants.gov.uk  
Our Ref: NW/21/01004/EXT  
Date: 06.12.2021

Dear Madam,

### **Consultation from Outside District**

**Proposal:** Application by Gate Burton Energy Park Ltd (the Applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Gate Burton Energy Park (the Proposed Development)

**Location:** Site is located approximately 4 kilometres (km) south of Gainsborough

Thank you for your letter inviting North Northants Council (Wellingborough area) to comment on the above matter. We have reviewed the details and provide the following comments:

### **No Comment**

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

George Candler  
Executive Director Place and Economy

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Gate Burton Solar Project](#)  
**Subject:** Gate Burton Scoping consultation  
**Date:** 08 December 2021 15:18:21  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)

---

Dear Sir/Madam

The Rights of Way Team welcome the provisions set out in the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report for the protection and enhancement of the network of Public Rights of Way within the proposed development site. This response focuses on the area affected by the Grid Connection Corridor Options and the associated buffer zone as the proposed solar facility is situated in Lincolnshire and does not impact directly on the PROW of Nottinghamshire. For the same reason, I have not considered the Glint and Glare connotations with regards the PROW network.

The EIA Scoping Report references approximately 11km of PROW in Nottinghamshire to be potentially impacted by the Grid Connection Corridor Options. The Report outlines two proposals for cable connections between the solar site and the site of Cottam Power Station. In the case of an array of overhead power lines the visual impact to the PROW network should take into account at least a further 1km buffer zone. This would increase the PROW affected to a potential 40-50km of footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways and byways open to all traffic. For this reason we would request trenching the cables as the preferred methodology for the protection of the green infrastructure network within the wider landscape. The report states (12.6.17) that the impacts are limited to the construction and decommissioning phases, with nil during the operation phase. However, an overhead power cable network would have permanent visual impacts to the PROW and we request that full consideration during all phases is afforded during the assessment of the impact of the Scheme on the baseline socioeconomic conditions.

It is noted that temporary closures will be necessary during the construction phase and it is requested that these closures, wherever practicable, are employed sensitively to optimise the connectivity of the wider PROW network. The Rights of Way team would welcome discussions regarding the enhancement and improvements to the Public Rights of Way network.

**These comments have been provided by Via East Midlands Limited on behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council, in its capacity as Highway Authority, through Via's continuing role of providing operational services on behalf of the County Council.**

Kind regards

**Graham Bowden**  
Rights of Way Coordinator  
**Via East Midlands Ltd**

**Working in partnership with Nottinghamshire County Council**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] [@viaem.co.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@viaem.co.uk) [www.viaem.co.uk](http://www.viaem.co.uk)

Head Office: Bilsthorpe Highways Depot, Bilsthorpe Business Park,  
Eakring Road, Bilsthorpe, Newark NG22 8ST

This matter is being dealt with by:

**Nina Wilson**

**Ref:**

**EN010131-000006**

**T**

**E** [REDACTED] gov.uk

**W** nottinghamshire.gov.uk

Sent via email to:

[GateBurtonSolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:GateBurtonSolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

13<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Ref: EN010131-000006 – Burton Gate Energy Park**

Thank you for your email dated 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021 requesting strategic planning observations on the above planning application. I have consulted with my colleagues across relevant divisions of the County Council and have the following comments to make.

In terms of the County Council's responsibilities there are a number of elements of national planning policy and guidance that are of particular relevance in the assessment of planning applications these include Minerals and Waste, Education, Transport and Public Health.

## **County Planning Context**

### Transport and Flood Risk Management

The County Council as Highway Authority and Local Lead Flood Authority is a statutory consultee to Local Planning Authorities and therefore makes separate responses on the relevant highway and flood risk technical aspects for planning applications.

Should further information on the highway and flood risk elements be required contact should be made directly with the Highway Development Control Team and the Flood Risk Management Team to discuss this matter further with the relevant officers dealing with the application.

### Minerals and Waste

The adopted Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Replacement Waste Local Plan, Part 1: Waste Core Strategy (adopted 10 December 2013) and the saved, non-replaced policies of the Waste Local Plan (adopted 2002), along with the adopted Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan (adopted March 2021), form part of the development plan for the area. As such, relevant policies in these plans need to be considered. In addition, Minerals Safeguarding and Consultation Areas (MSA/MCA) have been identified in Nottinghamshire and in accordance with Policy SP7 of the Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan, these should be taken into account where proposals for non-minerals development fall within them.

From the point of the Scoping Report, whilst there is mention the MLP and WLP at the start of the report, it does not mention the safeguarding policies in any subsequent sections. There is a chapter towards the end on 'other matters' that could be used to usefully reference the safeguarding policies in, as such NCC have the following comments in relation to Minerals and Waste.

### Minerals

View our privacy notice at [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/privacy](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/privacy)

Nottinghamshire County Council, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7QP

As the Mineral Planning Authority, it is the responsibility of Nottinghamshire County Council to form policies and determine applications relating to mineral development. One of the key responsibilities of both the County Council but also the District and Borough Councils is to safeguard mineral resource (PPG, Paragraph 005, 2014). As minerals are a finite resource that can only be worked where they are found, the emerging Minerals Local Plan contains a policy, **SP7, [Adopted Minerals Local Plan | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)** which seeks to safeguard mineral resource from unnecessary sterilisation from non-mineral development and so establishes Mineral Safeguarding and Consultation Areas (MSA/MCA).

As a two-tier authority, the Minerals Local Plan forms part of the overall Development Framework for Bassetlaw District Council.

The specifics relating to 'Gate Burton' and the cabling options for connection to the national grid. The entire of western side of River Trent lies within a Sand and Gravel Mineral Safeguarding Area, but that given relatively small land take we do not foresee any problems.

There is an area of concern however. The northern cabling route option, the buffer zone for which, runs through or at least very close to the permitted sand and gravel site at Sturton Le Steeple quarry (1/46/06/00014/). As this site is not presently active, it may not have been picked up as part of the initial scoping exercise. NCC would draw attention to Adopted Minerals Local Plan March 2021 (**Policy MP2c**) and Policies Map Inset 4. [Adopted Minerals Local Plan | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

### Waste

In terms of the Waste Core Strategy, there are no existing waste sites within the vicinity of the site whereby the proposed development could cause an issue in terms of safeguarding existing waste management facilities (as per Policy WCS10).

### Archaeology

NCC have checked the proposal against the Nottinghamshire HER and read the submitted Scoping Report and have the following advice to offer:

There are archaeological implications for much of the areas covered by the proposed cable corridors on the Nottinghamshire side of the scheme, especially around the Scheduled Monument of Segelocum Roman town at Littleborough. Recent geophysical survey (yet to be entered on the HER) has identified roadside settlement running parallel to Littleborough Road which, although not Scheduled is of comparable significance to the adjacent Scheduled Monument and should be treated thus as per NPPF footnote 68. Archaeological mitigation will certainly be required, though it is not possible to advise on the scope of that mitigation at this time. Submission of a DBA with as much supporting evaluation information as possible (as detailed in section 7.6 of the scoping report), and any refinement of the proposed routes, will enable the details of any required mitigation to be firmed up.

### Highways

The Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report confirms that the Application will be supported by a Transport Assessment (TA) which is welcomed. As the site is in Lincolnshire, the expected traffic impact on the Nottinghamshire highway network would appear to be confined to traffic associated with the GCC. Local roads in Nottinghamshire are otherwise protected from construction traffic by the intervening River Trent. The nearest road crossing into Lincolnshire is the A57 Dunham Bridge to the south which is likely to be suitable for construction traffic. For clarity, I would therefore wish to see the traffic impact of construction traffic associated with the GCC to be covered in a discrete chapter within the TA to be prepared in accordance with Planning Practice Guidance. It would also be of assistance if the Environmental impacts, to be dealt with in accordance with the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) Guidelines for the Environmental Assessment of Road Traffic (1993), form a separate section within the chapter to avoid confusion.

View our privacy notice at [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/privacy](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/privacy)

Nottinghamshire County Council, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7QP

It is noted that the Construction Traffic Management Plan will include a chapter on construction worker travel patterns and measures to encourage travel by alternative modes rather than single occupancy vehicle. This should include the construction of the GCC. During operation, the impact of the development on the Nottinghamshire highway network is likely to be negligible. I therefore do not consider a full Travel Plan necessary with respect minimising the traffic impact of the development in Nottinghamshire.

The Scoping Report suggests that the route of the GCC is expected to cross Littleborough Road, Thornhill Lane, Northfield Road, Coates Road, Broad Lane, Headstead Bank and Town Street. However, there is no plan of the proposed corridor at this stage or an indication of vehicle numbers specifically associated with the construction of the GCC. It is also suggested that a new access is expected to be constructed in the vicinity of the existing power station access to provide construction vehicle access to the GCC works in that area. I request that the route be covered in detail within the TA to ensure that the effected roads are capable of accommodating construction traffic, and that essential access can be maintained during the works. It should also be clarified as to why it is necessary to construct a new access when the power station access could presumably serve the same purpose.

### Public Health

The Public Health response is outlined at Appendix One however if any further information is required, the Public Health team will be able to provide further advice via email [planning.publichealth@nottsc.gov.uk](mailto:planning.publichealth@nottsc.gov.uk)

### **Conclusion**

It should be noted that all comments contained above could be subject to change, as a result of ongoing negotiations between the County Council, the Local Planning Authority and the applicants. These comments are based on the information supplied and are without prejudice to any comments the County Council may make on any future planning applications submitted for this site.

Should you require any further assistance in relation to any of these matters please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Nina Wilson  
Principal Planning Officer  
Nottinghamshire County Council

*This document is unsigned as it is electronically forwarded. If you require a signed copy, then please contact the sender.*



## **Appendix One – Public Health**

The Public Health response is outlined below however if any further information is required, the Public Health team will be able to provide further advice via email [planning.publichealth@nottsc.gov.uk](mailto:planning.publichealth@nottsc.gov.uk)

[The Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#) sets out the ambitions and priorities for the Health and Wellbeing Board with the overall vision to improve the health and wellbeing of people in Nottinghamshire:

- To give everyone a good start in Life
- To have healthy and Sustainable places
- To enable healthier decision making
- To work together to improve healthcare services

[The Nottinghamshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment \(JSNA\)](#) provides a picture of the current and future health needs of the population of the county. This is a useful source of information when considering the health and wellbeing of residents in planning process.

The use of [local health profile](#) report pulls together existing information in one place about localities affected by a development proposal, highlights issues that can affect health and wellbeing of residents covered within the planning process. Promoting health and wellbeing enhances resilience, employment and social outcomes. For example, consider limiting long term illness or disability as part of the development needs of a localities to ensure that it is age friendly providing good access to health and social care facilities.

[The Nottinghamshire Spatial Planning and Health Framework](#) identifies that local planning policies play a vital role in ensuring the health and wellbeing of the population and how planning matters impact on health and wellbeing locally. In addition, a health checklist is included to be used when developing local plans and assessing planning applications:

It is recommended that this checklist is completed to enable the potential positive and negative impacts of the planning application on health and wellbeing to be considered in a consistent, systematic and objective way, identifying opportunities for maximising potential health gains and minimizing harm and addressing inequalities taking account of the [wider determinants of health](#).

Obesity is a major public health challenge for Nottinghamshire. Obesity is a complex problem with many drivers, including our behaviour, environment, genetics and culture. [Nearly a quarter of children in England are obese or overweight by the time they start primary school aged five, and this rises to one third by the time they leave aged 11.](#)

To address Childhood Obesity in 10-11-year olds. It is recommended that the six themes by the TCPA document [Planning Healthy Weight Environments](#) are considered to promote a healthy lifestyle as part of this application.

In addition to [Active Design](#) Sport England 10 principles that promote activity, health and stronger communities through the way our towns and cities are built and designed to encourage activity in our everyday lives.

The six TCPA themes are:

1. Movement and access: Walking environment; cycling environment; local transport services.
2. Open spaces, recreation and play: Open spaces; natural environment; leisure and recreational spaces; play spaces.
3. Food: Food retail (including production, supply and diversity); food growing; access.
4. Neighbourhood spaces: Community and social infrastructure; public spaces.
5. Building design: Homes; other buildings.
6. Local economy: Town centres and high streets; job opportunities and access.

## The Ten Principles of Active Design.

1. Activity for all
2. Walkable communities
3. Connected walking & cycling routes
4. Co-location of community facilities
5. Network of multifunctional open space
6. High quality streets & spaces
7. Appropriate infrastructure
8. Active buildings
9. Management, maintenance, monitoring & evaluation
10. Activity promotion & local champions

Please note for major developments (over 25 dwellings) the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) should be consulted for impact on primary care which may lead to a request for infrastructure support through S106/CIL.

Bassetlaw developments contact Bassetlaw Strategic Estates Group. Nottinghamshire developments email the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Estates team [Noweccg.estates@nhs.net](mailto:Noweccg.estates@nhs.net)



**Telephone:** 01733 453410 (open 9am - 1pm)  
**Email:** planningcontrol@peterborough.gov.uk  
**Case Officer:** Mr A O Jones  
**Our Ref:** 21/00809/CONSUL  
**Your Ref:** EN010131

**PETERBOROUGH**



Planning Services

Sand Martin House  
Bittern Way  
Fletton Quays  
Peterborough  
PE2 8TY

The Planning Inspectorate  
Temple Quay House  
Temple Quay  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN

**Peterborough Direct:** 

13 December 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

**Planning enquiry**

Proposal: Proposed Gate Burton Energy Park

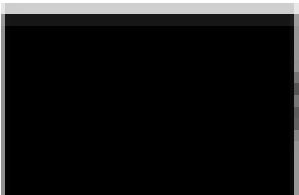
Site address: Gate Burton Energy Park

Further to your enquiry received on 15 November 2021, in respect of the above, the Local Planning Authority makes the following comments:

The proposal site is some 50 miles remote from Peterborough, and accordingly, we do not have any comments to make on this proposal at this time.

I trust that the above advice is of use however should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me on the details shown at the top of this letter.

Yours faithfully



Mr A O Jones  
Principal Minerals and Waste Officer

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Gate Burton Solar Project](#)  
**Subject:** RE: EN010131 - Gate Burton Energy Park - EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation  
**Date:** 01 December 2021 10:00:19

---

ST Classification: OFFICIAL PERSONAL

Dear Ms Norris,

Thank you for your consultation.

I can confirm STW do not have any assets in the area in question per our records. Accordingly we have no comments to make.

Kind regards  
Mike Shapland  
Asset Protection

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Gate Burton Solar Project](#)  
**Subject:** RE: FAO Head of Planning: EN010131 - Gate Burton Energy Park - EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation  
**Date:** 16 November 2021 15:46:41  
**Attachments:** [image003.png](#)

---

Sir/Madam

I can confirm that Nottingham City Council does not have any comments on the Environmental Statement relating to the Proposed Development.

Kind regards.

Matt Gregory  
Head of Planning Strategy and Building Control  
Growth and City Development  
Nottingham City Council  
Loxley House  
Station Street  
Nottingham  
NG2 3NG  
[REDACTED] [nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

mob: [REDACTED]  
Website: [www.mynottingham.gov.uk](http://www.mynottingham.gov.uk)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/mynottingham](https://www.facebook.com/mynottingham)  
Twitter: [www.twitter.com/mynottingham](https://www.twitter.com/mynottingham)



[Redacted]

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UK Health  
Security  
Agency

Environmental Hazards and Emergencies Department  
Seaton House, City Link  
London Road  
Nottingham, NG2 4LA

[nsipconsultations@phe.gov.uk](mailto:nsipconsultations@phe.gov.uk)  
[www.gov.uk/ukhsa](http://www.gov.uk/ukhsa)

Your Ref: EN010131 - 000006  
Our Ref: CIRIS 58475

Ms Emily Park  
Senior EIA Advisor  
Planning Inspectorate  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Bristol, BS1 6PN

13<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Ms Park

**Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project  
Gate Burton Energy Park (EN010131)  
Scoping Consultation Stage**

Thank you for your consultation regarding the above development. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) (formerly Public Health England) welcome the opportunity to comment on your proposals and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report at this stage of the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). Advice offered by UKHSA and OHID is impartial and independent.

The health of an individual or a population is the result of a complex interaction of a wide range of different determinants of health, from an individual's genetic make-up, to lifestyles and behaviours, and the communities, local economy, built and natural environments to global ecosystem trends. All developments will have some effect on the determinants of health, which in turn will influence the health and wellbeing of the general population, vulnerable groups and individual people. Although assessing impacts on health beyond direct effects from for example emissions to air or road traffic incidents is complex, there is a need to ensure a proportionate assessment focused on an application's significant effects.

Having considered the submitted scoping report, we wish to make the following specific comments and recommendations:

## **Environmental Public Health**

We recognise the promoter's proposal to include a health section. We believe the summation of relevant issues into a specific section of the report provides a focus which ensures that public health is given adequate consideration. The section should summarise key information, risk assessments, proposed mitigation measures, conclusions and residual impacts, relating to human health. Compliance with the requirements of National Policy Statements and relevant guidance and standards should also be highlighted.

In terms of the level of detail to be included in an ES, we recognise that the differing nature of projects is such that their impacts will vary. UKHSA and OHID's predecessor organisation Public Health England produced an advice document *Advice on the content of Environmental Statements accompanying an application under the NSIP Regime*<sup>1</sup>, setting out aspects to be addressed within the Environmental Statement<sup>1</sup>. This advice document and its recommendations are still valid and should be considered when preparing an ES. Please note that where impacts relating to health and/or further assessments are scoped out, promoters should fully explain and justify this within the submitted documentation.

Our position is that pollutants associated with road traffic or combustion, particularly particulate matter and oxides of nitrogen are non-threshold; i.e. an exposed population is likely to be subject to potential harm at any level and that reducing public exposure to non-threshold pollutants (such as particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide) below air quality standards will have potential public health benefits. We support approaches which minimise or mitigate public exposure to non-threshold air pollutants, address inequalities (in exposure) and maximise co-benefits (such as physical exercise). We encourage their consideration during development design, environmental and health impact assessment, and development consent.

It is noted that the current proposals scope out possible health impacts of Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF).

## **Recommendation**

We request that the ES clarifies this and if necessary, the proposer should confirm either that the proposed development does not impact any receptors from potential sources of EMF; or ensure that an adequate assessment of the possible impacts is undertaken and included in the ES.

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<sup>1</sup>  
<https://khub.net/documents/135939561/390856715/Advice+on+the+content+of+environmental+statements+accompanying+an+application+under+the+Nationally+Significant+Infrastructure+Planning+Regime.pdf/a86b5521-46cc-98e4-4cad-f81a6c58f2e2?t=1615998516658>

## **Human Health and Wellbeing - OHID**

This section identifies the wider determinants of health and wellbeing OHID expect the Environmental Statement (ES) to address, to demonstrate whether they are likely to give rise to significant effects. OHID has focused its approach on scoping determinants of health and wellbeing under four themes, which have been derived from an analysis of the wider determinants of health mentioned in the National Policy Statements. The four themes are:

- Access
- Traffic and Transport
- Socioeconomic
- Land Use

Having considered the submitted scoping report OHID wish to make the following specific comments and recommendations.

### **Methodology**

#### **Vulnerable populations**

An approach to the identification of vulnerable populations has not been provided. The impacts on health and wellbeing and health inequalities of the scheme may have particular effect on vulnerable or disadvantaged populations, including those that fall within the list of protected characteristics.

The identification of vulnerable populations and sensitive populations should be considered.

### **Recommendation**

Baseline health data should be provided, which is adequate to identify any local sensitivity or specific vulnerable populations. The identification of vulnerable populations should be based on the list provided by the Welsh Health Impact Assessment Support Unit<sup>2</sup> and the International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA)<sup>3</sup>

### **Housing affordability and availability**

The scoping report identifies a peak of 600 construction workers per day (Para 13.5.9), but does not identify the projected numbers of non-home-based workers. The presence of significant numbers of workers could foreseeably have an impact on the local availability of affordable housing, particularly that of short-term tenancies and affordable homes for certain communities. The cumulative impact assessment will need to consider this across the wider study area but also identify the potential for any local (ward-level) effects that may affect the capacity of sectors to respond to change, and where there could be knock-on effects on access to accommodation for residents with the least capacity to respond to change (for

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<sup>2</sup> [WHIASU \(2020\). Health Impact Assessment – A Practical Guide](#)

<sup>3</sup> Cave, B., Claßen, T., Fischer-Bonde, B., Humboldt-Dachroeden, S., Martín-Olmedo, P., Mekel, O., Pyper, R., Silva, F., Vilianni, F., Xiao, Y. 2020. Human health: Ensuring a high level of protection. A reference paper on addressing Human Health in Environmental Impact Assessment. As per EU Directive 2011/92/EU amended by 2014/52/EU. International Association for Impact Assessment and European Public Health Association.

example, where there may be an overlap between construction workers seeking accommodation in the private rented sector, and people in receipt of housing benefit seeking the same lower-cost accommodation).

It should be noted the Housing Needs Assessment for Central Lincolnshire (2020)<sup>4</sup> identifies the private rented sector plays a particularly key role (between 26%-29%) in accommodating those in lower paid roles, such as customer services, caring and leisure service occupations.

#### Recommendation

The peak numbers of construction workers and non-home-based workers should be established, and a proportionate assessment undertaken on the impacts for housing availability and affordability and impacts on any local services.

Any cumulative impact assessment should consider the impact on demand for housing by construction workers and the likely numbers of non-home-based workers required across all schemes.

Yours sincerely

On behalf of UK Health Security Agency  
[nsipconsultations@phe.gov.uk](mailto:nsipconsultations@phe.gov.uk)

*Please mark any correspondence for the attention of National Infrastructure Planning Administration.*

---

<sup>4</sup> [Housing Needs Assessment Central Lincolnshire April 2020](#)





Guildhall  
Marshall's Yard  
Gainsborough  
Lincolnshire DN21 2NA

Telephone 01427 676676  
Web [www.west-lindsey.gov.uk](http://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk)

Your contact for this matter is:  
Russell Clarkson

The Planning Inspectorate  
Environmental Services  
Central Operations  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Temple Quay  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN

Dear Sir/Madam,

**PINS REF: EN010131-000006**

**LPA REF: 144006**

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11 panels**

**Application by Gate Burton Energy Park Ltd (the Applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Gate Burton Energy Park (the Proposed Development)**

**LOCATION: Gate Burton Energy Park**

Thank you for your consultation request under regulation 10(6) of the EIA Regulations.

West Lindsey District Council, as a consultation body and host authority, wishes to make the following comments in regard to information to be provided with the Environmental Statement. The following comments are made, following the structure of the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report by AECOM (November 2021)

### **1. Introduction (pages 1-8)**

It is noted at this stage, the grid construction infrastructure could comprise of either underground cables or overhead lines (**paragraph 1.2.1**), and that the applicant considers the latter would constitute an NSIP in its own right. The Council is concerned that such infrastructure that will arise as a direct consequence of this proposed development, will be likely to have significant environmental effects, and must therefore be in scope for the purposes of this EIA (and Consent Order), and should not be considered separately.

Whilst the applicant considers (**paragraph 1.2.7-1.2.8**) that section 105 (Decisions in cases where no national policy statement has effect) of the Planning Act 2008 will be engaged, it is recognised that under the Energy White Paper, draft National Policy

Statements have been published and have been subject to consultation. The draft NPS EN-3 does expressly now consider Solar Photovoltaic Generation (page 79 onwards). Consequently, at the time a DCO is applied for, and during consideration of the application, it is likely that it will be S104 (Decisions in cases where NPS has effect) that should be applied, not S105. In any event, it is considered that the draft NPS (particularly draft EN-1 and EN-3) should be a material consideration.

**(Paragraph 1.2.10)** It would be helpful if the Report could have a map showing the local planning policy areas such as the CLLP and neighbourhood plans in the context of the proposal. There are a number of Neighbourhood Plans in the West Lindsey District, which adjoin the site and should be considered.

It should be taken into account that the north eastern area of the site falls within the Upton and Kexby Neighbourhood Area (designated November 2019)<sup>i</sup>. Consequently, the publication of any draft Neighbourhood Plan will be a consideration (and if formally made, whilst the DCO is under consideration, formally part of the Local Development Plan).

The immediate north of the application site, and within the 1km buffer, is the Lea Neighbourhood Area, in which the Lea Neighbourhood Plan (January 2018) is in force<sup>ii</sup>.

The Designated Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Area, immediately adjoins the south-eastern aspect of the site, and is within the 1km buffer – the draft Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan has reached examination stage, and therefore there is a likelihood that it will form part of the Local development Plan by the time the DCO is submitted<sup>iii</sup>.

It is considered that the above should be taken into consideration. All neighbourhood plans can be viewed on the Council website here: <https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/my-services/planning-and-building/neighbourhood-planning/>

**(Paragraph 1.2.12)** Review of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan is underway. Consultation on the first draft of the CLLP (Reg18) concluded on 24th August 2021, and consultation responses have been published<sup>iv</sup>. A live timetable is maintained on the website. It currently envisages consultation on the pre-submission Local Plan document to take place in Spring 2022, with submission to the Secretary of State in Summer 2022. Consequently, it is expected that the draft CLLP is likely to be at an advanced stage by the time an application for the DCO is made, and may even be adopted during consideration of the NSIP application. It therefore should be taken into consideration.

## **2. The Scheme (p9-23)**

It is noted that much of the infrastructure and layout arrangements are yet to be determined. This includes the arrangements of the solar PV modules (**paragraph 2.1.7**), and whether they will be orientated to be south facing, or on an east-west alignment. This will be likely to vary the significant environmental effects that may arise – for instance the east-west alignment will need considerably more panels. It is important therefore that the Environmental Statement considers all scenarios.

It is noted that the scheme will include an associated battery energy storage system (**paragraph 2.1.25 onwards**), but that the design, scale, appearance and layout for such is yet to be determined. The ES must cover all design scenarios being proposed.

Whilst measures for achieving biodiversity net gain are noted (2.1.48), the ES must take into account the time and nature of any new landscaping being established and maturing during the lifetime of the development (paragraph 5.4.8 with a future year of 2042, is noted).

Electricity Export Connection (paragraph 2.2.1- 2.2.6) – it is considered that the nature and alignment of the cabling, be it underground or above ground, is likely to have significant environmental effects and that this must be covered in the scope of the ES.

### **3. Alternatives Considered (p24)**

Under section 2, it is clear that a number of aspects in terms of the design are yet to be determined. Consequently, all alternatives should be captured here.

### **4. Consultation (p25-26)**

As well as statutory bodies, the site falls across a number of Parish Councils (including Marton, Gate Burton, Knaith, Kexby, Willingham) and adjoins a number of Neighbourhood Planning Areas (Lea, Stow). These should be included within all consultation events.

### **5. EIA Methodology (p27 – 34)**

The applicant's proposed methodology would appear to accord with general practice, and the timescales for development are noted.

Cumulative effects with other developments (**paragraph 5.6.7 onwards**). Whilst it is noted that the EIA Regulations seeks *“the cumulation of effects with other existing and/or approved projects”*, paragraph 4.2.5 of NPS En-1 states that *“When considering cumulative effects, the ES should provide information on how the effects of the applicant's proposal would combine and interact with the effects of other development (**including projects for which consent has been sought or granted, as well as those already in existence**)”*

Furthermore, PINS Advice Note 17 states at paragraph 1.4 that it relates to projects that are 'reasonably foreseeable', and that the recent High Court judgment *Pearce v Secretary of State for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy* [2021] EWHC 326 (Admin) considers the matter of cumulative environmental effects in detail.

The applicant's timescale for applying for a DCO would appear to align with that being proposed for the Cottam<sup>v</sup> and West Burton<sup>vi</sup> Solar projects, that are also nationally significant infrastructure.

In particular the area of development for “Cottam 1” is understood to extend to 888ha on land surrounding Stow/Sturton by Stow, immediately east of the Gate Burton solar Project.

These projects are now registered on the National infrastructure website, and it is considered that consent 'will be sought' at the time the Gate Burton project is under consideration.

It is anticipated that the cumulative effects upon the environment from the Gate Burton project in combination with the Cottam and West Burton projects will be significant.

It is therefore imperative that any Environmental Impact Assessment considers the cumulative effect of these three solar project NSIP schemes.

## **6. Climate Change (p35 - 41)**

Where relevant, the ES should describe and assess the adaptive capacity that has been incorporated into the design of the Proposed Development. This may include, for example, alternative measures such as changes in the use of materials or construction and design techniques that will be more resilient to risks from climate change.

The Scoping Report (**paragraph 6.4.6**) states that *“The climate resilience review will provide a description of how the Scheme will be designed to be more resilient to the climate change impacts identified.”* This may be included in detail of the planned review, but it would be good practice that the ES should include a description and assessment of any likely significant effects resulting from the vulnerability of the Proposed Development to climate change. The ES should describe and assess the adaptive capacity that has been incorporated into the design of the Proposed Development. This may include, for example, alternative measures such as changes in the use of materials or construction and design techniques that will be more resilient to risks from flooding.

The Applicant proposes (**paragraph 6.5.5**) that the assessment of the combined impact of the Proposed Development and future climate change on the receiving environment are scoped out of the ES. It seems reasonable that the Proposed Development is not likely to result in impacts relating to temperature change, and wind. The applicant also states that *“A more detailed assessment of climate change projections will be conducted for the land within the Site boundary as part of the ES.”* It would seem reasonable to consider these specific areas out of scope for the ICCI assessment– though the local authority are not experts in this area and would defer to more esoteric knowledge from other consultees.

**Table 6.2** states: *“no significant impacts on surface water or groundwater levels are expected as a result of precipitation changes, in combination with the Scheme, as the flow of precipitation to ground will not be significantly hindered. The Scheme, in combination with projected changes in precipitation, is also not expected to have a significant impact upon receptors identified by other environmental discipline.”* Given some of the public concerns that have been raised about the potential impact of flooding, and the constraints that this development might put upon future options for natural flood management and mitigation options, it is felt that this area should remain in-scope for the ICCI and more detailed assessment made.

Table 6.2 explains that the Proposed Development is not located in an area that is susceptible to sea level rise. The River Trent is tidal in this area and significant effects are likely to occur in that flooding risk will increase from climate change during the lifetime of the development. It is suggested that assessment of sea level rise in the climate change resilience review should remain in the scope of the ES.

The draft Central Lincolnshire Local Plan should also be included (**paragraph 6.3.2**).

## **7. Cultural Heritage (p42 – 51)**

The intended scope and methodology is largely agreeable, particularly in following the standards and guidance of Historic England.

Study Area (**paragraph 7.2**) – the intention of a 3km zone for built heritage assets is agreeable. It is agreed that a 5km zone for “high-value assets” should be considered. However, it should clarify what is considered a “high-value asset”. The ability of the development to effect the setting of a heritage asset will depend upon the type of asset and the extent of its setting – not its “value”. Consequently the methodology should set out what assets within the 3-5km zone are, and are not included, and the reasoning for such.

It states (**paragraph 7.6.6**) that a “moderate (significant) effect is unlikely to meet the test of substantial harm”. This needs explaining – if the effect is significant, it does not exclude substantial harm from occurring.

## **8. Ecology and Biodiversity (p52 – 67)**

The Council does not presently have in-house expertise to cover ecology matters. This is an area in which we will need to seek additional resource. It is recommended that information is sought from the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership and the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust.

It is noted that the assessment will follow CIEEM guidelines. It is noted that the ES covers both statutory and non-statutory designations within the buffer zones, and identifies records of protected and/or notable species of flora and fauna within the 2km study area.

There is a small area just south of Knaith on the westerly site boundary that adjoins the well-used road, the A156, and which contains various large, mature TPO trees. These trees are group G1 of Tree Preservation Order Knaith No2 1997, and the outline of this group is not shown on the constraints plan. Trees and hedgerows are both essential for ecology and landscape screening and the effect of development on these areas needs to be considered, particularly in relation to the construction phase.

Paragraph 8.6.2 should include the impact that the deer fences may have upon biodiversity pathways and priority species.

## **9. Water Environment (p68 – 88)**

The proposed methodology appears to be comprehensive. It is expected that the appropriate drainage bodies will all be consultation bodies.

On the basis that the scheme and layout are yet to be determined (section2), it is considered that this will have a significant bearing on the assessment of flood risk and drainage (**paragraph 9.7.1**).

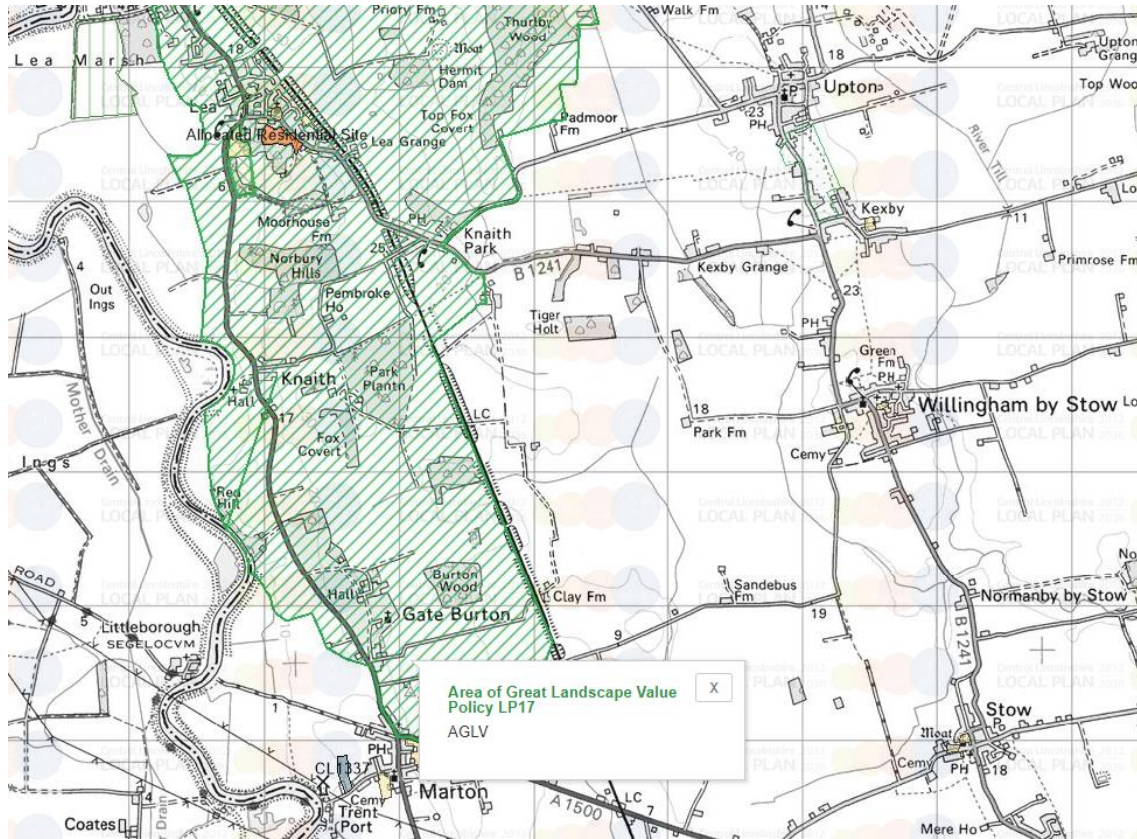
## **10. Landscape and Visual Amenity (p89 - 95)**

The Council does not presently have in-house expertise to cover ecology matters. This is an area in which we will need to seek additional resource. It is however noted that the LVIA will follow the Landscape Institute’s GLVIA3.

Whilst it is noted that a preliminary LVIA study area of 5km has been defined (**10.2.4**), it is agreed that the study area should be informed by the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) and in consultation with the local authorities.

Paragraph 10.3.7 references the West Lindsey Local Plan 2006. The WLLP was superseded by the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (CLLP) in April 2017. The LVIA should therefore take into account the adopted CLLP and the draft CLLP currently under review.

Crucially, it needs to recognise that the area to the west of the railway line is allocated as an “Area of Great Landscape Value” (AGLV) in the CLLP.



Furthermore, it needs to recognise the Neighbourhood Plans within the study area, including the adopted Lea Neighbourhood Plan.

The applicant should use all endeavours to visit those residential properties (paragraph 10.7.1) and not solely rely upon “aerial photography and fieldwork observations”.

Agreement on viewpoints should be made with West Lindsey District Council and not only the “LCC Landscape Advisor” (paragraph 10.7.3).

## **11. Noise and Vibration (p96 – 102)**

The proposed methodology is considered to be appropriate.

## **12. Socio-Economics and Land Use (p103 – 107)**

The development is proposed on an area that includes a significant area of land being used for agricultural purposes, including the cultivation of arable crops. Consequently, the section must assess the loss of productive agricultural land, including the displacement of tenant farmers.

Any site specific survey of agricultural land (**12.6.15**) should follow Natural England guidelines and clearly distinguish between best and most versatile land (grades 1-3a) and other.

### **13. Transport and Access (p108 – 123)**

West Lindsey District Council is not the Local Highway Authority, but notes that the assessment proposes to cover both highways and the footpath network and undertake a full Transport Assessment (TA)

### **14. Human Health (p124-130)**

**Paragraph 14.4** – we would propose that potential effects would include the recreational value and enjoyment of the Public Right of Way network.

### **15. Other Environmental Topics (p131-138)**

West Lindsey has a number of restricted airspace designations. Restricted Zone EG R313 places a number of specific restrictions on the airspace which allows the Red Arrows aerobatic team to practice safely and unfettered by other airspace activity. The EIA Scoping should set out whether any designated airspace / safeguarding zones apply to the site, and whether this is likely to have any significant environmental effects. It is considered that the potential effect upon airspace and RAF Scampton may also be relevant to chapter 12 (socio-economics...).

**Air Quality (15.2)** - It is agreed that, subject to measures for the mitigation of air quality in the CEMP, that air quality can be “out of scope” for the ES.

**Glint and Glare (15.3)** – whilst this is noted, it is not possible to determine as to whether there would be a significant effect in the absence of the glint and glare calculations.

**Major Accidents or Disasters (15.5)** – it is considered that the risk of an accident would relate to the risk of fire or explosion with the battery storage element. Whilst the extent and positioning of the battery storage is to be determined, it is unclear as to the magnitude or effect of such an event. Whilst it is recognised in table 15-2 that the battery energy storage system would have mitigation through cooling systems, this does not eliminate the risk.

It is agreed that separate chapters are not required for telecommunications etc (**15.6**) and waste (**15.7**).

### **16. Structure of the ES (p139)**

Whilst we broadly agree with the proposed structure, the ES must cover cumulative effects with other projects for which consent is being sought. It needs to be clear as to whether this will be on a topic by topic basis, or a stand alone chapter.

### **17. Summary and Conclusions (p140)**

Subject to the comments above, we are largely agreeable to the proposed scope of the ES, as summarised at table 17-1.



Please consider the above to constitute West Lindsey District Council's formal consultation response under reg10(6) of the EIA Regulations.

Yours faithfully

**Russell Clarkson BA(Hons) DipTP MRTPI**  
**On behalf of West Lindsey District Council**

If you require this letter in another format e.g. large print, please contact Customer Services on 01427 676676, by email [customer.services@west-lindsey.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@west-lindsey.gov.uk) or by asking any of the Customer Services staff.

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[www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/planning-privacy](http://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/planning-privacy)

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/my-services/planning-and-building/neighbourhood-planning/all-neighbourhood-plans-in-west-lindsey/upton-and-kexby-parishes-neighbourhood-plan/>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/my-services/planning-and-building/neighbourhood-planning/all-neighbourhood-plans-in-west-lindsey/lea-neighbourhood-plan-made/>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/my-services/planning-and-building/neighbourhood-planning/all-neighbourhood-plans-in-west-lindsey/sturton-by-stow-and-stow-neighbourhood-plan/>

<sup>iv</sup> <https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/central-lincolnshire/>

<sup>v</sup> <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/east-midlands/cottam-solar-project/>

<sup>vi</sup> <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/east-midlands/west-burton-solar-project/>



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Gate Burton Solar Project](#)  
**Subject:** FW: EN010131 - Gate Burton Energy Park - EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation  
**Date:** 13 December 2021 13:50:10  
**Attachments:** [image002.jpg](#)  
[UW\\_UWEx\\_Gate Burton EP.pdf](#)

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UE-1574-2014-PLN

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: EN010131 - Gate Burton Energy Park - EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation

-  
The site falls within Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board District, Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board's Extended Area and also Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board and Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board's Extended Area. However, we are only able to comment on the areas associated to Upper Witham, all information regarding Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board needs direct contact with them.

Upper Witham's maintained 0400 – Padmoor Drain runs on the Eastern boundary of the site and 0404 – Causway Drain the Northern Boundary. (see attached map)

Under the terms of the Land Drainage Act. 1991 the prior written consent of the Board is required for any proposed temporary or permanent works or structures within any watercourse including infilling or a diversion. Areas which fall within the 'Extended Area', are under the provisions of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, and the Land Drainage Act. 1991. Therefore, the prior written consent of the Lead Local Flood Authority (Lincolnshire County Council) is required for any proposed works or structures in any watercourse outside those designated main rivers and Internal Drainage Districts. At this location this Board acts as Agents for the Lead Local Flood Authority and as such any works, permanent or temporary, in any ditch, dyke or other such watercourse will require consent from the Board.

Under the terms of the Board's Byelaws, the prior written consent of the Board is required for any proposed temporary or permanent works or structures in, under, over or within the byelaw distance, currently 6m, soon to be revised to 9m of the top of the bank of Board maintained watercourses.

A permanent undeveloped strip of sufficient width should be made available adjacent to the top of the bank of all watercourses on the overall site, to allow future maintenance works to be undertaken. Suitable access arrangements to this strip should also be agreed. Access should be agreed with the Local Planning Authority, LCC and the third party that will be responsible for the maintenance in consultation with the Internal Drainage Board where watercourses are subject to Byelaws.

All drainage routes through the Site should be maintained both during the works on Site and after completion of the works. Provisions should be made to ensure that upstream and downstream riparian owners and those areas that are presently served by any drainage routes passing through or adjacent to the Site are not adversely affected by the development.

Drainage routes shall include all methods by which water may be transferred through the Site and shall include such systems as "ridge and furrow" and "overland flows". The effect of raising Site levels on adjacent property must be carefully considered and measures taken to negate influences must be approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Consent Applications forms and guidance materials are available to download from the Board's website.

-

Regards,

Richard Wright  
Operations Engineer

Witham First District Internal Drainage Board  
Witham Third District Internal Drainage Board  
Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board  
North East Lindsey Drainage Board

*Four independent statutory Land Drainage and Flood Risk Management Authorities working in partnership.*

[www.witham3idb.gov.uk](http://www.witham3idb.gov.uk)

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# Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board District and Extended Area

## Gate Burton Energy Park

