

The inclusion of a range of requirements intended to secure environmental management, safety measures and operational controls throughout the development lifecycle is welcomed.

The Council has not adopted a position either in support of or opposition to the proposed development. Its comments are intended to assist the Examining Authority in considering whether the provisions of the dDCO provide sufficient protection for local communities throughout the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the project.

Long-Term Maintenance and Enforceability

The Council notes the Examining Authority's questions regarding Requirements 7 (Soil Management Plan) and 14 (Surface Water Management Plan), specifically whether those requirements should include an explicit obligation for approved measures to be maintained throughout the lifetime of the development.

The Council supports consideration of whether management and mitigation measures relied upon during the Examination should be subject to ongoing maintenance and implementation requirements, particularly where those measures are intended to mitigate environmental effects or protect neighbouring communities.

Battery Safety Management

The Council notes the proposed requirement for a Battery Safety Management Plan and welcomes the inclusion of provisions requiring consultation with Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service. The Council considers it very important that safety, inspection, monitoring and emergency response measures secured through the final approved plan remain effective and enforceable throughout the operational life of the development, including during any future replacement of battery infrastructure.

Future Replacement and Decommissioning

Given the anticipated operational life of the project, the Council considers it important that the dDCO provides clarity regarding the control of future replacement works, ongoing compliance obligations and decommissioning requirements. The Council would welcome assurance that mitigation measures, safety requirements and restoration obligations remain enforceable throughout the lifetime of the development irrespective of any future changes in ownership or operation.

The Council's would seek that, as with any project, risks associated with the development are appropriately assessed, managed and mitigated, and that the safeguards relied upon during the Examination are secured through effective and enforceable provisions within the Development Consent Order.