

**Application by Tillbridge Solar Project Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for Tillbridge Solar Project
The Examining Authority's third written questions and requests for information (ExQ3)
Issued on 11 March 2025**

WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Answers to Examining Authority's Questions (ExQ3)

Tillbridge Solar Project (EN010142)

Deadline 6

Date: 1st April 2025

Preamble:

This document provides the response of West Lindsey District Council (WLDC) to the Examining Authority's questions.

Abbreviations used:

AP	Affected Person	ES	Environmental Statement
Art	Article	EqIA	Equality Impact Assessment
ALA 1981	Acquisition of Land Act 1981	ExA	Examining authority
ALC	Agricultural Land Classification	ha	Hectare
BDC	Bassetlaw District Council	HSE	Health and Safety Executive
BMV	Best and Most Versatile land	HDD	Horizontal Directional Drilling
BoR	Book of Reference	IAQM	Institute of Air Quality Management
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System	IDB	Internal Drainage Board
CA	Compulsory Acquisition	IEMA	Institute of Environmental Management Association
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group	IP	Interested Party
CDMP	Construction Dust Management Plan	LA	Local authority
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan	LIA	Local Impact Area
CTMP	Construction Traffic Management Plan	LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
CLLP	Central Lincolnshire Local Plan	LCC	Lincolnshire County Council
CPO	Compulsory purchase order	LIR	Local Impact Report
DAS	Design and Access Statement	MP	Model Provision (in the MP Order)
dDCO	Draft DCO	MP Order	The Infrastructure Planning (Model Provisions) Order 2009
dNPS	Draft National Policy Statement	MWh	MegaWatt Hour
dML	Deemed Marine Licence	NE	Natural England
EM	Explanatory Memorandum	NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
EMF	Electro Magnetic Field	NCC	Nottinghamshire County Council
ERP	Emergency Response Plan	NPS	National Policy Statement

NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project	SI	Statutory Instrument
OBSSMP	Outline Battery Storage Safety Management Plan	SoR	Statement of Reasons
OCEMP	Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan	SoS	Secretary of State
OEMP	Operational Environmental Management Plan	STEP	Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production fusion project
OLEMP	Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan	TP	Temporary Possession
OSMP	Outline Soil Management Plan	UKAEA	The UK Atomic Energy Authority
OPROWMP	Outline Public Right of Way Management Plan	USI	Unaccompanied Site Inspection
PA2008	The Planning Act 2008	UKHSA	United Kingdom Health Security Agency
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Impact Report	WLDC	West Lindsay District Council
PPG	Planning Practice Guidance	WR	Written Representation
PROW	Public Right of Way	WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation
RR	Relevant Representation	ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

EXQ3	Question to:	Question	WLDC Response
1. General and cross-topic questions			
Q3.1.1	Applicant, LCC, WLDC and 7000 Acres	<p>Planning Balance in SoCGs</p> <p>Could the applicant and the respective parties to Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) please include a clear section on the planning balance to be applied in the determination of this application? In particular, the ExA would like these parties to please confirm their positions (and points of difference) on the weight to be afforded to the adverse effects and the benefits of the proposal.</p> <p>For example, the ExA understands that WLDC does not criticise the conclusions reached on adverse effects in the applicant's ES. Where it differs is on the weight to be afforded to these adverse effects in the overall planning balance. As such, it is essential that the difference between the applicant and WLDC is established on a topic-by-topic basis in the SoCG. The same exercise should be undertaken in respect of SoCGs with LCC and 7000 Acres.</p>	<p>WLDC is working collaboratively with the Applicant to finalise the SoCG.</p> <p>The SOCG sets out the main issues of agreement and disagreement, including the planning balance, which each party has set out at ref 3.9 of the agreed SoCG.</p>
Q3.1.2	All parties	<p>SoCG</p> <p>Please ensure that all final SoCGs are <u>signed</u> by the parties to them. Please also ensure that they clearly express any matters <u>not agreed</u> (i.e. outstanding matters in dispute) between parties to each SoCG.</p>	<p>As set out in the answer to Q3.1.2 above, WLDC is working collaboratively with the Applicant to finalise the SoCG between the parties, to ensure a signed copy is provided at D6.</p>
2. Biodiversity and ecology			
Q3.2.3	Applicant, WLDC, LCC	<p>Bat roosting, foraging and commuter sites</p> <p>Further to the discussions at ISH3 with regards to the potential for bat roosting sites within and outside of the order limits, please can the applicant comment on the concerns raised regarding the potential for roosting sites above ground level to be present in those trees within the order limits; and the potential for roosting sites to be present adjacent to order limits?</p>	<p>WLDC has no further submission to make on this matter beyond those already expressed in written submission and at ISH3.</p> <p>During ISH3, the Applicant confirmed that bat surveys were carried out covering all trees and structures within the Order Limits. A 50m buffer was then applied.</p>

EXQ3	Question to:	Question	WLDC Response
		Can the applicant also advise of any potential impacts for bats transiting or foraging across the proposed development site, both during the construction and operational period may be affected.	WLDC understands the approach, however maintains the submission that there is a reliance on the 50m buffer being adequate to ensure no impacts will occur. Surveys adjacent to the Order Limits would clearly have provided more certainty over these impacts and increased confidence in the mitigation being applied.
Q3.2.4	Applicant, NE, LCC, WLDC	Biodiversity Net Gain Further to the discussion at ISH3 and points raised in responses at DL3 and DL5, please can the applicant clarify the BNG and habitat provision within the order limits, and identify how much, if any, of that new gain habitat is considered to be land underneath the solar arrays.	WLDC has no further response to make with regard to BNG. This question is directly aimed at the Applicant's and WLDC reserve the right to provide comments on their response if required.
13. Transport and access			
Q3.13.2	WLDC/LCC	ATC23 Could WLDC and LCC please confirm the acceptability or otherwise of changes to the application highlighted in the Applicant's response to Q2.13.11 [REP5-032]?	WLDC welcomes the additional mitigation proposed by the Applicant in the amended fCTMP. WLDCs concerns related to the apparent limited mitigation being proposed at Stow School. Introducing mitigation relating to limiting cable route corridor access from the B1241, avoiding HGV deliveries during school pick-up/drop off times and increased communities liaison is welcomed to address this concern.