

**Tillbridge Solar Project
EN010142**

**Volume 3
Draft Explanatory Memorandum**
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**Regulation 5(2)(c)
Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and
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1. Introduction

1.1 Overview

- 1.1.1 This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared on behalf of the Applicant and forms part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) Application.
- 1.1.2 The Tillbridge Solar Project (the Scheme) will comprise the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) arrays and associated development to generate electricity from the Principal Site and transmit it to the national electricity transmission system (NETS) via a new bay at the existing National Grid Cottam Substation. The associated development includes, but is not limited to, access provision; a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) to support the operation of the ground mounted solar PV array, the development of on-site substations, underground cabling between the different areas of solar PV arrays, and areas of landscaping and biodiversity enhancement.
- 1.1.3 The Scheme will export electricity to and import electricity from the NETS.
- 1.1.4 The Scheme also includes a 400kV underground Cable Route Corridor of approximately 18 kilometres in length connecting the Principal Site to the national electricity transmission network at the National Grid Cottam Substation.
- 1.1.5 A full description of the Scheme is included in **Chapter 3: Scheme Description** of the Environmental Statement [EN010142/APP/6.1]. An overview of the Scheme and its environmental impacts is provided in the Environmental Statement Non-Technical Summary [EN010142/APP/6.4].
- 1.1.6 Where terms are capitalised in this document the definition is included in the glossary to the Environmental Statement [EN010143/APP/6.1].
- 1.1.7 The DCO, if made, would be known as the Tillbridge Solar Order 202[*]. A draft of the DCO has been submitted with the Application.
- 1.1.8 This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared to explain the purpose and effect of each article of, and schedules to, the Order, as required by Regulation 5(2)(c) of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (the APFP Regulations). It should be read in conjunction with the suite of documents accompanying the Application, in particular the Draft DCO [EN010142/APP/3.1], the Environmental Statement [EN010142/APP/6.1 to EN010142/APP/6.3], the Works Plans [EN010142/APP/2.4], Land and Crown Land Plans [EN010142/APP/2.2], Book of Reference [EN010142/APP/4.3], Statement of Reasons [EN010142/APP/4.1], Consultation Report [EN010142/APP/5.1 and EN010142/APP/5.2] and Statement of Need [EN010142/APP/7.1].
- 1.1.9 This Explanatory Memorandum has been updated to reflect key substantive changes made to the draft DCO at Deadline 1, subsequent to the acceptance of Change Request 1, at Deadline 4, at Deadline 5, at Deadline 6 and at Deadline 7. Minor amendments have not necessarily been referenced and the

reader should refer to the **draft DCO [EN010142/APP/3.1(Rev05)]** as amended as well as the Schedule of Changes to the draft DCO **[EN010142/APP/9.6(Rev02)]** for a full record of changes. Where other application documents have been updated for Deadline 7, the document references within this Explanatory Memorandum have not been updated from the original submission. For the most up-to-date documents, the reader should access these through the Guide to the Application **[EN010142/APP/1.2(Rev08)]** and Schedule 13 of the draft DCO **[EN010142/APP/3.1(Rev07)]**.

1.2 Tillbridge Solar Limited

- 1.2.1 The Applicant is a limited company registered at Companies House under company number 12887594 and whose registered office is at 111 Park Street, Mayfair, London, United Kingdom, W1K 7JF. More information on the Applicant's ownership and corporate structure is set out in the Funding Statement **[EN010142/APP/4.2]**.

1.3 The Site

- 1.3.1 The Scheme is made up of two sections:
- 'the Principal Site' is the location where ground mounted solar PV panels, electrical sub-stations and energy storage facilities will be installed; and
 - 'the Cable Route Corridor' which will comprise the underground electrical infrastructure required to connect the Principal Site to the NETS.
- 1.3.2 The Site is located approximately five kilometres to the east of Gainsborough and approximately 13 kilometres to the north of Lincoln.
- 1.3.3 The Principal Site covers an area of approximately 1,345ha and is located within the administrative area of West Lindsey District Council in the County of Lincolnshire.
- 1.3.4 The Principal Site is located to the south of Harpswell Lane (A631), to the west of Middle Street (B1398) and largely to the north of Kexby Road and to the east of Springthorpe.
- 1.3.5 Harpswell Lane (A631) and Middle Street (B1398) form the extent of the northern and eastern boundaries of the Principal Site. A thin strip of land on the western side of Middle Street is included within the Scheme to provide landscape screening. The Principal Site extends to the south of Kexby Road with the inclusion of five field parcels that are located to the south of the road. The eastern, southern and western boundaries of the site are irregular in shape.
- 1.3.6 The Scheme will connect the Principal Site to the NETS at the existing Cottam National Grid Substation, which is located at the decommissioned Cottam Power Station in Cottam in Bassetlaw, Nottinghamshire.
- 1.3.7 The Cable Route Corridor is approximately 18.5 kilometres length and connects the Principal Site to the NETS at the National Grid Cottam Substation and includes the works necessary to facilitate connection to the National Grid Cottam Substation near the Nottinghamshire border.

- 1.3.8 Heading south from the Principal Site, the cable route crosses Common Lane, Cow Lane, Kexby Road and Fillingham Lane before turning to the west crossing South Lane, Stone Pit Lane and Stow Road (B1241) (located to the south of Willingham by Stow). The Cable Route Corridor continues in a westerly direction before crossing the East Midlands Railway line that provides services between Doncaster and Lincoln and runs in a broad north-south direction to the west of Willingham by Stow and to the east of Gate Burton. The route then continues westwards crossing the A1500 (Stow Park Road), followed by the A156 (Gainsborough Road) before crossing the River Trent to connect with the National Grid Cottam Substation.
- 1.3.9 The Order limits is the area within which the Scheme may be carried out.
- 1.3.10 The Order limits are shown on the Works Plans [EN010142/APP/2.4]. The powers in the Order enable the acquisition of land, new rights over land and the imposition of restrictions over land, relate to the Order land only which is within the Order limits. The Order land is shown on the Land and Crown Land Plans [EN010142/APP/2.2].
- 1.3.11 Information about the Order limits, including about the current land use and any environmental constraints, is provided in greater detail in **Chapter 2: Scheme Location** of the Environmental Statement [EN010142/APP/6.1].

1.4 The Proposed Scheme

- 1.4.1 A detailed description of the Scheme can be found in **Chapter 3: Scheme Description** of the Environmental Statement [EN010142/APP/6.1(Rev01)] (which includes updates to the Scheme subsequent to Change Request 1). It comprises a generating station of more than 50MW, being the NSIP, and is described in Work No. 1 in Schedule 1 to the Order. The Scheme also includes associated development, which comprises Work Nos. 2 to 11 in Schedule 1 to the Order.
- 1.4.2 All elements of the NSIP are described in the sub-paragraphs below, along with relevant definitions contained in Schedule 1, and the associated development is described in paragraph 1.4.6.
- 1.4.3 The description of Work No. 1 refers to a gross electrical output capacity of over 50MW. This is consistent with sections 14 and 15 of the 2008 Act which stipulates that a generating station which exceeds an electrical capacity of 50MW will be an NSIP and therefore development consent will be required.
- 1.4.4 The description of the NSIP at Work No. 1 does not refer to an upper limit on the capacity of the generating station that development consent is being sought for. It is not considered that imposing an upper limit is desirable or necessary. The DCO includes reference to the means by which the parameters of the Scheme will be constrained and it is on this basis that the Environmental Impact Assessment has been undertaken, as set out in **Chapter 3: Scheme Description** of the Environmental Statement [EN010142/APP/6.1] and explained further in relation to the 'design parameters'. There is no reason to limit the electrical output capacity of the Scheme provided those parameters of the consent envelope are adequately captured in the Order. The Applicant is confident that those parameters are adequately secured in the DCO.

- 1.4.5 There are clear advantages in not imposing an upper limit on capacity. For example, the Applicant may take advantage of technological improvements and innovation that may emerge before construction, which would enable it to still construct the Scheme within the assessed parameters but increase capacity beyond that which is currently anticipated. It is in the public interest and accords with national policy to facilitate efficient and maximum generation from renewable sources, which is explained further in the Statement of Need [EN010142/APP/7.1]. The approach taken has precedent in the **Cleve Hill Solar Park Order 2020**, the **Little Crow Solar Park Order 2022**, the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**, the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024** and the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025**.
- 1.4.6 The associated development for the purposes of section 115 of the 2008 Act comprises Work Nos. 2 to 11 of the Scheme as provided for in Schedule 1 of the Order.
- 1.4.7 **Work No. 1** – provides for solar panels and solar stations to enable a ground mounted solar photovoltaic generating station with a gross electrical output capacity of over 50 megawatts.
- 1.4.8 **Work No. 2** – provides for battery energy storage systems (BESS) and associated infrastructure including battery modules, enclosures protecting the battery modules with incorporated ancillary equipment including liquid cooling and explosion prevention systems; heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC); monitoring and control systems; DC/DC converter; fire safety infrastructure, mitigation and control measures; and electrical cables connecting to Work No. 1(b), and Work No. 3.
- 1.4.9 **Work No. 3** – provides for the development of onsite substations and associated works, including Works 3A for Substation A and Works 3B for Substation B; hardstanding, internal access road and parking areas; and a water storage structure (swales) to collect and treat surface water before discharge.
- 1.4.10 **Work No. 4** – provides for works in connection with high voltage electrical cabling, access and construction compounds for the electrical cables including –
- a. **Work No. 4A** – works to lay cables to connect Work No. 3A to Work No. 3B;
 - b. **Work No. 4B** – works to lay cables to connecting to Work No. 4A and Work No. 4C;
 - c. **Work No. 4C** – works to lay cables to connecting to Work No. 4B and Work No. 4D;
 - d. **Work No. 4D** – works to lay cables to connecting to Work No. 4C and Work No. 4E; and
 - e. **Work No. 4E** – works to lay cables to connecting to Work No. 4D and Work No. 5.
- 1.4.11 **Work No. 5** – provides for works to the National Grid Cottam Substation to facilitate connection of the authorised development to the National Grid Cottam Substation.

- 1.4.12 **Work No. 6** – provides for works related to: electrical cabling including (but not limited to) electrical cables connecting Works No. 1, 2 and 3 to one another, connecting solar panels to one another, connecting the solar panels to the battery energy storage system, the solar stations and on-site substations, including tunnelling, boring and drilling works for trenchless crossings and open trench crossings; and site establishments and preparation works including site clearance, earthworks, and excavations. It also includes other works associated with the operation of the Scheme.
- 1.4.13 **Work No. 7** – relates to the construction and decommissioning compounds comprising areas of hardstanding; compacted ground or track matting; parking areas; site and welfare offices, canteens and workshops; security infrastructure, including cameras, perimeter fencing and lighting; areas to store materials, equipment, waste skips and spoil; site drainage and waste management infrastructure (including sewerage); and electricity, water, waste water and telecommunications connections.
- 1.4.14 **Work No. 8** – relates to works to –
- development of a solar farm control centre comprising central control room; central CCTV and security control, including access gates to fenced areas; welfare facility for staff and subcontractors; parking area for staff and visitors; independent power supply including emergency power supply; and
 - development of equipment storage including open storage covered by a canopy for weather protection; or the use of storage containers and the provision of parking areas and associated infrastructure.
- 1.4.15 **Work No. 9** – provides for works related to areas of habitat management and protection including measures to enhance the existing woodland and hedgerows; landscape and biodiversity enhancement measures; habitat creation and management including earthworks and landscaping; construction of drainage infrastructure and means of access; laying down of internal access tracks, means of access and crossing of watercourses; and fencing gates boundary treatment and other means of enclosure.
- 1.4.16 **Work No. 10** – relates to works to facilitate access to Work Nos. 1 to 9 including –
- Work No. 10A** – works to facilitate permanent access to Work Nos. 1 to 9 through alternation and improvement of existing road layout creation of visibility splays; and street works to facilitate the construction of proposed accesses;
 - Work No. 10B** – works to facilitate temporary construction and decommissioning access to Work Nos. 1 to 9 including creation of new access or improvement of existing access from the public highway; street works to facilitate the construction of proposed accesses and cable installation works; alteration of road layouts, including modifications to road markings and temporary removal of signage to facilitate abnormal load manoeuvres; alteration of road layout to facilitate localised carriageway widening for construction vehicles; and alteration of road layout to facilitate the construction of passing bays; and

- c. **Work No. 10C** – provides for works to facilitate permanent emergency access for fire service vehicles associated with Work No. 2 comprising alteration of existing road layout to facilitate the creation of new emergency accesses from the public highway including the creation of visibility splays; and street works to facilitate the construction of the proposed accesses.
- 1.4.17 **Work No. 11** – provides for sensitive archaeological site protection and management including habitat creation and management; and fencing gates boundary treatment as well as other means of enclosure.
- 1.4.18 The associated development includes such other works or operations as may be necessary or expedient for the purposes of or in connection with the construction, operation and maintenance of the Proposed Development but only within the Order limits and insofar as these works or operations do not give rise to any materially new or materially different environmental effects from those assessed in the Environmental Statement [EN010142/APP/6.1] including –
- a. works for the provision of fencing and security measures such as CCTV, columns, lighting, communication boxes, lightning protection masts and weather stations;
 - b. laying down of internal access tracks, ramps and span bridges, means of access, non-motorised links, footpaths and footways, laying and surfacing of permissive paths;
 - c. laying down of temporary footpath diversions, permissive paths and construction of drainage infrastructure, signage and information boards;
 - d. bunds, embankments, trenching and swales;
 - e. boundary treatments, including means of enclosure;
 - f. habitat creation and management including earthworks, landscaping, means of enclosure and the laying and construction of drainage infrastructure;
 - g. landscaping and other works to mitigate any adverse effects of construction, maintenance or operation of the authorised development;
 - h. electrical, gas, water, foul water drainage and telecommunications infrastructure connections, diversions and works to, and works to alter the position of, such services and utilities connections;
 - i. works to alter the course of, or otherwise interfere with, non-navigable rivers, streams or watercourses;
 - j. works to the existing irrigation system and works to alter the position and extent of such irrigation system;
 - k. surface water drainage systems, storm water attenuation systems including storage basins, oil water separators, including channelling and culverting and works to existing drainage systems;
 - l. site establishments and preparation works including site clearance (including vegetation removal, demolition of existing buildings and structures); earthworks (including soil stripping and storage and site

- levelling) and excavations; the alteration of the position of services and utilities; and works for the protection of buildings and land;
- m. works required for the strengthening, improvement, maintenance, or reconstruction of any street;
- n. tunnelling, boring and drilling works;
- o. working sites in connection with the construction and decommissioning of the authorised development and its restoration; and
- p. other works to mitigate any adverse effects of the construction, maintenance, operation or decommissioning of the authorised development.

1.5 Parameters Of The Order And “Consent Envelope”

- 1.5.1 The detailed design of the Scheme must be in accordance with the Outline Design Principles Statement [EN010142/APP/7.4], as secured in Requirement 5 of Schedule 2 of the Order. This approach is taken to ensure suitable flexibility in the design of the Scheme, such that new technology or different layouts can be used within that envelope, while ensuring that the development will not fall outside of the scope of the Environmental Statement [EN010142/APP/6.1 to EN010142/APP/6.3]. The principle of using a design envelope is recognised as appropriate for a wide range of NSIPs and is described in PINS' Advice Note 9: Rochdale Envelope (July 2018).
- 1.5.2 In addition to the Outline Design Principles Statement [EN010142/APP/7.4] other DCO requirements, certified documents and plans will operate to control and manage the detailed design of the Scheme, as well as its construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning. The way in which those mechanisms work together as an envelope within which the authorised development is to be undertaken, is explained in more detail below.
- 1.5.3 Article 3 (Development consent etc. granted by this Order) and Schedule 2 (Requirements)] operate to create a "consent envelope" within which the Proposed Development would be brought forward:
- 1.5.4 The Scheme is described in Schedule 1 of the Order, where it is referred to as the "authorised development". The authorised development is granted consent pursuant to Article 3(1).
- 1.5.5 In Schedule 1 the Proposed Development (i.e. the authorised development) is divided into a series of component parts, referred to as "numbered works".
- 1.5.6 Article 3(2) requires that the numbered works authorised by the Order are situated in the areas and within the limits of deviation shown on the Works Plans [EN010142/APP/2.4].
- 1.5.7 The design of the Scheme is also controlled via Requirement 5 (detailed design approval) of Schedule 2 of the Order which requires approval of details of the Scheme's design and requires that the details submitted accord with the Outline Design Principles Statement [EN010142/APP/7.4]. The Outline Design Principles Statement [EN010142/APP/7.4] set out the basis on which the assessment set out in the Environmental Statement [EN010142/APP/6.1

to **EN010142/APP/6.3]** has been undertaken and secures the key design mitigation measures referenced in the Environmental Statement [**EN010142/APP/6.1** to **EN010142/APP/6.3]**. The Outline Design Principles Statement [**EN010142/APP/7.4]** capture the important parameters that are necessary to ensure that the Scheme is constructed and operated in such a way that the impacts and effects would not exceed the scenario assessed in the Environmental Statement [**EN010142/APP/6.1** to **EN010142/APP/6.3]**.

1.5.8 In addition to the Outline Design Principles Statement [**EN010142/APP/7.4]** and Works Plans [**EN010142/APP/2.4]**, the design of the Scheme is also controlled by:

- a. approval and implementation of the Battery safety management plan (Requirement 6);
- b. approval and implementation of the Landscape and ecological management plan (Requirement 7);
- c. approval of a Biodiversity net gain strategy (Requirement 8);
- d. approval and implementation of Fencing and other means of enclosure (Requirement 9);
- e. approval and implementation of any Surface and foul water drainage scheme or system (Requirement 10);
- f. implementation of the Archaeological mitigation strategy (Requirement 11);
- g. approval and implementation of a Construction environmental management plan (Requirement 12);
- h. approval and implementation of the Operational environmental management plan (Requirement 13);
- i. approval and implementation of a waste management plan (Requirement 14);
- j. approval and implementation of a Construction traffic management plan (Requirement 15);
- k. approval and implementation of the Public rights of way management plan (Requirement 17);
- l. approval of an Operational noise assessment (Requirement 18);
- m. approval and implementation of a Soil management plan (Requirement 19); and
- n. approval and implementation of a Skills, supply chain and employment plan (Requirement 20).

1.5.9 Where the Outline Design Principles Statement [**EN010142/APP/7.4]** do not include guidance or controls for an aspect of a numbered work, this is justified on the basis of the environmental impact assessment and having regard to the other controls in place via the measures listed above.

1.5.10 The construction phase of the Scheme is required to be constructed within the areas on the Works Plans [**EN010142/APP/2.4]** is also controlled by:

- a. approval and implementation of Fencing and other means of enclosure (Requirement 9);
- b. approval and implementation of any Surface and foul water drainage scheme or system (Requirement 10);
- c. implementation of the Archaeological mitigation strategy (Requirement 11);
- d. approval and implementation of a Construction environmental management plan (Requirement 12);
- e. approval and implementation of the waste management plan (Requirement 14);
- f. approval and implementation of a Construction traffic management plan (Requirement 15);
- g. approval and implementation of the Public rights of way management plan (Requirement 17);
- h. approval and implementation of a Soil management plan (Requirement 19); and
- i. approval and implementation of a Skills, supply chain and employment plan (Requirement 20).

1.5.11 The ongoing operation and maintenance of the Scheme is controlled by:

- a. approval and implementation of the Battery safety management plan (Requirement 6);
- b. approval and implementation of the Landscape and ecological management plan (Requirement 7);
- c. approval and implementation of Fencing and other means of enclosure (Requirement 9);
- d. approval and implementation of any Surface and foul water drainage scheme or system (Requirement 10);
- e. approval and implementation of the Operational environmental management plan (Requirement 13);
- f. approval and implementation of the waste management plan (Requirement 14);
- g. approval of an Operational noise assessment (Requirement 18);
- h. approval and implementation of a Soil management plan (Requirement 19); and
- i. approval and implementation of a Skills, supply chain and employment plan (Requirement 20).

1.5.12 The decommissioning of the Scheme is controlled by the approval and implementation of a Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (Requirement 21).

1.5.13 The Application seeks flexibility to undertake the Scheme within the above envelope, in particular within the maximum areas and parameters secured via the Works Plans [EN010142/APP/2.4] and Outline Design Principles Statement [EN010142/APP/7.4]. As set out in **Chapter 5: EIA Methodology**

of the Environmental Statement [EN010142/APP/6.3] and the individual technical chapters, the environmental impact assessment has assessed the upper extent of the areas and sizes allowed by the Works Plans [EN010142/APP/2.4] and Outline Design Principles Statement [EN010142/APP/7.4]. As a result, the Environmental Statement [EN010142/APP/6.1] has assessed a worst case and has considered and confirmed that any scheme built within the maximum areas and parameters would have effects no worse than those assessed.

- 1.5.14 Any illustrative development layouts have been submitted to provide illustrative examples of the different design layouts that have been considered for the Scheme that could be built out within the "design parameters" (the design aspect of which is controlled primarily through the Works Plans [EN010142/APP/2.4] and Outline Design Principles Statement [EN010142/APP/7.4]). These are provided for illustration only within the Environmental Statement figures Volume 6.3 of the Environmental Statement [EN010142/APP/6.3] and are not sought to be secured.

1.6 The Purpose And Structure Of This Document

- 1.6.1 This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared to explain the purpose and effect of each article of, and the Schedules to, the Order, as required by Regulation 5(2)(c) of the APFP Regulations. This Explanatory Memorandum also explains why each article of, and Schedule to, the Order is required for the Scheme.
- 1.6.2 It also seeks to identify and explain departures from the Infrastructure Planning (Model Provisions) (England and Wales) Order 2009 (the "model provisions"). While the power for the Secretary of State to designate, and the requirement to have regard to, model provisions have both been removed by the Localism Act 2011, the Applicant considers that it is still relevant to note and explain variations made in the Order compared to the model provisions and provides precedents from other made DCO Orders where available. The Explanatory Memorandum also cites the proposed **East Yorkshire Solar Farm Order 202[*]** as a precedent for some article amendments, as although this Order is unmade it is considered relevant given the proximity to the Order limits, and has also proceeded through the examination process.
- 1.6.3 The Order includes a number of provisions to enable the construction, maintenance, operation and decommissioning of the Scheme. This reflects the integrated consenting objective of the 2008 Act regime. The provisions have been drafted to accord with the wide-ranging powers at section 120 of the 2008 Act, but also the limitations, requirements and exceptions imposed by section 120(8) and sections 122 to 152 so far as these are relevant to the Scheme. All powers provided for within the Order come within the scope of section 120 of, and Schedule 5 to, the 2008 Act.
- 1.6.4 The provisions contained in the Order are briefly described below and then considered in more detail in the following sections:
- a. **Part 1 (Preliminary)** – Article 1 sets out what the Order may be cited as and when it comes into force. Article 2 sets out the meaning of the defined terms used in the Order;

- b. **Part 2 (Principal Powers)** – Articles 3 to 7 provide development consent for the Scheme, and allow it to be constructed, operated and maintained by the undertaker. Articles 6 and 7 relate to the application and modification of certain legislative provisions and defence to proceedings in respect of statutory nuisance respectively;
- c. **Part 3 (Streets)** – Articles 8 to 17 provide the undertaker with a suite of powers in relation to street works. The powers include the ability for the undertaker to be able to carry out works to and within streets; to alter the layout of streets; to construct and maintain new or altered means of access; to temporarily close or divert public rights of way; to temporarily close proposed rights of way; use of private roads; to provide access to street works; to enter into agreements with street authorities; and provisions relating to traffic regulations;
- d. **Part 4 (Supplemental Powers)** – Articles 18 to 20 set out three supplemental powers relating to the discharge of water; undertaking protective works to buildings; and the authority to survey and investigate land;
- e. **Part 5 (Powers of Acquisition)** – Articles 21 to 34 provide for the undertaker to be able to compulsorily acquire the Order land and rights over and within it, and to be able to temporarily use parts of the Order land for the construction or maintenance of the Scheme. Article 22 sets out a time limit for the exercise of the compulsory acquisition powers and Article 24 provides for the undertaker to suspend or extinguish certain private rights. The provisions provide for compensation to be payable to affected persons in respect of these powers, where that is not already secured elsewhere. Articles 30 and 31 provide for the temporary use of land for constructing and maintaining the Scheme. Article 33 provides for powers in relation to the land and apparatus of statutory undertakers;
- f. **Part 6 (Miscellaneous and General)** – Articles 35 to 49 include various general provisions in relation to the Order:
 - i. **Article 35** sets out who has the benefit of the powers contained in the Order and Article 36 sets out how those powers can be transferred.
 - ii. **Articles 37 and 38** provide (respectively) for how landlord and tenant law applies in relation to the Order and that the Order Land will be "operational land";
 - iii. **Articles 39 and 40** provide (respectively) powers in relation to trees which need to be removed or lopped and for hedgerows to be removed in relation to the Scheme and in relation to trees subject to tree preservation orders; and
 - iv. **Articles 41 to 49** include provisions relating to the certification of plans and documents relevant to the Order; arbitration; protection for statutory undertakers through the protective provisions (set out in Schedule 15); service of notices under the Order; procedure in relation to approvals required under the Order; guarantees in respect of the payment of compensation; the incorporation of the mineral code; and crown rights.

1.6.5 There are then 16 Schedules to the Order, providing for:

- a. **Schedule 1** – the description of the Scheme;
- b. **Schedule 2** – the requirements that apply to the Scheme (i.e. the controls that apply to the Order, similar to planning conditions) Schedule 16 then contains details of the procedure for discharge of requirements required under the Order;
- c. **Schedule 3** – a list of the local legislation relating to railways, river navigation, fisheries and water that the Order will disapply insofar as the provisions (in that local legislation) still in force are inconsistent with the powers contained in the Order;
- d. **Schedules 4 to 8** – matters in relation to street works and alterations, public rights of way, access to works and details of the streets subject to temporary traffic regulation measures during construction of the authorised development;
- e. **Schedule 9** – details of land in which only new rights may be acquired;
- f. **Schedule 10** – amendments to legislation to ensure appropriate compensation is payable where new rights over land are acquired under the Order;
- g. **Schedule 11** – details of land over which temporary possession may be taken;
- h. **Schedule 12** – list of hedgerows to be removed
- i. **Schedule 13** – the documents and plans to be certified by the Secretary of State;
- j. **Schedule 14** – arbitration rules that apply to most arbitrations in connection with the Order;
- k. **Schedule 15** – provisions for the protection of statutory undertakers and their apparatus; and
- l. **Schedule 16** – procedure for the discharge of requirements.

2. Purpose Of The Order

2.1 The Scheme

- 2.1.1 The Scheme involves an onshore generating station with a capacity of over 50MW, located in England, and is therefore a NSIP under sections 14(1)(a) and 15 of the 2008 Act. The Applicant requires development consent under the 2008 Act in order to construct, maintain and operate the Scheme. Under section 37 of the 2008 Act, development consent may only be granted by a DCO, following an application to the Secretary of State.
- 2.1.2 The Applicant is therefore making an application to the Secretary of State for a development consent order for the Scheme. In the Order, the Scheme is referred to as the "authorised development". The Order refers to the person authorised to exercise the powers in the Order as the "undertaker" and defines the undertaker as Tillbridge Solar Limited.
- 2.1.3 The matters for which development consent is sought are summarised below and described more formally in Schedule 1 to the Order.

- 2.1.4 Section 115(1) of the 2008 Act provides that development consent may be granted for associated development, as well as for the NSIP. The Secretary of State must therefore be satisfied that all the elements included within the authorised development are either the NSIP or are associated development, in order to include them in the Order.
- 2.1.5 The solar photovoltaic generating station within Work No. 1 in Schedule 1 to the Order constitutes "development for which development consent is required", and as such is the NSIP.
- 2.1.6 The Order also includes the proposed development of a battery and energy storage system and associated development to allow for the storage, importation and exportation of energy to the National Grid, included at Work Nos. 2 to 11 of Schedule 1 of the Order. The Applicant has considered these works against the policy and criteria in DCLG 'Guidance on Associated Development applications for major infrastructure projects' (April 2013) (the "Guidance") – it is clear that all of these works come within the Guidance and are clearly capable of being granted development consent by the Secretary of State pursuant to section 115 of the 2008 Act.
- 2.1.7 The approach taken by the Applicant between those parts of the authorised development which form the NSIP and those parts that form associated development follows the approach taken by other DCO applications to date.
- 2.1.8 In particular, Work Nos. 2 to 11 are:
- a. all directly associated with the NSIP, as they are all required to support the construction, maintenance or operation of the generating station, or to mitigate its impacts (paragraph 5(i) of the Guidance);
 - b. all subordinate to the NSIP - none of them are an aim in themselves (paragraph 5(ii));
 - c. not only necessary as a source of additional revenue for the Applicant, in order to cross-subsidise the cost of the NSIP (paragraph 5(iii));
 - d. all proportionate to the nature and scale of the NSIP (paragraph 5(iv));
 - e. all of a nature which is typically brought forward alongside a solar generating station (paragraph 6); and
 - f. all listed in or analogous to the types of associated development listed in Annexes A and B to the Guidance. Those annexes mention:
 - i. in Annex A, "Connections to national, regional or local networks", including electricity networks and in Annex B, "substations", "jointing pits", "control buildings" and "underground lines" would include the electrical compounds and grid connection works (Work Nos. 3 to 6 and 8);
 - ii. in Annex A, "monitoring apparatus" (Work Nos. 2 and 6);
 - iii. in Annex A, "Formation of new or improved vehicular or pedestrian access, whether temporary or permanent"; highway improvements, "Alteration or construction of roads, footpaths", "Parking spaces for workers" and "lay down areas" (Work Nos. 6, 10 and 11);

- iv. in Annex A, hard and soft landscaping would include landscaping and other works to mitigate adverse impacts (Work Nos. 6, 9 and 11); and
- v. in Annex A, “Security measures” and “Working sites, site offices and laydown areas” (Work Nos. 4C to 4E, 6, 7 and 8).

2.1.9 As the Order seeks to apply and modify statutory provisions, including those relating to the compulsory acquisition of land, the Order has been drafted as a statutory instrument, in accordance with sections 117 and 120 of the 2008 Act.

2.2 Compulsory Acquisition

2.2.1 In addition to providing for the construction, maintenance, operation and decommissioning of the Scheme, the Order will, in accordance with section 122, section 120(3) and Schedule 5 of the 2008 Act, authorise the acquisition of land and rights over land, and the extinguishment of, or interference with, interests in or rights over land.

2.2.2 The Book of Reference [EN010142/APP/4.3] sets out a description of, and interests included in, the Order Land, split by "plots", and these are shown on the Land and Crown Land Plans [EN010142/APP/2.2]. The Book of Reference [EN010142/APP/4.3] is divided into parts, dependent upon whether interests are Category 1, 2 or 3 interests, and the identification of those interests is explained in both the Book of Reference [EN010142/APP/4.3] and the Consultation Report [EN010142/APP/5.1]). The Order provides for land to be compulsorily acquired, rights to be compulsorily acquired and other rights and interests that will be affected and the Schedule of Negotiations and Powers Sought explains the compulsory acquisition powers sought by reference to plot number. The Order and the Book of Reference [EN010142/APP/4.3] should be read together with the Land and Crown Land Plans [EN010142/APP/2.2] and the Statement of Reasons [EN010142/APP/4.1], which sets out the justification for the inclusion of compulsory acquisition powers in the Order.

2.2.3 It is noted that the compulsory acquisition powers were subject to minor updates at Deadline 1 to ensure the provisions align with recent amendments to corresponding compulsory acquisition legislation by the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023.

2.2.4 Further information on the compulsory acquisition powers sought is provided below.

2.3 Statutory Undertaker’s Land and Apparatus

2.3.1 The interests held by each statutory undertaker identified by the Applicant as owning land or having a right to keep or access apparatus within the Order Land are identified in the Book of Reference [EN010142/APP/4.3].

2.3.2 Section 127(2) of the 2008 Act states that a DCO may only include provision authorising the compulsory acquisition of statutory undertakers’ land to the extent that:

- a. the land can be purchased and not replaced without serious detriment to the carrying on of the undertaking; or
 - b. the land can be replaced by other land belonging to or available for acquisition by the undertakers without serious detriment to the carrying on of the undertaking.
- 2.3.3 Section 127(5) of the 2008 Act states that a DCO may only include provision authorising the compulsory acquisition of a right over statutory undertakers' land by the creation of a new right over land to the extent that:
 - a. the land can be purchased without serious detriment to the carrying on of the undertaking; or
 - b. any detriment to the carrying on of the undertaking, in consequence of the acquisition of the right, can be made good by the undertakers by the use of other land belonging to or available for acquisition by them.
- 2.3.4 Section 138 of the 2008 Act states that a DCO may only include provision for the extinguishment of rights of way, or rights to lay down, erect, continue or maintain apparatus on, under or over the land belonging to statutory undertakers for the purposes of their undertakings only if the Secretary of State is satisfied that the extinguishment is necessary for the purpose of carrying out the development to which the DCO relates.
- 2.3.5 The Order includes protective provisions in respect of statutory undertakers (see Article 44 and Schedule 15). The Applicant is currently seeking to agree the form of protective provisions with the affected undertakers. Further details as to how the tests under sections 127 and 138 of the 2008 Act have been satisfied are set out in the Statement of Reasons [EN010142/APP/4.1].

3. Provisions of the Order

- 3.1.1 The Order consists of 51 operative provisions, each referred to as articles and 17 Schedules. The articles are considered below in numerical order (split between the different Parts of the Order), and Schedules are considered along with the article which introduces them or to which they relate. It is noted that some articles have been deleted in the updates presented at Deadline 1. These have been replaced with placeholders noting the article is no longer in use, to ensure references within other application documents to Article numbers remain correct, to ease in referencing for the Examining Authority and interested parties through examination. The Applicant proposes to remove these articles and make subsequent article numbering updates within the Order and key application documents within the draft Order presented at the final examination deadline.
- 3.1.2 Given the Order refers to the Applicant as the "undertaker", for ease when reading this document with the Order we use the term "undertaker" when explaining the provision of the Order below. Equally, the Scheme is referred to as the "authorised development" in the Order and so for ease this document refers to the "authorised development" when explaining the provisions of the Order.

3.2 Part 1 (Preliminary) and Part 2 (Principal Powers)

- 3.2.1 Articles 1 (Citation and commencement) and 2 (Interpretation) are preliminary provisions. Article 1 provides for the way in which the Order should be cited and when it takes effect.
- 3.2.2 Article 2 (Interpretation) provides for the interpretation of the rest of the Order, including the Schedules. Where appropriate, some Schedules also contain provisions setting out what terms mean in that particular Schedule. Article 2 makes alterations to the model provisions to accommodate departures from model provisions elsewhere in the Order, and to add required definitions, including:
- definitions of documents submitted as part of the Application and which are referred to in the Order have been added. These documents are more fully identified in the table in Schedule 13 to the Order;
 - the definition of "apparatus" has the same meaning as in Part 3 of the 1991 Act. However, for the purposes of the Order this has been expanded to include pipelines, aerial markers, cathodic protection test posts, field boundary markers, transformer rectifier kiosks, electricity cables, telecommunications equipment and electricity cabinets. This is required to ensure that the definition of apparatus is sufficiently broad to encompass the type of apparatus that the undertaker may encounter when constructing the authorised development. This definition has precedent in the **Riverside Energy Park Order 2020**, the **Keadby 3 (Carbon Capture Equipped Gas Fired Generating Station) Order 2022**, the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**, the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**, and the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025**.
 - a definition for "archaeological mitigation strategy" was added for Deadline 1 to clarify which documents are referred to within the new drafting of Requirement 11 (Archaeology). The drafting of this definition has been adopted from the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**.
 - the definition of "authorised development" means the authorised development and associated development described in Schedule 1 to the Order and includes development as defined in section 32 of the 2008 Act. The definitions of "ancillary works" and "authorised project" from the model provisions have not been used in the Order, instead the concept of associated development is included in the definition of "authorised development" and is described in detail in Schedule 1, as it is considered that this drafting is more accurate. This definition has precedent in the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**, the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**, the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**, and the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025**.
 - the definition of "commence" is defined so as to exclude "permitted preliminary works". This exclusion is required to enable the undertaker to carry out certain preparatory works prior to the submission of relevant details for approval under the requirements contained in Schedule 2 to the Order so that certain works can be carried out without "commencing" the

authorised development, in order to build the required flexibility into how the authorised development can be constructed. The works identified in the "permitted preliminary works" include pre-commencement activities such as surveys, monitoring and site investigations which are considered appropriate as the nature of these works (i.e. non-intrusive, above ground works or actions) means they are not expected to give rise to environmental effects requiring mitigation. However, the undertaker does recognise that prior to some of the works identified as "permitted preliminary works", there may be a requirement to submit details to the relevant planning authority. Where this is the case, the requirement expressly prevents the "permitted preliminary works" from being carried out until those details have been approved. This definition has been updated at Deadline 5 to refer to section 155 of the Planning Act 2008 (instead of section 56(4) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990). This definition has precedent in the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**, the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**, and the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025**.

- f. a definition for "date of decommissioning" was added for Deadline 1, to address the request by West Lindsey District Council to include a trigger for decommissioning at the point that the authorised development permanently ceases to generate electricity, in case this occurs prior to the deadline for decommissioning of 60 years as captured in Requirement 20. The drafting of this definition has been adopted from the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024** and the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025**.
- g. a definition of "limits of deviation" has been added and operates by reference to the Works Plans [EN010142/APP/2.4]. These are the areas within which the authorised development can be constructed and are required so that the design of the authorised development does not lead to effects that would exceed the worst-case scenario assessed in the Environmental Statement [EN010142/APP/6.1]. See further below in relation to Article 3 and above in relation to the parameters and consent envelope. This definition has precedent in the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023** and the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**.
- h. a definition of "maintain" has been added to make clear what activities are authorised under Article 5 during the operation of the authorised development. The definition has been drafted to directly reflect the nature and context of the authorised development, which will need to be properly maintained, managed and protected throughout its operational lifetime. The drafting, therefore, reflects this operational period and likely framework of maintenance that will be required while enabling technological and practice advancement and improvements within identified environmental performance standards. Therefore, some flexibility must be built-in to what maintenance of the authorised development will involve, particularly to keep up with changing standards and controls and advances in technology. The approach taken has precedent in the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**, and the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025** and similar drafting also appears in the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024** and the **Keadby 3 (Carbon Capture Equipped Gas Fired Generating Station) Order 2022**.

- i. for the purposes of the authorised development, examples of the activities anticipated to be covered are listed below:
 - i. maintenance and inspection: Throughout the life of the Scheme there will be a planned maintenance regime and, on occasion, the need for unplanned maintenance due to plant failures. It is anticipated that staff will attend when required for maintenance and cleaning activities;
 - ii. repair / refurbish / replace: Through the planned maintenance regime and indeed through any unplanned maintenance required due to plant failures, it is likely that some plant and equipment, particularly those with moving parts, will need to be repaired or refurbished or indeed replaced. A summary of the anticipated design life of system components is included within **Chapter 3: Scheme Description** of the Environmental Statement [EN010142/APP/6.1], and a regime to manage maintenance works, including replacement of components is set out within the **Framework Operational Environmental Management Plan** [EN010142/APP/7.9];
 - iii. adjust and alter: Through the planned maintenance regime, and indeed outside the planned maintenance regime, there may be a need to adjust or alter elements comprising the authorised development to respond to changing conditions;
 - iv. remove: Adjustment and replacement activities will require plant, equipment and material to be removed;
 - v. reconstruct: If, for example, a part has to be dismantled in order to be repaired or refurbished, then that part will need to be reconstructed;
 - vi. improve: Technology will improve over the life of the authorised development and therefore there may be opportunities to "improve" the workings of the plant and equipment by, for example, the removal of an old part and replacing it with a new, more efficient part.
- j. the definition of "Order land" means the land which is required for, or is required to facilitate, or is incidental to, or is affected by the authorised development shown on the Land Plans and Crown Plans [EN010142/APP/2.2] which is within the limits of land to be acquired or used and described in the Book of Reference [EN010142/APP/4.3]. This land is coloured pink (land to be permanently acquired), blue (land in which the undertaker can create and acquire new rights), and green (land over which rights of temporary possession only can be exercised by the undertaker).
- k. the definition of "Order limits" means the limits shown on the Works Plans [EN010142/APP/2.4] within which the authorised development may be carried out and land acquired or used.
- l. the definition of "statutory undertaker" includes reference to a public communications provider defined by section 151(1) of the Communications Act 2003. This is on the basis that a "public communication provider" is providing a network or service to members of

the public and, insofar as they may have assets or apparatus within the Order Limits, it is considered appropriate to ensure that this Order applies equally to those providers as statutory undertakers under section 127(8) of the Planning Act 2008. There is precedent for this approach, for instance the **Riverside Energy Park Order 2020**, the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**, the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**, and the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025**.

- m. the definition of "street works" has been amended to refer to the works listed in the street works Article (Article 8(1)) so as to ensure consistency between the powers in the Article and the definition itself.
- n. the "undertaker" is defined as Tillbridge Solar Limited, who has the benefit of the provisions of the Order, subject to the provisions of Article 35.

3.2.3 Paragraph (2) of Article 2 has been included to reflect that "rights over land" include references to do or restrain or to place and maintain anything in, on or under land or in the airspace above its surface and to any trusts and incidents, including restrictive covenants. Paragraph (2) also makes it clear that references to the imposition of restrictive covenants are references to the creation of rights over land which interfere with the interests or rights of another.

3.2.4 Paragraph (3) of Article 2 has been added to make it clear that references to the purposes of the authorised development includes construction, maintenance, operation, use and decommissioning of the authorised development. This has been inserted to assist with making the Order clearer. In the operational provisions in the Order there is now only references to the 'purposes of the authorised development' rather than having to repeat construct, maintain, operate, use and decommission. The approach taken has precedent in the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**, and the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025**.

3.2.5 Paragraphs (4) to (8) of Article 2 have been added to provide clarity (respectively) that all distances, directions, capacities and lengths are approximate; that references to numbered works are to the works as described in Schedule 1 and shown on the Works Plans [EN010142/APP/2.4]; as to how the word "includes" is to be construed; that any statutory body includes that body's successor in title; and that all areas described in the Book of Reference [EN010142/APP/4.3] are approximate. The approach taken has precedent in **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**, the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**, and the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025**.

3.2.6 Paragraph (9) of Article 2 was added at Deadline 1 to provide clarity that references to legislation or other instruments referred to in the Order are to be construed to capture that legislation as amended. This wording was adopted from the made **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**.

3.2.7 Article 3 (Development consent etc. granted by this Order) grants development consent for the authorised development. This article is adapted from the model provisions. Schedule 1 describes the authorised development in detail, split into 'work numbers', each of which represents different parts of the authorised development. This split of the authorised development between

different work numbers enables the Order to refer to different parts of the authorised development by citing the relevant work number. The content of the works contained within each work number is described in greater detail above.

- 3.2.8 Paragraph (2) of Article 3 requires that the works authorised by the Order are situated in the areas and within the limits of deviation shown on the Works Plans [EN010142/APP/2.4]. This is in order to provide certainty as to what has been consented by the Order, in respect of which areas of land.
- 3.2.9 The purpose of Article 3(2) is to provide the undertaker with a necessary, but proportionate, degree of flexibility when constructing the authorised development, reducing the risk that the authorised development as approved cannot later be implemented for reasons which, at the time the Application was made and the development consent was granted, could not reasonably have been foreseen. It also gives a proportionate amount of flexibility for the detailed design of the authorised development within the set limits.
- 3.2.10 The use of parameters is appropriate in the current Order as they serve to precisely define the authorised development by reference to the Works Plans [EN010142/APP/2.4], while preserving a sensible amount of flexibility in the implementation of the authorised development to allow for variances in ground conditions and choice of appropriate equipment and technology. The Environmental Statement [EN010142/APP/6.1 to EN010142/APP/6.3] accompanying the application for development consent has assessed the authorised development within the full envelope provided by the use of parameters, and so development within this envelope will not create effects that exceed the worst-case scenario assessed in the Environmental Statement [EN010142/APP/6.1 to EN010142/APP/6.3]. Further detail in this respect is provided above.
- 3.2.11 Article 4 (Operation of generating station) permits the operation and use of the generating station comprised in the authorised development and is included pursuant to section 140 of the 2008 Act. Article 4(2) specifically preserves the need for the undertaker to obtain any other operational consent that may be needed for the generating station, in addition to the Order. It is included so that the undertaker has powers to operate the generating station and has precedent in the **Little Crow Solar Park Order 2022**, the **Immingham Open Cycle Gas Turbine Order 2020**, the **Cleve Hill Solar Park Order 2020**, the **Drax Power (Generating Stations) Order 2019**, the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**, and the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025**.
- 3.2.12 Article 5 (Power to maintain the authorised development) provides for the maintenance of the authorised development at any time and is required so that the undertaker has power to maintain the authorised development. Article 5 reflects the terms of the model provisions, but text has been added to make clear that maintenance must be in accordance with the provisions of the Order. Article 5(2) restricts maintenance to the Order Limits in order to provide a defined parameter within which this power can be exercised. A definition of "maintain" has been included, as referred to above, so that it is clear what the term involves. The Environmental Statement [EN010142/APP/6.1 to EN010142/APP/6.3] has assessed maintenance as defined in the Order and therefore Article 5(3) does not permit the undertaker to undertake such

maintenance activities if they will give rise to any materially new or different environmental effects to those identified in the Environmental Statement [EN010142/APP/6.1 to EN010142/APP/6.3].

3.2.13 Article 6 (Application and modification of statutory provisions) disapplies a number of statutory provisions. Section 120 of the 2008 Act makes comprehensive and wide-ranging provision about what may be included in a DCO, as part of the 2008 Act's integrated approach to consenting. Section 120(5) provides that, subject to specified limitations and requirements, a DCO may apply, modify or exclude a statutory provision which relates to any matter for which provision may be made in the Order; and make amendments, repeals or revocations of statutory provisions of local application. It is common for DCOs to contain such provisions, although the scope and content inevitably differs according to the circumstances of different projects. Precedent for most of the provisions sought for this Order can be found in the **Great Yarmouth Third River Crossing Development Consent Order 2020**, the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**, the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**, and the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025**.

3.2.14 Article 6 provides for the disapplication of the following specified provisions:

- a. section 23 of the Land Drainage Act 1991, which prohibits e.g. the obstruction and other works in watercourses without the consent of the lead local flood authority or relevant internal drainage board;
- b. section 32 of the Land Drainage Act 1991, which would inappropriately allow the provisions of the Order relating to drainage to be revisited;
- c. the provisions of any byelaws made under section 66 of the Land Drainage Act 1991;
- d. the provisions of any byelaws made, or having effect, under paragraphs 5, 6 or 6A to Schedule 25 of the Water Resources Act 1991;
- e. Regulation 12 of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016, insofar as a flood risk activity permit(s). This enables the Applicant to carry out a flood risk activity without the need for an environmental permit;
- f. the legislation listed in Schedule 3 (legislation to be disapplied) in so far as the provisions still in force are incompatible with the powers contained within this Order and do not impact on the operation or maintenance of the River Trent as a navigable river; and
- g. the provisions of the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 in so far as they relate to temporary possession of land under articles 29 and 30 of this Order. At present the reforms to the temporary possession regime contained in the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 have not yet been commenced (nor consulted on). When this may happen is uncertain, as are the detailed implications of implementation for the authorised development. A DCO should achieve certainty, and it is therefore appropriate and necessary to disapply the reforms whilst taking account of their principles in the relevant articles of the Order, these being articles 29 and 30. This approach has precedent and has been accepted by the Secretary of State; see for example the **Drax Power (Generating**

Stations) Order 2019, the Millbrook Gas Fired Generating Station Order 2019, the Cleve Hill Solar Park Order 2020, the Keadby 3 (Carbon Capture Equipped Gas Fired Generating Station) Order 2022, the Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023, the Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024, the Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024, the Cottam Solar Project Order 2024, and the West Burton Solar Project Order 2025.

- 3.2.15 These disapplications are sought on the basis that they address matters whose merits and acceptability can, and will, already have been sufficiently considered and resolved if the Order is made, notably in relation to the provisions under the Land Drainage Act 1991, the Water Resources Act 1991, and the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 through protective provisions for the protection of the relevant drainage authorities and the Environment Agency. Such matters should therefore not be the subject of further regulatory consideration or control, which would cause unnecessary uncertainty and duplication, and may unjustifiably delay the implementation of the Scheme.
- 3.2.16 Section 150 of the Planning Act 2008 only allows requirements for prescribed consents to be disappplied if the relevant body has consented to this. The relevant consents, where applicable, are being sought in parallel with the negotiation of appropriate protective provisions, which will ensure that the disapplications will not prejudice the statutory objectives and responsibilities of the relevant regulators. The Applicant's approach to obtaining the other consents required for the Scheme is set out in greater detail in the Consents and Agreements Position Statement [EN010142/APP/3.3].
- 3.2.17 Article 6 also provides for amendments to be made to the regimes relating to trees and hedgerows under the Forestry Act 1967, the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 and the Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012. This seeks to deal with the lacunae in these statutes where works can be undertaken to trees and hedgerows pursuant to a planning permission or a 'deemed' planning permission (such as under the Transport and Works Act 1992). However, due to the operation of section 33 of the Planning Act 2008 not 'deeming' planning permission, but instead saying it is not required, DCO development does not benefit from these provisions, meaning that NSIP development is left in a worse position than 'normal' planning development, which is considered not appropriate. With the controls set out in the Requirements, the local planning authorities will still be able to consider the impacts of such works, the provisions of article 6 simply mean that separate consents are not required to be obtained. This approach, in respect of the Forestry Act 1967, has precedent in the **Great Yarmouth Third River Crossing Development Order 2020**. The Hedgerow and Tree Preservation provisions are considered necessary to ensure legislative clarity.
- 3.2.18 Article 6 also applies section 9 of the Forestry Act 1967 to any felling required as a result of the authorised development. Section 9(1) of the 1967 Act provides that a Forestry Commission licence is required for felling growing trees. Section 9(4)(d) disapplies the requirement from felling required to implement development authorised by a planning permission – but not to development authorised by a DCO. Paragraph (2) of Article 6 extends the exception to any trees felled as a result of the authorised development.

- 3.2.19 In addition, the Applicant has conducted a review of any local legislation that might conflict with the powers and rights sought in the Order. The Applicant has included a list of the historic legislation that it seeks to disapply in Schedule 3, which relates to matters including railways, river navigation, fisheries and water within, and in the vicinity of, the Order Limits. This list has been prepared taking a precautionary approach, because in some cases it was difficult to conclusively determine whether or not the provisions of the legislation were relevant to the Order, given that plans were not available in respect of the majority of the Acts considered to make clear their precise geographic scope. Article 6 disapplies the legislation listed in Schedule 3 in so far as the provisions still in force are inconsistent with how the powers in the Order can be exercised.
- 3.2.20 Article 6(5) in effect disapplies the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010, by making clear that any building comprised in the authorised development is to be deemed to be of a type that does not trigger liability for payment of the Community Infrastructure Levy. It has precedence in the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**, the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**, the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**, and the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025**.
- 3.2.21 New additions have been made to Article 6 at Deadline 4, in order to respond to evolving good practice in DCO drafting and with a view to managing the implications if there are overlapping permissions in the future in light of case law in recent years and experiences from other schemes which are now being implemented. This drafting is intended to clarify, in particular for the local planning authority as well as applicants, the situation where there is more than one consent or planning permission in the same area.
- 3.2.22 Article 6(6) permits certain development authorised by a planning permission granted under the 1990 Act that is within the Order limits to be carried out pursuant to the terms of the planning permission without breaching the Order. This provision ensures that the undertaker does not breach section 161 of the 2008 Act in carrying out certain development pursuant to a grant of planning permission. These provisions have precedent in the **M20 Junction 10a Development Consent Order 2017** and the **A30 Chiverton to Carland Cross Development Consent Order 2020**.
- 3.2.23 Article 6(7) addresses the Supreme Court's ruling in *Hillside Parks Ltd v Snowdonia National Park Authority* [2022] UKSC 30. That judgment relates to planning permissions granted under the 1990 Act. It holds that, unless there is an express provision otherwise, where development has taken place under one permission, whether another planning permission may lawfully be implemented depends upon whether it remains physically possible to carry out the development authorised by the second permission in light of what has already been done under the first permission.
- 3.2.24 Article 6(7) ensures that enforcement action is not taken in respect of planning permissions granted under the 1990 Act or development consent orders made under the 2008 Act or consents granted by the Secretary of State pursuant to section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 which are inconsistent with the works and exercise of powers under the Order. The provision is based on Article 3(3) of the **Lake Lothing (Lowestoft) Third Crossing Order 2020**. However, it differs from that precedent in that the provision reflects the terminology used

by the Supreme Court in the Hillside case, and confirms that relevant permissions which conflict with the Scheme can proceed without the risk of enforcement action being taken notwithstanding any incompatibility between the Scheme and the development authorised under a planning permission. In addition, it makes clear that the provision also applies to development consent orders made under the 2008 Act and section 36 consents under the Electricity Act 1989 (notwithstanding that this was not at issue in the Hillside judgment). It is considered this is necessary to confirm that developments are not prevented.

- 3.2.25 Article 6(8) has been inserted to deal with the converse situation covered by Article 6(7) and confirms that development under other consents is not to prevent activity authorised under the Order.
- 3.2.26 Without new sub-paragraphs (7) and (8) there is a significant risk of the Scheme or other permissions and consents being undeliverable or subject to enforcement action. This is a particular issue for the Scheme given there are existing planning permissions that overlap the Order limits.
- 3.2.27 Article 6(9) defines “enforcement action” to make clear what this term means under the 1990 and 2008 Acts, to aid clarity for all Interested Parties.
- 3.2.28 Article 7 (Defence to proceedings in respect of statutory nuisance) provides that no person is able to bring statutory nuisance proceedings under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 in respect of noise, if the noise is created in the course of carrying out construction or maintenance or decommissioning of the authorised development and for which notice has been given under section 60 or consent obtained under section 61 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974 or which cannot be reasonably avoided as a consequence of the authorised development. Article 7 is a model provision, in recognition that such noise will arise and that provision to define its consequences in an appropriate and balanced manner will be needed. This will be true of the Scheme and for this reason it is necessary to include the article in the Order. It should be noted that certain Outline Design Principles Statement [EN010142/APP/7.4] relate to noise.

3.3 Part 3 (Streets)

- 3.3.1 Article 8 (Street works) allows the undertaker to carry out certain works to a street for the purposes of the authorised development. It is necessary because implementation of the authorised development will require works to be undertaken to streets. Schedule 4 sets out the streets that are subject to street works, and the nature of those works, thereby clarifying the extent of the powers. Article 8 is a model provision; however, it has been modified to bring in sections 54 to 106 of the 1991 Act to apply to any street work carried out pursuant to paragraph (1). This provides protection for the street authority for the street in question. In addition, the model provision has been amended to refer to electrical cables as well as apparatus and extended in paragraph (1)(e) to provide for works which may be required to any culvert under a street. This article is based on the **Immingham Open Cycle Gas Turbine Order 2020**, the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**, the **Boston Alternative Energy Facility Order 2023**, the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**, the **Gate**

Burton Energy Park Order 2024, the Cottam Solar Project Order 2024, and the West Burton Solar Project Order 2025.

- 3.3.2 Article 9 (Application of the relevant permit scheme) was added at Deadline 4 to clarify the interaction between the street works articles of the Order and the application of the relevant permitting schemes of the local highways authorities, as agreed with Lincolnshire County Council and Nottinghamshire County Council. The Article clarifies that the permit schemes continue to apply, but cannot be refused or granted subject to conditions which would effect refusal, and that conditions for a permit must be consistent with the Order and its powers. These clarifications ensure certainty that the street works for the authorised development can proceed in accordance with the made Order. The Article also ensures that an appeal process remains open to the undertaker to any decisions under permitting schemes, in order to enable the undertaker to appropriately align any conditions for the schemes with the requirements of the made Order.
- 3.3.3 Article 10 (Power to alter layout, etc., of streets) allows the undertaker to alter the layout of or carry out any works in a street. Schedule 5 then sets out the alterations to streets (split into two parts showing permanent and temporary works respectively). This Article is necessary because, in order to construct, operate, maintain and decommission the authorised development, the undertaker will need to alter street layouts and establish suitable accesses to ensure that the authorised development can be accessed effectively while ensuring there is minimal disruption to the local highway network. The powers conferred by paragraph (2) (which is a general power enabling the undertaker to alter the layout of any street) require the consent of the street authority before they can be exercised. Article 10 has precedent and appears in the **Drax Power (Generating Stations) Order 2019**, the **Great Yarmouth Third River Crossing Development Consent Order 2020**, **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**, and the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025**. However, paragraph 10(2)(c) has been added to make it clear that the undertaker may alter, remove, replace and relocate any street furniture required. This is necessary to enable the conveyance of abnormal indivisible loads to the Order limits and follows the approach in the **Drax Power (Generating Stations) Order 2019**, the **Great Yarmouth Third River Crossing Development Consent Order 2020**, the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**.
- 3.3.4 Article 11 (Construction and maintenance of altered streets) provides that the permanent alterations to the streets listed in Part 1 of Schedule 5 must be completed to the reasonable satisfaction of the highway authority and, unless otherwise agreed, be maintained at the undertaker's expense for a period of 12 months from their completion. Thereafter, maintenance will be the responsibility of the highway authority (paragraph (1)). Temporary alterations are set out in Part 2 of Schedule 5 and they must be completed to the reasonable satisfaction of the street authority, and they must be maintained at the undertaker's expense (paragraph (2)). The purpose of this Article is to define who will be responsible for the maintenance of altered streets following the carrying out of works and it is required to provide certainty as to who will be responsible for such maintenance.

- 3.3.5 Paragraphs (4) and (5) mirror the defence in section 58 of the Highways Act 1980 where the undertaker is subject to an action for damages and has taken such care as was reasonably required in the circumstances to secure that the street was not dangerous to traffic. Paragraph (6) provides that with the exception of paragraph (1) of this Article, the provisions of this Article do not apply where the undertaker is the street authority for a street in which the works are being carried out. This Article (and the incorporation of the defences in particular) is similar to Article 19 in the **Hinkley Point C (Nuclear Generating Station) Order 2013**, Article 11 in the **Drax Power (Generating Stations) Order 2019** and in Article 10 of the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**, and the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025**.
- 3.3.6 Article 12 (Temporary prohibition or restriction of the use of streets and public rights of way) provides for the temporary prohibition of the use, restriction of use, authorisation of use, alteration or diversion, of any street or public rights of way for the purposes of constructing or maintaining the authorised development. It is required because, in particular, the undertaker will need to temporarily divert certain public rights of way in order to construct the authorised development, for up to a period of 6 weeks at any location as provided for in the Framework Public Rights of Way Management Plan [EN010142/APP/7.17] (and secured by Requirement 16). No permanent closure or diversion of public rights of way is required. Schedule 6 is comprised of five parts (temporary prohibition or restriction of the use of streets; temporary prohibition or restriction of the use of public rights of way; permanent use of motor vehicles on public rights of way; temporary management of public rights of way; and temporary use of motor vehicles on public rights of way).
- 3.3.7 The authorisation under Article 12 of the use of motor vehicles over public rights of way where there is no public right to use motor vehicles is necessary to enable the undertaker to access parts of the authorised development with construction and maintenance plant, equipment and personnel which would otherwise be severed by public rights of way. The Article broadly follows the approach in the model provisions (save that it applies to public rights of way rather than streets generally) in that it contains provisions of general application and then also in relation to the specific streets and public rights of way that are set out in Schedule 6 to the Order and as shown on the Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans [EN010142/APP/2.5] and Framework Public Rights of Way Management Plan [EN010142/APP/7.17]. Article 12 mirrors Article 12 of the model provisions in providing that where the street or public right of way is specified in a Schedule to the Order that there is a requirement to consult the street authority, but there would be no need to obtain its consent. In respect of other streets or public rights of way not specified in a schedule to the Order there would be a requirement to obtain the consent of the street authority. Article 17 (see below) deals with traffic regulation more widely.
- 3.3.8 Article 12(5) provides that compensation is payable in respect of loss suffered by the suspension of any private rights of way. This provision is required so that persons who temporarily lose private rights of way because of the suspension of a street or public rights of way can be appropriately compensated. Paragraph (6) provides an additional power to the undertaker which allows it to use any street or public right of way as a temporary working

site (which is not in the model provision). Similar wording to this Article has been used in other made Orders, including Article 12 of the **Wrexham Gas Fired Generating Station Order 2017**, Article 12 of the **Meaford Gas Fired Generating Station Order 2016**, Article 13 of the **Riverside Energy Park Order 2020** and Article 11 of the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**, and the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025**.

- 3.3.9 Article 13 (Claimed public right of way) seeks to deal with claimed public rights of way that are the subject of a DMMO application. As it is possible that this could be dealt with during the lifetime of the Scheme, it is considered prudent for the Order to deal with this matter to provide certainty as to the legal status of the claimed route moving forward.
- 3.3.10 The article has the effect of confirming the suggested route as a public right of way, but allowing its use to be temporarily prohibited, restricted, altered or diverted by the undertaker. The power is appropriately limited because it only applies to those claimed public rights of way that are within the Order limits and to those claimed public rights of way that were not recognised in the definitive map and statement throughout the application or Examination process.
- 3.3.11 Within the Principal Site there is a claimed public right of way known as the Glentworth and Harpswell Public Bridleway 1209. This is a claimed bridleway in the eastern extent of the Principal Site, running in a north westerly direction for approximately 535m from Northlands Road in Glentworth to Hermitage Farm in Harpswell. It links within PRow Harp/92/1 to the north and PRow Glw/90/1 to the south. It is shown on Figure 16-5: Local Public Rights of Way (PRow) Network of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.3].
- 3.3.12 Although there is one the Glentworth and Harpswell Public Bridleway 1209 is located within the Principal Site, it is located within an area designated for ecological and landscape mitigation and not land developed for solar PV panels. Therefore, it is not expected that any works relating to the construction of the Principal Site will impact these. There will be no closures or diversions are expected (only management) and woodland screening measures are proposed to mitigate against any potential amenity impacts.
- 3.3.13 The following claimed public rights of way are located within the Cable Route Corridor:
- a. Claimed public right of way, Kexby and Willingham DMMO 680 – a restricted byway which runs within the northern extent of the Cable Route Corridor (within Lincolnshire), running in a north-south direction for approximately 1km between Glentworth Road in the north and Fillingham Lane in the south, to the east of Willingham-by-Stow. This claimed public right of way is to be temporarily stopped up, diverted and managed (at up to two locations) during the construction phase;
 - b. Claimed public right of way, DMMO 591 – a byway open to all traffic which runs through the central extent of the Cable Route Corridor (within Lincolnshire), running in a north-south direction for approximately 1.5km between Marton Road in the north and Stow Park Road in the south along a field track. The claimed public right of way runs along the same route as

public right of way Stow/70/1, although for a longer distance and is intersected by claimed public right of way DMMO 683 which runs in a northwest-southeast direction to the west of Stow. Claimed public right of way, DMMO 591 is to be temporarily stopped up (at up to two locations), diverted and managed (at up to two locations) during the construction phase; and

- c. Claimed public right of way, DMMO 683 – a footpath which runs within the central extent of the Cable Route Corridor (within Lincolnshire), running in a northwest-southeast direction for approximately 2.5km between Marton Road in the northwest and Church Road in the southeast where it branches off into two routes, west of Stow. The footpath is intersected by claimed public right of way DMMO 591 which runs in a north-south direction to the west of Stow. This claimed public right of way to be temporarily stopped up and diverted during the construction phase.

3.3.14 As such, the Applicant considers that the requirements of section 136(1)(b) of the Planning Act 2008 (of there not being a requirement for an alternative right of way to be provided) is passed for this route.

3.3.15 Where the claimed public right of way is temporarily prohibited, restricted, altered or diverted, all rights of way are temporarily suspended or cease to have effect (paragraph 2). The undertaker can use as much of the public right of way as necessary for the authorised development (paragraph 2(c)). Article 13(7) provides that compensation is payable in respect of loss suffered by the suspension of any private rights of way. Similar wording to this article has been used in Article 12 of the proposed **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**.

3.3.16 Article 14 (Use of private roads) authorises the temporary passage by the undertaker, in common with other permitted users, over private roads within the Order limits by persons or vehicles for the purposes of, or in connection with the authorised development. The article creates a power to ‘use’ a private road for a temporary period that is proportionate to the limited nature of the use, rather than extinguishing, suspending or permanently interfering with the private rights of a landowner. This article is necessary because the undertaker will need to use private roads inside the Order limits.

3.3.17 Paragraph (2) provides that the undertaker will compensate any person who has suffered loss or damage as a result of the exercise of this power. Paragraph (3) clarifies that any dispute as to a person’s entitlement to compensation, or as to the amount of compensation, is to be determined under Part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1961. This article aligns with Article 12 within the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**, and the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025**.

3.3.18 Article 15 (Access to works) is a model provision that has been minorly amended to provide for permanent and temporary means of access to works and is justified on the basis that it has the effect of permitting a less draconian power, by allowing land to be temporarily used, rather than permanently used for access. The article gives the undertaker powers to form new or to improve existing means of access for the purposes of the authorised development, as set out in Schedule 7 to the Order. This article is necessary because the undertaker will need to create or improve existing means of access for the purposes of the authorised development (in the locations specified in

Schedule 7). The article also provides that other means of access or works can also be provided in other locations reasonably required for the authorised development with the approval of the relevant planning authority, in consultation with the highway authority.

- 3.3.19 Article 16 (Agreements with street authorities) is a model provision which authorises street authorities and the undertaker to enter into agreements relating to strengthening, improvement, repair or reconstruction of any streets, closure, prohibition, restriction, alteration or diversion of any street, works authorised under Articles 8 (street works), 11 (construction and maintenance of altered streets) and 15 (access to works) of the Order and the adoption of works. The Applicant has removed reference to the ability to enter into an agreement with a street authority to allow the construction of any new street and the maintenance of any bridge or tunnel carrying a street over or under the authorised development as those powers are not required for the authorised development. This provision has precedent in the **Riverside Energy Park Order 2020**, the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**, and the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025** and is required so that the undertaker may enter into agreements with the relevant street authorities.
- 3.3.20 Article 17 (Traffic regulation measures) provides the undertaker with powers to place temporarily traffic signs and signals in the extents of the roads specified in Schedule 8. This Schedule identifies the relevant roads, and specifies the extents of the roads that will be subject to temporary traffic signal and banksman control areas. These specific measures are required to safely regulate traffic during the construction, maintenance and decommissioning of the Scheme. These measures are shown on the Traffic Regulation Measures Plans. Paragraph (2) includes a general power that would authorise other temporary traffic regulation measures. The inclusion of this power is justified as it allows a degree of flexibility to respond to changing conditions on the road network over the lifetime of the Scheme. The general power is appropriately regulated as it may only be exercised with the consent of the traffic authority concerned. The Article is not in the general model provisions but is common in orders granting permission for infrastructure projects where it is necessary in the interests of public safety during construction of the authorised development for the undertaker to put in place some temporary restrictions on road usage. The powers under this Article are provided for in section 120(5)(a) of the 2008 Act. For example, similar provision is contained within the **Network Rail (Norton Bridge Area Improvements) Order 2014**, **National Grid (Hinkley Point C Connection Project) Order 2016** and more recently in the **Great Yarmouth Third River Crossing Development Consent Order 2020**, the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**, and the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025**. The drafting of paragraph (5) of this Article was updated at Deadline 1 to include a further notice requirement prior to the exercise of traffic regulation powers, in line with the final wording of the Gate Burton and Cottam Orders.

3.4 Part 4 (Supplemental Powers)

- 3.4.1 Article 18 (Discharge of water) is a model provision that allows the undertaker to discharge water into any watercourse or drain in connection with the

construction and maintenance of the authorised development with the approval of the owner of the watercourse or drain and subject to certain other conditions, and its purpose is to establish a clear statutory authority for doing so. The references to public sewers was deleted at Deadline 1 as it has been confirmed there is no requirement by the Scheme to connect to a public sewer. The reference from the model provisions to section 85 of the Water Resources Act 1991 has been deleted as this section has now been repealed. This has been replaced with a reference to the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016. The reference from the model provisions to the Homes and Communities Agency has been changed to Homes England, as this body replaced the Homes and Communities Agency in January 2018. References to the harbour authority have also been removed as they are not relevant to the Order. In relation to a drainage authority, these provisions are disapplied as sufficiently detailed provision will be made by the relevant protective provisions (see Part 3 of Schedule 15 (protective provisions)).

- 3.4.2 It is noted that the application version of the Order included a different Article 18, with the deletion of the removal of human remains provision at Deadline 1, as it has been confirmed the accidental discovery of remains from archaeological sites can be appropriately managed by the archaeological mitigation strategy (Requirement 11).
- 3.4.3 Article 19 (Protective work to buildings) is a model provision which is included in most made DCOs to date, including most recently the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**, and the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025**. Its purpose is to provide powers to the undertaker to enter any building and land within its curtilage to survey to determine whether protective works are needed and to carry out protective works to buildings within the Order Land, subject to a number of conditions including the service of 14 days' notice (except in cases of emergency) and the payment of compensation in the event that any loss or damage arises. Where the undertaker serves a notice stating the intention to carry out protective works or to enter a building or land within its curtilage there is ability for a counter notice to be served by the land owner/occupier within a period of 10 days from the day on which the notice was served.
- 3.4.4 Protective works can also be undertaken after the carrying out of the works forming part of the authorised development for a period of 5 years from the date of completion of the part of the authorised development carried out in vicinity of the building. They can also be undertaken to facilitate decommissioning of the authorised development. This wording is a minor update from the model provision wording, as the undertaker considered that the phrase 'open for use' which is used in the model provision is not appropriate. This Article is required because there are buildings within, and in close proximity to, the Order Land that might feasibly require surveys and protective works as a result of the authorised development.
- 3.4.5 The Article includes compensation provisions in relation to the consequences of the protective works being undertaken, but also where the protective works are undertaken but they are inadequate to protect the building or land from damage (within a period of 5 years from the date of final commissioning).

- 3.4.6 Article 20 (Authority to survey and investigate the land) is a model provision that enables the undertaker to enter onto any land within the Order Limits or which may be affected by the authorised development for the purpose of carrying out monitoring or surveys, including bringing equipment onto the land and making trial holes. The power is subject to a number of conditions, including a requirement of at least 14 days' notice on every owner and occupier of the land and the payment of compensation in the event that any loss or damage arises. This power is essential to implementation of the authorised development, for example in verifying ground conditions or the presence of statutory undertakers' apparatus.
- 3.4.7 The model provision has been modified so that no trial holes are to be made:
- in land located within the highway boundary without the consent of the highway authority; or
 - in a private street without the consent of the street authority.
- 3.4.8 The Article applies section 13 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 (refusal to give possession to acquiring authority) thereby providing an enforcement mechanism (by way of a warrant) where entry onto land under the Article is refused. This is considered necessary so that there is no delay in the implementation of the authorised development and has precedent in the **Lake Lothing (Lowestoft) Third Crossing Order 2020**, the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**, and the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025**.

3.5 Part 5 (Powers of Acquisition)

- 3.5.1 Article 21 (Compulsory acquisition of land) is a model provision that provides for the compulsory acquisition of such land as is required for the authorised development, or to facilitate, or is incidental to, the authorised development. The Article is necessary to secure the delivery of the authorised development as set out in more detail in the Statement of Reasons [EN010142/APP/4.1] accompanying the application. The Article broadly follows the model provision, although reference to compensation for the extinguishment or suspension of a private right of way has been deleted and, at Deadline 4, the reference to rights, trusts and incidents in land being discharged upon the date of compulsory acquisition, as these matters are dealt with in Article 24 (Private rights). Similarly, Article 23 (Compulsory acquisition of rights) makes the consequential provision for the extinguishment of rights over the land to ensure that they cannot impact on implementation or use of the authorised development. The reference to the ability for the undertaker to use land for the purposes authorised by, or in connection to, this Order has also been deleted at Deadline 4 on the basis that the acquisition of land will automatically transfer this right. This approach has precedent in the **Riverside Energy Park Order 2020**, the **Lake Lothing (Lowestoft) Third Crossing Order 2020**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**, and the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025** (which is specifically where the updates at Deadline 4 were made from).
- 3.5.2 Article 21(2) makes clear that the powers in this Article are subject to the powers and restrictions in Article 22 (Time limit for exercise of authority to acquire land compulsorily), Article 23 (Compulsory acquisition of rights),

Article 30 (Temporary use of land for constructing the authorised development) and article 44 (statutory undertakers, to ensure that, where relevant, the undertaker can only acquire new rights or take temporary possession of land and cannot acquire the freehold interest in that land. These cross references were updated at Deadline 1, in alignment with the wording within the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**, to refer only to other articles which would actually restrict Article 21. They were further updated at Deadline 4 to refer to Article 50 (Crown rights) in line with **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025**.

- 3.5.3 Article 22 (Time limit for exercise of authority to acquire land compulsorily) is an updated version of the model provision which imposes a time limit of 5 years for the exercise of powers of compulsory acquisition from the date on which the Order is made, via issuing notices to treat or executing general vesting declarations. The undertaker considers that 5 years is an appropriate time limit as it is consistent with the time limit for commencing the authorised development set out in requirement 2 of Schedule 2 to the Order and has precedent in the majority of made DCOs to date. This Article was amended at Deadline 1 to incorporate minor changes that reflect the latest legislative context for compulsory acquisition rights, further to the amendments to the relevant Acts by the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 (LURA). Other than amendments to update references to the relevant Acts, the predominant change by this amendment is to enable an extension of the time limit where the Order is subject to legal challenge under section 118 of the Planning Act 2008. This allows for the time limit to extend for a period equivalent to the period whereby the Order is subject to legal challenge (including appeals), or if shorter, one year. It is noted that these changes broadly align with the amendments made by the Secretary of State in the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025** to incorporate the LURA amendments and time limits.
- 3.5.4 Article 23 (Compulsory acquisition of rights) enables the undertaker to acquire rights or impose restrictive covenants over the Order Land as may be required for any purpose for which the land may be acquired under Article 21 (Compulsory acquisition of land). The Article also provides that rights may be created as well as enabling the undertaker to acquire those already in existence. It should be noted that this provision is subject to Article 30 (temporary use of land for constructing the authorised development) which provides that the undertaker must not acquire, acquire new rights over or impose restrictive covenants over land listed in Schedule 11 to the Order (i.e. land of which temporary possession may be taken).
- 3.5.5 The Article provides that, in respect of the Order Land set out in Schedule 9 (Land in which only new rights etc. may be acquired) the undertaker's powers of acquisition of new rights and imposition of restrictive covenants are limited to the purposes set out in that Schedule. The ability to acquire new rights and impose restrictive covenants is required in order that the undertaker can construct and maintain the authorised development, and it ensures that the undertaker is able to seek a lesser interference with land where this is appropriate (whether in the context of new or existing rights) during the implementation of the authorised development. Providing the undertaker with powers to acquire rights only and impose restrictive covenants only over the Order Land set out in Schedule 9 allows the undertaker to reduce the area of land that is required to be compulsorily acquired for the purposes of the

authorised development, and therefore allows for a more proportionate exercise of compulsory acquisition powers.

- 3.5.6 Paragraphs (5) and (6) provide that where the undertaker proposes the acquisition of new rights or the imposition of restrictive covenant for the purpose of diverting, replacing or protecting the apparatus of a statutory undertaker, the undertaker may, with the consent of the Secretary of State transfer the powers to the relevant statutory undertaker.
- 3.5.7 This Article is a departure from the model provisions, but it has precedent in many DCOs including the **East Anglia Three Offshore Wind Farm Order 2017**, the **Cleve Hill Solar Park Order 2020**, the **Riverside Energy Park Order 2020**, the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**, and the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025**.
- 3.5.8 Article 24 (Private rights) is a model provision that (i) extinguishes private rights and restrictions over land so far as their continuance would be inconsistent with the exercise of the compulsory acquisition powers contained in Article 21 (Compulsory acquisition of land); (ii) provides that private rights and restrictions over land cease to have effect in so far as their continuance would be inconsistent with the exercise of compulsory acquisition of rights or the imposition of restrictive covenants under Article 23 (Compulsory acquisition of rights); and (iii) suspends private rights and restrictions over land so far as their continuance would be inconsistent with the exercise of temporary possession powers under the Order. This is required because it enables the undertaker to take land with a clear, unencumbered title, thereby minimising impediments to the delivery of the authorised development.
- 3.5.9 The Applicant has adopted the deletion of text by the Secretary of State in respect of the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023** and deleted what was article 24(2)(c). This approach has been applied in the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**, and the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025**. Minor further deletions of 24(1)(c) and 24(3) were made to this article at Deadline 1 in line with Gate Burton and Cottam, to remove superfluous references to triggers for the application of this article that would already be covered by the other sub paragraphs under 24(1).
- 3.5.10 Paragraph (4) provides that compensation is payable to any person who suffers loss as a result of the exercise of the powers in this Article and that such compensation would be payable under section 152 of the 2008 Act rather than the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965. Paragraph (8) also clarifies that references to private land include references to any trusts or incidents to which the land is subject.
- 3.5.11 Article 25 (Application of the 1981 Act) is a model provision which applies the general vesting procedures in the Compulsory Purchase (Vesting Declarations) Act 1981 to the exercise of compulsory acquisition powers pursuant to the Order. This provides the undertaker with the option to acquire the land via the vesting process set out in the 1981 Act rather than the notice to treat procedure. Vesting declarations allow title in the land concerned to pass to the acquiring authority more quickly than using the notice to treat method. They also enable several parcels of land to be acquired under the

same legal instrument and therefore more efficiently than under the notice to treat procedure.

- 3.5.12 This Article has been amended from the model provision to incorporate and reflect the changes brought about by the Housing and Planning Act 2016 which has precedent in numerous DCOs including the **Drax Power (Generating Stations) Order 2019**, and the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**, the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**, and the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025**. It was also further updated at Deadline 1 to reflect the changes brought about by the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023, including alignment with the subsequent amendments to Article 22 (discussed above). These LURA amendments align with similar amendments made by the Secretary of State in the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025**.
- 3.5.13 Article 26 (Acquisition of subsoil only) is a model provision that permits the undertaker to acquire only the subsoil of land above land which is to be compulsorily acquired (either pursuant to Article 21 or Article 23), thereby giving the undertaker the ability to minimise the extent of interests acquired from landowners. This Article is appropriate in the context of the cables or pipes to be laid underground as part of the authorised development, where acquisition of the 'entire' freehold may not be required. It therefore enables the undertaker to minimise as far as possible to extent of interests to be acquired, thereby reducing the impact on landowners. This Article was updated at Deadline 1 to remove references to airspace rights, on the basis none of the works within the Order require airspace rights only (for example, there are no flyovers or overhead cables proposed by the Order). This drafting aligns with the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**, and the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025**.
- 3.5.14 Article 27 (Power to override easements and other rights) provides that in carrying out or using the development authorised by the Order and doing anything else authorised by the Order, the undertaker may interfere with any easement, liberty, privilege, right or advantage annexed to land and affecting other land, including any natural right to support, or breach any restriction as to use of land arising by virtue of contract. It also provides that compensation may be payable under section 7 or 10 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 for any such interference or breach. This is not a model provision but is added to clarify the position with regard to rights burdening land required for the authorised development. It has precedent, for example, in Article 19 of the **Immingham Open Cycle Gas Turbine Order 2020**, Article 24 of the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, and Article 26 of the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**, the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**, and the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025**.
- 3.5.15 Article 28 (Modification of Part 1 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965) modifies the provisions of Part 1 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 as applied to the Order by section 125 of the 2008 Act. This provision reflects changes introduced by the Housing and Planning Act 2016 and is required to ensure that Part 1 of the 1965 Act is applied correctly to compulsory acquisition authorised under the Order. Paragraphs (1) to (3) amend the provisions of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 so they are consistent with

the terms of the Order and paragraph (4) makes it clear that the notice periods introduced by the Housing and Planning Act 2016 do not apply to the temporary possession or use of land under Article 19 (Protective work to buildings), Article 30 (Temporary use of land for constructing the authorised development) or Article 31 (Temporary use of land for maintaining the authorised development). These modifications have precedent in numerous made DCOs and other legislation including Schedule 14 to the **High Speed Rail (London - West Midlands) Act 2017**, the **Wrexham Gas Fired Generating Station Order 2017**, the **Silvertown Tunnel Order 2018** the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**, and the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025**. Further modifications to this provision to reflect the changes introduced by the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 were made at Deadline 1. These delete the references to the time limit for the exercise of compulsory purchase, aligning with the amendments to Articles 22 and 24 (discussed above). These changes align with the amendments made by the Secretary of State to implement LURA in the same article within the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025**

- 3.5.16 Article 29 (Rights under or over streets) is a model provision which has been included in the majority of made DCOs to date to enable the undertaker to enter on and appropriate interests within streets where required for the purpose of the authorised development without being required to acquire that land. It is therefore required in order to reduce the amount of land that needs to be compulsorily acquired for the purposes of the authorised development.
- 3.5.17 The purpose of this Article is to allow the undertaker to appropriate and use land above or below streets within the Order Land, without having to acquire the street or any right or easement in it. The exercise of this power without acquisition is prohibited in the circumstances set out in paragraph (3). Paragraphs (4) and (5) provide for the payment of compensation in certain circumstances.
- 3.5.18 Article 30 (Temporary use of land for constructing the authorised development) allows the land specified in Schedule 11 (Land of which temporary possession may be taken) to be temporarily used for the carrying out of the authorised development. There is a clear limit on the length of time that the undertaker can use land in this way, which in the case of land that may only be used temporarily is the end of the period of one year beginning with the date of final commissioning of that part of the authorised development for which temporary possession of the land was taken. The Article also requires the undertaker to give 14 days' notice before taking possession, and to restore the land following the temporary works.
- 3.5.19 Wording has been added to paragraph (1)(a)(ii) in order to allow Article 30 to apply to land which may later be the subject of compulsory acquisition. This reflects a common approach to designing and building infrastructure projects, whereby possession is taken of a wider area required for the purposes of construction, and once the location of new apparatus is known definitively (after it has been built), then the final area of land required permanently is defined and acquired. This allows a more proportionate approach to the extent of land acquisition.

- 3.5.20 New wording has also been added to paragraphs (4) and (5) to take into account that the Applicant may, pursuant to Article 30(1)(a)(ii), temporarily use land that it may compulsorily acquire. This is also subject to a one year limit beginning with the date of final commissioning of the authorised development.
- 3.5.21 Paragraph (10) makes clear that the undertaker cannot compulsorily acquire, nor permanently acquire rights or impose restrictive covenants over, the land specified in Article 30(1)(a)(i) (which is land of which temporary possession only is required). Wording has also been deleted in paragraph (9) to dovetail with the new drafting in paragraph (1).
- 3.5.22 Wording has been added at paragraph (11) to make clear that the Article does not preclude the creation or acquisition of new rights, imposition of restrictions or acquisition of rights in land specified in Schedule 9 (land in which only new rights etc. may be acquired), and nor are the powers under Article 26 (Acquisition of subsoil only) or Article 29 (Rights under or over streets) precluded. This Article has precedent in Article 26 of the **Wrexham Gas Fired Generating Station Order 2017**, Article 27 of the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, and Article 29 of the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**, the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**, and the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025**.
- 3.5.23 Article 31 (Temporary use of land for maintaining the authorised development) provides for the temporary use of land for maintenance of the authorised development. There are clear limits on the length of time that the undertaker can use land in this way, provisions requiring 28 days' notice to be given and restoration of the land following the temporary possession.
- 3.5.24 The maintenance period has been adapted from the model provision to apply to the period 5 years beginning with the date of final commissioning as opposed to the date on which the project is opened for use as this is more appropriate for this type of development. Similar wording has been used in other made Orders in connection with generating stations, including the **Drax Power (Generating Stations) Order 2019**, the **Immingham Open Cycle Gas Turbine Order 2020**, the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**, and the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025**. However, in order to be able to carry out the landscaping and ecological commitments set out in the landscape and ecological management plan, the maintenance period has been extended to the period in the landscape and ecological management plan approved pursuant to Requirement 7. A similar provision was included in the **North Wales Wind Farm Connection Order 2016**, the **Drax Power (Generating Stations) Order 2019**, the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**, and the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025**.
- 3.5.25 Articles 30 and 31 are broadly based on the model provisions and provide for the payment of compensation for that temporary use of the land.
- 3.5.26 Article 32 (Statutory undertakers) provides for the acquisition of land belonging to statutory undertakers within the Order Land. This includes a power to move the apparatus of those statutory undertakers and to extinguish their rights. This article is subject to the protective provisions (see article 43 below) included at Schedule 15 of the Order. Further details on statutory undertakers'

land and apparatus are included in the Statement of Reasons [EN010142/APP/4.1]. This power is required over the whole of the Order Land and similar wording has been used in other made Orders including the **Wrexham Gas Fired Generating Station Order 2017**, the **Immingham Open Cycle Gas Turbine Order 2020**, the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**, and the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025**.

- 3.5.27 Article 33 (Apparatus and rights of statutory undertakers in closed streets) governs what happens to statutory utilities' apparatus (pipes, cables, etc.) under streets that are temporarily stopped up by the Order. This Article is required because, without it, the statutory undertaker would not have access to the apparatus, since there would no longer be a right of way along the street. The Article is a model provision but has been amended in that paragraphs (2) onwards have been deleted from the model provision to avoid duplication with the protective provisions contained in Schedule 15. This approach has precedent in Article 30 of the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**, the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**, and the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025**.
- 3.5.28 Article 34 (Recovery of costs of new connections) provides that persons who have to create a new connection following the exercise of powers under Article 32 may recover the costs of new connections from the undertaker. It is a model provision, with the part of the model provision that referred to the permanent stopping up of streets deleted as this is not relevant in the context of the authorised development.

3.6 Part 6 (Miscellaneous and General)

- 3.6.1 Article 35 (Benefit of the Order) overrides section 156(1) of the 2008 Act (which is permitted by section 156(2)) and provides that the benefit of the Order is for the undertaker, rather than anyone with an interest in the land. Given the nature of the Scheme and the fact that powers of compulsory acquisition are sought, it would be impracticable and inappropriate for the Order to be 'open' as to who may implement it, as might occur without this provision. Overriding section 156(1) is common in DCOs that have been made, including the **Drax Power (Generating Stations) Order 2019** and **Cleve Hill Solar Park Order 2020**, the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**, and the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025**.
- 3.6.2 Article 36 (Consent to transfer the benefit of the Order) is a model provision included in numerous made DCOs that makes provision for the transfer of any or all of the benefit of the provision of the Order. This Article is required in order that the undertaker has commercial flexibility to transfer the benefit of the Order to a third party, subject to the provisions of the Article. Under paragraph (3), the consent of the Secretary of State is needed before the undertaker can transfer or lease the Order except where:
- a. the transferee or lessee is the holder of an electricity generating licence under section 6 of the Electricity Act 1989;

- b. in respect of Work Nos. 4B, 4C, 4D and 4E the transferee or lessee is the undertaker as defined in the Gate Burton Solar Project Order, Cottam Solar Project Order or the West Burton Solar Project Order (in order to enable the coordination of works within the Shared Cable Corridor with the proposed Gate Burton Solar Project, Cottam Solar Project and the proposed West Burton Solar Project);
 - c. the compensation provisions for the acquisition of rights or interests in land or for effects on land have been discharged or are no longer relevant.
- 3.6.3 Paragraph (3) was updated at Deadline 1 to remove an exception where the transferee or lessee is a holding company or subsidiary of the undertaker. This is to align with the drafting with the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, and the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025** where this sub-paragraph was removed on the basis that any holding company or subsidiary would be expected to hold an electricity generating licence and as such already comply with an exception under Paragraph (3)(a).
- 3.6.4 Article 36(2) has been amended from the model provisions so that it refers to 'transfer or grant', which is considered to be more accurate than 'agreement'.
- 3.6.5 The justification for these provisions is that in such cases, the transferee or lessee will either be of a similar regulatory standing to the undertaker so as to protect the provision for compensation for rights or interests in land that are compulsorily acquired pursuant to the Order, or there are no outstanding actual or potential compulsory purchase claims. Article 35(4) and (5) provides that where the consent of the Secretary of State is not needed, the undertaker must still notify the Secretary of State in writing prior to the transfer or grant of the benefit of the provisions of the Order. This was updated at Deadline 5 to also require notification of the relevant planning authorities, in accordance with the Secretary of State's decision in the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025**. This was also amended to remove the requirement to provide a copy of the document which effected the transfer or grant, in alignment with the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025**, and reflecting that the notification now also goes more broadly to relevant planning authorities. Documents effecting the transfer or grant may be commercially confidential and therefore it would not be appropriate in all cases to provide these more widely to planning authorities now that the notice requirement has been expanded. It is considered the other documents and information set out in the list at sub paragraph (5) are sufficient to explain the new entity to which powers are transferred, the extent of those powers, and the location in which those powers will apply, which is the relevant information required by the Secretary of State and relevant planning authorities. Article 35(6) to (8) provide further detail on the notification that is to be given. This is based on the notification procedure contained in Article 7 of the **Wrexham Gas Fired Generating Station Order 2017** and Article 35 of the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**, and the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025**.
- 3.6.6 Article 35(8) provides that where the undertaker has transferred the benefit of the Order or granted the benefit of the Order then:

- a. the transferred benefit will include any rights that are conferred and any obligations that are imposed;
 - b. the transferred benefit will reside exclusively with the transferee or the lessee and shall not be enforceable against the undertaker; and
 - c. the benefits or rights conferred under paragraph (1) of the article are subject to the same restrictions, liabilities and obligations as applies to the undertaker.
- 3.6.7 This approach has precedent in the **Cleve Hill Solar Park Order 2020**, the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**, and the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025**.
- 3.6.8 Article 37 (Application of landlord and tenant law) is a model provision included in numerous made DCOs which would override landlord and tenant law so far as it would prejudice the operation of any agreement for leasing the whole of the authorised development or the right to operate the same or any agreement entered into by the undertaker for the construction, maintenance, use or operation of the authorised development. This provision is required to ensure that landlord and tenant law does not impede the construction, use or maintenance of the authorised development. Although there is no immediate anticipation that such an agreement would be made, it could become appropriate at a future time during the lifetime of the Scheme.
- 3.6.9 Article 38 (Operational land for purposes of the 1990 Act) is a model provision which is included in numerous made DCOs and has the effect of ensuring that the land on which the authorised development is constructed will be "operational land" under section 264(3)(a) of the 1990 Act. The effect is to ensure that planning rights attaching to the undertaker in relation to operational land have effect as they would do if planning permission had been granted for the authorised development.
- 3.6.10 Article 39 (Felling or lopping of trees and removal of hedgerows) is based on a model provision included in numerous made DCOs which provides that the undertaker may fell or lop or cut back the roots of any tree or shrub within or overhanging land within the Order limits to prevent it obstructing or interfering with the construction, maintenance or operation of the authorised development; constituting a danger for persons using the authorised development or obstructing or interfering with the passage of construction vehicles. Schedule 12 lists the hedgerows which are to be removed which are shown on the Hedgerow Removal Plan. This Article was amended at Deadline 1 to change the scope of these powers from vegetation "near the authorised development" to "within or overhanging land within the Order limits", to ensure the powers aligned with the scope of the Order.
- 3.6.11 Alongside that specific power, the Article also allows for a generic power for any hedgerows within the Order land to be removed where required for the purposes of the authorised development, to allow for construction flexibility. This aligns with the final wording of the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**.
- 3.6.12 The Article provides that the undertaker may not fell or lop a tree or remove hedgerows under this Article within the extent of the publicly maintainable

highway without the prior consent of the highway authority. Compensation is provided for if loss or damage is caused. The provision is required for safety reasons and its applicability is appropriately limited.

- 3.6.13 Article 39 does not address the statutory protection afforded to trees by virtue of being subject to a Tree Preservation Order ("TPO"). Article 40 (Trees subject to tree preservation orders) provides that the undertaker may generally not fell or lop or cut back the roots of any tree which is subject to a TPO. However, Paragraph (2) provides the undertaker can do so for trees subject to TPOs made after 10 April 2024, being the date of application, to prevent such trees obstructing or interfering with the construction, maintenance or operation of the authorised development. Compensation is provided for if loss or damage is caused. The effect of the Article is that the works it permits, where carried out to a tree protected by a TPO, are deemed to have consent, and its inclusion is therefore consistent with the purpose of DCOs being to wrap up all of the required consents for a project. This also includes at Paragraph (3)(b) an exemption from the duty under the 1990 Act to provide replacement trees in accordance with section 206(1) of that Act, on the basis that provision requires trees to be replaced in the same location as where they are felled, which could not be achieved if the tree conflicts with the Scheme infrastructure. The Article is a model provision included in numerous made DCOs save that it applies generally to any tree subject to a TPO made before and after the date of the Order coming into effect and either within or overhanging the Order Limits. This approach has precedent in the **Cleve Hill Solar Park Order 2020**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**, and the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025**. The approach to time limit the powers to TPOs made after the date of application was added at Deadline 1 to appropriately limit the powers over existing TPO trees, with the knowledge that the Scheme as designed will not affect any existing TPO trees, but may need to lop or cut back future TPO trees should they be made in areas conflicting with the authorised development. This time limited drafting has precedent in the proposed **East Yorkshire Solar Farm Order 202[*]**.
- 3.6.14 Article 41 (Certification of plans and documents, etc.) is a model provision which provides for the undertaker to submit various documents referred to in the Order (such as the Book of Reference **[EN010142/APP/4.3]**, plans and Environmental Statement **[EN010142/APP/6.1 to EN010142/APP/6.3]**) to the Secretary of State so that they can be certified as being true copies. The article refers to Schedule 13, where all such documents and plans are listed, along with the appropriate document and revision numbers. The Article and Schedule 13 provide certainty as to which documents will be certified by the Secretary of State in relation to the Order.
- 3.6.15 Article 42 (No double recovery) is not a model provision and is based on article 44 of the model clauses for railway contained in schedule 1 to the Transport and Works (Model Clauses for Railways and Tramways) Order 2006. This article has precedent in numerous Transport and Works Act Orders. It also has precedent in the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**, and the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025**. It provides that compensation is not payable both under the Draft DCO and any other enactment, contract or other rule of law. It follows that well established

principle of equivalence that a claimant is compensated for no more and no less than their loss.

- 3.6.16 Article 43 (Arbitration) is an arbitration provision and it is a departure from the model provision. This drafting, and that in the associated Schedule 14 (Arbitration rules), has precedent in the **Millbrook Gas Fired Generating Station Order 2019**, the **Cleve Hill Solar Park Order 2020**, the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**, and the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025**, amongst others. It is considered that this approach will provide greater certainty to all parties involved in the process and is preferential to the approach adopted in the model provisions.
- 3.6.17 The Article provides that differences under the Order should be settled by arbitration unless another means of resolving a dispute is provided for in the Order. The arbitrator will be appointed by the parties within 14 days of receipt of a notice of arbitration or failing agreement within this period then by the Secretary of State following application by one of the parties.
- 3.6.18 It applies Schedule 14 to the Order, which sets out further detail of the arbitration process. The detail of Schedule 14 is set out below.
- 3.6.19 In addition, Article 43(2) provides that any matter for which the consent or approval of the Secretary of State is required under the Order is not subject to arbitration.
- 3.6.20 Article 44 (Protective Provisions) provides for Schedule 15, which protects the interests of certain statutory undertakers, to have effect. This is set out in detail below. This is a model provision.
- 3.6.21 In the application version of the Order, Article 45 included a provision for a deemed marine licence. This was removed at Deadline 1, on the basis that the Marine Management Organisation confirmed an exemption would apply in respect of any marine licence requirements for works within or under the River Trent. Various associated deletions of references to this version of article 45 or Schedule 16 (see explanation of similar deletion below) have been made throughout the Order.
- 3.6.22 Article 45 (Service of notices) governs how any notices that may be served under the provisions of the Order are deemed to have been served properly. In particular it allows service by email with the consent of the recipient, and deals with the situation of service on an unknown landowner. The provision is necessary because the service of notice provisions under sections 229 and 230 of the 2008 Act only apply to notices served under the 2008 Act itself and do not apply to notices served under the Order. These provisions are based on those appearing in the **Transport and Works (Model Provisions for Railways and Tramways) Order 2006**, and numerous made DCOs, including the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025**.
- 3.6.23 Article 46 (Procedure in relation to certain approvals etc.) provides procedures in relation to consents and approvals required pursuant to the Order (other than Requirements). Applications for consent submitted by the undertaker will be deemed to be granted if notice is not given of their refusal by the consenting authority within eight weeks of the submission of the application (unless a longer period has been agreed between the parties). Where these provisions

apply to an application, the undertaker is required to notify the consenting authority of the effect of the provisions when it submits the relevant application. The consenting authority must not unreasonably withhold or delay consent where an application has been submitted by the undertaker pursuant to this Article.

- 3.6.24 For any consent, agreement, or refusal pursuant to the Requirements a detailed procedure is provided for in Schedule 16 (Procedure for discharge of requirements) (see below).
- 3.6.25 This Article has precedent in the **Immingham Open Cycle Gas Turbine Order 2020**, the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**, and the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025** and is considered appropriate and justified in order to ensure that the authorised development can proceed in a reasonable timescale, and so that there is a consistent approach to consents that must be sought by the undertaker pursuant to the Order.
- 3.6.26 Article 47 (Guarantees in respect of payment of compensation) restricts the undertaker from exercising the powers conferred under articles 21, 23, 24, 29, 30, 31 and 32 until it has either put in place a guarantee or other form of security approved by the Secretary of State in respect of the liabilities of the undertaker to pay compensation under the Order. This provision is included in order to protect the recipients of any compensation under the Order by providing certainty that the undertaker can make good any compensation owed. The guarantee or alternative form of security is not required to be in place for more than 15 years from the date on which the relevant power is exercised. The wording appears in a number of made DCOs, for example the **Wrexham Gas Fired Generating Station Order 2017**, the **Drax Power (Generating Stations) Order 2019**, the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**, and the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025**.
- 3.6.27 Article 48 (Compulsory acquisition of land - incorporation of the mineral code) is a model provision which incorporates Parts 2 and 3 of Schedule 2 of the Acquisition of Land Act 1981 (minerals). The mineral code is incorporated as a precautionary measure given the identification of interests in mines and minerals within the Order Limits, and that the Order Limits is located within Mineral Consultation and Safeguarding Areas.
- 3.6.28 Article 49 (Crown rights) prevents the undertaker from acquiring any Crown land (as defined in the 2008 Act), or from otherwise interfering with such land, without the written consent of the relevant Crown authority. The Crown's consent may be given unconditionally or subject to terms and conditions.
- 3.6.29 The proposed Order land includes parcels of land which constitute Crown land. This article has been included to ensure that any acquisition of other land holdings, creation or extinguishment of rights cannot create any interference with the rights of the Crown and has precedent in the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**, and the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025**.

4. Schedules

4.1 Schedule 1 (Authorised Development)

- 4.1.1 This Schedule describes the authorised development in detail, and is split into different work numbers. Each of these work numbers represents a different part of the authorised development. This split of the authorised development between different work numbers is designed to enable the Order to refer to different parts of the authorised development by citing the relevant work number. Paragraph 1 of the Schedule sets out a number of definitions that are used only within the Schedule and are not in other places in the Order.
- 4.1.2 The works set out in Schedule 1 to the Order are explained in detail above.
- 4.1.3 The mechanics of the drafting in Schedules 1 and 2 ensure that the undertaker does not exceed the basis of the assessment in the Environmental Statement [EN010142/APP/6.1 to EN010142/APP/6.3]. This is achieved through the following mechanisms in the Order:
- a. Article 3 and Schedule 1 provide the power to carry out the authorised development. Pursuant to Article 3(2) each numbered work must be situated within the area delineated on the Works Plans [EN010142/APP/2.4] – thus the infrastructure can only be built within these areas. Given these overarching constraints, there is certainty as to where each element identified in Schedule 1 can be built, and that has been factored into the Environmental Statement [EN010142/APP/6.1];
 - b. Schedule 1 provides that development which does not form part of a specific Work Number can only be brought forward if it does not lead to materially new or materially different effects from those assessed in the Environmental Statement;
 - c. In terms of the detailed design, Requirement 5 of Schedule 2 (see below) prevents the undertaker from commencing the authorised development until it has obtained the approval of the relevant planning authorities (or authority, as applicable) to the layout, scale, ground levels, external appearance, hard surfacing materials, access, refuse or other storage units, signs and lighting, drainage, water, power and communications cables and pipelines and programme for landscaping works; and
 - d. Requirement 5(2) requires that the details submitted must accord with the Outline Design Principles Statement [EN010142/APP/7.4]. The Outline Design Principles Statement is a certified document pursuant to Article 41 (certification of plans and documents) and Schedule 13 (documents and plans to be certified). The Outline Design Principles Statement [EN010142/APP/7.4] contain the maximum and where applicable minimum parameters for the authorised development and are the same as those used for the assessment of effects in the Environmental Statement [EN010142/APP/6.1]. These parameters are based on the application of the Rochdale Envelope principle, such that maximum dimensions have been presented and assessed in the Environmental Statement, recognising that the final massings may differ from (but will never be larger than) these maxima.

- 4.1.4 The combined effect of, and relationship between, these provisions means that the final built form of the authorised development will not give rise to environmental effects beyond those which have been assessed. This approach, and what we have called the "design parameters" is explained further above.

4.2 Schedule 2 (Requirements)

- 4.2.1 This Schedule sets out the requirements that apply to the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the authorised development under the Order. The requirements generally follow the model provisions where these are relevant, and where they have been amended this has been informed by the outcomes of the environmental impact assessment and any discussions with the relevant planning authority or other relevant statutory consultee.
- 4.2.2 The requirements closely relate to the mitigation set out in the Environmental Mitigation and Constraints Register [**EN010142/APP/6.5**] and a number of them specifically refer to the outline strategies or plans relied upon in the Environmental Statement, in order to ensure that the mitigation or other measures outlined in those documents are secured.
- 4.2.3 Many of the requirements require submission of details for approval by the relevant planning authority (or relevant planning authorities where applicable). In some instances the relevant planning authority is under a duty to consult with a third party or parties in relation to the document submitted to them. This is a departure from the model provisions. Where consultation is required under the Order it is, in each case, the relevant planning authority's duty to carry it out before approving a document submitted to it (rather than, as in some of the model provisions, the undertaker's duty to carry it out before submitting the document for approval). Schedule 16 (Procedure for discharge of requirements) however was amended at Deadline 1 to require the undertaker to provide copies of relevant documents when discharging requirements directly to consultees, to reduce administrative requirements on the relevant planning authority in respect of such consultation. Where it is considered that it would be particularly relevant for the relevant planning authority to consult a third party, that third party has been named within the relevant requirement. Amendments were made at Deadline 1 to add additional named consultees to various requirements in response to engagement with various bodies.
- 4.2.4 General amendments were made at Deadline 1 across several of the requirements to make it clear that where management plans or documents have ongoing obligations through the duration of the operation of the authorised development that they must be maintained throughout operation for the relevant part of the authorised development to which the plan relates. This drafting has been adopted from similar wording within the requirements of the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, and the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**.
- 4.2.5 Further minor amendments were made at Deadline 4 to capture matters raised during the Issue Specific Hearings held in January 2025. A further amendment was made at Deadline 6 to reflect agreed wording on waste management requirements between the Applicant and Lincolnshire County Council.

- 4.2.6 In the undertaker's opinion the requirements in Schedule 2 are all necessary and relevant to planning and the development to be permitted as they are outputs from the Environmental Statement; enforceable and precise in their language; and reasonable in all other respects.
- 4.2.7 In all cases where a scheme or strategy or plan is to be submitted for approval there is a requirement for the undertaker to implement the approved scheme or strategy or plan. This is subject to requirement 3, as explained below.
- 4.2.8 Requirement 1 – Interpretation: This provides a definition in relation to "relevant planning authority" and "relevant planning authorities" which apply to this Schedule only, rather than the Order as a whole.
- 4.2.9 Requirement 2 – Commencement of the authorised development: This requirement provides that the authorised development must not commence later than 5 years from the date of the Order coming into force.
- 4.2.10 Requirement 3 – Approved details and amendments to them: This requirement provides that the undertaker may submit any amendments to any Approved Document to the relevant planning authority for approval. The planning authority may approve the amendments proposed if it is satisfied or, where the amendment relates to administrative areas of multiple relevant planning authorities, that the approval sought is unlikely to give rise to any materially new or materially different environmental effects from those assessed in the environmental statement.
- 4.2.11 Requirement 4 – This requirement provides that the undertaker must establish a community liaison group prior to commencement of the authorised development, in order to facilitate liaison between representatives of people living in the vicinity of the Order limits, and other relevant organisations in relation to the construction of the authorised development.
- 4.2.12 Requirement 5 – Detailed design approval: This requirement stipulates the details that must be submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority before the authorised development may commence. The details submitted must be in accordance with the Outline Design Principles Statement [EN010142/APP/7.4]. The authorised development must be carried out in accordance with the approved details.
- 4.2.13 Requirement 6 – Battery safety management: This requirement stipulates that Work No. 2 must not commence until a battery safety management plan has been approved by the relevant planning authority. The relevant planning authority must consult with West Lindsey District Council, Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service, Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service and the Environment Agency before approving the battery safety management plan. The battery safety management plan must be implemented as approved and maintained throughout the construction, operation and decommissioning of the authorised development.
- 4.2.14 Requirement 7 – Landscape and ecology management plan: The requirement stipulates that the authorised development may not commence, no part of the permitted preliminary works for that phase comprising vegetation removal may start, until a written landscape and ecology management plan (which is substantially in accordance with the outline landscape and ecology management plan) has been submitted to and approved by the relevant

planning authority (or authorities, as applicable) following consultation with the Environment Agency and Lincolnshire County Council.

- 4.2.15 Requirement 8 – Biodiversity net gain: This requirement stipulates that no part of the authorised development may commence until a biodiversity net gain strategy has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority, in consultation with the relevant statutory nature conservation body. It is considered appropriate to require consultation with the Environment Agency and any other relevant statutory nature conservation body to ensure that it has the opportunity pre-commencement to comment on the biodiversity net gain strategy before it is approved by West Lindsey District Council and Bassetlaw District Council (as the relevant authority). At Deadline 4 Lincolnshire County Council was also added a consultee at its request. The biodiversity net gain strategy must be maintained throughout the operation of the relevant part of the authorised development to which the plan relates.
- 4.2.16 Requirement 9 – Fencing and other means of enclosure: The undertaker is required to submit details of and obtain the written approval from the relevant planning authorities for any proposed permanent and temporary fences, walls or other means of enclosure, for each phase prior to commencement of the phase in question. In respect of any permanent fences, walls or other means of enclosure:
- a. The details must be in accordance with the Outline Design Principles Statement [**EN010142/APP/7.4**];
 - b. The fencing, walls or other means of enclosure must be completed prior to the date of final commissioning for the phase it is associated with;
 - c. The fencing, walls or other means of enclosure must be properly maintained for the operational lifetime of that part of the authorised development; and
 - d. Any construction site must remain securely fenced in accordance with the approved details at all times during construction of the authorised development. Any temporary fencing must be removed on completion of the phase of construction of the authorised development for which it was used.
- 4.2.17 Requirement 10 – Surface and foul water drainage: This requirement provides that the authorised development may not commence until details of the surface water drainage scheme, foul water drainage system (if any) and water management plan for that phase have been submitted to and approved by the local lead flood authority and the relevant planning authority (or relevant planning authorities, as applicable). The surface water drainage scheme and foul water drainage system must be substantially in accordance with the outline surface water drainage strategy and the design and operation of any phase of the authorised development must be carried out and maintained in accordance with the scheme approved for that phase.
- 4.2.18 Requirement 11 – Archaeology: This requirement was replaced at Deadline 1 further to discussions with Historic England and stipulates that the authorised development must be implemented in accordance with the archaeological mitigation strategy. No part of the authorised development can commence until a written scheme of archaeological investigation (which must accord with

the archaeological mitigation strategy) has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority. This commencement includes any permitted preliminary works other than advanced landscaping planting. The authorised development shall be implemented in accordance with the approved written scheme.

- 4.2.19 Requirement 12 – Construction environmental management plan: Under this requirement, the authorised development may not commence until a construction environmental management plan has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority (or authorities, as applicable), in consultation with the Environment Agency, the relevant highway authority and where the part falls within its administrative area, Lincolnshire County Council. The construction works of any phase of the authorised development must be carried out in accordance with the approved construction environmental management plan.
- 4.2.20 Requirement 13 - Operational environmental management plan (OEMP): This requirement provides that prior to the date of final commissioning for the authorised development an operational environmental management plan must be submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority (or authorities, as applicable), in consultation with the Environment Agency, the relevant highways authority, the relevant waste authority and where the part falls within its administrative area, Lincolnshire County Council. The operation of the authorised development must be carried out and maintained in accordance with the approved operational environmental management plan.
- 4.2.21 Requirement 14 – Waste management plan. This requirement was added at Deadline 6 to reflect continued discussions between the Applicant and Lincolnshire County Council as to the best control of waste matters for the Scheme. It was agreed to split the waste management plan from the OEMP Requirement 13 so as to not conflate two separate relevant planning authorities in discharging the requirement (being the relevant district council for the OEMP and the relevant county council, as waste authority, for the waste management matters).
- 4.2.22 Requirement 15 - Construction traffic management plan: This requirement provides that the authorised development may not commence until a construction traffic management plan has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority (or authorities, as applicable), in consultation with each of the relevant highway authorities. The construction traffic management plan must be implemented as approved.
- 4.2.23 Requirement 16 – Permissive Path: This requirement provides that Work No.6(d) must be provided and open to the public prior to the date of final commissioning of Work No. 1. Further the provision provides that the path must be maintained and accessible by the public for 364 days a year, except when closed for maintenance or in an emergency until the date of decommissioning.
- 4.2.24 Requirement 17 – Public rights of way: This requirement provides that the authorised development may not commence until a public rights of way management plan (PRoWMP) for any sections of public rights of way shown to be temporarily closed on the streets, access and rights of way plans have been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority (or

authorities as applicable) in consultation with the relevant highway authority. It is appropriate to require consultation with the relevant highway authority to ensure that it has the appropriate opportunity pre-commencement to comment on the PRowMP, before it is approved by the relevant authority. This is appropriate as the outline PRowMP includes provisions relevant to the statutory functions of the relevant highway.

- 4.2.25 Requirement 18 – Operational noise: This requirement stipulates that the Work No. 1, Work No. 2 or Work No. 3 may not be commenced until an operational noise assessment has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority (or authorities, as applicable). The mitigation measures described in the operational noise assessment for each part of the authorised development must be implemented as approved and maintained throughout operation.
- 4.2.26 Requirement 19 – Soil management plan: This requirement provides that no part of the authorised development may commence until a soil management plan, has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority (or authorities, as applicable), in consultation with the Environment Agency. The construction of the authorised development must be carried out in accordance with the approved soil management plan, and maintained through operation.
- 4.2.27 Requirement 20 – Skills, supply chain and employment: this requirement stipulates that no phase of the authorised development may commence until a skills, supply chain and employment plan (substantially in accordance with the framework skills, supply chain and employment plan) has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority (or authorities, as applicable), in consultation with Lincolnshire County Council. The skills, supply chain and employment plan must identify opportunities for individuals and businesses to access employment and supply chain opportunities associated with the construction, operation and maintenance of the authorised development, and the means for publicising such opportunities. The skills, supply chain and employment plan must be implemented as approved, and maintained through operation.
- 4.2.28 Requirement 21 – Decommissioning and restoration: Decommissioning must commence no later than 60 years following the date of final commissioning of the authorised development. This requirement also provides that, unless otherwise agreed in writing with the relevant planning authority, no later than 12 months prior to the date the undertaker intends to decommission any part of the authorised development, the undertaker must notify the relevant planning authority of the intended date of decommissioning. Within 12 months of such notification, the undertaker must submit to the relevant planning authority for its approval a decommissioning environmental management plan for that part which substantially accords with the Framework Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan [EN010142/APP/7.10] No decommissioning works must be carried out until the relevant planning authority has approved the plan submitted in relation to such works. The plan submitted must be implemented as approved. This requirement is without prejudice to any other consents or permissions which may be required to decommission any part of the authorised development.

- 4.2.29 In accordance with PINS' Advice Note 15: Drafting Development Consent Orders (July 2018), the Applicant's view is that it is necessary for named consultees of each specific requirement (where applicable) to be listed under Schedule 2 (Requirements). As the consultee bodies are specific to each requirement, it is necessary to identify any applicable consultee bodies in the requirements themselves so that it is clear which consultee is required in respect of which requirement, and to maintain a clear distinction between the specific obligations under each requirement in Schedule 2, and the general procedure for discharging those requirements under Schedule 16. Further, Article 3 is the operative provision which gives the Applicant development consent, subject to the requirements in Schedule 2. Therefore, it is necessary to include the consultees in Schedule 2 to make it precise and enforceable as to which bodies must be consulted in relation to which requirements, as a condition for the development consent. This approach is well preceded in each of the made solar DCOs (namely, the **Cleve Hill Solar Park Order 2020**, the **Little Crow Solar Park Order 2022**, the **Longfield Solar Farm Order 2023**, the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**, , and the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025** where the procedure(s) for the discharge of requirements all cross refer to the requirements themselves, which then include the appropriate consultee bodies specific to that requirement.

4.3 Schedule 3 (Legislation to be disapplied)

- 4.3.1 This Schedule lists out the legislation that the Order disapplies that relates to railways, river navigation, fisheries and water in the vicinity of the Order Limits in so far as such legislation is in force and is incompatible with the powers contained within the Order.
- 4.3.2 The general reason for the disapplication of these Acts is that they address matters whose merits and acceptability can, and will, already have been sufficiently considered and resolved if the Order is made, notably in relation to the assessment of impacts in respect of drainage, local waterbodies, highways and railways, and the controls within the Order to manage these, predominantly through the protective provisions entered into with drainage authorities, the Environment Agency, and railway authorities as well as the proposed management plans secured within Schedule 2 to the draft DCO. Such matters should therefore not be the subject of further regulatory consideration or control, which would cause unnecessary uncertainty and duplication, and may unjustifiably delay the implementation of the Scheme.
- 4.3.3 Unlike the modern legislation listed within Article 6 to the Order, and disapplied in a specific manner in respect of particular permitting requirements or controls, the local legislation listed within Schedule 3 is largely historic in nature. Given this historic nature, this list has been prepared taking a precautionary approach, where for some Acts it was difficult to conclusively determine the exact sections at conflict with the Order, given that plans were not available in respect of the majority of the Acts considered to make clear their precise geographic scope.
- 4.3.4 To counteract the precautionary identification of this range of local legislation, Schedule 3 paragraph 1 disapplies the listed legislation only "*in so far as they relate to the construction of any numbered work or the carrying out of any*

operation required for the purpose of, or in connection with, the construction, operation, maintenance or decommissioning of the authorised development.”

This means that where there is no conflict with the construction, operation, maintenance or decommissioning of the Scheme, the operation of these Acts will continue to apply. The above approach, was adopted and accepted in the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024** and the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**. The local legislation captured in the equivalent schedules in those Orders largely align with those proposed for this Scheme, given their geographic proximity to the Scheme.

4.4 Schedule 4 (Streets subject to street works)

- 4.4.1 This Schedule sets out the streets that are to be subject to street works by reference to the Streets, Access and Rights of Way Plans. The Schedule relates to Article 8 (Street works).

4.5 Schedule 5 (Alteration of streets)

- 4.5.1 This Schedule sets out the streets that are to be permanently altered (Part 1) and temporarily altered (Part 2) by reference to the Streets, Access and Rights of Way Plans. This Schedule relates to Articles 10 (Power to alter layout, etc., of streets) and 11 (Construction and maintenance of altered streets).

4.6 Schedule 6 (Streets and public rights of way)

- 4.6.1 This Schedule sets out the locations of the streets where there is to be temporary prohibition or restriction (Part 1), the public rights of way where there is to be temporary prohibition or restriction (Part 2), the public rights of way over which the undertaker seeks authorisation to use motor vehicles permanently (Part 3), the public rights of way to be managed temporarily (Part 4), and the public rights of way over which the undertaker seeks authorisation to use motor vehicles temporarily (Part 5). It references the Streets, Access and Rights of Way Plans. This Schedule relates to Article 12 (Temporary prohibition or restriction of the use of streets and public rights of way).

4.7 Schedule 7 (Permanent means of access to works)

- 4.7.1 This Schedule sets out the permanent means of accesses to works to the authorised development. It references the Streets, Access and Rights of Way Plans. The Schedule relates to Article 15 (Access to works).

4.8 Schedule 8 (Traffic regulation measures)

- 4.8.1 This Schedule contains details of the streets that are subject to temporary traffic regulation measures pursuant to Article 16 and contains details of the nature of the measures for each affected street.

4.9 Schedule 9 (Land in which only new rights etc. may be acquired)

- 4.9.1 This Schedule sets out the areas of land over which only new rights may be acquired by the undertaker and the nature of the rights that may be acquired. The plot numbers in column 1 of that table correlate with the relevant plot numbers shaded blue on the Land Plans [EN010142/APP/2.2] and the nature of the rights in column 2 explains the purposes for which rights over land may be acquired and restrictive covenants imposed. The Schedule relates to Article 22 (Compulsory acquisition of rights).

4.10 Schedule 10 (Modification of compensation and compulsory purchase enactments for the creation of new rights and imposition of new restrictive covenants)

- 4.10.1 This Schedule modifies existing compensation legislation including the Land Compensation Act 1973 and the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965. It is commonly included in made DCOs, including the **Cleve Hill Solar Park Order 2020**, the **A303 (Amesbury to Berwick Down) Development Consent Order 2020**, the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, and the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**. This has been updated to reflect any necessary changes arising as a result of the Housing and Planning Act 2016. The Schedule relates to Article 22 (Compulsory acquisition of rights).

4.11 Schedule 11 (Land of which temporary possession may be taken)

- 4.11.1 This Schedule sets out the land of which only temporary possession may be taken, pursuant to Article 30 (Temporary use of land for constructing the authorised development). This land is shown green on the Land and Crown Land Plans [EN010142/APP/2.3], and the purpose for the temporary possession is described by reference to the relevant work numbers and corresponding Works Plans [EN010142/APP/2.4].

4.12 Schedule 12 (Hedgerows to be removed)

- 4.12.1 This Schedule lists the hedgerows which are to be removed. Part 1 refers to important hedgerows, whilst part 2 refers to hedgerows which are not designated as important. Column 2 of both parts describes the relevant hedgerow with reference to the hedgerow removal plans and the amount of removal which is anticipated. The hedgerow removal plan does not show the precise location of the hedgerow removal and this will be confirmed once detailed design has been undertaken through the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan secured by requirement 7 in Schedule 2. Column 3 contains a brief description of the purpose for the removal. This Schedule relates to Article 39 (Felling or lopping of trees and removal of hedgerows).

4.13 Schedule 13 (Documents and plans to be certified)

- 4.13.1 This Schedule lists the documents that the undertaker must have certified as true copies by the Secretary of State pursuant to Article 41 (Certification of plans and documents, etc.). This Schedule will be updated iteratively through the Examination to reflect the current versions of documents.

4.14 Schedule 14 (Arbitration rules)

- 4.14.1 This Schedule relates to Article 43 (Arbitration). The intention is to achieve a fair, impartial and binding award on substantive differences between the parties. Further, the objective is to achieve determination within 4 months from the date the arbitrator is first appointed to ensure that any disputes are resolved quickly. In the context of the pressing need for new power generation, particularly by renewable means, identified in the National Policy Statements, it is considered desirable that any disputes are resolved promptly to enable delivery of the authorised development in as timely a way as possible.
- 4.14.2 Schedule 14 refers to the person who commenced the arbitration as the Claimant and the other party as the Respondent.
- 4.14.3 The timetable for the process is as follows:
- a. Within 14 days of the Arbitrator being appointed the Claimant shall serve on the Respondent and the Arbitrator a statement of claim and all supporting evidence to support the claim;
 - b. Within 14 days of receipt of the Claimant's statement of claim and supporting evidence the Respondent will serve a statement of defence and all supporting evidence to support its defence, together with any objections to the Claimant's documentation;
 - c. Within 7 days of receipt of the Respondent's documentation the Claimant may make a statement of reply; and
 - d. The parties would be liable for their own costs of the arbitration, unless otherwise directed by an award made by the arbitrator. Costs will include the arbitrator's costs together with the reasonable legal fees and other costs incurred by the other party.

4.15 Schedule 15 (Protective Provisions)

- 4.15.1 This Schedule sets out protective provisions for the benefit of statutory undertakers whose equipment may be affected by the authorised development. This schedule relates to Article 44 (Protective provisions) and currently contains protective provisions for the benefit of defined classes of service undertakers (electricity, gas, water and sewerage undertakers at Part 1, electronic communications code operators at Part 2, and drainage authorities at Part 3).
- 4.15.2 In addition, each of Parts 4 – 15 contain provisions for the benefit of a particular body and these remaining Parts are at varying stages of negotiation with the relevant parties.

4.15.3 As of Deadline 7, the following protective provisions have been agreed with the relevant bodies and the versions in the draft DCO represent the final form of bespoke protective provisions::

- a. Part 4 - The Canal & River Trust;
- b. Part 5 – Cottam Solar Project Limited;
- c. Part 6 – Gate Burton Energy Park Limited;
- d. Part 7 – West Burton Solar Project Limited;
- e. Part 8 – Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue;
- f. Part 9 – Cadent Gas Limited;
- g. Part 10 – The Environment Agency;
- h. Part 11 – Northern Power Grid (Yorkshire) PLC;
- i. Part 12 – Protection of Railway Interests (Network Rail);
- j. Part 13 – Anglian Water Services Limited as water undertaker;
- k. Part 14 – Uniper;
- l. Part 15 – Exolum Pipeline System;
- m. Part 16 – EDF Energy;
- n. Part 17 – National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc; and
- o. Part 19 – Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board.

4.15.4 The National Grid Electricity Distribution Plc (NGED) protective provisions as included at Part 18 are agreed between the parties, other than a difference in preferred wording for paragraph 286(3). The Applicant set out the reasoning for its preferred drafting within this paragraph in the Applicant's Response to Examining Authority's Third Written Questions **[REP6-054]** at ExQ3.6.2. The Applicant has included its preferred drafting within the draft DCO provided at Deadline 6 and 7. As the Applicant understands NGED is not willing to agree on this drafting, the Applicant seeks the Secretary of State to confirm its preferred drafting for this paragraph.

4.15.5 It is not anticipated that there will be any other parts required other than those listed in 4.15.3 and 4.15.4 above.

4.15.6 The protective provisions in Part 1 – for the protection of electricity, gas, water and sewerage undertakers, have been amended slightly to include other mains, pipelines or cables not ordinarily falling within the definition of "apparatus" and the owner of such mains, pipelines and cables as a "utility undertaker". This is to capture and protect a water supply to tenants that is privately provided within the Order Limits.

4.16 Schedule 16 (Application version)

4.16.1 In the application version of the Order, Schedule 16 included a draft deemed marine licence. This was deleted at Deadline 1, along with updates to remove Article 45 in respect of a deemed marine licence (discussed above).

4.17 Schedule 16 (Procedure for discharge of requirements)

- 4.17.1 This Schedule provides a bespoke procedure for dealing with an application made to the relevant planning authority for any consent, agreement or approval required by the Requirements in Schedule 2 of the Order. It sets out time periods within which decisions must be made and provides for deemed approval of the applications in certain circumstances. The Schedule makes provision for appeals to be made in the event of a refusal of an application or if the relevant planning authority requires further information to be provided in relation to that application. Schedules similar to Schedule 16 have been used in various orders and can be seen in a similar form in the **Hinkley Point C (Nuclear Generating Station) Order 2013**, as amended, the **National Grid (King's Lynn B Power Station Connection) Order 2013** the **Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024**, the **Gate Burton Energy Park Order 2024**, the **Cottam Solar Project Order 2024**, and the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025**.
- 4.17.2 The bespoke process is required in order to ensure that applications under Requirements are dealt with efficiently so that the authorised development is not held up. Deemed consent of applications is required for the same reason and ensures that the nationally-needed authorised development will not be held up by the discharge of requirements.
- 4.17.3 It was further amended at Deadline 1 to include a paragraph in respect of fees to be paid to relevant planning authorities in respect of different kinds of applications to discharge requirements. This schedule has been shared with the relevant planning authorities.
- 4.17.4 It was also further amended at Deadline 5 to add a new paragraph 5(2) in respect of the fees outlined, which ensures fees are increased in line with inflation over the lifetime of the development. This drafting has been adopted from the Secretary of State's decision on the **West Burton Solar Project Order 2025**
- 4.17.5 It is further amended at Deadline 6 to include the new waste management plan requirement 14 within the fee schedule included at paragraph 5.
- 4.17.6 The Schedule relates to Article 47 (Procedure in relation to certain approvals etc.).