

Tween Bridge Solar Farm

5.2 Consultation Report Appendices – Part 1 (Appendix 2.1-3.4)

Planning Act 2008

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

APFP Regulation 5(1)

Document Reference: 5.2

August 2025

Revision 1

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Tween Bridge Solar Farm

A Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project in the Energy Sector

Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report

July 2025



Visit: www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk
Email: info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk

Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report

Tween Bridge Solar Farm

RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Limited

July 2025

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1. Introduction

Purpose of Report

- 1.1. This Adequacy of Consultation Statement has been prepared by RWE Renewables UK Solar & Storage Ltd ("the Applicant") as part of the development of the application for a Development Consent Order ("DCO") for Tween Bridge Solar Farm.
- 1.2. The adequacy of consultation milestone is a requirement established in the following Government guidance dealing with the pre-application stage for DCO applications.
 - National Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report (published August 2024)
 - Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally significant Infrastructure Projects (published 30 April 2024)
 - Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus (May 2024)
- 1.3. The guidance and prospectus set out the requirements and expectations in the preparation of an application for development consent. The Guidance and Prospectus introduce a new pre-submission adequacy of consultation milestone ("AoCM") aimed at providing the Applicant with an opportunity to submit to the Planning Inspectorate a written submission setting out the consultation undertaken to date, confirming that the approaches set out in the Statement of Community Consultation ("SoCC") have been satisfactorily met and providing a summary of consultation responses received and how these responses are shaping the proposed application. The AoCM is a non-statutory requirements and, where provided, the written submission would be published on the relevant project page of the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Projects online portal.
- 1.4. Under section 55(4)(b) of the Planning Act 2008, at the acceptance stage, the Planning Inspectorate will seek formal views from the local planning authorities about the adequacy of consultation. On 10th June 2025, the Applicant issued a draft AoCM to City of Doncaster Council and North Lincolnshire Council in order to seek their pre-submission advice that the statutory consultation was undertaken as per the requirements set out in the SoCC. The local authorities' responses are provided at Appendix 1 and are discussed in section 3 of this report.
- 1.5. This remainder of this statement is structured into the following sections: –
 - **Section 2** – provides a description of Tween Bridge Soar Farm.
 - **Section 3** – provides provides an overview of the phased pre-application consultation process undertaken by the applicant.
 - **Section 4** – sets out the timelines for the development, consultation and adoption of the SoCC. It also sets out how the Applicant has fulfilled its duties for statutory consultation as per the requirements set out within the SoCC.
 - **Section 5** – summarises the next steps for the DCO application process.

2. Tween Bridge Solar Farm

- 2.1. Tween Bridge Solar Farm is a proposed solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generation facility with an export capacity of 800 megawatts (MW) and associated storage and infrastructure (hereafter, the 'Scheme'), located approximately 10 kilometres to the northeast of Doncaster and 14 kilometres to the west of Scunthorpe.
- 2.2. The Scheme is defined as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under Sections 14(1)(a) and 15(2) of the Planning Act 2008 as it comprises: Since the export capacity of the Scheme would exceed 50 MW, it is duly classified as a
 - The construction or extension of an electricity generating station (Part 3, Section 14(1)(a)); and
 - Its capacity is more than 50 MW (Part 3, Section 15(2)(c)).
- 2.3. Therefore, an application for a DCO for the Scheme will be made to the Secretary of State for the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero under the Planning Act 2008. The DCO will include the necessary rights and powers to ensure the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of the Scheme, including compulsory acquisition powers. The Scheme also falls within the definition of 'Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development' as defined within the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 meaning that before consent is granted for the Scheme, an EIA must be undertaken.
- 2.4. Key components of the Scheme are: –
 - Solar PV modules and associated mounting structures
 - On-site supporting equipment including inverters, transformers and switchgear
 - A battery energy storage system (BESS), indicatively split into 4 separate compounds. They would each be located next, and connected by electrical cables, to one of the six on-site 33kv/132kV substations
 - The Solar PV Modules and BESS would be connected by electrical cables to one of the six on-site 33kV/132kV substation compounds. These are necessary to step up the voltage of the electricity delivered by the Solar PV from 33kV to 132kV for onward transmission to the main on-site 400kV RWE substation
 - Underground cabling (132kV) running from the main on-site 400kV RWE substation would be required to be laid in order to connect the Scheme to a proposed National Grid Substation. This National Grid Substation itself does not form part of the Scheme and is being consented separately by National Grid under other consenting procedures. Accordingly, the extent and location of the proposed underground cable connection works required to connect the Scheme to the National Grid substation may be subject to further refinement once National Grid has been able to provide further details on the location for the National Grid Substation (see also paragraph 2.4.16 below)

- It is also currently envisaged that the Scheme will include works at the site of the proposed National Grid Substation to facilitate the connection of the 400kV underground cabling to the National Grid Substation. The National Grid Substation itself does not form part of the Scheme and is being consented separately by National Grid under other consenting procedures. Accordingly, the location of these substation connection works may be subject to further refinement once National Grid has been able to provide further detail on the location for the National Grid Substation (see also paragraph 2.4.16 below)
- Works to establish environmental and ecological mitigation and enhancement measures
- Upgrade to Main Access Tracks
- Directional drilling for cable works for various crossing including: drainage ditches, canal, railway, and the M180
- Culverts & upgrades to existing culverts
- Fencing and Security Measures
- Permissive pathways and bird viewing gallery, and
- Temporary development during the construction phase of the Scheme including construction compounds, parking and temporary access roadways to facilitate access to all parts of the site.

3. Consultation Timeline

- 3.1. This section provides an overview of the phased pre-application consultation process undertaken by the applicant. The main phase of consultation undertaken by the applicant is summarised below.

Table 3.1 Summary of Consultation Phases

| Consultation Phase | Key Dates | Consultation Summary |
|---|--|--|
| Non-Statutory engagement and consultation | <p>Initial engagement November 2022</p> <p>Non-Stat Consultation between October 2023 to November 2023</p> | <p>Non-statutory discussion with public and statutory consultees through extensive informal consultations. The preliminary engagement with prescribed consultees started in November 2022 and the first round of consultation (non-statutory), which introduced the preliminary design and order limits, ran for 8 weeks from 4 October 2023 to 28 November 2023. As part of the non-statutory consultation, the consultation activities included: –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Consultation letter was issued to all identified prescribed consultees, interested persons, local authorities, and stakeholders. (ii) Publication of a draft PEIR and this was made available on the project website during the duration of the non-statutory consultation, thus allowing the consultation of environmental information from an early stage in the scheme's development. (iii) Two public exhibitions were held within the local community, the first on Monday 16 October 2023 at the Thornesians RUFC, Thorne and the second event was held on Tuesday 17th October 2023 at the Crowle Community Hub, Market Place, Crowle. Both events ran from 2pm to 7pm. (iv) An online webinar was held on Wednesday 1st November 2023. |

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| Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Opinion | Submitted 31st January 2023 Scoping Opinion Adopted 13 the March 2023 | On 31 January 2023, the Applicant submitted a Scoping Opinion request to the Planning Inspectorate under Regulation 10 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) for the Scheme. PINS adopted the Scoping Opinion on 13 March 2023. |
| Agreeing the SoCC | October 2024 to February 2025 | <p>On 14 October 2024, the Applicant issued a draft SoCC to City of Doncaster Council and North Lincolnshire Council, as the relevant host authorities pursuant to section 43(1) of the PA2008. North Lincolnshire Council provided a comment on 24 November 2024 asking for confirmation that the notice would be published within the Scunthorpe Telegraph. City of Doncaster Council provided their response on 4 November 2024, whereby they welcomed the consultation approach set out in the draft document.</p> <p>On 13 February 2025, a final SoCC was issued to both local authorities, pursuant to section 47(3) of the PA2008. The City of Doncaster Council approved the SoCC on 20 February 2025 and North Lincolnshire Council gave their approval on 28 February 2025.</p> |
| Notification of consultation to Secretary of State and PINS | 20 March 2025 & 21 March 2025 | The Applicant wrote to the Secretary of State on 20 March 2025 to provide notification of the consultation and signpost where consultation documents could be accessed. On 21 March 2025, the Applicant also provided the Planning Inspectorate with separate notification letter informing of the start of statutory consultation, enclosed to the letter were a copy of the combined S46/S48 notice, the adopted SoCC, and correspondence from both City of Doncaster Council and North Lincolnshire Council providing their acceptance over the SoCC. |
| Statutory Consultation | 20 th March 2025 to 8 th May 2025 | The Statutory pre-application consultation was carried out between 20 th March 2025 and 8 th May 2025. Duty to consult accorded with the requirement of both section 42 and section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended). |

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| | | <p>(i) All stakeholders, relevant local planning authorities, prescribed consultees and interested persons were issued with statutory consultation engagement letter on 20 March 2025. The letter set out details of the statutory consultation, including the applicant, location of development, the consultation period, details on how representations could be made, details where documents could be viewed both online (via the project website) and in-person and (at the deposit locations and the public exhibitions). The letter was accompanied by a plan showing the draft order limits. The statutory consultation engagement letter was reissued to all stakeholders, relevant local planning authorities, prescribed consultees and interested persons on 21 March 2025 and it included a copy of the Statutory Notice.</p> <p>(ii) The PEIR, PEIR NTS, Drawings pack, Non-Statutory Consultation Report and the SoCC were made available at the deposit locations from the start of consultation on 20 March 2025. All materials were made available on the project website from the start of the consultation on 20 March 2025, all materials were made available at the in-person consultation events.</p> <p>(iii) The applicant has fulfilled its duty under section 48 of the Act which is to publicise the notice (applicant prepared a combined S47/section 48 notice) in the prescribed manner and section 4(2) of the APFP Regulations which requires (amongst other things) that the notice to be published for at least two successive weeks in a local paper.</p> |
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| | | (iv) Four public exhibitions were held in the community during the statutory consultation on Friday 28 March 2025, Saturday 5 April 2025, Wednesday 16 April 2025 and Thursday 17 April 2025. A webinar was held on Wednesday 9 April 2025. |
| Post-Statutory Engagement | May 2025 to July 2025 | <p>Revisions in response to Statutory Consultation feedback.</p> <p>All stakeholders, relevant local planning authorities, prescribed consultees and interested persons were issued with an email notification announcing the culmination of the statutory consultation period on 09 May 2025.</p> <p>Communication lines for the project continued to be monitored after the culmination of statutory consultation. Correspondence received via email, post and telephone continued to be analysed and responded to, where appropriate.</p> <p>On 30 May 2025, all stakeholders, relevant local planning authorities, prescribed consultees and interested persons were issued with an email notification updating on the end of the statutory consultation process, and our proposed application submission date. The email set out details of how feedback would be addressed via a Consultation Report, the target application date, and information about the Development Consent Order (DCO) decision-making process.</p> |

Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

- 3.2. On 10th June 2025, the Applicant issued a draft AoCM to City of Doncaster Council and North Lincolnshire Council in order to seek their pre-submission advice that the statutory consultation was undertaken as per the requirements set out in the SoCC. The local authorities' responses are provided at Appendix 1.

North Lincolnshire Council

- 3.3. On Friday 27 June 2025, North Lincolnshire Council duly advised *“North Lincolnshire Council (NLC) has taken the opportunity to review the provided draft Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report and are content that this document demonstrates that the Applicant has carried out statutory consultation in respect of the Tween Bridge Solar Farm project in accordance with their adopted Statement of Community Consultation, which was previously agreed by NLC. It is considered that the consultation undertaken meets the requirements of S47(7) of the Planning Act 2008 and that the Applicant has met their statutory obligation in this regard”.*

City of Doncaster Council

- 3.4. City of Doncaster Council provided their response on Thursday 26th June 2025. Whereby, the City of Doncaster Council advised that the applicant achieved legal compliance with the relevant sections of the Planning Act. They also provide broader advice that they were concerned with the level of engagement carried out by the applicant.
- 3.5. The applicant’s Consultation Report will address the concerns raised by City of Doncaster and it will contain a summary of relevant engagement and discussions held between the applicant and the various departments within the council and other bodies acting on behalf of the council; and how the Applicant has considered these. It is noted that the Council didn’t raise any concerns regarding how the Applicant consulted and engaged with the community.

4. Statement of Community Consultation

Development of the SoCC

- 4.1. A Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) was prepared, consulted on and published following the process as prescribed in Section 47 of the PA2008, prior to the commencement of the statutory consultation for the Scheme.
- 4.2. Following the Non-Statutory consultation, the Applicant began the preparation of the SoCC. The draft SoCC provided information about the Scheme, the Applicant, and the Applicant's approach to statutory consultation. The purpose of the draft SoCC was to set out how the Applicant would consult and engage with the local community likely to be affected by the Scheme.

Consultation on the SoCC

- 4.3. On 14 October 2024, the Applicant issued a draft SoCC to City of Doncaster Council and North Lincolnshire Council, as the relevant host authorities pursuant to section 43(1) of the PA2008. The applicant requested for any comments to be made by the end of November 2024. North Lincolnshire Council provided a comment on 24 November 2024 asking for confirmation that the notice would be published within the Scunthorpe Telegraph. City of Doncaster Council provided their response on 4 November 2024, whereby they welcomed the consultation approach set out in the draft document.
- 4.4. The applicant then prepared a final SoCC which incorporated the comments provided by North Lincolnshire Council and contained final edits to the draft order limits and the corresponding Primary Consultation Zone. The SoCC for formal issue to both local authorities, pursuant to section 47(3) of the PA2008, on 13 February 2025 and each host authority were asked to provide their response within 28 days. The City of Doncaster Council approved the SoCC on 20 February 2025 and North Lincolnshire Council gave their approval on 28 February 2025.

Publicity of Statutory Consultation Under Section 47

- 4.5. In compliance with the publicity requirements set out within the adopted SOCC and pursuant to Section 47(6) of the PA2008, the SoCC was made available for viewing for the duration of the statutory consultation, as detailed below:
- Statutory Notices publicising where the locations where the SoCC could be viewed were placed in the following newspapers: –
 - Scunthorpe Telegraph on 20 March 2025 and 27 March 2025
 - Doncaster Free Press on 20 March 2025 and 27 March 2025
 - Guardian on 20 March 2025
 - London Gazette on 20 March 2025

- Advert publishing where the locations where the SoCC could be viewed were placed in the following papers
 - Scunthorpe Telegraph
 - Doncaster Free Press
 - Lincolnshire Live
 - Yorkshire Post
 - Thorne Times
- A paper copy of the SoCC could be viewed at the following venues during the consultation: –
 - Crowle Community Hub
 - Thorne Library, and
 - Hatfield Community Library
- Available at each of the four public exhibition events, and
- Viewable on the project website from 20 March 2025.

Compliance with section 48

4.6. As with the publication dates above, the publication dates for the S48 Notice are set out below: –

- Scunthorpe Telegraph on 20 March 2025 and 27 March 2025
- Doncaster Free Press on 20 March 2025 and 27 March 2025
- Guardian on 20 March 2025
- London Gazette on 20 March 2025

4.7. The applicant has fulfilled its duty under section 48 of the Act which is to publicise the notice (applicant prepared a combined S47/section 48 notice) in the prescribed manner and section 4(2) of the APFP Regulations which requires (amongst other things) that the notice to be published for at least two successive weeks in a local paper.

Consultation with statutory consultees and notification to the Secretary of State (section 42 and section 46)

4.8. Consultation letters were issued to statutory consultees on 20 March 2025. The consultation letters notified consultees about the statutory Consultation and set out where to find out more information about the scheme, including the times and dates of the public events and how to access the consultation materials. It also identified them as a statutory

consultee under s42 of the PA 2008. The letter also set out the ways in which respondents could share their feedback and get in contact with the project team, and confirmed the deadline for receipt of feedback, namely 11.59pm on Thursday 8th May 2025 (in accordance with s45 of the PA 2008). In addition, on 21 March 2025, pursuant to Regulation 13 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, the same consultation letter reissued to all stakeholders, relevant local planning authorities, prescribed consultees and interested persons to include a copy of the published combined S47/S48 Statutory Notice.

- 4.9. There are different categories of consultee under s42 of the PA 2008. The sections below set out how the Applicant identified the consultees in each category below.

Table 4.1 Section 42 Categories

| Category | Applicant's Engagement |
|---|--|
| Section 42(1)(a): such persons as may be prescribed | The Applicant identified prescribed consultees with reference to Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024, which substituted for the Table in Schedule 1 to the APFP 2009 Regulations; Advice Note on EIA Notification and Consultation; Reg 11(1)(a) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regs 2017; and the list of consultation bodies in Appendix 1 of the EIA Scoping Opinion dated 2 May 2023. |
| Section 42(1)(b): each local authority that is with in Section 43 | <p>The Applicant consulted with local authorities identified in s43 of the PA 2008 as prescribed by s42(1)(b) of the PA 2008. The four categories of local authority are set out below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) 'A' is a neighbouring local authority (s43(2)) that shares a boundary with a unitary council or lower-tier district 'B' council within whose area development is situated (ii) 'B' is either a unitary council or a lower-tier district council in which the development is situated – a host authority (iii) 'C' is an upper-tier county council in which the development is situated – a host authority (iv) 'D' is either a unitary council or an upper tier county council which shares a boundary with a host 'C' authority – a neighbouring local authority (s43(2A)) |

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| | <p>The local authorities consulted for the purposes of the statutory consultation are listed below</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Lincolnshire Council (Category B) • City of Doncaster Council (Category B) • West Lindsey District Council (Category A) • Selby District Council (Category A) • Bassetlaw District Council (Category A) • Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (Category A) • Wakefield Council (Category A) • Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (Category A) • East Riding of Yorkshire Council (Category A) • North East Lincolnshire Council (Category D) • Lincolnshire County Council (Category C) • North Yorkshire County Council (Category D) • Nottinghamshire County Council (Category D) |
| Section 42(1)(c) the Greater London Authority if the land is in Greater London. | Not applicable, the applicant did not engage with the Greater London Authority since the site is not located within or near Greater London. |
| Section 42(1)(d): each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in Section 44 | <p>S42(1)(d) of the PA 2008 requires the Applicant to consult each person who is within one or more categories set out in s44 of the PA 2008.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1: A person is within Category 1 if the Applicant, after making diligent inquiry, knows that the person is an owner, lessee, tenant or occupier of the land. • Category 2: A person is within the Category 2 if the Applicant, after making diligent inquiry, knows that the person is interested in the land, or has the power to sell and convey the land or to release the land. • Category 3: A person is within the Category 3, if the Applicant, after making diligent inquiry, considers |

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| | <p>they would or might be entitled to make a 'relevant claim' as a result of (a) the implementing of the DCO, (b) the DCO having been implemented or (c) use of the land once the DCO has been implemented.</p> <p>Chartered Surveyors were appointed by the Applicant to complete the process of diligent inquiry prior to, throughout, and following the statutory consultation to identify relevant persons with an interest in land. The prescribed methods followed will be set out in the Statement of Reasons that will be submitted in support of the DCO application. The methodologies included a review of land registry titles, review of land interests with affected owners and occupiers site notices for land where ownership is unknown and other third parties that could not be located.</p> <p>The Applicant consulted with all parties identified under s42(1)(d) and s44 of the PA 2008 at that time.</p> |
| Section 45 – timetable for consultation under section 42 | <p>The Applicant notified all those consulted under Section 42 of the deadline in writing by email and/or post. In accordance with Section 45, a consultation period of more than 28 days was specified on the combined section 47 / section 48 notice for all the relevant different categories of consultee listed under s42 of the PA 2008, as set out in paragraph 4.8 of this statement.</p> |
| Notification to the Secretary of State (section 46) | <p>In accordance with s46 of the PA 2008, the Applicant wrote to the Secretary of State on 20 March 2025 to provide notification of the consultation and signpost where consultation documents could be accessed. On 21 March 2025, the Applicant also provided the Planning Inspectorate with separate notification letter informing of the start of statutory consultation, enclosed to the letter were a copy of the combined S46/S48 notice, the adopted SoCC, and correspondence from both City of Doncaster Council and North Lincolnshire Council providing their acceptance over the SoCC.</p> |

Consultation with the Local Community (section 47)

- 4.10. The Applicant consulted with the local community in accordance with the adopted SoCC. The following table shows how the statutory consultation was undertaken in compliance with the adopted SoCC, as per requirements of Section 47(7) of the PA 2008.

Table 4.2 SoCC Commitments and Evidence of Compliance

| SoCC Paragraph | Commitment Made | Compliance |
|----------------|---|---|
| 4.1 | <p><i>We currently intend to undertake statutory consultation for seven weeks starting on Thursday 20th March 2025. The deadline for accepting consultation responses is 11.59pm on Thursday 8th May 2025.</i></p> | <p>The Applicant ran the statutory consultation (in compliance with Section 47) between Thursday 20 March 2025 and Thursday 8 May 2025.</p> |
| 4.2 | <p><i>We will present our proposals including how they have been informed by our environmental assessments and engagement to date. We will be seeking feedback on all aspects of our plans for TBSF. These will be explained in the following materials:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) A printed copy of the PEIR will be available to view (but not take away) at the consultation events and at the public information points. • PEIR Non-Technical Summary (“NTS”) – providing a summary of the findings of the PEIR. of the PEIR will also be made available. A printed copy of the NTS will be available to view (but not take away) at the consultation events and at the public information points. • Drawings – a set of drawings showing the full extent of the scheme. Printed copy of the drawing pack will be available to view (but not take away) at the consultation events and at the public information points. • Consultation Leaflet – the leaflet provides an overview of the Scheme. A printed copy of the leaflet will be available to view and, subject to availability, to take away at the consultation events. | <p>All listed materials were made available from the start of the consultation. All materials were made available on the project website from the start of the consultation on 20 March 2025, all materials were made available at the in-person consultation events.</p> <p>The PEIR, PEIR NTS, Drawings pack, Non-Statutory Consultation Report and the SoCC were also made available at the deposit locations from the start of consultation on 20 March 2025.</p> |

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| | <p>• Non-Statutory Consultation Report – This document summarises the responses received during the non-statutory consultation undertaken prior to the start of statutory consultation. A printed copy will be available to view (but not take away) at the consultation events and at the public information points.</p> <p>• Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) – A printed copy of this document will be available to view (but not take away) at the consultation events and at the public information points. We will also publish a notice in local newspapers to explain where this statement can be inspected pursuant to Section 47 of the Act.</p> | |
| 4.3 | <p>All of the statutory consultation documents are available to view and download from the TBSF project website during the statutory consultation period. Paper copies of all consultation materials can be requested for a charge of £0.35 per A4 page to cover printing and postage costs. Request for paper copies can be made by email to: info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk or calling on Freephone 0800 021 7877. Upon request, documents, subject to availability, may be provided in alternative accessible formats, such as USB sticks or text to speech app.</p> | <p>As stated above, all consultation materials were made available on the project website from the start of the consultation on 20 March 2025.</p> <p>No requests were made to provide the consultation materials in alternative accessible formats.</p> |
| 4.4 to 4.6 | <p>We will consult widely in accordance with this SoCC. The consultation process is open to anyone with an interest in TBSF. We have identified a primary consultation zone for the purpose of communicating with the local community under section 47 of the 2008 Act. The primary consultation zone has been identified as those communities who are most likely to experience direct effects from the development. The primary consultation zone typically extends to two kilometres from the boundary of the order limits.</p> <p>The primary consultation zone covers the villages of Thorne, Moorends, Crowle, Ealand, Sandtoft, Hatfield Woodhouse, and</p> | <p>The Primary Consultation Zone included over 13,658 addresses (and comprised residential, business and commercial) located around the settlements of the draft order limits, including villages of Thorne, Moorends, Crowle, Ealand, Sandtoft, Hatfield Woodhouse, and Stone Hill.</p> <p>A Consultation Leaflet was dispatched to the Royal Mail on 15 March 2025. The Royal Mail subsequently distributed the leaflets by second</p> |

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| | <p>Stone Hill. The zone has also been amended where proportionate and reasonable based on existing boundaries in order to avoid inappropriate 'severance' of communities.</p> <p>We recognise that there may be individuals and organisations that are interested in the project but located out of the scope of the primary consultation zone. We are committed to ensuring that these interested parties still have an opportunity to participate in the statutory consultation. We will publicise consultation opportunities to a wider consultation zone by advertising in the Doncaster Free Press and the Scunthorpe Telegraph in accordance with Section 48 of the Act, and keeping a register of interested individuals.</p> | <p>class mail to all collected addresses within the Primary Consultation Zone.</p> <p>Turning to the wider consultation zone, this was defined by the geographic reach of the local newspapers. As stated elsewhere in this statement, the Statutory Notices publicising the statutory consultation were published in the Scunthorpe Telegraph on 20 March 2025 and 27 March 2025; and in the Doncaster Free Press on 20 March 2025 and 27 March 2025.</p> <p>Advertisements publicising the consultation and exhibitions were also placed in the Doncaster Free Press and Scunthorpe Telegraph on 20 March 2025.</p> |
| 4.7(i) | <p>We are proposing 4 public exhibition events at suitable, publicly accessible venues within the primary consultation zone. They will be advertised through the local media, consultation leaflets, project website, posters and consultation letters.</p> <p>Our consultation events are planned as follows: Coulman Pavillion; Crowle Community Hub; Moorends Miners Welfare & Community Development Centre; and Hatfield Woodhouse Village Hall</p> | <p>The Applicant held 4 in-person public exhibitions during the consultation period as set out in the SoCC.</p> <p>A total of 123 people attended the four events.</p> <p>At the events, attendees could view the PEIR, PEIR NTS, Drawings, Non-Statutory Consultation report, the SoCC, Consultation Leaflet, and feedback form.</p> <p>Consultation banners were also prepared for public exhibitions.</p> <p>The applicant ensured that project team members with a wide variety of technical expertise were in attendance at each event so as to enable detailed and technical discussion with attendees.</p> |

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| 4.7(ii) | One webinar event will be held for any members of the public to join. | <p>The applicant held one consultation webinar during the consultation period as set out in the SoCC.</p> <p>A total of 2 people attended the webinar.</p> <p>For the webinar, the Applicant prepared presentation of the scheme which mirrored the information displayed on the consultation banners of the in-person public exhibitions.</p> |
| 4.7(iii) | All consultation documents will be published on the dedicated project website: https://tweenbridgesolar.co.uk/ | As stated elsewhere in this document, all consultation materials were made available on the project website from the start of the consultation on 20 March 2025. |
| 4.7(iv) | <p>Press release Press releases publicising the consultation and how the community and wider stakeholders can get involved will be issued at the start of the statutory consultation. The press release distribution list will include the following publications: Lincolnshire Live; Yorkshire Post; Scunthorpe Telegraph; Doncaster Free Press; and Thorne Times.</p> | The Applicant issued a press release to all the regional newspapers listed within the SoCC on 19 March 2025. |
| 4.7(v) | <p>Newspaper advertisements publicising the consultation will be released at the start of the consultation. Distribution list for the adverts will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lincolnshire Live; • Yorkshire Post; • Scunthorpe Telegraph; • Doncaster Free Press; | The Applicant placed an advertisement publicising the consultation within all the local papers specified within the SoCC. Copies of the adverts will be presented within the Consultation Report that will accompany the DCO submission. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thorne Times. | |
| 4.7 (vi) | <p>We will send either emails (where we have been provided with appropriate email contact details) or hard copy letters about the consultation and how to get involved to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host constituency and neighbouring constituency area MPs; • Elected representatives at City of Doncaster Council and North Lincolnshire Council; • Host parish councils; • Neighbouring local authorities; • Neighbouring parish councils; • All relevant statutory consultees. | <p>All stakeholders, relevant local planning authorities, prescribed consultees and interested persons were issued with statutory consultation engagement letter on 20 March 2025. The letter set out details of the statutory consultation, including the applicant, location of development, the consultation period, details on how representations could be made, details where documents could be viewed both online (via the project website) and in-person and (at the deposit locations and the public exhibitions). The letter was accompanied by a plan showing the draft order limits.</p> <p>The statutory consultation engagement letter was reissued to all stakeholders, relevant local planning authorities, prescribed consultees and interested persons on 21 March 2025 and it included a copy of the Statutory Notice.</p> |
| 4.7 (vii) | <p>We will publish the statutory notice under Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008, to publicise the proposed DCO application. It will be published:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For two successive weeks in a local paper(s); • Once in a national newspaper; • Once in the London Gazette. <p>The notice will be made available to view on the project website, a printed copy will be available to view (but not take away) at the consultation events and at the public information points.</p> | <p>The Statutory Notices were published in the local and national papers as specified in the SoCC, namely: –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Scunthorpe Telegraph on 20 March 2025 and 27 March 2025 (ii) Doncaster Free Press on 20 March 2025 and 27 March 2025 (iii) Guardian on 20 March 2025 (iv) London Gazette on 20 March 2025 |

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| 4.7(viii) | Posters including details of the consultation, how to access Project information, and how to get involved, will be displayed at well-used public locations (this could include parish notice boards, local shops and village halls) within the primary and wider consultation zone, subject to permission. | <p>Posters were displayed at the following locations:</p> <p>Crowle Community Hall, Hatfield Woodhouse Village Hall, Belton Park Pavilion, Thorne Library, Hatfield Community Library, Crowle Community Hub, Thorne Sainsbury's, Thorne Tesco Express, Thorne Lidl, Crowle Co-op Food, St John the Baptist, 7 Lakes Caravan Park, Keadby Post Office</p> |
| 4.7(ix) | Local residents and businesses located within the primary consultation zone (please refer to paragraph 4.4) will be notified of the consultation through a consultation leaflet, inviting them to get involved in the consultation. The leaflet will provide details about the scheme, consultation, exhibition events, how to access the information and how to provide feedback. | <p>As stated elsewhere in this statement, the Primary Consultation Zone included over 13658 addresses (and comprised residential, business and commercial) located around the settlements of the draft order limits, including villages of Thorne, Moorends, Crowle, Ealand, Sandtoft, Hatfield Woodhouse, and Stone Hill.</p> <p>A Consultation Leaflet was dispatched to the Royal Mail on 15 March 2025. The Royal Mail subsequently distributed the leaflets by second class mail to all collected address within the Primary Consultation Zone.</p> <p>The leaflet will provide details about the scheme, consultation, exhibition events, how to access the information and how to provide feedback.</p> |
| 4.8 | All consultation materials will be made available online on our website free of charge and can be downloaded for inspection at the reader's discretion. Printed copies of all the materials (including the PEIR) will also be made available for inspection at | As stated elsewhere in this document, all consultation materials were made available on the project website from the start of the consultation on 20 March 2025. Hard copies of the consultation materials were made available at the 4 public exhibitions. The PEIR, PEIR NTS, |

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| | the in-person consultation events and selected documents will be available document inspection points. | drawings, non-Statutory consultation report and SoCC were also made available at the deposit locations during the consultation period. |
| 4.9 | <p>The consultation documents listed at paragraph 4.2 will be made available for members of the public to inspect at the following venues:</p> <p>Crowle Community Hub</p> <p>Thorne Library</p> <p>Hatfield Community Library</p> | The PEIR, PEIR NTS, Drawings, Non-Statutory Consultation Report and SoCC were also made available at the deposit locations during the consultation period. |
| 4.10 | The project team will check on a regular basis that consultation documentation remains at the information points throughout the consultation period and will ensure the prompt replacement in the event documentation has been removed. | The consultation documentation was inspected by the project team on the following dates, 28 March 2025, 5 April 2025, and 16 April 2025. |
| 4.11 | For any activity(ies) identified within this SoCC that cannot be undertaken, where possible, will be substituted with similar activity(ies) and communicated promptly on the project website and/or social media. | All activities within the SoCC were undertaken by the Applicant during the statutory consultation period.. |
| 4.12 | Ongoing engagement with relevant stakeholders will be undertaken ahead of the launch of the consultation, including local authorities, MPs, the Environment Agency, Natural England, Network Rail, The Canal Trust and Historic England (where possible) and with local interest groups, residents, and landowners who get in touch. | <p>The project team continued to respond to correspondence received through our communication channels ahead of the launch of the consultation.</p> <p>Two Town and Parish Council(s) (Thorne and Moorends Town Council, Crowle Town Council) Were offered a briefing by members of the project team ahead of the statutory consultation</p> |

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| | | launch. Members of the project team briefed Crowle Town Council on 10 March 2025. |
| 4.13 | All relevant local and parish councillors, elected members and MPs will be contacted at the launch of the consultation and will be kept informed about the Scheme. They will also be encouraged to share information about the consultation with members of their constituency/local community. | <p>All relevant local and parish councillors, elected members and MPs were issued with statutory consultation engagement letter on 20 March 2025. The letter set out details of the statutory consultation, including the applicant, location of development, the consultation period, details on how representations could be made, details where documents could be viewed both online (via the project website) and in-person and (at the deposit locations and the public exhibitions). The letter was accompanied by a plan showing the draft order limits.</p> <p>The statutory consultation engagement letter was reissued to all stakeholders, relevant local planning authorities, prescribed consultees and interested persons on 21 March 2025 and it included a copy of the Statutory Notice.</p> |
| 4.14 | We want to ensure that all our engagement and consultation is inclusive, and we want to reach those who otherwise may not engage with us. Seldom heard groups are defined as being inaccessible to most traditional and conventional methods of consultation for any reason. To ensure that seldom heard groups are encouraged to get involved in the consultation, the materials will be prepared to be accessible and clear: - | <p>Local Seldom heard groups were included within our stakeholder communications and were issued with statutory consultation engagement letter on 20 March 2025. The letter set out details of the statutory consultation, including the applicant, location of development, the consultation period, details on how representations could be made, details where documents could be viewed both online (via the project website) and in-person and (at the deposit locations and the public exhibitions). The letter was accompanied by a plan showing the draft order limits.</p> |

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| | | The statutory consultation engagement letter was reissued to all stakeholders, relevant local planning authorities, prescribed consultees and interested persons on 21 March 2025 and it included a copy of the Statutory Notice. |
| 4.14(i) | <p>Elderly people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directly mailing the consultation leaflet to all stakeholders within the primary consultation zone and providing details of how to access paper copies of other project documents and provide feedback by post. • Options to engage through conventional communications channels including the freepost and the freephone information line. • Upon request, providing information in alternative format such as text to speech app. • Providing paper copies of materials at information point locations <p>along with contact details for the project team, who will be able to provide further assistance and send information to those who are unable to access the material online.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertising the availability of telephone call backs for stakeholders with further questions or who would like to discuss TBSF with the project team. • Consultation events at several locations, with members of the TBSF project team available to assist with completing feedback responses. | <p>All arrangements outlined in the SoCC were advertised.</p> <p>No requests for alternative arrangements were received.</p> |

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| 4.14(ii) | <p>Disabled people and those with learning disabilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon request, providing information in alternative format such as text to speech app. • Option to enlarge text on the project's website. • Providing telephone call backs for stakeholders with further questions or those who would like to discuss the project further with the project team. • Face-to-face events at four locations within the primary consultation zone, with members of the team available to assist with completing feedback responses. • Opportunity to request webinars supported by British Sign Language signing. | <p>All arrangements outlined in the SoCC were advertised.</p> <p>No requests for alternative arrangements were received.</p> |
| 4.14(iii) | <p>People with limited mobility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directly mailing the consultation leaflet to all stakeholders within the primary consultation zone and providing details of how to access paper copies of other project documents and provide feedback by post. • Online engagement through the consultation website and providing opportunities for webinars to remove the need to travel. • Advertising the availability of telephone call backs for stakeholders with further questions or who would like to discuss the project further with the project team. | <p>All arrangements outlined in the SoCC were advertised.</p> <p>The project team hosted an online webinar on 9 April 2025.</p> |
| 4.14(iv) | <p>Geographically isolated people and communities</p> | <p>All arrangements were advertised.</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directly mailing the consultation leaflet to all stakeholders within the primary consultation zone and providing details of how to access paper copies of other project documents and provide feedback by post. • Online engagement through the consultation website and opportunity for webinars to remove the need to travel. • Advertising the availability of telephone call backs for stakeholders with further questions or who would like to discuss the project further with the project team. | <p>No requests for alternative arrangements were received.</p> <p>The project team hosted an online webinar on 9 April 2025.</p> |
| 4.14(v) | <p>Young people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online engagement to encourage this demographic to complete feedback forms/consultation engagement. • Posters will be distributed at the local college/high schools to inform the demographic of the project and encourage them to provide feedback. | <p>All arrangements were advertised</p> <p>Posters were distributed via post to local colleges/high schools on 18 March 2025.</p> |
| 4.15 | <p>The following enquiry channels will be available throughout the consultation for members of the community and other stakeholders to get in touch with the project team, ask questions, request further information or request printed copies of consultation materials and documents. These channels are provided below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online https://tweenbridgesolar.co.uk/ 24 hour. • Telephone 0800 021 7877 Our line is staffed from 9am–5:30pm weekdays (excluding bank holidays) with an answerphone facility to take messages outside these hours. | <p>The applicant confirm that the communication channels specified in the SoCC were held open during the entire duration of the statutory consultation.</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk 24 hour (emails will be monitored between 9am–5:30pm weekdays, excluding bank holidays, and responded). Post FREEPOST TWEENBRIDGE | |
| 5.1 | Starting on Thursday 20th March 2025, people will be able to submit their feedback relating to TBSF. A consultation feedback form is available to help participants provide comments on the project. All responses must be received by 11.59pm on Thursday 8th May 2025. Responses received after that date may not be considered. | The feedback form was made available on the project website from 20 March 2025. By 11.59pm on Thursday 8 May 2025, the applicant received 87 representations. |
| 5.2 | <p>Consultation responses can be made in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing to us at: FREEPOST TWEENBRIDGE. Email your comments to info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk Completing the feedback form on the project webpage at: https://tweenbridgesolar.co.uk/have-your-say/ Attending a consultation event where you can meet the TBSF Project team and complete a paper copy, or take a feedback form and freepost envelope away to complete and send to us. Picking up a hard copy feedback form and freepost envelope at one of our Document Inspection Points. Requesting a hard copy of the feedback form via telephone on 0800 021 7877 and sending it to us using the Freepost address below. | The applicant confirm that the communication channels specified in the SoCC were held open during the entire duration of the statutory consultation. |
| 5.3 | The enquiry channels above will be available throughout the consultation for members of the public and other stakeholders to | The applicant confirm that the communication channels specified in the SoCC were held open |

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| | ask questions, request further information or request printed copies of consultation materials and documents. | during the entire duration of the statutory consultation. |
| 5.4 | We will carefully consider all comments received during the pre-application consultation period. | The Applicant is now reviewing the scheme design and the feedback received from the non-statutory and statutory consultation, along with ongoing environmental assessment and technical work, is informing the final parameters of the scheme. Details of how the feedback influenced the design will be set out in the Consultation Report that will be submitted in support of the DCO application. |
| 5.5 | Once we have analysed the feedback to understand key themes from stakeholders, we will produce a Consultation Report, which will set out how the feedback from the preapplication consultation has shaped and influenced the project. This will be submitted with the DCO Application. | The DCO application will be supported by a Consultation Report. |
| 5.6 | Any responses that may be published as part of the Consultation Report will have all personal details redacted. Any personal data received as part of the consultation will be stored and protected in accordance with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation. | The Applicant will follow General Data Protection Regulations when compiling the Consultation Report. |
| 5.7 | If, following the statutory consultation, we consider it is necessary to undertake further targeted or supplementary consultation, this would be undertaken, so far as relevant and proportionate, in accordance with the principles and methods set out in this SoCC. | At this moment in time, the Applicant does not anticipate that any required modifications to the order limits would necessitate further targeted consultation |

5. Next Steps

- 5.1. This statement confirms how the applicant has carried out the statutory consultation in compliance with the adopted SoCC, as per requirements of section 47(7) of the PA 2008. This applicant will now present this statement to the host local planning authorities in order to seek their agreement and acceptance that the statutory consultation was carried out as prescribed in the SoCC.
- 5.2. Going forward, the Applicant is seeking to continually engage with statutory bodies on any outstanding matters. The Applicant is also currently analysing the responses received as part of the statutory consultation and will have regard to all relevant responses made pursuant to Section 42, Section 47 and Section 48 of the PA2008 in accordance with Section 49 of the PA2008.
- 5.3. A Consultation Report will be produced as part of the DCO application. The Consultation Report will be prepared in accordance with section 37(3)(c) of the PA2008 and it will contain a summary of relevant responses received and how the Applicant has considered these.

Appendix 1

AoCM advice from North Lincolnshire Council and City of Doncaster Council

RE: Tween Bridge - adequacy of consultation milestone

[REDACTED]@northlincs.gov.uk>

Date Fri 27/06/2025 15:25

[REDACTED]@pegasusgroup.co.uk>



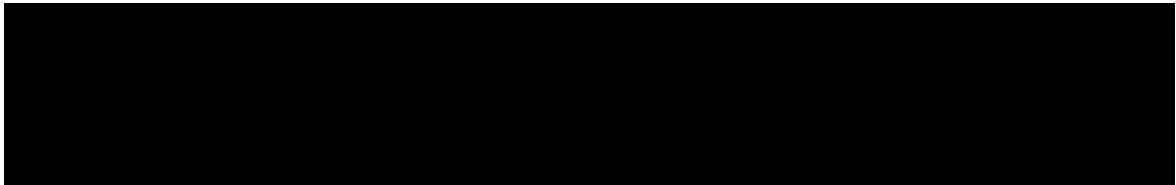
Thank you for your email.

North Lincolnshire Council (NLC) has taken the opportunity to review the provided draft Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report and are content that this document demonstrates that the Applicant has carried out statutory consultation in respect of the Tween Bridge Solar Farm project in accordance with their adopted Statement of Community Consultation, which was previously agreed by NLC. It is considered that the consultation undertaken meets the requirements of S47(7) of the Planning Act 2008 and that the Applicant has met their statutory obligation in this regard.


should you wish to discuss this matter further.



Development Management | Economy and Environment



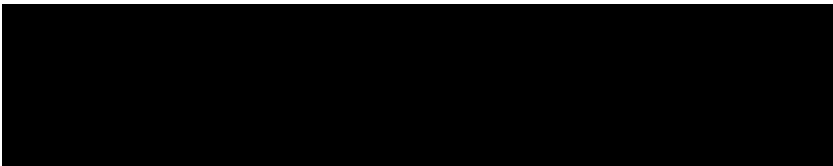
CAUTION: External Email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.



I attach for the consideration of City of Doncaster Council and North Lincolnshire Council the Applicant's draft Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report. Could you please consider the attached and provide your pre-application advice that the statutory consultation was undertaken as per the requirements set out in the SoCC.

Following the receipt of LPA advice, the Applicant will update the draft Adequacy of Consultation Milestone report before it is submitted to PINS as part of the DCO submission. Under section 55(4)(b) of the Planning Act 2008, at the acceptance stage, the Planning Inspectorate will then seek formal views from the local planning authorities about the adequacy of consultation.

ay 1 July 2025.



ry | Bristol | BS32 4QL



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Doncaster Council

Contact: [REDACTED]
Web: www.doncaster.gov.uk

BY EMAIL:

[REDACTED] [@pegasusgroup.co.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@pegasusgroup.co.uk)
[REDACTED] [@pegasusgroup.co.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@pegasusgroup.co.uk)

Date: 26 June 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

Proposed Tween Bridge Solar Farm Development Consent Order

Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report (AoCM) (dated June 2025), a copy of which was provided to City of Doncaster Council (CDC), by email on 10 June 2025.

CDC understands that the Planning Inspectorate will seek the formal views from the Council about the adequacy of consultation, under section 55(4)(b) of the Planning Act 2008 and that our representations at that time must be limited to whether the Applicant has complied with its duties under sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act, and not broader matters such as the merits of the application itself.

Nevertheless, at this point in the process, CDC understands that published guidance¹ makes clear that full and meaningful consultation and engagement, before the submission of an application is intended to result in a smoother pre-application experience for all stakeholders, lead to a well-prepared application including necessary and relevant detailed information and reduce the risk of changes to the application being proposed at too late a stage in the NSIP process. Disappointingly, at this juncture, CDC has serious concerns about the lack of any meaningful engagement having taken place to shape the project which is understood to be submitted shortly for Examination.

¹ [Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects : Advice on working with public bodies in the infrastructure planning process - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-working-with-public-bodies-in-the-infrastructure-planning-process)

Published guidance² also sets out that to inform the AoCM, the Applicant will make a written submission to the Inspectorate which establishes the consultation undertaken to date, confirms the approaches set out in the Statement of Community Consultation, and summarises the consultation responses and the way in which they are shaping the application. Importantly, it should include the views and any relevant supporting material from local authorities if available.

CDC submitted its formal response to the Statutory Consultation on 08 May 2025 and at the Summary and Recommendations set out as follows:

"I confirm that this letter forms City of Doncaster Council's consultation in response to your statutory consultation and notification pursuant to Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008. Taking into consideration the evidence of the PEIR and the contents of this letter, and the relative lack of engagement that has taken place to date, the Council strongly encourages the Applicant to positively engage with it on all relevant technical matters as the Environmental Impact Assessment progresses and before Environmental Statement stage submission.

Lastly, the Council would like to put on record that as one of the Host Authorities for this project, we are invited to participate in the DCO process and believe that our local knowledge and expertise can add significant value to positively shaping the project. This is not a statutory duty placed on us, but nevertheless, the Council wishes to take an active role in participating in the process. The Council does however expect to fully recover the costs of this involvement and in this respect has repeatedly asked the Applicant to recommence meaningful discussions regarding a Planning Performance Agreement. Full costs recovery is expected by the Council at every stage of this process, including during the discharge of Requirements should the application be consented. It is hoped that the Applicant recognises the value the Council can add to the process and engages accordingly going forward."

Since then, the only substantive correspondence it has had in respect of this project (other than in respect of a Planning Performance Agreement) has been limited to the following:

- Email from Ion Acoustics Ltd dated 09 June 2025 seeking to agree the location of noise sensitive receptors to be used in the noise and vibration assessment (see **Appendix 1**).
- Email from the Applicant's Agent regarding the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report itself dated 10 June 2025, advising of the 01 July 2025 deadline to respond, which was subsequently revised to 27 June 2025.
- Email from RSK LDE dated 19 June 2025 15:49 requesting records of any groundwater or surface water abstractions. CDC has since confirmed that this amounts to information under the Environmental Information Regulations (see **Appendix 2**).

As such, there have been no meaningful attempts to engage with CDC on any of the substantive issues arising from the project as set out in the Statutory Consultation Response, or even any approaches to discuss what was contained within that response. CDC therefore

² [Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus - GOV.UK](#)

does not consider that the Applicant can positively explain the way in they are addressing those matters in shaping the application. It is noted that no attempt to do so has been made in the current AoCM report before CDC for comment.

With the above in mind, CDC has significant concerns that consultation with the Council has been minimal, effectively only ensuring the minimum is achieved in terms of legal compliance. This is incredibly disappointing and appears to be dictated by the Applicant's determination to meet a self-imposed and accelerated deadline for submission for Examination rather than as a tangible opportunity to positively shape the project.

We would be grateful for your confirmation that you have submitted our views as part of your report in due course.

Yours faithfully

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of the Head of Planning.

Head of Planning
Directorate of Place
City of Doncaster Council

Appendix 1:

From: [REDACTED]@ionacoustics.co.uk>
Sent: 09 June 2025 13:35
To: Nuisance Team <NuisanceT@doncaster.gov.uk>
Subject: Tween Bridge Solar Farm Consultation - Noise Sensitive Receptor Locations

To Whom it May Concern,

I am currently undertaking the noise and vibration assessment for the proposed Tween Bridge Solar Farm and was hoping to engage with the Environmental Health team at the Council to agree the location of noise sensitive receptors used in the assessments.

The scheme is (to the best of my knowledge) fixed and we are currently preparing our reports for submission. Given the size of the scheme, I am not proposing to assess all receptors, though have tried to identify locations representative of the closest affected properties etc. I have divided scheme into residential and non-residential receptors, with the non-residential receptors including ecological receptors, heritage receptors and Public Rights of Way (PRoW).

The two categories of receptors are presented in the tables below:

Residential Receptors

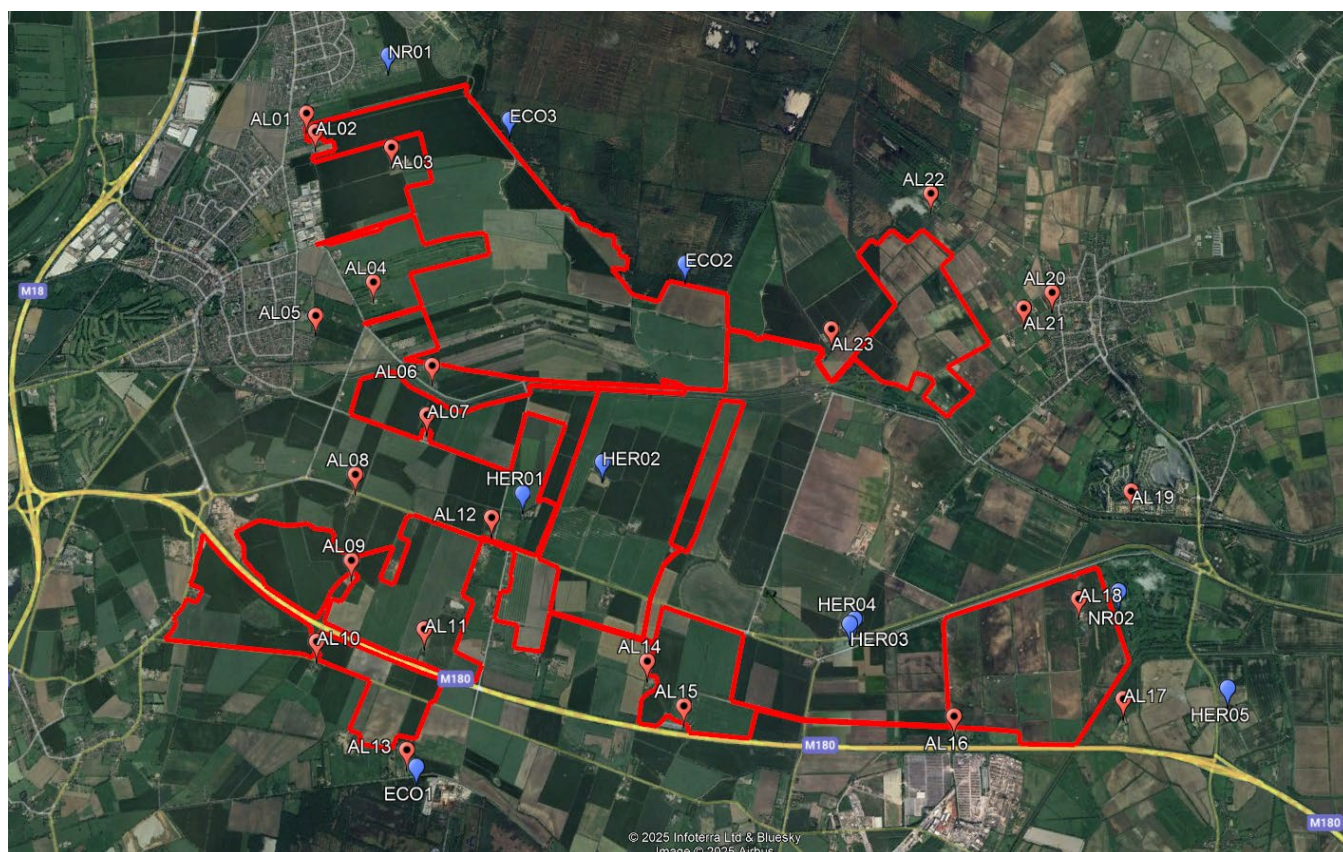
| Location Reference | Description | Easting | Northing |
|--------------------|----------------------|---------|----------|
| AL01 | Wilkinson Avenue | 469583 | 414814 |
| AL02 | Broadgate Farm | 469720 | 414513 |
| AL03 | Dairy Farm Cottage | 470431 | 414345 |
| AL04 | Sandmoor Farm | 470340 | 412999 |
| AL05 | St Georges Road | 469784 | 412657 |
| AL06 | Orchard Farm | 470903 | 412209 |
| AL07 | Clay Bank Farm | 470919 | 411675 |
| AL08 | Steam House | 470263 | 411135 |
| AL09 | Tolstem House | 470210 | 410262 |
| AL10 | Stouppers Gate Farm | 469937 | 409547 |
| AL11 | Crow Tree Farm | 470950 | 409667 |
| AL12 | Green Bank | 471584 | 410757 |
| AL13 | Coldstream Cottage | 470832 | 408576 |
| AL14 | Plains House Farm | 473046 | 409405 |
| AL15 | Goodcop Cottage | 473415 | 409001 |
| AL16 | Woodcarr Farm | 475956 | 408980 |
| AL17 | Common Farm | 477525 | 409147 |
| AL18 | Belton Grange | 477120 | 410043 |
| AL19 | 7 Lakes Holiday Park | 477617 | 411089 |
| AL20 | Windsor Road | 476923 | 412984 |
| AL21 | Marsh Road | 476632 | 412864 |
| AL22 | Rose Cottage | 475733 | 413959 |

| | | | |
|------|-------------------|--------|--------|
| AL23 | Moor Edge Cottage | 474721 | 412553 |
|------|-------------------|--------|--------|

Non-Residential Receptors

| Location Reference | Description | Easting | Northing |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|---------|----------|
| Eco1 | Thorne and Hatfield Moor SPA | 470991 | 408480 |
| Eco2 | | 473549 | 413218 |
| Eco3 | | 471526 | 414677 |
| Her01 | Grove House | 471841 | 410933 |
| Her02 | Sandhill Farm | 472595 | 411281 |
| Her03 | Dirtness Pumping Station | 474981 | 409795 |
| Her04 | Dirtness Cottage | 475011 | 409822 |
| Her05 | Mosswood Cottage | 478543 | 409244 |
| NR01 | Pig Hill Allotments | 470256 | 415253 |
| NR02 | Golf Course | 477516 | 410144 |
| PRoW | The Isle Greenway | | |
| PRoW | Peatlands Way Long Distance Walk | | |

I have included a rough screen grab of the assessment locations below. Please note, the red line boundary is not accurate but has been included to indicate the broad site area.



A couple of points to note:

- 1) The ecological receptors are representative points of Thorne & Hatfield Moor at closest approach to the proposed solar farm.
- 2) In consultation with the project Ecologist, they highlighted the sensitivity of the Humber Estuary area however, given the separation distance of at least 3km, noise and vibration during both the construction and operational phases is unlikely to result in any adverse impacts.
- 3) The identified PRowWs are only the named routes identified. There are a number of other smaller paths which are included in the assessments, but I can't find names for them.

The residential receptors would be assessed in accordance with BS4142 with appropriate correction factors for any tonal elements to the noise sources. Background sound levels have already been established in the area and indicate that noise levels, particularly towards the motorway, are quite high during both the day and night-time periods.

There is limited guidance on the potential noise impact on birds at the ecological receptors. Some information is available in the Institute of Estuarine & Coastal Studies (IECS) mitigation toolkit, though its not particularly detailed. If you know of any relevant guidance, I would be happy to include this in my assessment.

NR01, NR02 (Non-residential receptors) and the PRowWs are to be assessed against the noise criteria for outdoor living areas detailed in the WHO guidelines for community noise. This would quantify the potential for annoyance and should also achieve the criteria for 'Outdoors in parkland and conservation areas', by keeping the 'ratio of intruding noise to natural background sound' low. It is likely that noise levels during the construction phase will be higher however, these works would be temporary in nature and would not result in long term loss of amenity.


The heritage receptors are listed buildings and would be assessed in accordance with BS4142, assuming they are used as dwellings.

If know of any other receptors for inclusion in my assessment, please let me know ASAP. If you are happy with the above, please could you confirm by return email. Alternatively, I can be reached on the mobile number below if you wish to discuss anything further.

Many thanks and kind regards,


Principal Consultant

Georges House, 9-10 Bath Street, BRISTOL, BS1 6HL.


[@ionacoustics.co.uk](mailto:ion@ionacoustics.co.uk)
www.ionacoustics.co.uk

Ion Acoustics Ltd. Registered in England & Wales No. 5920418

Appendix 2:

From: [REDACTED]@rsk.co.uk>
Sent: 19 June 2025 15:49
To: Pollution Control <Pollution.Control@doncaster.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]@doncaster.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@doncaster.gov.uk>
Subject: Abstraction records query - Tween Bridge

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am trying to collate records of any groundwater or surface water abstractions for the attached site which sits between Thorne and Crowle, northeast of Doncaster. It is roughly centred at grid reference 473779E, 409500N, and postcode DN8 5SH. The site is the subject of an application for a solar development (Tween Bridge Solar Farm).

Please could you provide any records you hold of abstractions within this site, or within a 2km buffer of the red line boundary? I would be interested to know the location, use and source of any abstractions.

If you don't hold these records, would you be able to point me in the direction of someone who might be able to help please? I am also contacting North Lincolnshire Council as the search area extends into their jurisdiction.

I can provide the red line boundary as a shapefile if that assists at all.

Many thanks for your assistance,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Principal Hydrologist



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www.rsklde.com

18 Frogmore Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, HP3 9RT, UK
Switchboard: +44 (0)1442 437500

[REDACTED]

Appendix 3.1 – Non-Statutory Consultation Report



Tween Bridge Solar Farm

A Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project in the Energy Sector

Non-Statutory Consultation Report

March 2025



Visit: www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk
Email: info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk



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Executive Summary.

This Non-Statutory Consultation Report details the informal consultation exercise undertaken by RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Limited (“the Applicant”) prior to the start of the statutory pre-application consultation for Tween Bridge Solar Farm. It summarises the processes undertaken, the responses received and explains how the Applicant has taken these comments into consideration before moving forward to the statutory phase of pre-application consultation.

The non-statutory community consultation process took place over a period of 56 days from Wednesday 4th October 2023 to 23:59 on Wednesday 29th November 2023. On 4th October 2023 a newsletter containing details of the proposal was distributed to over 12,769 address points surrounding the site. Two public exhibitions events were held in Thorne and Crowle respectively on October 16th and 17th and an online webinar was held on November 1st. Consultation documents consisting of the Draft Preliminary Environmental Information Report (Draft PEIR) were available in hard copy to view at several location points (Crowle Community Hub, Hatfield Community Library and Thorne Library) during the Non-Statutory Consultation period as well as being publicly accessible on the Tween Bridge Solar Farm Scheme website. The City of Doncaster Council and North Lincolnshire Council (as the ‘relevant local authorities’) and prescribed consultees were sent a notification on the commencement of consultation on 4th October 2023.

Throughout the Non-Statutory Consultation process the Applicant has liaised closely with the relevant local authorities and other relevant bodies to refine the Scheme in regard to supporting assessments, methodology of the assessments and refinements to the design layout. This front-loading process of undertaking a design review following the Non-Statutory Consultation period ensured that key design changes could be made prior to the statutory consultation phase. The Applicant has continued to consult with the local planning authorities (LPAs) and other stakeholders during the intervening period between the end of the Non-Statutory Consultation and the start of the Statutory Consultation.

1. Introduction.

- 1.1 The Applicant is undertaking a two-phase consultation process for the Proposed Development comprised of a Non-Statutory Consultation phase followed by a statutory consultation phase. The non-statutory community consultation process took place over a period of 56 days from Wednesday 4th October 2023 to 23:59 on Wednesday 29th November 2023. The aim of the Non-Statutory Consultation phase was to introduce the Scheme to the local community and statutory consultees and provide an early opportunity for feedback on the proposals to help shape the future design of the Scheme. The comments provided during this period have been considered by the Applicant and the Scheme has been refined to take account of these accordingly where possible.
- 1.2 The subsequent Statutory Consultation period will then allow for further comments from the local community, statutory consultees and other interested parties to assist the Applicant in making further refinements to the Scheme. The statutory consultation has not yet taken place and will begin on 20 March 2025, delivered in line with the requirements of the Planning Act 2008.
- 1.3 This Non-Statutory Consultation Report provides a summary of the Non-Statutory Consultation activities undertaken prior to the Statutory Consultation as required under the 2008 Act.

Overview of the Consultation Process to date.

- 1.4 The below table provides a brief summary of the engagement activities undertaken prior to, and as part of, the Non-Statutory Consultation phase to raise awareness of the Scheme with the stakeholders and to invite comments on the proposals. More details on the Non-Statutory Consultation events are provided in Section 3 of this document.

Table 1.1 – Non Statutory Consultation Engagement Methods

| Engagement type | Activity | Date | No of attendees | Audience/stakeholders attending |
|----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Consultation announcement | Early engagement with Members of Parliament Offer a private briefing ahead of the consultation. | 26 th September 2023 | – | Letters sent to Ed Miliband MP, Nick Fletcher MP, Andrew Percy MP |
| Consultation advertising | Updated website live | 2 nd Oct 2023 | – | All audiences |
| | Press release sent out | 2 nd Oct 2023 | – | Thorne Times Goole Times Scunthorpe Telegraph Doncaster Free Press |

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|--|------------------------------|----|---|
| | Publicity (newsletters posted to residents) | 4 th October 2023 | - | All households within the PCZ (12,769 residences) |
| | Consultation notification letter distributed to consultees | 4 th Oct 2023 | - | Section 42 consultees Section 43 consultees Non prescribed consultees |
| | Letter sent to relevant District Councillors, Town/Parish Councils with an invitation to attend private briefings before the consultation events | 4 th Oct 2023 | - | East Riding of Yorkshire Council [REDACTED] [REDACTED] North Lincolnshire Council [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Doncaster Council [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Directly affected Parish Councils Thorne-Moorends Council, Crowle and Ealand Council, Hatfield Council, Belton Parish Council |
| | First newspaper advert published | 5 th Oct 2023 | - | Thorne Times Goole Times Scunthorpe Telegraph Doncaster Free Press |
| | Second newspaper advert published | 12 th Oct 2023 | - | Thorne Times Goole Times Scunthorpe Telegraph Doncaster Free Press |
| Consultation Activity | Consultation event One: Thorne Rugby Club, Thorne | 16 th Oct 2023 | 72 | Residents, political representatives and businesses |
| | Consultation event Two: Crowle Community Hub | 17 th Oct 2023 | 46 | Residents, political representatives and businesses |

| | | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------|----|--|
| | Online Webinar | 1 st Nov 2023 | 11 | Residents, political representatives and businesses |
| | Presentation to Thorne and Moorends Town Council | 14 th Nov 2023 | 10 | Thorne and Moorends Town Councillors, plus members of the public in attendance |
| | Presentation to Crowle Town Council | 12 th Dec 2023 | 8 | Crowle Town Councillors, plus members of the public in attendance |

1.5 The various engagement activities undertaken by the Applicant outside of the Non-Statutory Consultation to date are summarised in Table 1.2 below.

Table 1.2 – Summary of pre-application engagement to date.

| Consultation Stage | Key Dates | Description |
|--|--|--|
| Engagement with LPAs, Local Cllrs, MPs and Town/Parish Councils. | 9 th November 2022 | Inception meeting with the City of Doncaster Council |
| | 21 st November 2022 | Inception Meeting with North Lincs Council |
| | 27 th January 2023 | Meeting with Nick Fletcher MP |
| | 20 th February 2023 | Meeting with Ed Miliband MP |
| | 6 th June 2023 | Inception meeting with Thorne and Moorends Ward Councillors |
| Inception meeting with the Planning Inspectorate | 19 th December 2022 | Inception meeting with the Planning Inspectorate |
| EIA Scoping request | Submitted 31 st January 2023 Scoping Opinion Adopted 13 th March 2023 | Scoping Opinion Application submitted by the Applicant to the Planning Inspectorate under Regulation 10 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) for the Scheme |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Non-Statutory engagement and consultation | 4 th October 2023 to 29 th November 2023 | Informal consultation stage with public and statutory consultees through public exhibitions, online webinar, website, newspaper publications, presentations to Town Councils and leaflet drop to introduce the preliminary design to the local community. |
| Additional meeting with PINS | 24 th January 2025 | Update on proposals and project programme to PINS. |
| Agreeing the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) | February 2025 | The SoCC for statutory consultation was approved by City of Doncaster Council and North Lincolnshire Council in February 2025. |

1.6 The engagement with key local representatives, outlined in Table 1.1 above, was undertaken prior to the Non-Statutory Consultation phase. These meetings with the relevant local authorities, Local Councillors and MPs ensured they were informed of the scheme ahead of the Non-Statutory Consultation, and allowed for their thoughts and feedback on the Scheme to be provided during the early stages of the process.

1.7 This engagement has continued throughout the pre-application process.

Document Structure

1.8 The Report is structured as follows:

Section 2: Regulatory Context

1.9 This section sets out the regulatory duty to consult in regard to applications for a Development Consent Order made under the Planning Act 2008.

Section 3: Non-Statutory Consultation Process

1.10 This section describes the Non-Statutory Consultation process undertaken prior to the statutory consultation and publicity stages required by sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008.

Section 4: Results of the Non-Statutory Consultation

1.11 This section sets out the feedback received from participants during the Non-Statutory Consultation.

Section 5: Response to the Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback

1.12 This section outlines the feedback received during the Non-Statutory Consultation along with comments from the Applicant and its project team.

Section 6: Actions Taken from Consultation Feedback

- 1.13 This section sets out the actions taken in response to the feedback received during the Non-Statutory Consultation.

Section 7: Conclusion

- 1.14 This section provides a summary of the Non-Statutory Consultation process.

Data Protection Act

- 1.15 In compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018, the names and details of private individuals have been redacted from this document and supporting appendices.

2. Regulatory Context.

- 2.1 The requirement for a Consultation Report is set out in Section 37(3)(c) of the Planning Act 2008 where it states that an application for an order granting development consent must be accompanied by a Consultation Report.
- 2.2 Section 37(7) of the Planning Act 2008 defines the Consultation Report as a report giving details of:
- a) what has been done in compliance with sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008 in relation to a proposed application that has become the application,
 - b) any relevant responses, and
 - c) the account taken of any relevant responses.
- 2.3 This Non-Statutory Consultation Report has been prepared to sit alongside a subsequent full Consultation Report which will demonstrate how the Applicant has complied with the requirements set out in the Planning Act 2008 ahead of the DCO Application submission.
- 2.4 The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has published a guidance note on the pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP)¹. This note confirms that the NSIP consenting process is intended to be **front-loaded**. The guidance highlights the importance of the pre-application stage, confirming that *"The pre-application stage should allow the likely effects of a project to be fully consulted upon, with the design of the project evolving up to the point of application submission."*
- 2.5 The guidance recognises that *"For more complex proposals, an applicant **may choose to conduct a non-statutory round of consultation** (for example considering options) before undertaking a statutory round of consultation, or they may choose to run a multi-stage statutory consultation process."*
- 2.6 The Planning Inspectorate has also produced further guidance which relates specifically to the Consultation Report². This states that an applicant should describe the Non-Statutory Consultation that took place to the same level of detail as the statutory consultation, explain how comments received influenced the project and explain the nature and purpose of any targeted Non-Statutory Consultation (e.g. the rationale for the geographic extent of the consultation).
- 2.7 As with the Statutory Consultation Report, this Non-Statutory Consultation Report seeks to:
- provide a general description of the Non-Statutory Consultation process undertaken including the timeline;

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-pre-application-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects#pre-application-consultation>

² <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-the-consultation-report>



- set out how the Applicant has complied with the requirements to consult local communities;
- set out any relevant responses to the Non-Statutory Consultation;
- provide a description of how the design of the Scheme has been informed and influenced by taking account of those responses; and
- provide an explanation as to why any responses advising on changes to the Scheme were not taken forwards.

3. Non-Statutory Consultation Process.

Overview.

- 3.1 This section provides a summary of the Non-Statutory Consultation work undertaken by the Applicant prior to the statutory consultation and publicity stages as set out under the Planning Act 2008.
- 3.2 The Non-Statutory Consultation for the Scheme took place from 4th October until 23:59 on 28th November 2023.
- 3.3 Various engagement methods were used throughout to ensure details of the Scheme could reach as wide an audience as possible. This included public exhibitions with details of these events advertised in four local newspapers, a leaflet drop to over 12,000 addresses, presentations to Parish Councils, meetings with MPs and a dedicated project website.

Objectives.

- 3.4 The key objectives of the exercise were to:
- Introduce residents, the local community and wider stakeholders to the Scheme in more detail.
 - Engage with the local community at an early stage.
 - Engage with statutory consultees at an early stage to ensure technical advice could be taken into account early on in the design process.
 - Brief politicians and elected representatives on the proposals.
 - Understand early consultee views and allow stakeholders to shape the Scheme during the design process.
 - Provide an early indication of the proposals ahead of the Statutory Consultation and the characteristics of the Scheme that the Applicant will be seeking feedback on.

Key Audiences.

- 3.5 As part of the process, informal consultation took place with the following stakeholders:
- Statutory consultees
 - The City of Doncaster Council and North Lincolnshire Council, including Leaders and relevant portfolio holders

- MPs³
- Directly affected councillors
- Directly affected Parish Councils
- Local community groups
- Environmental groups
- Media
- Residents and businesses

Summary of Non-Statutory Consultation Activities.

- 3.6 As part of the Non-Statutory Consultation exercise, the following activities were undertaken to ensure comprehensive stakeholder engagement and allow those interested in the Scheme to find out more, get in touch and ask questions.

Public Exhibitions

- 3.7 Two public exhibitions were held to inform the local community about the Scheme and give them the opportunity to talk to the Applicant and its project team. Two exhibition events were held to provide the opportunity for members of the public to be able to attend at least one of these events. The timing of these allowed people to visit the exhibition after normal working hours. Venues were chosen in both Thorne and Crowle to maximise attendance at these events.
- 3.8 The Applicant was proactive in communicating with visitors throughout the exhibition events and ensured that at least three members of the project team were present at each event. Details of the events were as follows:
- Community Exhibition Event 1 – **Monday 16 October 2023, 2:00pm – 7:00pm @** Thornesians RUFC, Church Balk, Thorne DN8 5BU
 - Community Exhibition Event 2 – **Tuesday 17 October 2023, 2:00pm – 7:00pm @** Crowle Community Hub, Market Place, Crowle DN17 4LA
- 3.9 Posters were displayed at each venue, guiding attendees to the exhibition rooms.
- 3.10 The exhibition materials included:
- Exhibition Boards – The Exhibition Boards (Appendix 3.1) covered a wide range of subjects including background information on the Applicant, the reasoning behind why the location was chosen, a predicted project timeline, terminology definitions, details on environmental enhancements resulting from the Scheme, employment

³ The MPs consulted were Ed Miliband, Nick Fletcher, and Andrew Percy.

opportunities and benefits to the community. These boards were evenly spaced around the exhibition hall space.

Appendix 3.1 – Consultation Boards

- Key Document Printouts – A full copy of the Draft PEIR was available at the public exhibitions, as well a standalone copy of the associate plans and photomontages. Various key documents were provided to allow the Applicant to more effectively disseminate information and engage with attendees.
- Feedback Forms – Feedback Forms (Appendix 3.2) were made available to all attendees. All attendees were encouraged to fill in the forms with their comments and leave them at the event.

Appendix 3.2 – Feedback Forms

- Leaflet and brochure – information leaflets were available for attendees to take away with them from the event.

Appendix 3.3 – Leaflet

- Seating area – A tabled seating area was also provided to allow visitors to discuss the proposals and fill out the feedback forms.

3.11 Attendees were encouraged to ask questions at the events and to submit any comments or additional questions via the website, email or feedback forms. Feedback forms were kept within a sealed box at the event.

3.12 In addition to the two in person public exhibition meetings, an online webinar was held on **Wednesday 1 November 2023 between 6:30pm – 7:00pm**. Details of this were provided on the advertisement which was displayed at four different information points. The poster includes a QR code which enabled the user to scan to sign up to register in advance for the meeting. It was also possible to sign up through a form on the website:
<https://tweenbridgesolar.co.uk/have-your-say/>

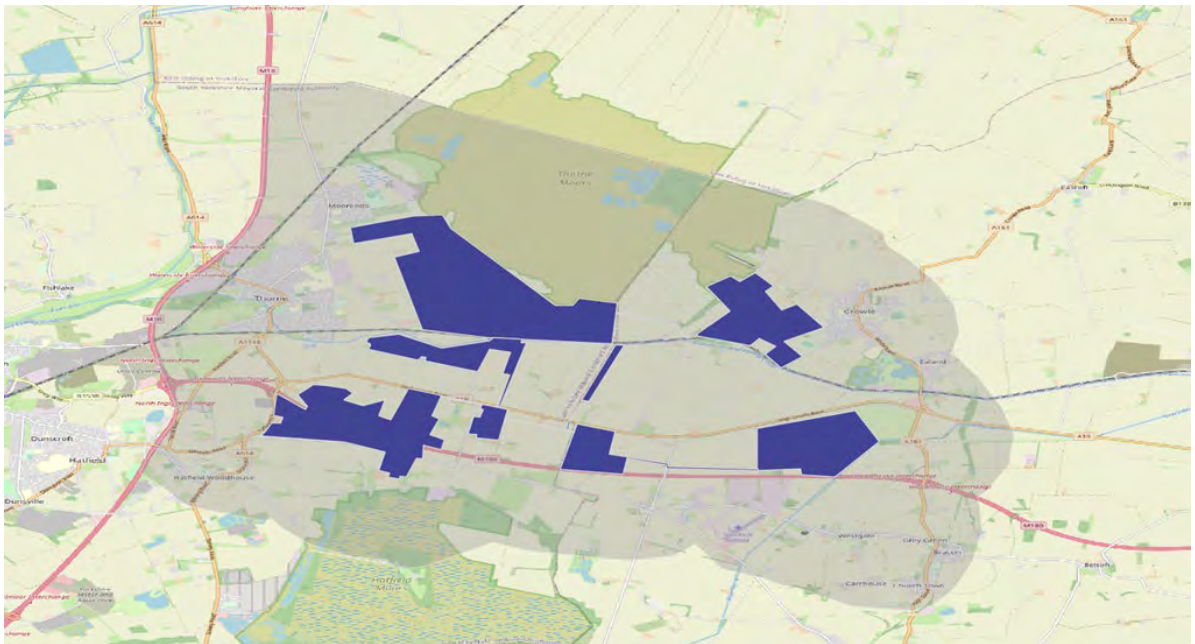
Appendix 3.4 – Advert

Leaflet Drop

3.13 Prior to the public exhibition sessions and online webinar, members of the public were invited to attend these sessions through the distribution of leaflets posted in advance of the events. These leaflets were distributed to over 12,769 addresses surrounding the Site. The invitation leaflet provided initial information on the Scheme, and invited members of the public to the upcoming public exhibition sessions as well as providing details of the website and contact details.

Appendix 3.3 – Leaflet

3.14 The leaflet drop was a key part of the engagement process, allowing information about the Scheme to reach a wide audience as well as providing an invitation to the informal public exhibition meetings. The below map extract shows the extent of the area across which the leaflets were distributed.



Leaflet Drop Area (not to scale)

- 3.15 The leaflet drop area extended a minimum distance of 1km from the Scheme. Where deemed appropriate the zone was extended further in order to not sever roads or communities. The leaflet provided guidance on where to find/ask for information about the Scheme and provided a dedicated email address for consultation feedback to be sent to.

Press Release

- 3.16 On 2nd October 2023 the Applicant sent out a press release regarding the proposed development which contained information on the Scheme, details of the exhibition events and contact details for the project team. The press release was sent to the Doncaster Free Press, Goole Times, Scunthorpe Telegraph and Thorne Times as well as being published on the Scheme website.
- 3.17 As a result of the press release, the Thorne Times published an article titled "[Solar Farm Consultation Open](#)" on 12th October 2023. The Doncaster Free Press published a similar article, also on the 12th October 2023 titled "[Public consultations to be held over plans for huge solar farm near Doncaster](#)".

Appendix 3.5 – Thorne Times Article

Appendix 3.6 – Doncaster Free Press Article

Media Advertisement

- 3.18 On Thursday October 5th 2023, the Scheme was promoted through quarter page advertisements in the following local newspapers: the Doncaster Free Press, Goole Times, Scunthorpe Telegraph and the Thorne Times.
- 3.19 A second round of the same newspaper advertisements was published in the above listed newspapers in the following week on 12th October 2023.

Appendix 3.7 – Press Advertisements

Website

- 3.20** A dedicated website was created for the Scheme and was maintained throughout the Non-Statutory Consultation phase and following the consultation close. The website provides accessible, up-to-date information about the Scheme and provides contact details for the Applicant. The website address is: <https://tweenbridgesolar.co.uk/>
- 3.21** Throughout the months of October and November the website received 6,572 total unique visitors.

Letter Drop/Email Notifications

- 3.22** In addition to local residents, key local stakeholders and third parties were invited to the exhibition events via email, or letter if no email address was found for the stakeholder. The letter/email provided basic information about the Scheme, details of the exhibition sessions, and contact details for the Applicant where questions and comments could be directed. Each letter was sent via Royal Mail First Class Recorded Delivery.

Appendix 3.8 – Stakeholder Letter and Schedule of Recipients

Briefings and Presentations

- 3.23** In addition to the above, a series of meetings have taken place with key stakeholders. These include:

Table 3.1 – Schedule of Non-Statutory Consultation Meetings

| Meeting | Date | Detail |
|---|--------------------------------|---|
| Presentation to Thorne and Moorends Council | 14 th November 2023 | Presentation to 10 attendees, including Thorne and Moorends Town Councillors, plus members of the public. |
| Presentation to Crowle Town Council | 12 th December 2023 | Presentation to 8 attendees, including Crowle Town Councillors, plus members of the public. |

Interested Parties Letter

- 3.24** Non-Statutory Consultation letters were also sent out to all prescribed consultees as set out in sections 42 and 44 of the Planning Act 2008.

Appendix 3.9 – Interested Parties Letter

4. Results of the Non-Statutory Consultation.

- 4.1 Overall, a mixed response was received to the Scheme at the local community level. Details of the responses to the various consultation methods are set out below.

Public Exhibition

- 4.2 As set out above, two separate non-statutory public exhibitions were held on 16th and 17th October in communities within close proximity to the site (one in Crowle and one in Thorne). Both exhibitions ran from 2:00pm-7:00pm.
- 4.3 The invitation to these events was distributed to 12,769 addresses including properties throughout the areas of Thorne, Moorends, Crowle, Hatfield Woodhouse, Belton and Ealand.
- 4.4 The number of those in attendance was recorded at each of these exhibition events. In total 72 people attended the event at Thorne RUFC, and 46 people attended the event at Crowle Community Hub. The below photographs were taken during the events and show how the rooms were set up:



Figure 4.1 – Picture of Public Exhibition 16th October 2023, Thornesians RUFC



Figure 4.2 – Picture of Public Exhibition 16th October 2023, Thornesians RUFC

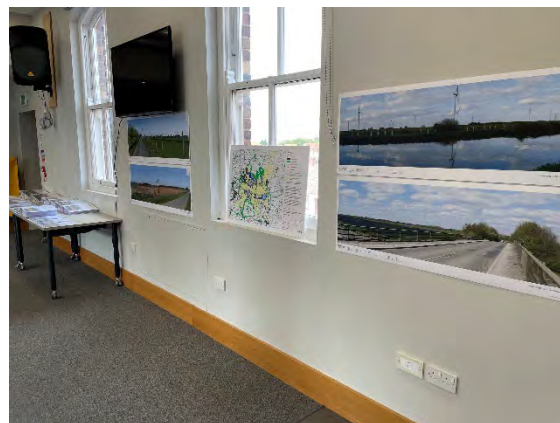


Figure 4.3 – Picture of Public Exhibition 17th October 2023, Crowle Community Hub



Figure 4.4 – Picture of Public Exhibition 17th October 2023, Crowle Community Hub

- 4.5 Each event was attended by at least three members of the Applicant's project team at any one time. This ensured that visitors were able to complete the feedback forms in their own time and liaise with the project team if they wished.

Public Exhibition Analysis

- 4.6 The Applicant recorded all feedback received (whether positive, negative or neutral), during the exhibitions.
- 4.7 Overall, the public exhibition events were well publicised and attended, with 118 people visiting the two dedicated events. Apart from a small minority, people welcomed the fact that the Applicant published more detailed information and provided opportunities to talk to its project team and ask questions.
- 4.8 In total, 40 feedback forms were received during the Non-Statutory Consultation period.

Analysis of Completed and Returned Feedback Forms

- 4.9 Overall feedback on the proposals was mixed. Of those who answered the question "*In principle, are you supportive of our proposals for Tween Bridge Solar Farm?*" respondents answered as follows:
- Support – 6
 - Neither support nor oppose – 6
 - Oppose – 10
- 4.10 It is worth noting that objectors are more likely to be vocal and fill in forms than supporters who may not be as invested in making their feelings known.
- 4.11 Key points made in support of the proposals were as follows:
- The importance of creating sufficient capacity to generate energy from renewable sources.
 - The Scheme will improve the ecological value of the Site.
- 4.12 Key concerns raised in these responses can be summarised into the following themes:
- Concerns over food security relating to the loss of agricultural land
 - Visual Impacts
 - The scale of the Scheme
 - Flooding/drainage
 - Whether the Applicant would consider purchasing residents properties
 - The proximity of solar panels to residences

- Potential electrical disturbance as a result of the Scheme
- Concerns over construction traffic routing through Crowe and Moorends
- Whether the green space would be publicly accessible
- Concerns about vandalism
- Negative impacts on property values

Other Responses

- 4.13 In addition to the feedback received at the consultation events, other responses were received directly through email or via meetings engaging with the Parish Councils, MPs and prescribed consultees.
- 4.14 These responses are set out in Table 5.1 & 5.22 of Section 5 below.

City of Doncaster Council

- 4.15 On 4th October 2023 the Applicant submitted a request for informal pre-application advice to the City of Doncaster Council. The details submitted as part of this exercise comprised the Non-Statutory Consultation documents and the draft Preliminary Environmental Impact Report and plans available on the Scheme website.
- 4.16 The City of Doncaster Council provided a response on 20th November 2023. The Council raised concerns regarding the use of BMV land but noted that the Scheme represents an opportunity for the Applicant to strengthen the positive cumulative benefits (and minimise negative cumulative impacts) with proponents of other renewable projects across Doncaster and Lincolnshire.
- 4.17 The Council's full response can be read in Appendix 3.10 of this document.

Appendix 3.10 – Informal Doncaster Council Pre-Application Response

North Lincolnshire Council (NLC)

- 4.18 On 4th October 2023 the Applicant submitted a request for informal pre-application advice to NLC. The details submitted as part of this exercise comprised the Non-Statutory Consultation documents and the draft Preliminary Environmental Impact Report and plans available on the Scheme website.
- 4.19 NLC provided a response on 29th November 2023 confirming that the Council understood the need for the Scheme and did not wish to raise any objection to the principle of the Scheme at this stage.
- 4.20 NLC's full response can be read in Appendix 3.11 of this document.

Appendix 3.11 – Informal NLC Pre-Application Response

5. Response to Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback.

- 5.1 Following the close of the Non-Statutory Consultation period, all responses received were reviewed and compiled by the Applicant. This provided an overview of the key issues raised and an opportunity for the Applicant to address these concerns ahead of the statutory consultation exercise.

Responses from public.

- 5.2 The table below outlines the feedback received from members of the public along with comments from the Applicant and its project team.

Table 5.1 – Summary of responses from the public

| Topic | Summary of comments received | Applicant Response |
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| Request to include their land within the Scheme | Several local residents / landowners contacted the Applicant to request if they could include their land within the proposals. This included land to form part of the solar and ancillary infrastructure as well as land to contribute to the Scheme ecological enhancements. | <p>The Applicant discussed with the landowners and the land was added to the draft Order Limits.</p> <p>In some cases, the Applicant agreed to include the land within the Scheme. There were some situations where the land was not considered suitable and did not form part of the Scheme due to the environmental context, for example flooding.</p> |
| Use of Agricultural Land | The majority of the comments received related to the use of agricultural land for the Scheme. It was suggested this would have a negative impact on food production and that brownfield land would be more appropriate. | The growing understanding of the clear need and support for renewable energy developments is evidenced by the high volume of planning appeal decisions which allow the development of solar farms on sites containing BMV land. There are numerous appeal decisions which recognise the benefits of renewable energy generation and the temporary nature of the proposals, as well as their ability to introduce a dual use on agricultural land. The need for renewable energy and the benefits attributed to it has consistently weighed in favour over any |



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| | | <p>perceived impacts of introducing solar arrays on BMV land. This need for further renewable energy sources is clearly outlined National Policy Statement EN3 which confirms that <i>“solar is a key part of the government’s strategy for low-cost decarbonisation of the energy sector.”</i></p> <p>The Scheme will not result in the ‘loss’ of agricultural use as a solar farm can be operational in parallel with a retained agricultural use, such as sheep grazing. The Scheme would also not result in the permanent loss of agricultural land as the application seeks a time-restricted period, for a period of up to 40 years, after which the infrastructure would be removed. The site would then be restored to existing land use (with a predicted improvement in soil quality and condition as the land would have been rested).</p> |
| Scale of the scheme | A number of concerns were related to the overall scale of the scheme. | <p>The need for additional renewable energy generation is supported by national policies set out in Section 14 (Planning for climate change) of the NPPF, National Policy Statements EN1 (Overarching National Policy Statement for energy) and EN-3 (Renewable Energy Infrastructure). This Scheme will generate a significant amount of renewable energy (up to 800MW). Solar also has an important role in delivering the government’s goals for greater energy independence. The British Energy Security Strategy states that government expects a five-fold increase in combined ground and rooftop solar deployment by 2035 (up to 70GW).</p> <p>Once fully operational, the solar farm would have the potential to provide enough low-carbon energy to meet the equivalent annual need of over 370,000 homes⁴. The Scheme would also be a time limited consent after which it would be decommissioned and removed. Whilst</p> |

⁴ calculation based on 2021 generation, and assuming average (mean) annual household consumption of 3,509 kWh, based on latest statistics from Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (Subnational Electricity and Gas Consumption Statistics Regional and Local Authority, Great Britain, 2021, Mean domestic electricity consumption (kWh per meter) by country/region, Great Britain, 2021



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| | | <p>it may be the case that the Scheme covers a significant surface area, in the case of ground-mounted solar panels it should be noted that with effective screening and appropriate land topography, the area of visual influence can be appropriately minimised. The proposed layout incorporates a number of in-built mitigation measures such as the consideration of offsets of the proposed solar modules at the outset of the Scheme to provide physical separation from nearby residential properties and public highways. The effects on receptors at residential properties will be considered in detail as part of the Residential Amenity Study and will be included in the subsequent chapter of the Environmental Statement. Imbedded mitigation includes consideration of an initial 100m minimum offset of panels from residential properties. The maintenance strategy for the hedgerows and woodland planting would be to let them grow out with minimal intervention in the early stages of the Scheme. Later, the hedgerows would generally be maintained at a height of 3m – 3.5m. The woodland copses would be allowed to grow taller to provide more substantial visual breaks in certain strategic locations.</p> <p>A full mitigation strategy will be progressed and will be included in detail in the Environmental Statement that will accompany the application submission.</p> |
| Visual Impacts | Some respondents raised concerns about the view of the development from their properties. | <p>The Applicant is continuing to review and consider the visual impacts of the Scheme and how these can be mitigated through careful siting and appropriate screening measures.</p> <p>As the proposals for the Scheme evolve, opportunities to enhance mitigation which combine landscape and ecological measures will be explored. This has informed the Landscape Strategy that is included in Figure 6.5 of Chapter 6 PEIR.</p> |

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| Ecological Impacts | Several commenters raised concerns in relation to ecological matters | <p>Comprehensive ecological surveys have been undertaken since 2022 and are continuing to be undertaken to inform this assessment. With the aim of providing the relevant information regarding habitats along with protected species, such as breeding and non-breeding birds, badger, otter, water voles, amphibians and invertebrates. These surveys were used (and continue to be used, as results are returned) to inform the iterative design of the Scheme and avoidance of ecological features of value, such as hedgerows, woodland and watercourses, has been a core design principle.</p> <p>The Scheme includes the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) for habitats, which combined with other physical biodiversity measures, including but not limited to bat boxes, bird boxes, bee hives, and habitat creation, will provide new and enhanced features that can be used for breeding, foraging, overwintering and refuge by a range of species, from birds and bats to amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates. The cessation of the use of agricultural chemicals across the Site (following removal from farming use) will provide further benefit, in particular for invertebrate populations.</p> |
| Flood Risk | A small number of respondents expressed concern regarding flood risk. | <p>The impact of the Scheme on existing surface water drainage patterns on site has been assessed in detail in the Flood Risk Assessment (Technical Appendix 10.1 of Chapter 10). This includes an assessment of water quality although it is noted that many of the details of water quality management will follow upon completion of a detailed surface water drainage strategy for the site.</p> <p>Flood Risk has been taken into account throughout the design process. Mitigation measures on Site are proposed to include raising proposed solar panels and infrastructure above the 1 in 1000 year tidal flood event levels</p> |

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| | | <p>In addition to the above mitigation measures, surface water arising within the Site boundary itself will be managed with the proposed surface water drainage strategy for the Scheme.</p> <p>Overall, with the proposed mitigation measures and drainage strategy in place, it is considered that the site is at Low risk of flooding from surface water.</p> |
| Construction Traffic Routing | Some respondents raised concerns related to the routing of construction traffic and impacts on local roads. | <p>A Construction Traffic Management Plan will be agreed with the relevant highways authorities which will be followed throughout the construction phase of the Scheme. This will ensure there would not be an unacceptable impact on highway safety nor will the cumulative impacts on the road network be severe.</p> <p>Details of the proposed Construction Traffic Routing are set out in Section 4 of Chapter 12 (Transport and Access) of the PEIR.</p> |
| Green space | It was suggested that the green space within the Scheme should be made publicly accessible. | Open spaces within the site will not be publicly accessible. Both for security reasons and so they can serve their purpose as open areas for wintering bird mitigation. |
| Electrical disturbance | One respondent raised concerns about electromagnetic frequencies and the potential for electrical disturbance of radio frequencies from the existing wind farm substation, as well as the potential for further disruption from the proposed solar farm substation. | The Applicant's tender specifications require that equipment and the design should comply with the EMC Directive/ Electromagnetic Compatibility Regulations 2016. Therefore, it is not expected that there will be any limits to be exceeded from the solar farm nor equipment for the connection to the GB Grid. |
| Vandalism | A number of residents mentioned the potential for vandalism of the solar array. | The design will ensure that the compounds and solar equipment are secure to minimise the potential for damage to occur through criminal |

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| | | <p>activity. Embedded mitigation will include fencing, CCTV cameras and lighting in critical areas.</p> <p>There will also be a commissioning phase of testing undertaken prior to the operation phase to ensure that all equipment is operating correctly. The Scheme will be remotely managed and this will include intruder security alert.</p> |
| Property Values | Some residents raised concerns about the negative implications the Scheme would have on property values. | <p>The Landscape Strategy (Figure 6.5, in Chapter 6 of the PEIR) has been established to appropriately mitigate potential impacts on the amenity of private properties.</p> <p>The Applicant's landscape consultant visited individual properties, where requested by the resident(s).. The visual assessment from individual properties informed the evolution of the layout by tailoring buffers between the Scheme's solar and ancillary infrastructure and properties. The visits to the individual properties also informed the Scheme's Landscape Strategy by identifying areas where enhanced planting, for example additional tree or increased height of trees, could be included in the scheme to reduce intervisibility. Such measures mitigate any negative implications that the Scheme may have on property values. The effects on receptors at residential properties will be considered in detail as part of the Residential Amenity Study and will be included in the Environmental Statement. Imbedded mitigation includes consideration of an initial 100m minimum offset of panels from residential properties.</p> |
| Proximity of panels to residences | Several comments mentioned the proximity of the solar panels to residences. | <p>The Scheme has been designed, insofar as possible, to reduce impacts on individual properties.</p> <p>The effects on receptors at residential properties will be considered in detail as part of the Residential Amenity Study which will be included in a subsequent chapter of the Environmental Statement which will</p> |



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| | | accompany the DCO application. Imbedded mitigation includes consideration of an initial 100m minimum offset of panels from residential properties. This has been refined and further adjusted in response to individual property locations, existing screening vegetation and local landscape character. |
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Responses from Parish Councils.

5.3 The table below outlines the feedback received from Parish Councils along with comments from the Applicant and its project team.

Table 5.2 – Summary of Parish Council Responses

| Parish Council | Summary of comments received | Applicant Response |
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| Crowle and Ealand Town Council (20.11.2023) | <p>Crowle & Ealand Town Council raised the following areas of concern:</p> <p>Use of agricultural land and impacts on food production. Farmland also important for generating income in the area.</p> <p>Suggested that brownfield sites would be better suited than farmland.</p> <p>Suggested that although spare grid capacity was a factor for site selection, the electricity will be sent nationwide so this could not be a key factor.</p> <p>Concerns about disruption and damage to roads as a result of the construction phase.</p> <p>Concerns regarding extra traffic and footfall as a result of the EV potentially reduced cost charging points</p> <p>No evidence of construction timeframe to indicate it will be completed in 2.5 years.</p> <p>Concerns regarding the lifespan of the PV panels and Battery systems</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Scheme would not result in the permanent loss of agricultural land as the application seeks a time-restricted period, for a period of up to 50 years, after which the infrastructure would be removed. The site would then be restored to existing land use (with a predicted improvement in soil quality and condition as the land would have been rested). Chapter 15 of the PEIR has assessed the schemes impacts on the temporary use of agricultural land.• There are no brownfield sites suitable or available to accommodate the proposals.• The connection agreement with National Grid dictates where renewable energy generation can be connected into the grid network.• Concerns regarding impacts of construction traffic are acknowledged and any potential impacts will be appropriately managed through the provisions of the DCO should the DCO be confirmed. Chapter 12 of the PEIR is supported by Technical Appendix 12.2 which provides a Draft Outline Construction Traffic |



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| | <p>Potential hazardous runoff from the panels onto farmland/waterways</p> <p>Concerns that the development may increase flood risk in the area</p> <p>Negative impacts on local wildlife</p> <p>Potential fire risk from BESS and no details of equipment to address this risk on site or how specialist training will be given to local fire crews/how local people will be informed of fires at the site.</p> <p>Requested further details on the community benefits.</p> <p>Suggested jobs created by this project are not detailed. Would be specialist and no apprenticeship scheme offered.</p> | <p>Management Plan (OCTMP). The final OCTMP will be submitted with formal DCO application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Applicant is exploring the option of providing an EV charging point with the Order Limits (Land Area A) to the immediate east of Moor Edges Road and north of Moor Owners Road. As the facility would be for the use of the local community and due to the small scale nature of the proposals, vehicles are not expected to divert from the strategic road network or elsewhere outside of Thorne to use the EV charging points. As such, any vehicles utilising the facility are expected to already be on the highway network in the locality and therefore there will be no additional vehicle movements.• The construction timeframes are based on the Applicant's extensive experience in developing solar and BESS developments.• The battery storage containers would be replaced after 20 years. Details of the lifespan of proposed infrastructure are addressed in detail in Chapter 2 of the PEIR.• The solar panels do not generate hazardous waste. The assessment of likely significant affects from contaminations are considered in Chapter 10 of the PEIR. To mitigate any potential impacts, surface water runoff will be directed towards sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS) that would provide water quality treatment to mitigate the risk of water pollution. . <p>The proposals are not considered to increase flood risk. However, the PEIR is supported by a Hydrology Chapter</p> |
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| | | <p>(Chapter 10) which is accompanied by a Flood Risk Assessment (Appendix 10.1 of Chapter 10). Chapter 6 of the Flood Risk Assessment summarises the proposed mitigation measures as part of the scheme. Mitigation measures include, but are not limited to, raising the minimum height of infrastructure, located in areas of predicted 1 in 1,000 yr surface water flooding, above the flood depths.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Applicant will continue to engage with the relevant bodies (local authorities and Natural England) regarding the assessment of impact on biodiversity and the ways in which the scheme can maximise the enhancements.• To protect the battery energy storage system, it will be equipped with an FFSS (Fire Fighting Suppression System) inside each container. Fire safety is considered in Chapter 16 of the PEIR and a battery safety management plan will be included in the ES.• The Applicant has progressed their proposals on a community benefit fund. The Applicant continues to welcome suggestions of how best this can be invested into the local community.• The Applicant is preparing an Outline supply Chain, Employment and Skills Plan which will accompany the DCO application, as a Technical Appendices to Chapter 11 of the ES. This will outline the strategy that will be adopted by the Applicant for employment opportunities associated with the scheme. |
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| Belton Parish Council (24.10.2023) | <p>The Tween Bridge Solar Farm consultation was discussed at a recent meeting of Belton parish Council. The Councillors resolved at that meeting to record their objections to the scheme. The Councillors felt that although more sustainable energy forms were needed the siting of this farm on good quality agricultural land was not acceptable and would request that brownfield sites are considered.</p> | <p>The Applicant considered if there were any suitable and available brownfield sites to accommodate the proposals at the site identification stage. However, there were not.</p> <p>The PEIR assesses the scheme's potential impacts on agricultural land. The Scheme proposes to introduce a dual use of renewable energy generation with sheep grazing.</p> <p>The Scheme would also not result in the permanent loss of agricultural land as the application seeks a time-restricted period, for a period of up to 50 years, after which the infrastructure would be removed. The site would then be restored to existing land use (with a predicted improvement in soil quality and condition as the land would have been rested).</p> |
| Thorne-Moorends Town Council (29.11.2023) | <p>During the meeting, Thorne and Moorends Council raised several concerns and questions about the proposed development:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The works plan appears blocky with insufficient areas dedicated to ecological enhancements. There is a request for information on the percentage of the site allocated for environmental enhancements.2. Questions about the number of vehicles traveling to and from the site daily during construction.3. A suggestion to find an alternative to construction access route A, which passes by a school and nursery, and a query on why the colliery route cannot be used instead.4. Concerns about Burtwistles access road being too narrow and weight restrictions for access over the canal.5. A request to restrict vehicle movements during peak times. | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Non-Statutory Consultation illustrated the early/outline stages of the Scheme's ecological proposals. This has evolved into more considered areas. The proposed are still however in draft and the details are progressing in discussion with the local authorities and Natural England. This includes assessment of the proposals on designated ecological sites in the area. The statutory consultation welcomes feedback on the proposals and this will be considered when finalising the design of the Scheme to be formally submitted for determination by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State). |

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| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Criticism of the community benefit offer, noting that landowners will receive £167 million in rent while the community will get only £2 million. There is a suggestion to offer cheaper bills to local residents, similar to other energy developments. 7. A query on whether the council owns land within the red line boundary and if profits from this land can go directly to the council as an alternative community benefit proposal. 8. Questions about the percentage of jobs that will go to local residents and the possibility of engaging with schools and job centres to train locals where there is no local skillset available. 9. Mention of a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) directly adjacent to the site. 10. Noting that all the notices were blown down in the storm. 11. Concerns about the viability of sheep farming due to competition from Australian lamb and the productivity of the land being taken out of the food supply. 12. A suggestion to submit the project as multiple TCPA applications to give the council more say in the development process. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Vehicle trips for the construction phase are assessed in Chapter 12 of the PEIR and the supporting Draft Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (Draft OCTMP) in Appendix 12.2. The role of the OCTMP is to assess the potential impacts of the construction phase on the highway network and outline a strategy to reduce any impacts. 3. The project team have continued their engagement with the highways authorities and the construction access routes have been agreed. The proposed route through Thorne comes via Coulman Street. This avoids the main entrance and buildings for Trinity Academy and Happy Days Community Childcare. 4. The Applicant has updated the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (OCTMP) in response to the latest Scheme and is provided at Appendix 12.2 of Chapter 12 of the PEIR. The OCTMP includes the proposed construction vehicle routes at Figure 2.1. The proposed construction route has been discussed and agreed with the local highway authorities. 5. The Construction Traffic Management Plan will restrict the operational hours and thus the associated vehicle movements. 6. The community benefit fund has been revisited and significantly increased from £2m to £12.8m. The Applicant welcomes stakeholders' feedback on how the community benefit fund can be invested in the local community. Unfortunately, the scheme cannot directly |
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| | | <p>impact the cost of energy for properties in proximity to the scheme.</p> <p>7. The draft Order Limits (application boundary) has been amended to remove this area of land from the scheme, as it was not considered necessary for the scheme to include this land. The Landscape Strategy proposes planting along the boundary of the site to filter views from the PRow into the site.</p> <p>8. The Applicant is committed to the enhancement of job opportunities created by the Scheme. It is proposed that opportunities for employment and skills will be supported through the preparation of an Outline Supply Chain, Employment and Skills Plan ("OSCESP") (the preparation and author of which is to be the Applicant). The OSCESP will be submitted with the DCO application and the delivery of a final OSCESP secured by a DCO requirement. The use of an OSCESP is intended to enhance the beneficial employment effects during the construction and decommissioning phases to result in a major beneficial residual effect. It is acknowledged that the major beneficial residual effect relates to development phases that are temporal in nature, however, the legacy effect of upskilling the local workforce, where possible, are expected to result in a long-term significant benefit at the District scale. Measures could include, but will not be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Targets for employment of minimum proportion of workers from within an agreed spatial area, where possible. |
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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Local employment opportunities in landscaping, fencing, security, plant hire and operators, and materials including aggregate and concrete.- Opportunities for apprenticeships, traineeships and back to work opportunities.- Partnering with local schools, sixth form colleges, other further education colleges, universities, Jobcentre Plus and PeoplePlus (and/or organisations specific to the local study area) to develop local skills and raise awareness of renewable technologies, in particular solar and energy storage. <p>9. The Applicant is aware of the environmental designations around the scheme. The Draft Order Limit lies outside designated sites with the exception of Thorne & Hatfield Moors Special Protection Area (SPA), Thorne Moor Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Thorne, Crowle and Goole Moors Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Hatfield Chase Ditches SSSI. Whilst the Moors SPA/SAC/SSSI lies within the Draft Order Limit, they are outside the development footprint. The Scheme's impact on ecological designations are considered in Chapter 7 of the PEIR.</p> <p>10. The Applicant acknowledged feedback on the weather effecting the site notices. The mechanism for erecting site notices has been amended to improve their stability.</p> <p>11. Sheep grazing is an established agricultural practice with operational solar farms. Sheep are present at solar farms</p> |
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| | | <p>around the country. The proposals to temporarily pause the growth of crops is assessed in Chapter 15 of the PEIR.</p> <p>12. The Applicant recognises the Council's request to divide the Scheme into smaller proposals so they can be determined by the Council. However, this is beyond the Applicant's control. The legislation is clear that proposals for energy generating stations above 50MW constitute as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects and therefore must follow the determination process outlined in the Planning Act 2008.</p> |
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Responses from Prescribed Consultees.

5.4 During the Non-Statutory Consultation, we had 33 responses from prescribed consultees. A summary of the responses is provided in Table 5.3 below. A full copy of each consultee response can be provided upon request.

Table 5.3 – Summary of Statutory Consultee Responses

| Consultee | Summary of response | Applicant Response |
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| East Riding of Yorkshire (13.12.2022) | Requested continued updates from the project team. | East Riding and Members have been kept updated on the Scheme, and will continue to be updated. |
| North Lincolnshire Planning (13.12.2022) | Appreciated early member engagement on the project. Requested continued updates from the project team. | North Lincolnshire Council and Members have been kept updated on the Scheme, and will continue to be updated. |



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| Nick Fletcher MP for Don Valley | Confirmed interest in a meeting. | <p>A meeting between the project team and Nick Fletcher MP was arranged and held on 27th January 2023.</p> <p>Details of the Scheme were discussed as well as the Scheme progress up to that point. MP was generally supportive but raised matters about the use of agricultural land. Don Valley is a former constituency. It ceased to exist following the boundary change in 2024.</p> |
| West Lindsey District Council (01.02.2023) | West Lindsey District Council responded to the consultation asking for the Scheme's postal address and postcode so they could register the project on their system. No further consultation response was received. | The postal address and postcode for the project was issued to West Lindsey District Council. |
| Office of Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP (22.02.?) | Confirmed interest in a meeting. | <p>A meeting between the project team and Ed Miliband MP was arranged and held on 20th February 2023.</p> <p>Details of the project were discussed as well as the project progress up to that point. MP expressed support of the Scheme.</p> |
| Cllr [REDACTED] (06.10.2023) | Asked why there was no consultation event in Moorends. | <p>A presentation event to Thorne and Moorends Council took place on 14th November 2023 including Thorne and Moorends Town Councillors, plus members of the public.</p> <p>One of the non statutory public exhibition events was held in close proximity to Moorends, namely at the Thornesians RUFC, which is located just over a mile to the south of Moorends. Because of this, it was not</p> |



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| | | <p>considered necessary to hold a separate event in Moorends. The event at Thornesians RUFC was appropriately publicised in the local area as detailed in Section 3 of this report.</p> <p>An online webinar also took place on 1st November 2023 to allow those who could not attend the in-person events to stay informed.</p> |
| Cadent Gas (04.10.2023) | Confirmed Cadent has no pipeline assets within the project order limits. As such Cadent has no comments on the project, however reserve their position subject to any future changes to the Order Limits. | No response. |
| NATS (04.10.2023) | NATS operates no infrastructure within 10 km of the site in question. Accordingly, it anticipates no impact from the proposals and has no comments to make on the application. | No response. |
| Northern Gas Networks (06.10.2023) | No assets within the project order limits. No comments. | No response. |
| Yorkshire & Humber Drainage Board (11.10.2023) | Confirmed the site falls outside the area covered by Yorkshire & Humber Drainage Board our consortium. It does however fall within the Doncaster East Internal Drainage District. | No response. |
| Historic England (19.10.2023) | <p>The proposal would lead to an application for which Historic England would be a statutory consultee.</p> <p>In this instance we do not consider it necessary for us to participate in pre-application discussions. We consider</p> | No response. |

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| | that our concerns raised during the EIA Scoping Stage have been addressed. | |
| National Highways (30.10.2023) | <p>Recommended reference to policies to include in the transport statement and collision data for certain junctions with an assessment of the likely impact of the development on road safety.</p> <p>Suggestions of details to include within the Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP).</p> <p>Once the directional drill is completed, a Geotechnical Feedback Report must be completed, showing plans referenced to National Grid of the depth and position of the drill shot and the launch and receiving pits.</p> <p>Recommended the preparation and submission of a Glint and Glare Assessment.</p> | <p>The project team have continued their engagement with the highways authorities and the construction access routes have been agreed.</p> <p>Vehicle trips for the construction phase are assessed in Chapter 12 of the PEIR.</p> <p>The Applicant acknowledges National Highways' requirement for a Geotechnical Feedback Report following the directional drilling. This can be controlled through a requirement of the DCO.</p> <p>A Glint and Glare Assessment will be prepared for the final scheme and will accompany the ES supporting the DCO application.</p> |
| The Coal Authority (14.11.2023) | <p>Whilst the proposed development site falls within the coalfield, it is located outside the Development High Risk Area as defined by the Coal Authority.</p> <p>On this basis, the Planning team at the Coal Authority have no comments to make.</p> | No response. |
| The Health and Safety Executive (16.11.2023) | Advised the CEMP should address measures that will be taken during the construction phase to minimise | The Scheme will be supported by a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to mitigate and control risks that many arise from the construction phase (noise, dust, etc). |

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| | <p>dust/particulates and road traffic emissions to nearby receptors.</p> <p>Request for information on the assessment of potential Glint and Glare arising from the scheme.</p> <p>Request the ES to consider air quality impacts arising if there were a fire at the site.</p> <p>Request for an assessment of the potential public health impact of EMFs arising from any electrical equipment associated with the scheme. Or explanation why EMFs can be scoped out.</p> | <p>A Glint and Glare Assessment will be undertaken once the scheme has considered consultee responses through the statutory consultation. The Glint and Glare Assessment will accompany the ES submitting with the DCO application.</p> <p>The Applicant's tender specifications require that equipment and the design should comply with the EMC Directive/ Electromagnetic Compatibility Regulations 2016. Therefore, the Applicant does not expect there to be any limits to be exceeded from the solar farm nor equipment for the connection to the GB Grid. Air quality impacts arising from a potential fire on site would be addressed within the Environmental Statement to be submitted as part of the application submission.</p> |
| Canal and River Trust (20.11.2023) | <p>Raised concerns regarding visual impacts of the scheme on the setting of the canal.</p> <p>Confirmed mesh fencing for boundary treatments would be less impactful.</p> <p>Confirmed new planting next to the canal should be native species and planted at the appropriate time of year.</p> <p>Temporary construction lighting, including along the canal should be kept to a minimum so as not to disturb wildlife.</p> | <p>We are continuing to review and consider the visual impacts of the Scheme and how these can be reduced through careful siting and appropriate screening measures.</p> <p>As the proposals for the Scheme evolve, opportunities to enhance mitigation which combine landscape and ecological measures will be explored. The Applicant has continued discussions with the relevant bodies (local authorities and Natural England) regarding the assessment of impact on biodiversity and the ways in which the scheme can maximise the enhancements.</p> <p>The Scheme will be supported by a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to mitigate</p> |

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| | <p>A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) could offer an appropriate measure to address risks to the canal.</p> <p>The Trust welcome the siting of cables underground to minimise any impact on the visual appearance of our waterway corridors.</p> <p>Our consent as Navigation Authority and Landowner would be required for the installation of a new cable below the Stainforth & Keadby Canal.</p> | <p>and control risks that many arise from the construction phase (noise, dust, and construction lighting etc).</p> <p>The consent of the Canal and River Trust will be sought for the installation of a new cable below the Stainforth & Keadby Canal.</p> |
| Yorkshire Water (22.11.23) | <p>Confirmed that a water main is laid across field which may be impacted by the location of solar panels. Require an access strip of 3m width either side of the main (total 6m) to be left clear, in order that maintenance and inspection activities may be undertaken.</p> <p>Measures to control the storage, handling and disposal of pollutants should be put in place prior to and during construction and included in the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).</p> <p>Confirmed a surface water management strategy in the final version of the PEIR is acceptable to YW.</p> | <p>The Scheme has been designed to take account of the easement.</p> <p>. The solar panels do not generate hazardous waste. The assessment of likely significant affects from contaminations are considered in Chapter 10 of the PEIR. To mitigate any potential impacts, surface water runoff will be directed towards sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS) that would provide water quality treatment to mitigate the risk of water pollution.</p> <p>An outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy has been prepared and is included in the Flood Risk Assessment (Technical Appendix 10.1 of Chapter 10 of PEIR). Details of this strategy will be confirmed as part of the detail design information to be approved under the DCO.</p> |
| South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue | <p>Provided advice as to what the emergency response plan should include.</p> | <p>To protect the battery energy storage system, it will be equipped with an FFSS (Fire Fighting Suppression</p> |



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| | <p>Provided design measures to be considered which would assist and enable the crews to carry out their role.</p> <p>Suggested a direct 24 hour contact number should be provided to allow SYFR to contact the monitoring station for the site and request further information during emergencies.</p> <p>Recommended to arrange a Site Specific Risk Inspection (SSRI) before the site goes 'live'.</p> | <p>System) inside each container. Fire safety access is addressed in the layout and emergency response procedures will be put in place for the operational phase of the Scheme. A battery safety management plan will be included in the Environmental Statement that will accompany the application submission.</p> <p>The detailed layout for the BESS will take account of the design measures advised by South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue.</p> |
| Network Rail (24.11.2023) | <p>Concerns related to glint and glare causing distraction to train drivers and how this may be mitigated.</p> <p>Confirmed that the routing of construction traffic (including HGVs/abnormal loads) and subsequent operational site traffic will require further consideration and discussion with Network Rail if such routes take in railway assets such as bridges (with low clearance/weight restrictions) and railway level crossings.</p> | <p>A Glint and Glare Assessment will be prepared for the final scheme and will accompany the DCO application. The Glint and Glare Assessment will form a Technical Appendices to Chapter 16 of the Environmental Statement. The Glint and Glare Assessment will consider the potential impacts of the scheme on the rail network immediately adjacent to the scheme.</p> <p>A Construction Traffic Management Plan will be agreed with the relevant highways authorities. This will include an agreed route for construction traffic which must be adhered to throughout the construction phase of the scheme. Where low clearance/weight restrictions are in place this will be addressed in the construction route through vehicle restrictions or re-routing.</p> |

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| Anglian Water 29.11.2023 | <p>The scheme area is outside of the area served by Anglian Water.</p> | No response. |
| Natural England (29.11.2023) | <p>Confirmed the Draft Order Limits include areas within Thorne Moor SAC/Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA designated site boundaries.</p> <p>Further advice is also provided on the initial information/assessment provided in the PEIR. This was in relation to: air quality, water quality, in combination assessment, mitigation measures during construction/operation, construction and operational management/mitigation plans, protection buffers, Non-Breeding Bird Survey Report, Glint and Glare, Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA, Thorne Moor SAC and Hatfield Moor SAC, Thorne, Crowle & Goole Moors SSSI, Hatfield Moor SSSI, Hatfield Chase Ditches SSSI, Humber Estuary SSSI, protected species, BNG and enhancement, BMV Land and construction mitigation.</p> | <p>The advice received from Natural England has been considered by the Applicant and has been factored into the progression of the PEIR and details of the Scheme.</p> <p>Comprehensive ecological surveys have been undertaken since 2022 and are continuing to be undertaken to inform the PEIR and, subsequently the ES, with the aim of providing the required information regarding habitats along with protected species. This includes breeding and non-breeding birds, badger, otter, water voles, amphibians and invertebrates. These surveys were used (and continue to be used, as results are returned) to inform the iterative design of the Scheme and avoidance of ecological features of value, such as hedgerows, woodland and watercourses, has been a core design principle.</p> <p>The proposed measures to secure a BNG for habitats included in the Scheme, including bird boxes, bat boxes, hedgehog boxes, insect hotels, beetle banks, bee hives, combined with landscaping measures, will provide new and enhanced features that can be used for breeding, foraging, overwintering and refuge by a range of species, from birds and bats to amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates. The cessation of the use of agricultural chemicals across the Draft Order Limits (following removal from farming use) will provide</p> |

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| | | further benefit, in particular for invertebrate populations. |
| Ministry of defence (29.11.2023) | Confirmed that following review of the application documents, the proposed development falls outside of MOD safeguarded areas and does not affect other defence interests. The MOD, therefore, has no objection to the development proposed. | No response. |
| South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (29.11.2023) | MCA are supportive in principle of renewable energy generation in South Yorkshire. | No response. |
| North Lincolnshire Council (29.11.2023) | North Lincolnshire Council's response discusses various topics related to the impact of the Tween Bridge project including, landscape and visual impacts, ecology, protected species/breeding birds, BNG, Heritage, water resource, vehicle movements, PRoW, Noise and vibration and air quality. Overall, it confirms that North Lincolnshire Council understands the need for the proposed project and does not wish to raise any objection to the principle of the proposed scheme at this moment in time. | The Applicant has reviewed the advice from North Lincolnshire Council and this has been considered within the evolution of the scheme and the assessment carried out in the PEIR. The Applicant is continuing to engage directly with officers at the Council to discuss their advice and work towards agreeing the methodology for the full Environmental Impact Assessment that will accompany the DCO application. |
| Environment Agency (29.11.2023) | The Environment Agency highlighted several key points in their response: | Detailing on the cable route for the Scheme is still being progressed. At the time of writing the location of trenchless cable works requiring horizontal directional drilling at crossing points is unknown but likely required near Maud's Bridge for the Stainforth |



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| | <p>Support for BNG,</p> <p>Potential impacts on watercourses</p> <p>Requested further details on the cabling</p> <p>Confirmed that peat pockets on site should be protected/enhanced.</p> <p>In relation to flood risk suggested a sequential approach to the site layout to reduce the risk of flooding to the more water-sensitive infrastructure.</p> <p>Raised concerns related to potential pollutants from a BESS fire and how this could be mitigated.</p> <p>Confirmed the development is located near four historic landfill sites, with potential risks from landfill gas.</p> | <p>and Keadby Canal and South Humberside Main Line Railway, at the M180 motorway at Hatfields Chase, and at High Level Bank Road (the A18).</p> <p>The requirement to minimise disturbance of peat soils during construction and maintenance in order to minimise release of carbon dioxide and maximise the carbon balance savings of the Scheme is considered in Chapter 14 (Air Quality) of the PEIR. Potential effects of disturbance on carbon dioxide release are most likely to occur during the construction period. Given the current degraded ('wasted') soils at the shallow depths anticipated for construction of arrays across the majority of the peaty soils areas, and the current agricultural operations, it is considered that minimal additional disturbance will occur. Where peaty soils occur in areas for compounds, BESS or substations, micro siting to reduce potential carbon release will be considered at detailed design stage. Reuse of excavated soils and minimising waste will provide further mitigation. Peat stability will be assessed during detailed design at any specific locations where existing geological data or intrusive investigation indicates a sufficient peat thickness would be intersected by the proposed construction, such as at new accesses, tracks or where structures are proposed. Critical areas will be identified and protocols for groundworks activities in these areas developed.</p> <p>Flood Risk has been taken into account throughout the design process. Mitigation measures on site are proposed to include raising proposed solar panels and infrastructure above the 1 in 1000 year tidal flood</p> |
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| | | <p>event levels. A defensive bund is also proposed to be sited around the infrastructure on Site. Overall, with the proposed mitigation measures and drainage strategy in place, it is considered that the site is at Low risk of flooding from surface water.</p> <p>To protect the battery energy storage system, it will be equipped with an FFSS (Fire Fighting Suppression System) inside each container. This includes a smoke detector, control panel, alarm device, exhaust pipe and bump head. It uses a clean fire suppression gas to minimize the second loss. Before gas blow-out, the system controller will send a signal to the HVAC main power switch to stop working as well as isolating the fans and thus achieve fire suppression process.</p> <p>Any potential effects of hazardous runoff are considered in the PEIR and will be assessed in detail through the ES.</p> <p>The Ground Conditions Phase 1 Desk Study (Technical Appendix 9.1 of Chapter 9 in the PEIR) has been updated following review of the landfill sites. Aspects require further updates once all the environmental data within the draft Order Limits has been sourced.</p> |
| UK Health Security Agency (29.11.2023) | Suggestions as to what measures the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) should include e.g. emissions from battery failures and combustion products specific to this type of installation, the potential public health impact of Electromagnetic Fields (EMFs) from electrical equipment. | <p>Any potential effects of hazardous runoff are considered in the PEIR and will be assessed in detail through the ES.</p> <p>The Applicant has acknowledged the advice of what measures should be included in the CEMP. These are</p> |



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| | | <p>being considered and the CEMP will accompany the ES when the DCO application is submitted.</p> <p>Fire safety is considered in Chapter 16 of the PEIR and an Outline Battery Safety Management Plan will be included in the ES.</p> <p>The Applicant's tender specifications require that equipment and the design should comply with the EMC Directive/ Electromagnetic Compatibility Regulations 2016. Therefore, it is not expected that there will be public health impacts of EMFs beyond what is considered acceptable in the Regulations.</p> |
| RSPB (29.11.2023) | Concerned about potential negative impacts of the proposal upon the Humber Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA, Thorne Moors SAC and Hatfield Moors SAC. | <p>The Applicant has continued discussions with the relevant bodies (local authorities and Natural England) regarding the assessment of impact on biodiversity and the ways in which the scheme can maximise the enhancements.</p> <p>The baseline survey data across the site has been used to inform the ecological strategy for the Scheme. This includes quantifying appropriate areas to be created for different species of birds.</p> <p>Impacts on statutory designated sites (with mobile qualifying features) within 10km of the Draft Order Limits have been scoped into the PEIR for detailed assessment. This will include an assessment of the potential for significant effects on functionally linked land associated with such sites. A Habitats Regulations Assessment will be undertaken in order to</p> |

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| | | <p>provide specific information in regard to internationally designated sites and their qualifying interests including the Humber Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar, and Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA. The Habitats Regulations Assessment will accompany the ES.</p> <p>Ecology and Nature Conservation is further explored in Chapter 7 of the PEIR.</p> <p>The scheme has been designed to avoid adverse impacts on these areas through</p> |
| National Grid (01.12.2023) | National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) expressed interest in further consultation regarding the Development due to the proximity of their existing or future assets. | Project Team will continue discussions with NGET during the statutory consultation period and seek to agree in inclusion of relevant provisions within the draft Development Consent Order prior to the submission of the application. |
| Yorkshire Wildlife Trust | <p>Supports measures to reduce consumption of non-renewable energy sources, including the use of sustainable technologies, and acknowledge that there may be environmental impacts as well as benefits, depending on where a development is sited.</p> <p>Raised concerns about the impacts of the Scheme on designated sites, peatlands and ground nesting birds and therefore wish to register an objection to the scheme.</p> | <p>The Applicant has continued discussions with the relevant bodies (host authorities and Natural England) regarding the assessment of impact on biodiversity and the ways in which the scheme can maximise the enhancements.</p> <p>The engagement with the host authorities and Natural England has informed the ecological strategy for the Scheme. The Applicant is committed to further discussions with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, and other stakeholders, now they have established a more detail ecological strategy.</p> |



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| | | <p>Chapter 9 of the PEIR assesses the site's presence of peat. Where peaty soils are present, these are classed as 'wasted' due to prolonged drainage and agriculture. The limited degree of disturbance caused by array piles is unlikely to create any further enhanced drainage or wasting due to the installation. groundwater within the deeper organic deposits beneath the pin piles would be unaffected.</p> <p>Given the current degraded ('wasted') soils at the shallow depths anticipated for construction of arrays across the majority of the peaty soils areas, and the current agricultural operations, it is considered that minimal additional disturbance will occur. Where peaty soils occur in areas for compounds, BESS or substations, micro siting to reduce potential carbon release will be considered at detailed design stage. Reuse of excavated soils and minimising waste will provide further mitigation.</p> <p>The PEIR provides information on the potential for effects on protected species including nightjar and bats as well as habitats and peat soils, with full detail to be provided within the ES.</p> <p>Chapter 7 of the PEIR considers the ecological value of peat within the scheme. No evidence of peat/heath/bog mire communities was recorded during the habitat survey. With no construction activities occurring within the SAC boundaries, including the area within the Draft Order Limits, there will be no direct construction impacts (such as habitat loss or land take) on the SAC.</p> |
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| | | <p>The baseline survey data across the site has been used to inform the ecological strategy for the scheme. This includes quantifying appropriate areas to be created for different species of birds. A significant population of ground nesting species was recorded within the Draft Order Limits shown in the previous iteration of the PEIR. A ground-nesting bird mitigation strategy is proposed that will utilise a combination of both on and off-site mitigation measures, comprising the provision of large areas of open, permanent pasture managed sensitively for skylark, the principles of which are set out in the accompanying outline LEMP. Alternatively, some of the mitigation will be provided through off-site skylark plots. Once operational, solar farms function with little intervention or disturbance required. This is limited to occasional maintenance visits and ongoing management of grassland and other habitats around the Draft Order Limits, including cutting or grazing the grassland and periodic hedgerow cutting. Habitat creation, which forms part of the operational design, includes extensive areas of grassland attractive to a range of species which maintains habitat connectivity within and around the Draft Order Limits and provides enhanced opportunities for wildlife.</p> |
| Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (14.12.2023) | With regard to the above, I am writing to confirm that RMBC do not have any comments to make on this proposal due to the distance from our administrative boundary. | No response. |



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| Asset Protection National Grid (18.12.2023) | Provided advice in relation to stand offs and the safe clearances. | Project Team will continue discussions with APNG during the statutory consultation period and seek to agree in inclusion of relevant provisions within the draft Development Consent Order prior to the submission of the application. |
| City of Doncaster Council, Sustainability Unit – Natural Environment 0.09.2024) | Advised the Applicant that the scheme should positively align with the Council's Biosphere proposal for the Doncaster & Humberhead Levels. | The Applicant has acknowledged the comments and has engaged in dialogue with the Council through meetings and written correspondence on this matter. The ecological strategy for the site has adopted the themes of the Council biosphere proposals by ensuring that the scheme supports and encourages connectivity of biodiversity and in particular from designated ecology sites. |

6. Actions Taken from Consultation Feedback

- 6.1 This section summarises the actions that have been taken by the Applicant to address the comments received during the Non-Statutory Consultation.
- 6.2 The design document which will accompany the formal DCO Application submission will illustrate the design evolution following from the early stages of the Scheme through to the submitted Application.
- 6.3 The actions taken following Non-Statutory Consultation are, as follows:
1. Analysed the responses received during the Non-Statutory Consultation.
 2. Amendments made to the draft Order Limits. This includes the addition and removal of land from the Scheme for renewable energy infrastructure and ecological enhancement areas, as well as the inclusion of the National Grid Substation Assessment Area, and inclusion of construction accesses.
 3. The Applicant has also visited a number of the private residential properties, following requests from residents. This has resulted in amending the Scheme's layout to positively respond to feedback from local residents. This feedback has also informed and enhanced the Landscape Strategy for the Scheme to mitigate against potential visual amenity impacts.
 4. Amended the Scheme's layout in response to the flooding data. This has resulted in a combination of both tracking and fixed solar panels across the scheme. Similarly, the location of the Scheme's substations have evolved in response to the ecological strategy and flood risk data for the Site.
 5. Arranged meetings with local MPs to discuss the proposals including how they have evolved from the Non-Statutory Consultation to present day.
 6. Continued to engage with a number of prescribed consultees to work towards agreeing the methodology of assessment for the Scheme.
 7. Prepared an enhanced ecology mitigation and enhancement strategy in collaboration with the local authorities and Natural England.
 8. Completed additional studies to inform the PEIR accompanying the statutory consultation, following the advice of prescribed consultees.
 9. Retained proposals for EV vehicle charging points in response to feedback expressing views in favour of EV charging points.
 10. Permissive pathways and a bird viewing gallery have been introduced to the Scheme in response to feedback from the local community regarding access into the Site. While the open spaces to be used for ecology mitigation cannot be publicly accessible in order to serve their purpose as areas for wintering bird mitigation, the introduction of permissive pathways around the Site and a bird viewing gallery was considered an appropriate means to address feedback concerning access to the Site.



11. Increased the Community Benefit Fund from £2m to £12.8m across the duration of the operational solar farm
12. Ongoing discussions with the heritage officers at the local authorities regarding the appropriate and proportionate site assessment methodology.
13. Prepared material for the Statutory Consultation that is tailored to provide details on the common themes raised during the Non-Statutory Consultation.

6.4 The latest Scheme design is presented in Figure 2.1 within PEIR Chapter 2.

7. Conclusion.

- 7.1 This report has summarised the work carried out by the Applicant in preparing and undertaking a comprehensive stakeholder Non-Statutory Consultation exercise.
- 7.2 The material prepared in support of the Non-Statutory Consultation provided key messages and a suite of materials to effectively communicate the various elements of the Scheme to stakeholders.
- 7.3 The use of in person events as well as electronic and written communications ensured that the Applicant provided all stakeholders the opportunity to provide feedback on the Scheme should they wish.
- 7.4 Public information events were widely publicised. A letter was sent to 12,769 residences, posters were erected around the vicinity of the Site, and a press release was issued to local media to inform people of the events.
- 7.5 The feedback provided during the Non-Statutory Consultation period provided useful insight into the public and stakeholder opinions of the Scheme. This has enabled the Applicant to make appropriate amendments to the Scheme ahead of the Statutory Consultation and subsequent formal DCO Application, to secure a positive outcome for the Scheme and the surrounding communities.

Next Steps

- 7.6 The Statutory Consultation provides an opportunity for further stakeholder engagement and community events to allow members of the public to provide additional comments on the updated Scheme. The content of the Statutory Consultation has expanded on the previous information provided in respect of the Scheme and has been tailored in response to the themes identified by public and stakeholder engagement.
- 7.7 The Statutory Consultation is supported by the Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) to present documentation which aims to provide a thorough understanding of the Scheme's potential environmental effects. This is a comprehensive report which covers topics including ecology, noise and vibration, transport, landscape impacts and air quality to provide a thorough understanding of the scheme's potential environmental impacts.
- 7.8 It is anticipated that an application for a Development Consent Order will be submitted in late 2026. The Scheme's website will remain live throughout this period to allow for continued review of the proposals and to facilitate easy access to any updates on the Scheme.



Appendices.



Appendix 3.1 – Consultation Boards



Welcome

Thank you for attending our consultation event today.

RWE is moving plans forward for Tween Bridge Solar Farm, a solar and battery project next to RWE's existing Tween Bridge Wind Farm on the county boundary between Doncaster and North Lincolnshire.

We have commenced our first round of consultation. We are now consulting the community and statutory consultees on our draft proposals from **Wednesday 4 October to Wednesday 29 November 2023** (inclusive).

We encourage you to read the information on display today and ask any questions you may have to the project team.

You can then provide your thoughts by completing a feedback questionnaire.

Tween Bridge Solar Farm:



Located near the existing Tween Bridge Wind Farm to the east of Thorne and west of Crowle



A Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) generating station with an installed array capacity of up to 600MW, plus a 400MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)



Capable of powering the equivalent of over 240,000 homes*



Proposed to become one of the region's largest sheep farms, with sheep grazing the fields within the development area

Please share your views with us – so we can develop the proposals with you in mind.

Contact details:

Email: info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk

Post: **FREEPOST TWEENBRIDGE**

Call: **0800 0217 877**

*Calculation based on 2021 generation, and assuming average (mean) annual household consumption of 3,509 kWh, based on latest statistics from Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (Subnational Electricity and Gas Consumption Statistics Regional and Local Authority, Great Britain, 2021, Mean domestic electricity consumption (kWh per meter) by country/region, Great Britain, 2021)



About RWE Renewables

At RWE Renewables we are the leading power generator and one of the largest renewables developers in the UK.

In March 2023 RWE acquired JBM Solar, a large independent developer of solar and battery energy storage systems. This acquisition will significantly accelerate RWE Renewables' solar development in the UK and places the company amongst the largest solar developers in the UK.

RWE Renewables' latest projects in the region include the recently constructed and now fully operational offshore wind farm Triton Knoll (857 MW) and the Sofia offshore project (1.4 GW) which is currently under construction.





Why Here?

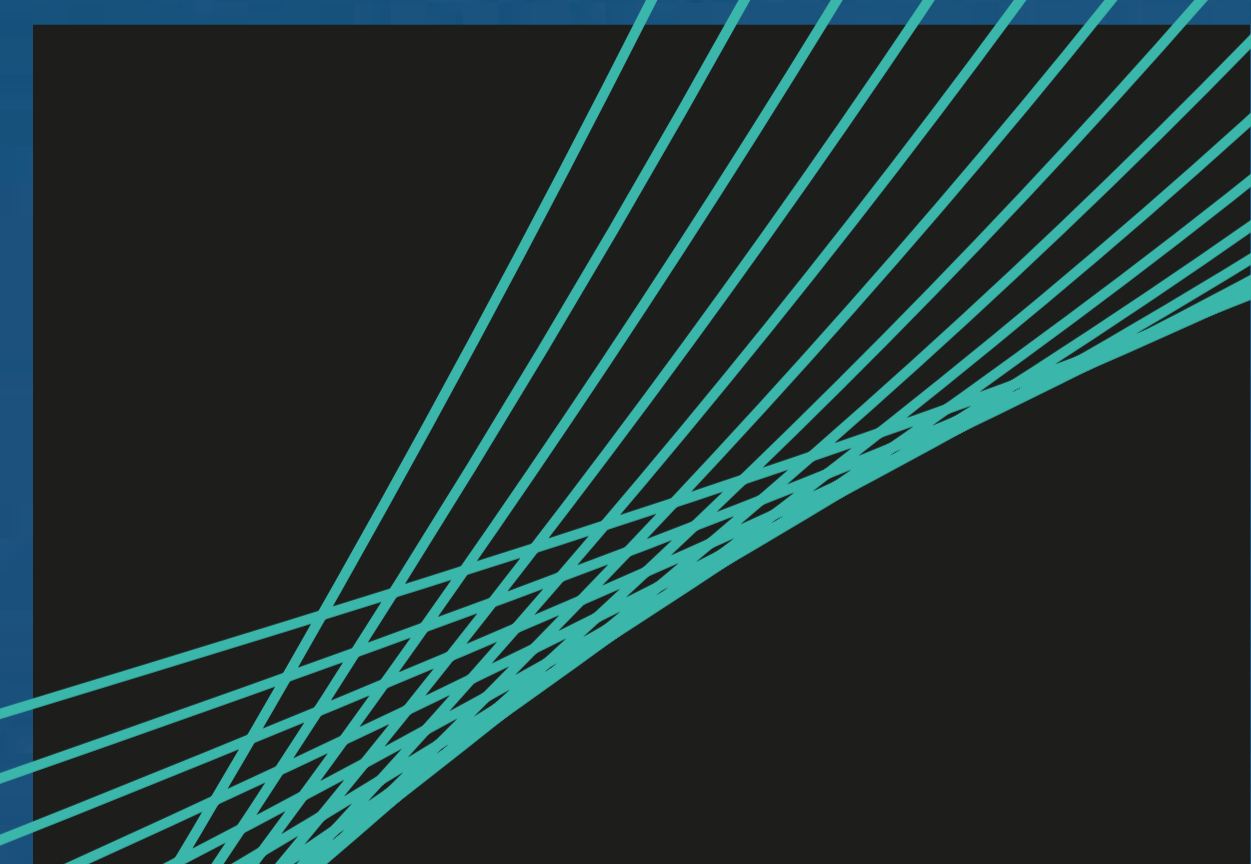
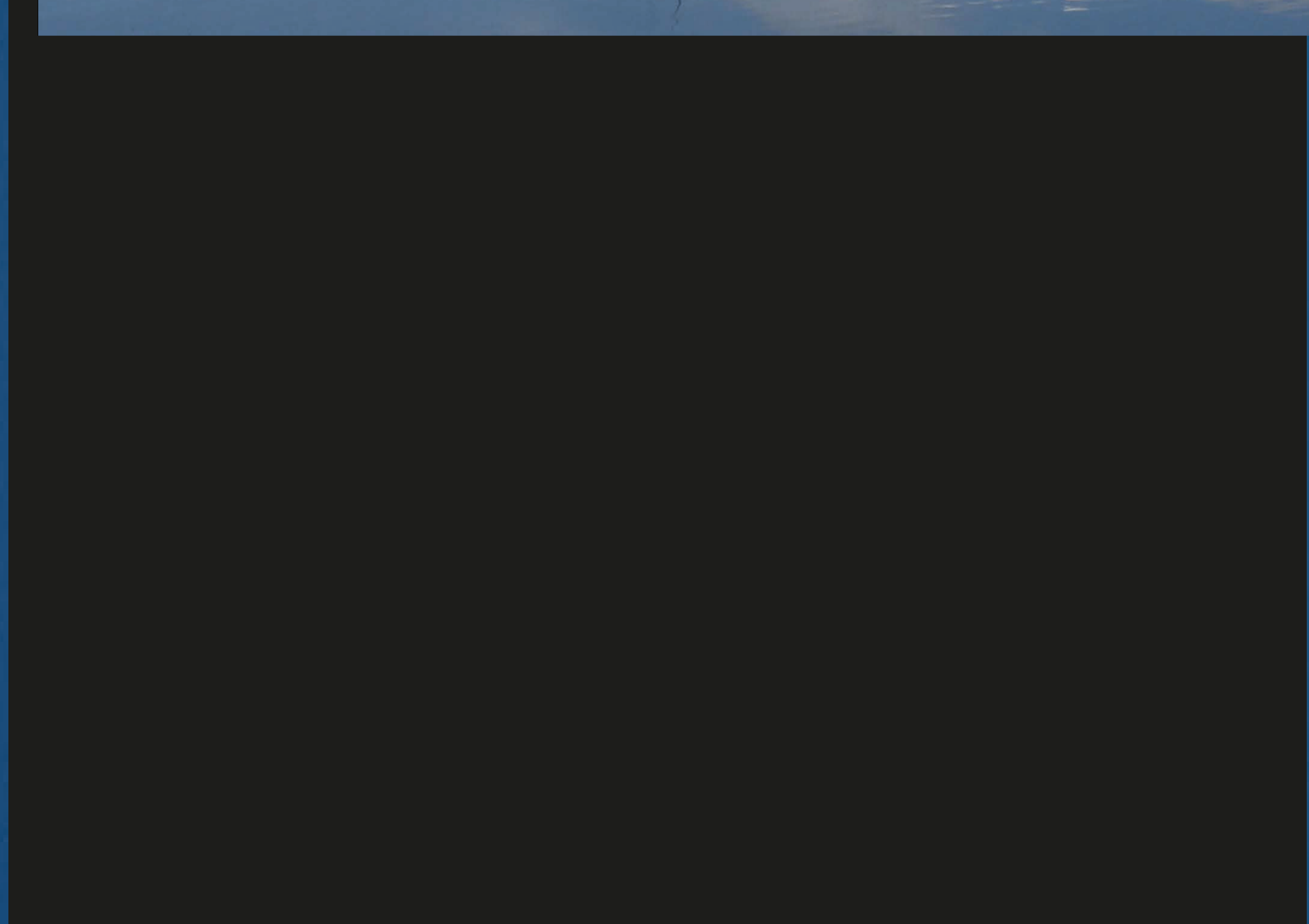
One of the biggest constraints that must be considered when developing a renewable energy scheme is the availability of a point of connection (POC) to the electricity network.

Securing an economically and technically viable grid connection for energy proposals with a reasonable connection timeframe has become a major barrier to the development and delivery of energy projects. This is increasingly identified as a threat to achieving local and national renewable energy and net zero targets.

We have secured an agreement with National Grid to connect Tween Bridge Solar Farm to the Drax-Keadby circuit, an existing National Grid 400kv overhead powerline which runs through the proposed site.

Environmental constraints and land availability then inform the exact location of development within proximity to the identified POC.

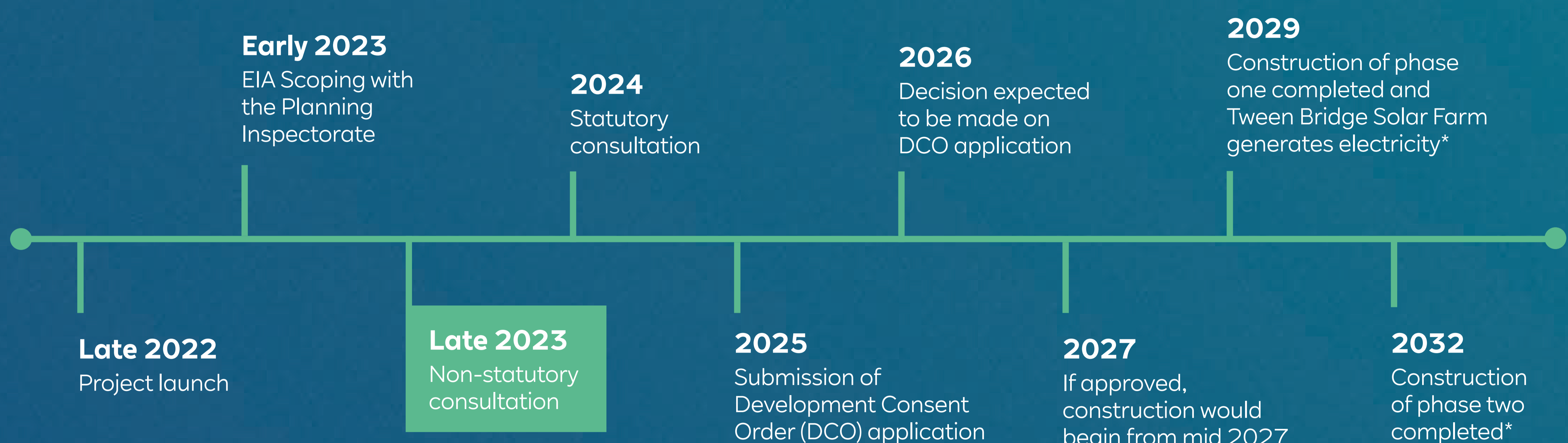
Tween Bridge Solar Farm is located next to RWE Renewables' existing Tween Bridge Wind Farm.





Timeline

All dates subject to change



*Indicative completion dates

Terminology

Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project

Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) are major infrastructure developments. These include projects such as power plants, large renewable energy projects, new airports, airport extensions and major road projects.

Tween Bridge Solar Farm is classified as an NSIP due to it having a proposed generation capacity exceeding 50MW. We are therefore required to submit an application for development consent to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). The Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero decides whether to grant consent, in accordance with the Planning Act 2008.

Development Consent Order

A Development Consent Order (DCO) is the means of obtaining permission for developments categorised as NSIPs. This application will be made to PINS who will appoint an independent Examining Authority. The Secretary of State will decide whether to approve the application.

More information about the DCO process can be found here: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

Planning Inspectorate

The Planning Inspectorate (PINS) is an executive agency of the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities of the United Kingdom Government with responsibility for making decisions and providing recommendations and advice on a range of land use planning-related issues across England.

Non-statutory consultation

RWE Renewables are undertaking a first stage of 'non-statutory' consultation with local residents, organisations and other stakeholders to receive preliminary views on our draft proposals.

We will then undertake a second round of 'statutory' consultation as required under the Planning Act 2008 on our updated proposals, anticipated to be held in summer 2024.

Draft Order Limits Plan

The limits of the land to which the Application for the DCO relates, within which the development must be carried out and which is required for its construction and operation.

Getting Electricity to the Grid



1 Indicative Solar Arrays**



2 Indicative Battery Energy Storage System*



3 Indicative Inverter*



4 Indicative Satellite Substation***



5 Indicative Main Substation Compound****

*photos of similar developments are shown for illustrative purposes

** photo shows a tracking solar panel. Tween Bridge Solar Farm will use tracking panels or fixed tilt panels. More information will be made available at our statutory consultation.

***Photo shows the Tween Bridge Wind Farm Substation

****RWE Renewables existing Triton Knoll Wind Farm Substation



Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

We are undertaking a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for Tween Bridge Solar Farm. An EIA is a detailed process where the likely environmental effects of the proposed development are studied, surveys are carried out and mitigation measures to reduce or remove environmental impacts are proposed.

We have published a draft Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) as part of our first stage consultation and seek feedback on the environmental information presented and mitigation measures proposed. We have also prepared a Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the draft PEIR.

We want to hear what environmental issues relating to the proposals are most important to you. This could include:

- Landscape and Visual
- Ecology
- Cultural Heritage
- Ground Conditions
- Water Resource
- Socio-economics
- Transport
- Noise and Vibration
- Air Quality
- Agriculture

There are several ways to view our draft PEIR:



Attend one of our consultation events



Visit www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk/ documents to view online



Copies are available to read at the following locations:

- Crowle Community Hub DN8 5BU
- Thorne Library DN8 4BQ
- Hatfield Community Library DN7 6RY



Contact us to request a USB or hard-copy
(price available upon request)

Email: info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk

Telephone: **0800 0217 877**

We will carefully consider all feedback received, alongside our ongoing technical assessments, to help us develop the EIA further.



Environmental Enhancements

The project team are engaging with Doncaster Council and North Lincolnshire Council on how best to incorporate ecological enhancements within the Order Limits (application site boundary) and surrounding areas. These discussions are informed by extensive ongoing ecological surveys.

Tween Bridge Solar Farm will enhance the biodiversity of the area by creating:



The region's largest lowland sheep farm



Habitat enhancements for insects, pollinators, birds, bats and other native species



Ecological corridors and green infrastructure



New grassland meadows for wildlife

If you have any suggestions for ecological enhancements you would like to see at Tween Bridge Solar Farm, please fill in a feedback form.



Employment

Employment during construction

During the construction phase at the site, it is estimated that there will be around **606** on-site jobs created during an estimated 30-month construction phase.

For every job supported on site, indirect jobs are supported in the wider economy. It is estimated up to **806** off-site jobs could be supported during the construction phase.

Employment during operation

Once operational, the scheme is estimated to support **23** direct and indirect full-time equivalent jobs in Doncaster and North Lincolnshire, **7** of those directly employed on site.

Employment through continued agricultural land use

Full-time jobs will be secured through continued agricultural use of the land underneath and around the solar arrays. Tween Bridge Solar Farm could become one of the region's largest sheep farms.

Local skills and training opportunities

An Outline Supply Chain, Employment and Skills Plan will be produced to optimise the number of local people who will have access to employment and training opportunities. More details about this will be made available at our statutory consultation next year.





Community Benefits

Tween Bridge Solar Farm Community Benefits

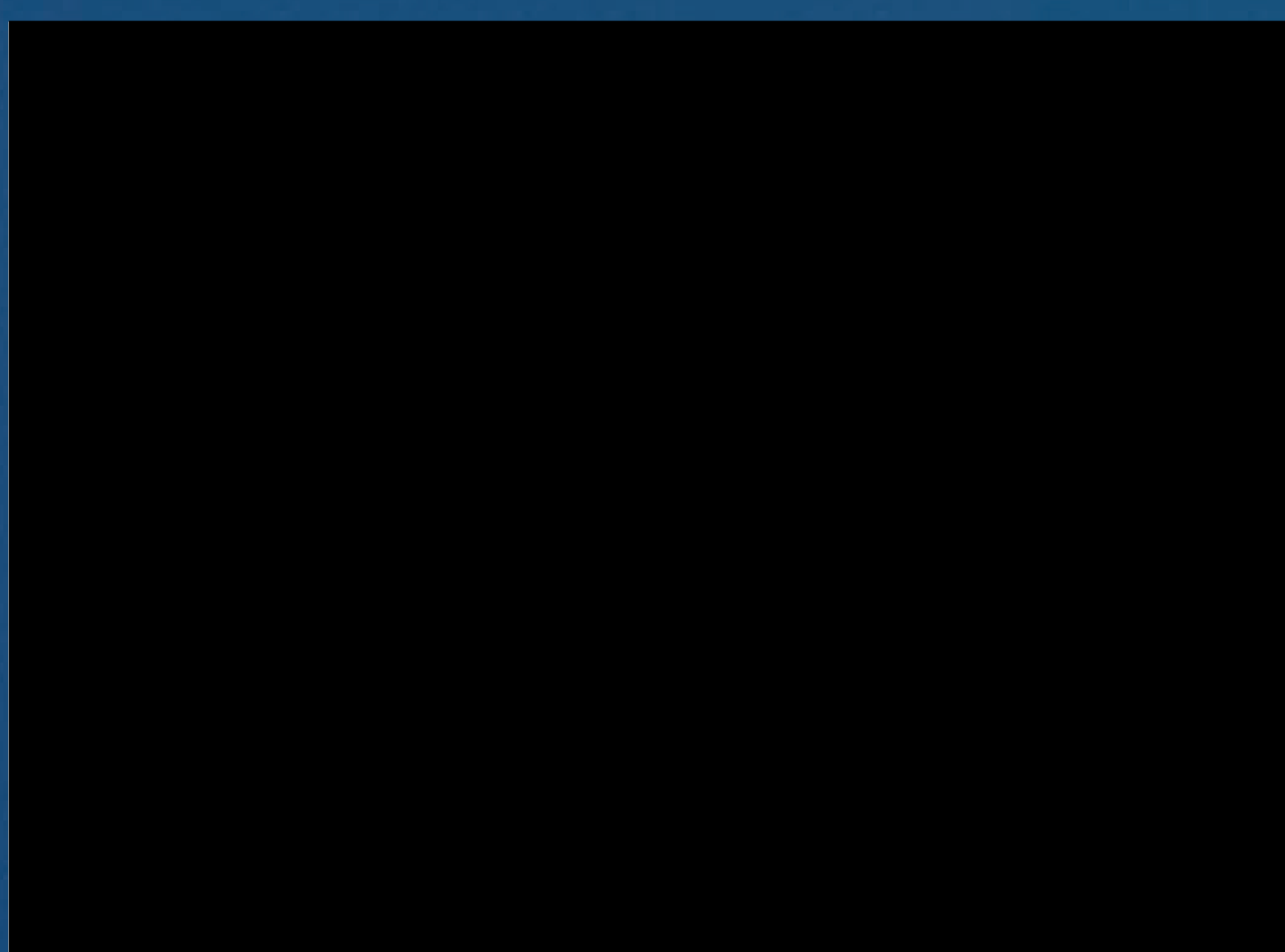
RWE Renewables are committed to supporting the communities neighbouring our renewable energy projects through flexible community benefits packages.

Tween Bridge Solar Farm will be delivering a community investment package worth in the region of **£2 million**, subject to the final installed capacity of the project.

This is a new project, and we would like to get your thoughts on how you think we could best support your community.

A section on community benefits can be found in our consultation feedback questionnaire. At this stage we would really like to hear more from you about what you think is important to you and your community as well as any ideas you may have about how we could support your local area.

We will be considering all of your feedback as we develop further details of the proposed community benefits. There will be a further opportunity to comment on more detailed community benefits proposals at our statutory consultation next year.



Tween Bridge Wind Farm Community Benefits

In the 11 years of its operation, RWE Renewables' Tween Bridge Wind Farm community benefit fund has already contributed over £630,000 to community organisations within 3 miles of Tween Bridge Wind Farm.

The fund has supported a wide range of community projects including village halls, a community woodland, sports and social clubs for people of all ages and local events like the Jubilee celebrations.

One such organisation is Outcasts Cricket Club.

"There has been an increase in women and girls playing in our local leagues, we had nowhere for them to change, they often changed in their cars or had to wait until the male groups had finished changing. I want Outcasts to be inclusive to our players, opponents and guests. We decided we needed a new pavilion and facilities to ensure a safe space for female players.

We applied to the Tween Bridge Wind Farm community benefit fund for £5,000 and received the full amount. We built a raised a base for the pavilion and then the log cabin was built on top of the base. The building was manufactured and constructed from sustainable timber by a local company. The construction and base took 3-4 weeks.

Since completion, we have seen more girls attend our junior training sessions and start playing in the junior teams. I hope that women and girls can now feel safe, considered and included at our club, as should be the norm".

[Redacted Name] – Outcasts Cricket Club Manager



How to have your say?

We want to hear your thoughts on our proposals. Your feedback is important to us and will help to shape our final designs.



Visit www.Tweenbridgesolar.co.uk
to complete an online form



Or ask us for a paper copy



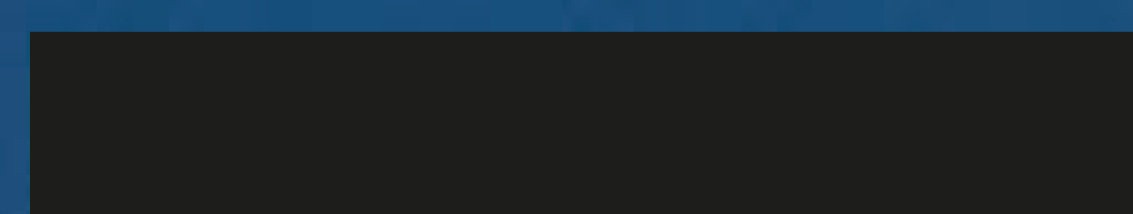
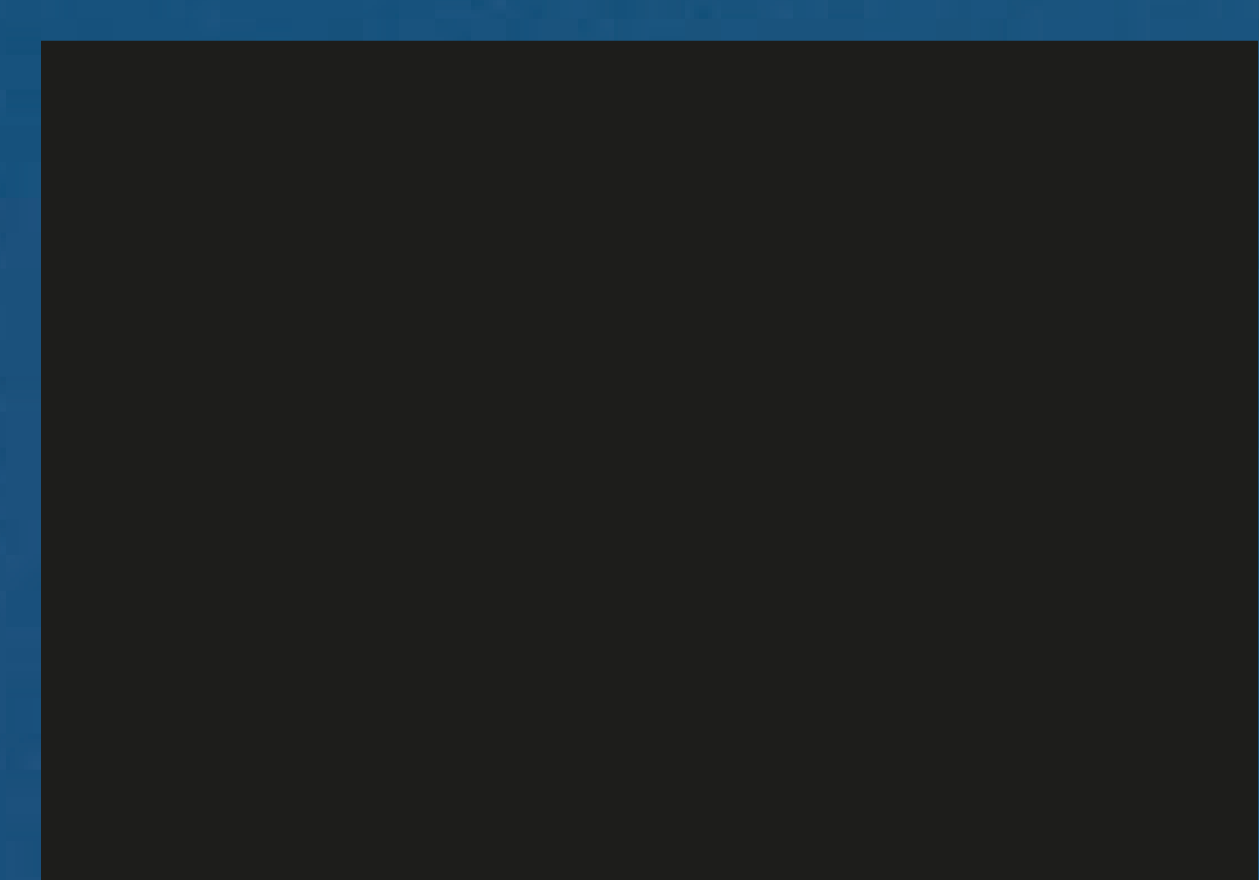
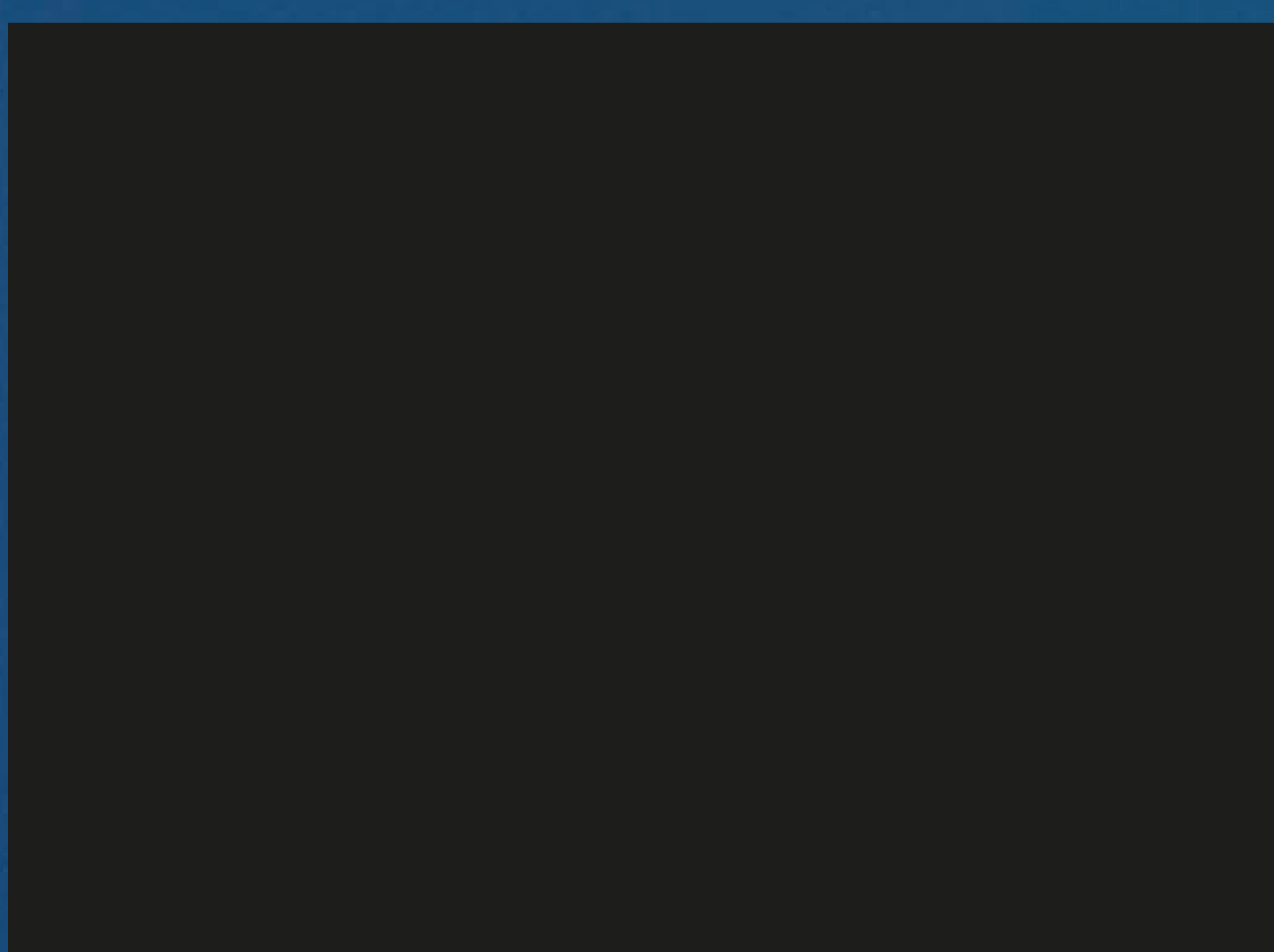
Return your feedback to us by:

Email: info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk

Post: **FREEPOST TWEENBRIDGE**

Call: **0800 0217 877**

The deadline for comments is 23.59 on 29th November 2023.





Appendix 3.2 – Feedback Forms

Consultation Feedback Form

October - November 2023

Please refer to the consultation documents to help provide us with your feedback on our proposals. Electronic copies of all the consultation documents, including this feedback form, can be found online on the project website (<https://tweenbridgesolar.co.uk/>).

You can provide your feedback using this form, through our website, or contacting us by email or FREEPOST:



Access our website directly at <https://tweenbridgesolar.co.uk/> where an online version of this form is available



Email us your feedback at info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk



Return this feedback form free of charge by writing to **FREEPOST TWEENBRIDGE** (no stamp required)

The first-stage consultation will run from 4 October 2023 and 29 November 2023.

It is important you submit your feedback and comments to us before 23.59 on the closing date.

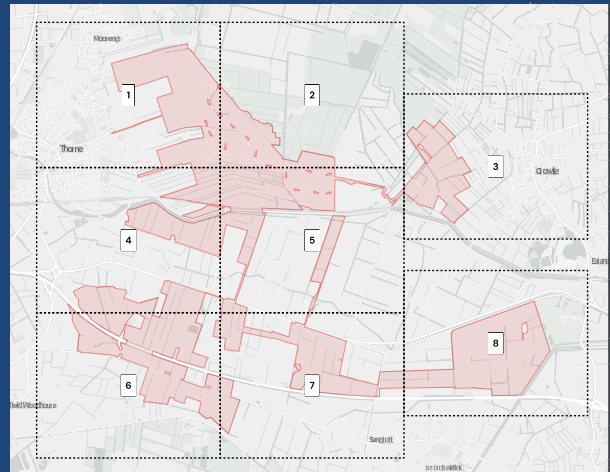
If you have any further queries or wish to speak to a member of the project team, please call: **0800 0217 877**

Your views on Tween Bridge Solar Farm

- Do you have any comments on how our initial proposals for Tween Bridge Solar Farm could be improved?**
If your comment refers to a specific location or component within the site, please tick the relevant box below.
Our Site Layout Plan map series is available to view along with the rest of our consultation materials.



- Area 1, East of Thorne and Moorends
- Area 2, South of Tween Bridge Moors
- Area 3, West of Crowle
- Area 4, South east of Thorne
- Area 5, Fields near Medge Hall
- Area 6, North east of Hatfield
- Area 7, North of Hatfield Moors
- Area 8, North of Sandtoft Airfield
- Battery Energy Storage System
- Main Substation
- Construction access track



2. We have prepared a draft Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), and a Non-Technical Summary document. Do you have any comments on our draft PEIR? Please let us know if there is any additional information you would like to see included as part of our next consultation:

Community benefits

It is proposed to install an electric vehicle charging hub at Tween Bridge Solar Farm, with land set aside to the immediate east of Moor Edges Road and north of Moor Owners Road.

3. Do you support our plans for an electric vehicle charging hub?

Support

Neutral

Oppose

4. Do you have any further comments on our plans for an electric vehicle charging hub?

Tween Bridge Solar Farm will also deliver a community benefit package worth in the region of £2 million*

5. Do you have any additional ideas or suggestions about how the community benefits package could best support your local community?

6. Would you like to be involved in future discussions on the development of our community benefit proposals?

Yes

No

* The total value of community benefit will be subject to the final installed capacity of the project and the route to market secured by the project.

General

7. Based on the information presented as part of our consultation, how supportive are you of our proposals for Tween Bridge Solar Farm?

I support the proposals

I am neither supportive nor unsupportive

I do not support the proposals

8. Do you have any information relevant to Tween Bridge Solar Farm that we need to take into account, or any other general comments you wish to share?

About the consultation

9. Please let us know how you heard about the consultation.

10. Do you have any comments on how we should consult with local communities next time?

11. Are there any individuals, groups and/or organisations you would like to make us aware of, for us to consult with next time?

About you

Name:

Address

Organisation
(if applicable)

Postcode:

Email address:

Phone number:

How would you describe your interest in our proposals?

☐

Local resident

☐

Local representative

☐

Landowner

☐

Work locally

☐

Regularly visit the area

☐

Statutory body

☐

Local interest group (please name them)

☐

Other (please specify)

If you are a local business or contractor, would you like to be involved in future discussions on the development of our supply chain for Tween Bridge Solar Farm?

☐

Yes

☐

No

Our details

RWE Generation Limited (Company No. 03892782) has a registered office at 60 Threadneedle St, London EC2R 8HP. Copper Consultancy Limited, who will be carrying out the day-to-day processing of information on behalf of RWE Generation, are registered in England and Wales under registration number 03030759, and has a registered office is at Spring Lodge, 172 Chester Road, Helsby, Cheshire, England, WA6 0AR.

Data privacy notice

We are committed to protecting your personal information. Whenever you provide such information, we are legally obliged to use it in line with all applicable laws concerning the protection of personal data, including the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

How will RWE Renewables use the information we collect about you?

We will use your personal data collected via this consultation for a number of purposes, including:

- To analyse feedback to the consultation;
- To produce a Consultation Report, based on our analysis of responses (individuals will not be identified in the Report);
- To write to you with updates about the scheme and results of this consultation; and
- To keep up-to-date records of our communications with individuals and organisations.

Any personal information you include in this form will be handled and used by (or made available to) the following recipients to record, analyse and report on the feedback we receive:

- RWE Renewables
- The Planning Inspectorate (which will consider our application for permission to build Tween Bridge Solar Farm)
- The Secretary of State (who will take the decision on our application)
- Our legal advisers; and
- The Environmental Consultant Team working on the Tween Bridge Solar Farm Project.

What rights do I have over my personal data?

Under the terms of the UK GDPR, you have certain rights over how your personal data is retained and used by RWE Renewables. For more information, see our full data privacy statement:

<https://tweenbridgesolar.co.uk/privacy-and-cookies/#privacy>



Appendix 3.3 – Leaflet



Tween Bridge Solar Farm

RWE is moving plans forward for Tween Bridge Solar Farm, a solar and battery project next to RWE's existing Tween Bridge Wind Farm on the county boundary between Doncaster and North Lincolnshire.

Once fully operational, the solar farm would have the potential to provide enough low-carbon energy to meet the equivalent annual needs of over 240,000 homes¹.

Have your say

We are seeking preliminary views on our draft proposals. Your views can influence our proposals and help us achieve Tween Bridge Solar Farm's full potential.

After the first stage consultation has closed, we'll consider all your comments and use them to develop our proposals, ensuring we have due regard for the issues and concerns raised. We will be holding a second 'statutory' consultation in 2024.

We invite you to attend our public exhibitions and online webinar, details of which are set out below. You do not need to register to attend the public exhibitions.

| Date | Location | Time |
|---------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Monday 16 October 2023 | Thornesians RUFC, Church Balk, Thorne DN8 5BU | 2:00pm – 7:00pm |
| Tuesday 17 October 2023 | Crowle Community Hub, Market Place, Crowle DN17 4LA | 2:00pm – 7:00pm |
| Wednesday 1 November 2023 |  online webinar – can here to register in advance or visit www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk | 6:30pm – 7:30pm |

¹ Calculation based on 2021 generation, and assuming average (mean) annual household consumption of 3,509 kWh, based on latest statistics from Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (Subnational Electricity and Gas Consumption Statistics Regional and Local Authority, Great Britain, 2021, Mean domestic electricity consumption (kWh per meter) by country/region, Great Britain, 2021)

Tween Bridge Solar Farm Info-graphic Map

Generate 600MW of AC capacity



Provision of an electric vehicle charging hub



New grassland meadows for wildlife



New ecological corridors and green infrastructure



This map is for illustrative purposes only

KEY



South Humberside Main Line



Sandtoft Airfield



The Lincolnshire Golf Course



Tween Bridge Wind Farm



Tween Bridge Moors



Stainforth & Keadby Canal

Indicative 400MW
Battery Energy Storage
System (BESS)



Opportunity to provide
the region's largest
lowland sheep farm



Opportunity to create
23 direct and indirect
jobs during operation



Support up to 606
on-site jobs during
construction



A community benefit
package worth in the
region of £2 million*



*The total value of community benefit will be subject to the final installed capacity of the project and the route to market secured by the project.

Indicative Areas for
Solar PV

Towns

Indicative Battery Energy
Storage System

Indicative Substation
Location

Indicative Ecological
and Landscape Enhancement
Areas

Existing National Grid 400kv
Overhead Powerline

Extent of Development Area



How to view our draft proposals and submit feedback

There are several ways to view our supporting documents and get involved in the consultation. We want to hear your thought on our proposals. Your feedback is important to us and will help shape the designs.



Attend one of our consultation events



Copies are available to read at the following locations:

- Crowle Community Hub DN8 5BU
- Thorne Library DN8 4BQ
- Hatfield Community Library DN7 6RY



Visit: www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk and complete an online feedback form



Contact us to request a USB or hard-copy (price available upon request)

Email: info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk

Telephone: **0800 0217 877**



Complete a feedback form at an event or post to FREEPOST TWEENBRIDGE

The deadline for comments is 23.59 on 29th November 2023.

About Tween Bridge Solar Farm

Tween Bridge Solar Farm is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). We are required to submit an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). The Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero decides whether or not to grant development consent. The operational lifespan of the project would be 40 years.

You can find out more about what is available as part of this consultation and supporting documents on our website or by contacting the details provided above.

About RWE

At RWE, we are the leading power generator and one of the largest renewables developers in the UK. We already provide 15% of the UK's energy needs through our wind farms, hydro, biomass and gas energy generation facilities.

In March 2023 RWE acquired JBM Solar, a large independent developer of solar and battery storage systems. This acquisition will significantly accelerate RWE's solar development in the UK and places the company amongst the largest solar developers in the UK.

By 2030, RWE has ambitions to invest £15bn in new green technologies and infrastructure, to help the UK become more energy independent and achieve its climate goals. RWE directly employs around 3,000 people in the UK, plus many more indirectly.



Appendix 3.4 –Advert

Tween Bridge Solar Farm Consultation

Wednesday 4 October – Wednesday 29 November 2023

Tween Bridge Solar Farm is a proposed solar and co-located Battery Energy Storage System development between Thorne and Crowle that could:



Generate enough green electricity to power over 240,000* homes

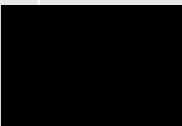


Store energy – collecting energy and then discharging at a later time to provide electricity when needed



Support the local economy by creating jobs and giving farms an additional source of income

We are seeking preliminary views on our draft proposals. Find out more at one of our public exhibitions or join our online webinar.

| Date | Location | Time |
|---------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Monday 16 October 2023 | Thornesians RUFC, Church Balk, Thorne, DN8 5BU | 2:00pm – 7:00pm |
| Tuesday 17 October 2023 | Crowle Community Hub, Market Place, Crowle, DN17 4LA | 2:00pm – 7:00pm |
| Wednesday 1 November 2023 |  <p>Online webinar – click here to register in advance</p> <p>Or visit www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk</p> | 6:30pm – 7:30pm |

There are several ways to view our draft proposals:



Attend one of our consultation events



Copies are available to read at the following locations:

- Crowle Community Hub DN8 5BU
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Visit: www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk



Contact us to request a USB or hard-copy (price available upon request)

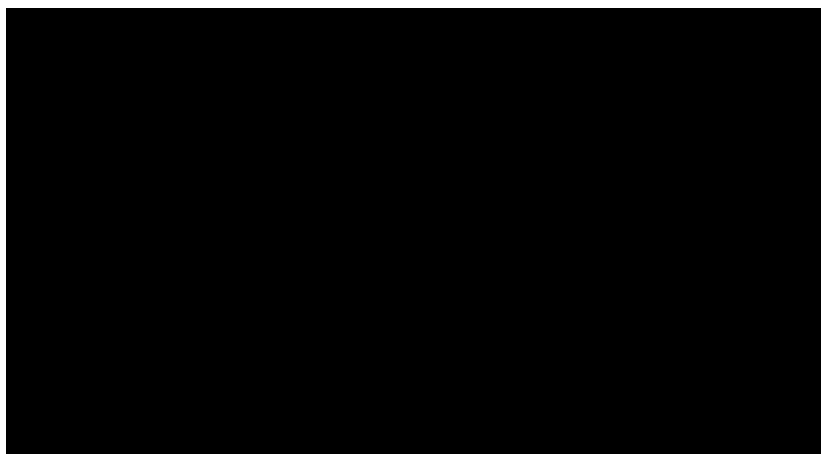
Email: info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk

Telephone: **0800 0217 877**

*Calculation based on 2021 generation, and assuming average (mean) annual household consumption of 3,509 kWh, based on latest statistics from Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (Subnational Electricity and Gas Consumption Statistics Regional and Local Authority, Great Britain, 2021, Mean domestic electricity consumption (kWh per meter) by country/region, Great Britain, 2021)



Appendix 3.5 – Thorne Times Article



Solar Farm Consultation Open

on: Thursday, October 12, 2023 In: News, Thorne and Moorends

A UK renewable energy developer is moving plans forward for a solar farm and battery project at Thorne and is encouraging people to take part in its first stage of consultation throughout October and November.

The Tween Bridge Solar Farm project was launched last year after power generator RWE Renewables secured a capacity agreement with National Grid.

The solar project would be located next to RWE's existing Tween Bridge wind farm on land to the east of Thorne, near its boundary with Crowle in North Lincolnshire.

If consented, the solar farm could be operational by 2030.

The consultation started on Wednesday 4 October and is running for eight weeks, with it due to close on Wednesday 29 November.

RWE says it wants to hear views on the project, including its "preliminary environmental information" and plans to minimise potential impacts.


██████ senior development manager at RWE Renewables, says: "We are keen to hear people's views on our Tween Bridge Solar Farm project and would encourage the local community to get involved in the consultation and tell us their thoughts.

"After the consultation has closed, we'll consider all comments and use them to develop our proposals, including any concerns raised."

The deadline for sending feedback is Wednesday 29 November 2023.

Two public exhibitions are being held on the following dates as part of the consultation: Monday 16 October, 2pm – 7pm, at Thornensians rugby clubhouse on Church Balk in Thorne; and on Tuesday 17 October, 2pm – 7pm, at Crowle community hub, Market Place, Crowle, DN17 4LA

An online webinar is also being held on Wednesday 1 November from 6:30pm to 7:30pm.


Support Us!
 the webinar via the Tween Bridge Solar Farm website [HERE](#), or by contacting info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk.

RWE says Tween Bridge Solar Farm would “simultaneously host both solar power generation and animal grazing.”

The company adds: “It is planned for Tween Bridge Solar Farm to become one of the region’s largest sheep farms, with sheep grazing the fields within the solar farm. Habitat enhancement opportunities have also been identified for insects, pollinators, birds, bats and other native species.”

Tween Bridge Solar Farm is RWE Renewables latest regional investment as it seeks to expand its UK renewable portfolio. As well as Tween Bridge, the company has an established presence in the region which includes Goole Fields, and the Humber Gateway and Triton Knoll Offshore Wind farms alongside their associated operations hub in Grimsby.

For further information visit: tweenbridgesolar.co.uk





Appendix 3.6 – Doncaster Free Press Article

Public consultations to be held over plans for huge solar farm near Doncaster

[REDACTED]

Watch more of our videos on ShotsTV.com
and on Freeview 262 or Freely 565

[Visit Shots! now](#)

Public meetings are to be held over proposals to build a huge solar panel farm near Doncaster.

[Developer](#) RWE Renewables is calling on members of the public to inspect plans for the proposed Tween Bridge Solar Farm which will lie between [Thorne](#) and Crowle.

The power generator, one of the largest renewables developers in the UK, is encouraging people to take part in its first stage of consultation throughout October and November.

Launched last year following an agreement with National Grid, the farm is located on land to the east of Thorne and west of Crowle.



Doncaster
Free Press

Proposals are being drawn up for a huge solar farm between Thorne and Crowle.

The project would be located next to RWE's existing Tween Bridge onshore Wind Farm and have an installed array capacity of up to 600MW, plus a 400MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) which could, if consented, be operational by 2030.

The consultation is running for eight weeks and is due to close on Wednesday 29 November 2023.

RWE wants to hear views on the project, including its preliminary environmental information and plans to minimise potential impacts which have been published on the Tween Bridge Solar Farm website www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk.

[REDACTED], Senior Development Manager, RWE Renewables, said: "We are keen to hear people's views on our Tween Bridge Solar Farm project and would encourage the local community to get involved in the consultation and tell us their thoughts.

"After the consultation has closed, we'll consider all comments and use them to develop our proposals, including any concerns raised. The deadline for sending feedback to us is Wednesday 29 November 2023."

Two public exhibitions are being held as part of the consultation on the following dates.

Monday 16 October 2pm – 7pm Thornesians RUFC, Church Balk, Thorne, DN8 5BU

Tuesday 17 October 2pm – 7pm Crowle Community Hub, Market Place, Crowle, DN17 4LAA
An online webinar is also being held on Wednesday 1 November 2023 from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. People can register for the webinar via the Tween Bridge Solar Farm website www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk or contacting info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk.

Tween Bridge Solar Farm would simultaneously host both solar power generation and animal grazing. It is planned for Tween Bridge Solar Farm to become one of the region's largest sheep farms, with sheep grazing the fields within the solar farm. Habitat enhancement opportunities have also been identified for insects, pollinators, birds, bats and other native species.

Tween Bridge Solar Farm is RWE Renewables latest regional investment as it seeks to expand its UK renewable portfolio. Its established presence in the region includes Goole Fields, Tween Bridge, the Humber Gateway and Triton Knoll Offshore Wind farms alongside their associated operations hub in Grimsby.

RWE is the leading power generator in the UK, supplying around 15% of the country's electricity.

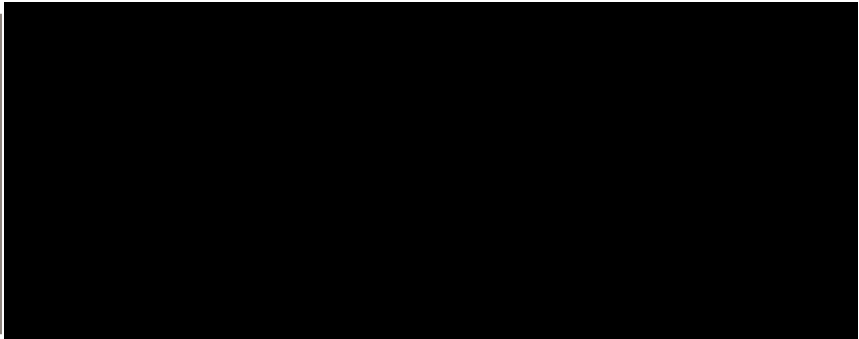
A spokesman added: "We have plans to expand our UK footprint even further, with over 13GW of renewables at various stages of development and ambitions to invest up to £15bn by 2030 in developing clean energy projects in the UK to support the energy transition, creating high quality jobs and supporting local supply chains.

"RWE Renewables is moving forward with its UK solar ambitions including the construction of RWE's first large-scale UK solar projects, following the acquisition of JBM Solar last year. The first projects are expected to get underway later this year with full construction to follow in 2024."



Appendix 3.7 – Press Advertisements

Cashing In



RWE

Tween Bridge Solar Farm Consultation

Wednesday 4 October – Wednesday 29 November 2023

Tween Bridge Solar Farm is a proposed solar and co-located Battery Energy Storage System development between Thorne and Crowle that could:



Generate enough green electricity to power over 240,000* homes



Store energy – collecting energy and then discharging at a later time to provide electricity when needed



Support the local economy by creating jobs and giving farms an additional source of income

We are seeking preliminary views on our draft proposals. Find out more at one of our public exhibitions or join our online webinar.

| Date | Location | Time |
|---------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Monday 16 October 2023 | Thornesians RUFC, Church Balk, Thorne, DN8 5BU | 2:00pm – 7:00pm |
| Tuesday 17 October 2023 | Crowle Community Hub, Market Place, Crowle, DN17 4LA | 2:00pm – 7:00pm |
| Wednesday 1 November 2023 | Online webinar – You can here to register in advance Or visit www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk | 6:30pm – 7:30pm |

There are several ways to view our draft proposals:



Attend one of our consultation events



Copies are available to read at the following locations:

- Crowle Community Hub DN8 5BU
- Thorne Library DN8 4BQ
- Hatfield Community Library DN7 6RY



Visit: www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk



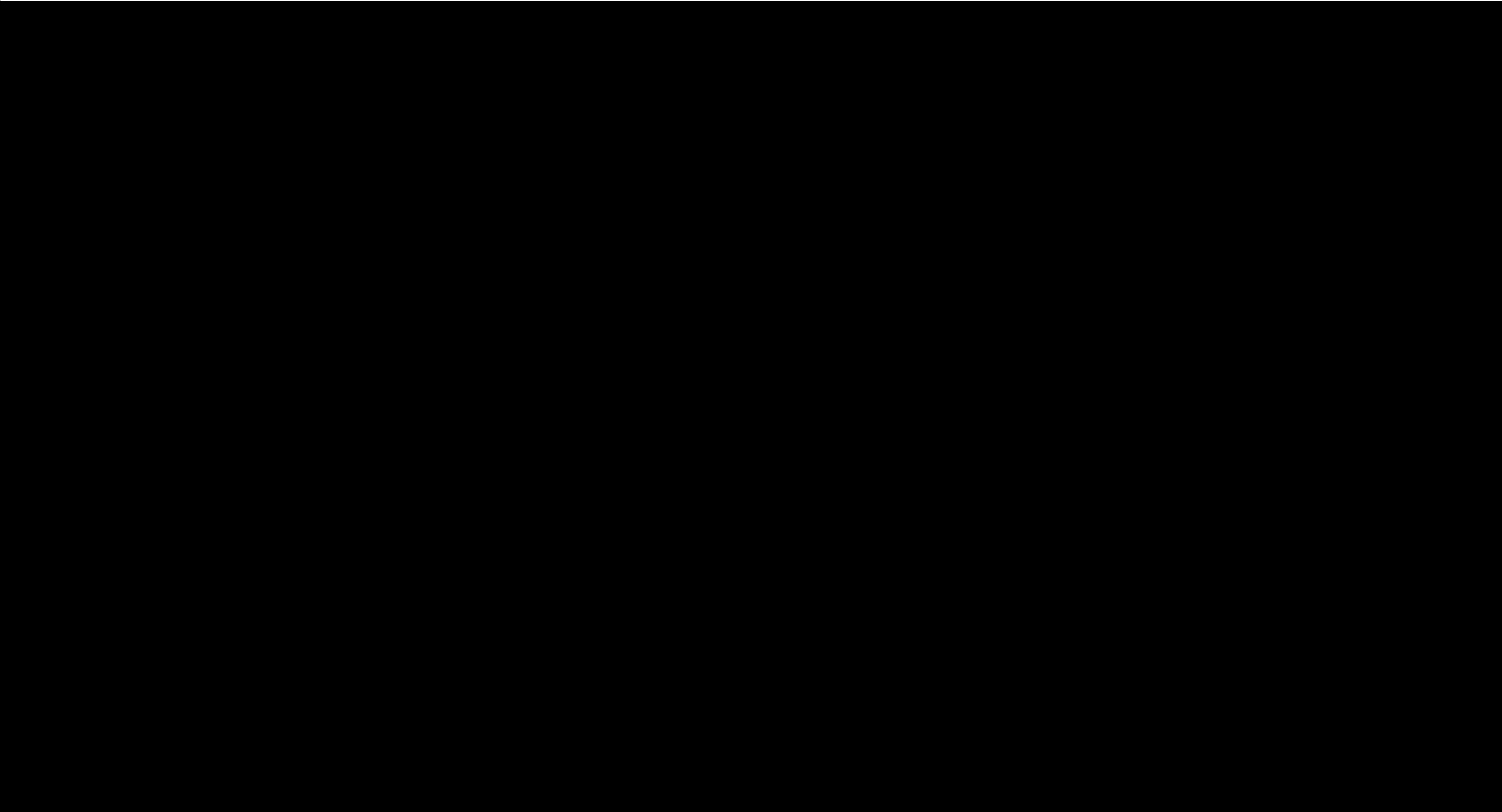
Contact us to request a USB or hard-copy (price available upon request)

Email: info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk

Telephone: 0800 0217 877

*Calculation based on 2021 generation, and assuming average (mean) annual household consumption of 3,509 kWh, based on latest statistics from Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (Subnational Electricity and Gas Consumption Statistics Regional and Local Authority, Great Britain, 2021. Mean domestic electricity consumption (kWh per meter) by country/region, Great Britain, 2021)

NEWS






RWE

Tween Bridge Solar Farm Consultation

Wednesday 4 October – Wednesday 29 November 2023

Tween Bridge Solar Farm is a proposed solar and co-located Battery Energy Storage System development between Thorne and Crowle that could:

-  **Generate enough green electricity to power over 240,000* homes**
-  **Store energy - collecting energy and then discharging at a later time to provide electricity when needed**
-  **Support the local economy by creating jobs and giving farms an additional source of income**

We are seeking preliminary views on our draft proposals. Find out more at one of our public exhibitions or join our online webinar.

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| Tuesday 17 October 2023 | Crowle Community Hub, Market Place, Crowle, DN17 4LA | 2:00pm – 7:00pm |
| Wednesday 1 November 2023 | Online webinar - [redacted] can here to register in advance | 6:30pm – 7:30pm |

Or visit
www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk

There are several ways to view our draft proposals:

 **Attend one of our consultation events**

 **Copies are available to read at the following locations:**

- Crowle Community Hub DN8 5BU
- Thorne Library DN8 4BQ
- Hatfield Community Library DN7 6RY

 **Visit: www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk**

 **Contact us to request a USB or hard-copy (price available upon request)**

Email: info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk
Telephone: 0800 0217 877




*Calculation based on 2021 generation, and assuming average (mean) annual household consumption of 3,509 kWh, based on latest statistics from Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (Subnational Electricity and Gas Consumption Statistics Regional and Local Authority, Great Britain, 2021. Mean domestic Electricity consumption (kWh per meter) by country/region, Great Britain, 2021)



Tween Bridge Solar Farm Consultation

Wednesday 4 October – Wednesday 29 November 2023

Tween Bridge Solar Farm is a proposed solar and co-located Battery Energy Storage System development between Thorne and Crowle that could:

-  **Generate enough green electricity to power over 240,000* homes**
-  **Store energy – collecting energy and then discharging at a later time to provide electricity when needed**
-  **Support the local economy by creating jobs and giving farms an additional source of income**

We are seeking preliminary views on our draft proposals. Find out more at one of our public exhibitions or join our online webinar.

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There are several ways to view our draft proposals:

-  **Attend one of our consultation events**
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Appendix 3.8 – Stakeholder Letter and Schedule of Recipients

4th October 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

Tween Bridge Solar Farm – First Stage Consultation

RWE Renewables (The Applicant) is consulting on its proposals for the Tween Bridge Solar Farm (“the Scheme”) between Wednesday 4 October 2023 and Wednesday 29 November 2023 (inclusive).

During the pre-application process, we must consult with a variety of persons and organisations about our proposed application in accordance with the requirements of the 2008 Act. You have been identified as a prescribed consultee for the purposes of Section 42(1)(a) of the 2008 Act and Regulation 3 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended).

Tween Bridge Solar Farm comprises a solar farm capable of generating over 50MW of Alternating Current (AC) electricity with a co-located Battery Energy Storage System (“BESS”), located approximately 10km to the northeast of Doncaster and 14km to the west of Scunthorpe. The Scheme’s site area is approximately 1500 hectares. The primary substation would be located within the main development area, to the north of the Stainforth and Keadby Canal, adjacent to the existing overhead electricity pylons which traverse the site.

The Proposed Development comprises:

- Arrays of Ground Mounted Solar Panels
- Battery Energy Storage System (“BESS”)
- Electrical Vehicle (EV) charging point
- Formation of Ecological Corridors and Green Infrastructure
- Substation Building and Compounds
- Upgrade to Main Access Track
- Temporary Construction and Decommissioning Compounds
- Open Trench Cabling Works
- Directional drilling for cable works for various crossing including: rhynes; canal; railway; and, the M180
- Fencing and Security Measures
- Culverts and Upgrades to Existing Culverts

Tween Bridge Solar Farm is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008 (‘the 2008 Act’). This means we are required to make an application for a Development Consent Order (‘DCO’) to seek and obtain the consent we need.

This application will be made to the Planning Inspectorate (‘PINS’) who will examine the application on behalf of the Secretary of State. The application will seek permission to construct, operate and decommission the



Scheme. We expect to submit an application in late 2025.

We would be grateful for your views on the consultation material to help inform and further refine our proposals. We will be holding a second stage consultation (which will be our statutory consultation) in 2024.

RWE Renewables will consider and have regard to all responses when refining the Scheme once the consultation has closed. A Consultation Report submitted with the application will include an explanation of how responses have been considered in refining and finalising the proposals.

Tween Bridge Solar Farm is a development which requires an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. At this early non-statutory stage, we have prepared a draft Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) to help you understand the likely effects of our proposals on the environment. An Environmental Statement will be prepared and submitted as part of the application.

Consultation documents

To view the full suite of consultation documents listed below, please visit the project website at www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk. These are provided to help you understand the proposals and share your views with us:

- the consultation leaflet;
- the draft PEIR; and
- PEIR Non-Technical Summary
- associated plans and drawings (a shapefile of the order limits can be provided upon request)

Please supply any response using the contact methods below:

- Email: info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk
- Freepost*: FREEPOST TWEENBRIDGE
- Telephone: 08000 217877

**No stamp is required.*

Responses must be received no later than 11.59pm on Wednesday 29 November 2023.

For ease of reference, we enclose a plan showing the extents of the Scheme, which is called the “draft order limits”. The draft order limits can be provided via USB or file transfer upon request.

Printed copies of the consultation materials may be requested during the consultation period from RWE Renewables using the email address, postal address or telephone number provided in this letter. The cost for print and postage will be supplied upon request.



We are holding two public exhibitions and an online webinar as part of our consultation, the details of which are provided below:

| Date | Location | Time |
|---------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Monday 16 October 2023 | Thornesians RUFC, Church Balk, Thorne DN8 5BU | 2pm – 7pm |
| Tuesday 17 October 2023 | Crowle Community Hub, Market Place, Crowle, Scunthorpe DN17 4LA | 2pm – 7pm |
| Wednesday 1 November 2023 | Online webinar Please visit www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk for details on how to register. A recording of the webinar will subsequently be uploaded to the website and can be supplied upon request. | 6:30pm – 7:30pm |

Should you have any queries about this correspondence, the Scheme or the consultation, please do not hesitate to contact us using the details provided below.

Yours Sincerely



Senior Development Manager RWE Renewables

Enclosed: draft order limits

RWE

At RWE, we are the leading power generator and one of the largest renewables developers in the UK. We already provide 15% of the UK's energy needs through our wind farms, hydro, biomass and gas energy generation facilities.

In March 2023 RWE acquired JBM Solar, a large independent developer of solar and battery storage systems. This acquisition will significantly accelerate RWE's solar development in the UK and places the company amongst the largest solar developers in the UK.

By 2030, RWE expects to invest £15bn in new green technologies and infrastructure, to help the UK become more energy independent and achieve its climate goals. RWE directly employs around 3000 people in the UK, plus many more indirectly.

UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The personal data processed in connection with releases will be processed in compliance with the legal data protection requirements. If you are not interested in continuing to receive the press release for this scheme, please inform us at info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk. If you have any questions about our data protection policy or the exercise of your rights under the GDPR, please contact ukdataprotectionrwe@rwe.com.



Appendix 3.9 – Interested Parties Letter

4th October 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

Tween Bridge Solar Farm – First Stage Consultation

RWE Renewables (The Applicant) is consulting on its proposals for the Tween Bridge Solar Farm (“the Scheme”) between Wednesday 4 October 2023 and Wednesday 29 November 2023 (inclusive).

I am writing to you as an organisation or individual that may be interested in the Scheme. This letter explains how to take part in the first round of consultation and invites you to share your views on our proposals. The Scheme would be located between Thorne and Crowle, on the district boundaries of Doncaster Council and North Lincolnshire Council.

The Scheme comprises a solar farm capable of generating over 50MW of Alternating Current (AC) electricity with a co-located Battery Energy Storage System (“BESS”), located approximately 10km to the northeast of Doncaster and 14km to the west of Scunthorpe. The Scheme’s site area is approximately 1500 hectares. The primary substation would be located within the main development area, to the north of the Stainforth and Keadby Canal, adjacent to the existing overhead electricity pylons which traverse the site.

The Scheme comprises:

- Arrays of Ground Mounted Solar Panels
- Battery Energy Storage System (“BESS”)
- Electrical Vehicle (EV) charging point
- Formation of Ecological Corridors and Green Infrastructure
- Substation Building and Compounds
- Upgrade to Main Access Track
- Temporary Construction and Decommissioning Compounds
- Open Trench Cabling Works
- Directional drilling for cable works for various crossing including: rhynes; canal; railway; and, the M180
- Fencing and Security Measures
- Culverts and Upgrades to Existing Culverts

Tween Bridge Solar Farm is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008 (as amended (‘the 2008 Act’). This means we are required to make an application for a Development Consent Order (‘DCO’) to seek and obtain the consent we need.

This application will be made to the Planning Inspectorate (‘PINS’) who will examine the application on behalf of the Secretary of State. The application will seek permission to construct, operate and decommission the



Proposed Development. We expect to submit an application in late 2025.

We would be grateful for your views on the consultation material to help inform and further refine our proposals. We will be holding a second stage consultation (which will be our statutory consultation) in 2024.

RWE Renewables will consider and have regard to all responses when refining the Scheme once the consultation has closed. A Consultation Report submitted with the application will include an explanation of how responses have been considered in refining and finalising the proposals.

The Scheme is a development which requires an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. At this early non-statutory stage, we have prepared a draft Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) to help you understand the likely effects of our proposals on the environment. An Environmental Statement will be prepared and submitted as part of the application.

Consultation documents

To view the full suite of consultation documents listed below, please visit the project website at www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk. These are provided to help you understand the proposals and share your views with us:

- the consultation leaflet;
- the consultation feedback questionnaire;
- the draft PEIR; and
- PEIR Non-Technical Summary
- associated plans and drawings (a shapefile of the order limits can be provided upon request)

Please supply any response using the contact methods below:

- Online: www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk
- Email: info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk
- Freepost*: FREEPOST TWEEN BRIDGE SOLAR FARM
- Call: Telephone: 08000 217877

**No stamp is required.*

Responses must be received no later than 11.59pm on Wednesday 29 November 2023.

If you would like further information about this notice, the consultation or the Scheme, please contact the project team by using one of the contact methods provided above.

For ease of reference, we enclose a plan showing the extents of the Scheme, which is called the “draft order



limits". The draft order limits can be provided via USB or file transfer upon request.

Printed copies of the consultation materials may be requested during the consultation period from RWE Renewables using the email address, postal address or telephone number provided in this letter. The cost for print and postage will be supplied upon request.

We are holding two public exhibitions and an online webinar as part of our consultation, the details of which are provided below.

We are also opening the two exhibitions early for key stakeholders, and we cordially invite you to attend the pre-exhibition event which starts at 12.30. If you wish to attend the pre-exhibition event, please do let us know.

| Date | Location | Time |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| Monday 16 October 2023 | Thornesians RUFC, Church Balk, Thorne DN8 5BU | Pre-exhibition opening 12:30 – 1:30 Public exhibition 2pm – 7pm |
| Tuesday 17 October 2023 | Crowle Community Hub, Market Place, Crowle, Scunthorpe DN17 4LA | Pre-exhibition opening 12:30 – 1:30 Public exhibition 2pm – 7pm |
| Wednesday 1 November 2023 | Online webinar Please visit www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk for details on how to register. A recording of the webinar will subsequently be uploaded to the website and can be supplied upon request. | 6:30pm – 7:30pm |

Should you have any queries about this correspondence, the Scheme or the consultation, please do not hesitate to contact me using the details provided below.

Yours Sincerely



Senior Development Manager RWE Renewables

Enclosed: draft order limits



RWE

At RWE, we are the leading power generator and one of the largest renewables developers in the UK. We already provide 15% of the UK's energy needs through our wind farms, hydro, biomass and gas energy generation facilities.

In March 2023 RWE acquired JBM Solar, a large independent developer of solar and battery storage systems. This acquisition will significantly accelerate RWE's solar development in the UK and places the company amongst the largest solar developers in the UK.

By 2030, RWE expects to invest £15bn in new green technologies and infrastructure, to help the UK become more energy independent and achieve its climate goals. RWE directly employs around 3000 people in the UK, plus many more indirectly.

UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The personal data processed in connection with releases will be processed in compliance with the legal data protection requirements. If you are not interested in continuing to receive the press release for this scheme, please inform us at info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk. If you have any questions about our data protection policy or the exercise of your rights under the GDPR, please contact ukdataprotectionrwe@rwe.com.



Appendix 3.10 – Informal Doncaster Council Pre-Application Response



**City of
Doncaster
Council**

Contact: [REDACTED]
Tel: [REDACTED]
E-Mail: [REDACTED]@doncaster.gov.uk
Website: www.doncaster.gov.uk
Our Ref: 23/01991/CON
Date: 20th November 2023

Proposal **Tween Bridge Solar Farm- First Stage Consultation**

Dear Sir/Madam.

I am responding on behalf of the City of Doncaster Council to your email communication of 4/10/2023 regarding the above, in addition to the earlier comments submitted on 28/2/2023. The Council have consulted the relevant consultees to request their comments on the information included within this consultation pack on the project website.

Internal Consultees

Air Quality

Essentially the report is the same as that provided as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment, upon which I commented in February 2023. With respect to the UK extant air quality regulations the PEIR references:- standard methodology, information from recognised sources, existing concentrations and appropriate receptors etc.

It is welcomed that in Table 4.1 and section 14.5.4 the PEIR states that vehicle routing will be subject to a DCO to avoid Thorne centre, thus addressing the concerns raised previously, with respect to nitrogen dioxide concentrations at King Street. That being the case, there is no objection to the proposal with respect to impact on the extant UK air quality regulations.

Highways Development Control

Within the OCTMP document it highlights the individual access points that will be used from the adopted highway, all of which will need to be either renewed/altered/reconstructed or constructed in order to accommodate the largest vehicle i.e. a 16.5m articulated HGV. One of the main queries/concerns identified is whether the panels/frames be delivered to the site compound first and then to the individual site parcels by the 16.5m articulated HGV? Table 5.1 page 14 implies this as does the tracking for each access compound and field access point.

Section 2 of the document states and lists on Pages 2 through to 5 all the adopted roads that will be used to access the five compound areas (see point 3.1, Table 3.1 page 7). From these five compounds there will be 12 other points of access needed for construction in order to access all the land parcels/fields (see point 3.12, Table 3.1 page 8).

Of the five compounds listed in Table 3.1 only three are within the City of Doncaster Area (1, 3, 4) which are to serve only certain land parcels listed in the same table. Within Point 3.12 Table 3.1 these access points are listed and referenced A to L however, only references A,



B, D, E, F, J, K apply to City of Doncaster which are detailed and shown on Drawing No. 'Figure 2.1, 3.1 and 4.1'.

Within the statements made within Points 3.1 to 3.25 then the following comments/amendments are made:

Point 3.10 states '*Wheel wash facilities **will be required**.....will be provided **on a hard standing area, at the exit of the construction compounds***' - City of Doncaster will not allow mud/debris to be brought out onto the adopted highway, as enforcement measures will be taken.

Point 3.21 states '*Banksmen can be located*' which should be caveated by saying '*will be*' used for all 16.5m HGV movements from Compounds 3 and 4 i.e. 60mph high speed roads

Point 3.22 - all signing to be erected on the adopted highway will require permission and the attached form being submitted along with drawings showing what and where the signage is to be erected.

Point 3.23 – see Point 3.10 above

Section 4 covers the routing that will be taken to the five compounds however compounds 1, 3 and 4 are the ones within the CDC boundary. Compound 4 is of concern due to the left turn manoeuvre from the A18 into Sandtoft Road. This may need some tracking and mitigation widening depending on what the manoeuvre shows.

Section 5 covers the vehicle trip attraction and Table 5.1 is very detailed however there are a few questions relating to a couple of the points that need expanding/further information submitting.

Point 5.3 – All 16.5m HGV articulated lorry movements be outside of peak hours 07:30 - 09:00, 16:00 – 17:30hrs or whatever hours Tom and Steve feel appropriate.

Point 5.8.1 – Abnormal Indivisible loads are unknown but will be considered in future iterations. The routing could be agreed/confirmed now to each of the compounds/land parcels.

Point 5.12 Table 5.1 is very detailed however is it preferred that these movements to be split down in relation to the individual compounds/land parcel access points so the impact on traffic can be assessed properly.

Section 6 page 16 to 18 covers proposed mitigation measures.

Point 6.5 to 6.8 states that Banksmen will be sited at all access points during the construction phase, be in contact via radios and manage PROW routes that cross the site which is the key wording within the statement.

Condition Survey - All points made under this heading are welcomed.

Section 7 covers the Construction Method Statement for the cable routing to the point of connection with the National Grid however the route is yet to be determined which makes any detailed comments difficult to make.



City of Doncaster Council

The drawings within the heading Figures are for all the access points listed within Table 3.1 page 8 however only references A, B, D, E, F, J, K apply to City of Doncaster which for

clarity are Figures 3.2 (A), Figure 3.3 (B), Figure 3.5 (D), Figure 3.6 (E), Figure 3.7 (F), Figure 3.11 (J), Figure 3.12 (K).

Further Comments

All of the accesses shown on the tracking drawings within the Section Figures will require some form of construction work being carried within the adopted highway. No construction details for these accesses nor any comments relating to Section 278 agreements which will need to be entered into have been provided.

Any modifications to the existing highway network will require a Road Safety Audit to be undertaken and as stated within Point 3.18 all access points will retained for operational purposes. Therefore it is explicit that all of these access points need to be assessed to ensure they are designed in accordance with the appropriate standards, in particular visibility splays and will not cause any highway safety issues, especially those served from the classified roads A18 and C251, both of which are high speed roads.

There is a lot of information still not known within the document and it is insisted that regular teams or in person meetings need to take place in order to ensure that a baseline document is established and moving on from this any additions/revisions clearly marked, understood by all and then signed off when everyone is content with what has been agreed. The area the development covers is a large area covering two districts, the projected number of site staff is high at over 600 and the two and a half year contract duration is very lengthy all of which means careful planning and clear communication is key to its success.

Transportation

See previous comments on response dated: 28/2/2023.

Urban Design Officer

Concerns regarding the cumulative impact upon the visual appearance of the landscape. The Council do not have an in-house landscape consultee to comment on the proposals.

Planning Policy – Waste and Minerals

Minerals - As already identified in the scoping response, the south western section of the proposal area is partially in a mineral safeguarding area and PEDL licence area.

Although solar arrays are classed as temporary development and as such will be supported as noted in Local Plan Policy 61 (B.5) this proposal is not only vast in size but has an expected 45 year life span. On this basis, I express the concern that the development will essentially become permanent given the national policy stance toward re-powering renewable sites as noted in NPPF paragraph 158c.



Regarding the 'Petroleum Exploration and Development Licence' (PEDL) licence areas, The Government awards PEDLs to operators to give exclusive access to operators to 'search, bore for and get' oil and gas resources which are owned by the Crown. Consultation should be directed to the [North Sea Transition Authority](#) for further information.

Waste - It appears the red line boundary of the site is immediately adjacent to a safeguarded waste management site Brier Hills Farm. The site is identified in Policy WCS2 and is one of a number of sites which have been safeguarded to help achieve local recycling, composting and recovery targets. It is difficult to determine at this point if or how the proposal will impact on the current operation of Brier Hills Farm, but this should be considered. The proposal may also impact on their ability to expand. The site is licensed the Environment Agency (EA) and there may be 'sensitive receptors' that require consideration. The applicant should therefore contact the EA to find out if there are any potential issues that need mitigating.

In terms of National Planning policy, this solar development proposal shouldn't be allowed to impact on the business capacity of Brier Hills Farm. The NPPF paragraph 187 explains the 'agent of change' principle and states... 'Existing businesses and facilities should not have unreasonable restrictions placed on them as a result of development permitted after they were established. Where the operation of an existing business or community facility could have a significant adverse effect on new development (including changes of use) in its vicinity, the applicant (or 'agent of change') should be required to provide suitable mitigation before the development has been completed.'

The applicant therefore will need to determine if there are any impacts on the existing business and mitigate accordingly.

Planning Policy – Agricultural Land

The concerns regarding the loss of Best & Most Versatile (BMV) land were expressed in the previous scoping consultation response. It confirmed in that response that the Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Map (open data source), shows a large part of the area to be predominantly grade 2 and 3 agricultural land. The land is clearly high grade and NPPF, Paragraph 174 states, planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by...

(a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan) and

(b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land...

NPPF footnote 58 states, '*where significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, areas of poorer quality land should be preferred to those of a higher quality*'.

Planning practice guidance also states large scale solar farms should be on previously developed land / non-agricultural land, or if greenfield land which is poorer quality.



City of Doncaster Council

The proposal is also contrary to Local Plan policy 60 and needs to consider suitable alternatives on lower grade land and / or non-agricultural land. With regard to part b of policy

60, although soils do not degrade under solar arrays and the site could be reinstated, following a 45 year lifespan the likelihood of this is very slim given the government's current stance toward re-powering low carbon sites, as noted previously when discussing minerals policy.

Part B of the policy requires a soil assessment is required and part C requires a plan demonstrating the conservation of the soil resource.

Planning Policy – Flood Risk

No further comments to make other than those made previously, that a ST, ET and FRA will be required. An FRA has been submitted, which indicates that a ST is ongoing. Para 4.11 does indicate that the ET will be available in the next iteration of the PEIR.

Given this is a National Infrastructure project then the area of search really should be wider than the borough.

Planning Policy – CPA/Green Belt

It is understood this is a consultation on the consultation material provided to help inform and further refine the applicant's proposals prior to formal application to the Secretary of State via the Development Consent Order regime which effectively 'bypasses' local authority decision making under the Town and Country Planning Acts.

As such the material presented on the applicant's website seems reasonable but the sheer amount of information provided, particularly in the Documents section is somewhat overwhelming to members of the public preventing their meaningful engagement.

Doncaster and Lincolnshire are experiencing numerous applications for solar and other renewable projects to make the consideration of cumulative impacts (social, economic and environmental) a crucial aspect to consider. The applicant's ability to strengthen positive cumulative benefits (and minimise negative cumulative impacts) would be one aspect to present clearly after careful (evidenced) consideration alongside, and with, the proponents of other similar schemes.

It is difficult to comment on the local planning policy implications of the proposals given this scheme will be decided as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project under the Development Consent Order regime. Key considerations will include landscape and visual impact but this is something difficult for Doncaster Council, as local planning authority, to comment meaningfully upon, given its lack of in-house expertise on these matters – external expertise may need to be commissioned if the Council agrees this is necessary.

Public Rights of Way

Public footpath No.19 Thorne passes through the site and has a legally recorded width of 30 feet along its entire length. Public footpath No.15 Thorne (Jones Cable) runs immediately



City of Doncaster Council

outside the northern boundary of the site. Impacts of the development on these footpaths and the other public rights of way in the vicinity of the site will need to be assessed and mitigated.

Contamination

The following information has been reviewed: *Preliminary Environmental Information Report, RWE 2022, Chapter 9 Ground Conditions Technical Appendix 09.1 Phase 1 Ground Conditions Desk Study*

The information is clear and concise, the findings of these documents are agreed with and therefore there is no further comment to make.

Ecology

Covered by previous comments dated: 28/2/2023.

External Consultees

NATS Safeguarding

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

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

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

National Grid (Cadent)

Outside of Cadent's distribution network.

Airport Safeguarding

The aerodrome safeguarding team has assessed your proposal in accordance with the CAA CAP 139/2014 and this development does not conflict with safeguarding criteria.



City of
Doncaster
Council

Yorkshire Water

Will respond directly.

South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority

SYMCA are supportive in principle of renewable energy generation in SY as stated in our Energy Strategy.

Yours Faithfully,

[Redacted signature]

Principal Planning Officer



Appendix 3.11 – Informal NLC Pre-Application Response

Enquiries to: [REDACTED]
Direct Dial: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]@northlincs.gov.uk

Date: 29 November 2023

[REDACTED]
Senior Development Manager
RWE Renewables

By email only: info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk

Dear Sir/Madam,

Tween Bridge Solar Farm – First stage consultation

Thank you for giving North Lincolnshire Council the opportunity to comment at this early stage in the development of the Tween Bridge Solar Farm project.

I have taken the opportunity to review the non-statutory consultation documents, including the draft Preliminary Environmental Impact Report and plans via the project website. Technical consultees within the Council have raised matters which will hopefully advise the development and design of the project and support you in making a robust submission to the Planning Inspectorate.

North Lincolnshire Council understands the need for the proposed project and does not wish to raise any objection to the principle of the proposed scheme at this moment in time. At the examination stage North Lincolnshire Council will produce a Local Impact Report which may need to be agreed by local members at Planning Committee and as such we do reserve the right to raise concerns at a later stage following consideration of the detailed application.

At this stage of pre-application consultation, I would like to make the following observations:

Planning Policy

The current Development Plan for North Lincolnshire comprises the saved policies of the North Lincolnshire Local Plan (2003); the North Lincolnshire Core Strategy (2011); and the North Lincolnshire Housing and Employment Land Allocations Development Plan Document (2016). There are no adopted neighbourhood plans relating to the application site.

NLC is in the process of producing a new Local Plan, which will supersede the policies contained within the current Local Plan, Core Strategy and HELA DPD. However, the new local plan is still subject to examination and is currently given limited weight in decision making.

The Development Plan policies relevant to the consideration of this application are set out below.

North Lincolnshire Local Plan (2003)

- DS1 - General Requirements
- DS7 – Contaminated Land
- DS12 – Light Pollution
- DS13 – Groundwater Protection and Land Drainage
- DS14 – Foul Sewage and Surface Water Drainage
- DS21 – Renewable Energy
- HE9 – Archaeological Excavation
- LC4 – Development Affecting Sites of Nature Conservation Importance
- LC5 – Species Protection
- LC7 – Landscape Protection
- LC12 – Protection of Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows
- RD2 – Development in the Open Countryside
- RD7 – Agriculture, Forestry and Farm Diversification
- R5 – Recreational Paths Network
- T1 – Location of Development
- T2 – Access to Development
- T18 – Traffic Management

North Lincolnshire Core Strategy (2011)

- CS1 – Spatial Strategy for North Lincolnshire
- CS2 – Delivering More Sustainable Development
- CS5 – Delivering Quality Design in North Lincolnshire;
- CS6 – Historic Environment;
- CS16 – North Lincolnshire's Landscape, Greenspace and Waterscape;
- CS17 – Biodiversity;
- CS18 – Sustainable Resource Use and Climate Change

North Lincolnshire Housing and Employment Land Allocations DPD (2016)

The site is not allocated for development as par of the HELA DPD.

Other documents

- Planning for Renewable Energy Development Supplementary Planning Document (November 2011)
- Planning for Solar Photovoltaic Developments Supplementary Planning Document (January 2016)
- SuDS and Flood Risk Guidance Document (April 2017)

Landscape and Visual Impact

North Lincolnshire Council does not currently employ a specialist Landscape Officer and we are currently considering the need to seek external advice in this regard and/or joint working arrangements with Doncaster Council.

Notwithstanding the above, I have reviewed the Landscape chapter of the PEIR. The correct National Character Area (NCA), Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) and Landscape Character Types (LCTs) have been assessed. The report indicates that there will be major effects on various LCAs, LCTs and visual receptors through the introduction of large areas of solar panels and other infrastructure in the landscape.

Section 6.8.15 of the report states that, “As the proposals for the Scheme evolve, opportunities to enhance mitigation which combine landscape and ecological measures will be explored. This will form a mitigation strategy that will be included within the subsequent chapter of the PEIR”. This is to be encouraged.

Landscaping proposals should be evidence-based and clearly justified. Whilst new planting is welcomed on the whole, tree planting in the otherwise open landscapes of the Humberhead Levels may erode the local landscape character if poorly designed. The submitted photomontages imply that significant areas of tree-planting and hedgerow planting are proposed.

Ecology

Having reviewed Chapter 7 of the draft PEIR and the comments supplied by the council’s ecologist I have the following comments to raise in respect of ecology.

Habitat Regulations

This application will need to be considered in terms of any likely significant effects on the following European Sites:

- Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar site
- Thorne Moor SAC
- Hatfield Moor SAC
- Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA

The application site comprises largely arable fields, with long sight-lines unobscured by trees or hedgerows, which appear suitable to support passage and wintering

flocks of bird species associated with the Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar Site as well as breeding common crane, associated with Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA. Potential estuarine species include curlew, lapwing, golden plover and pink-footed goose.

The previous Scoping Report noted common crane and curlew as possible breeding species, whereas the PEIR breeding bird appendix notes no evidence of breeding for these species. It is important that the degree of evidence, or otherwise, for these species is clear as they are both species of considerable conservation importance that require large, open areas to breed.

Common crane is not currently an interest feature of Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA. However, the current levels of crane use (i.e. around three breeding pairs) meet the criteria for SPA designation (more than 1% of the UK population) (Tim Kohler, Natural England, pers. comm.). Given that the site arguably should be designated an SPA for this species, it is considered good practice to carry out a shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment in relation to this potential interest feature.

The areas of development nearest to Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA could also potentially affect the foraging habitat of nightjars. This species is an interest feature of the SPA.

Any construction drainage, pollution or dust generation impacts near Thorne Moor SAC and Hatfield Moor SAC could also have a likely significant effect on these sites.

In accordance with government guidance, “The competent authority will require the applicant to provide such information as may reasonably be required to undertake the [Habitats Regulations] assessment.” In this case, the information required will include, but not be limited to:

- A plan, showing the location of the proposals in relation to the boundaries of the European Sites.
- A habitat survey of the application site and surrounding areas, with particular reference to habitat features that may support:
 - breeding, wintering or passage birds associated with the Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar Site.
 - foraging nightjars;
 - common cranes.
- Recent wintering and passage survey information sufficient to assess the usage of the application site by birds associated with the Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar Site.
- Nightjar activity survey results for areas near Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA.
- Breeding, wintering and activity survey reports in relation to common crane.
- Details of any potential drainage, pollution or dust generation impacts near Thorne Moor SAC and Hatfield Moor SAC and any measures proposed to avoid or minimise such effects.

It should be noted that if habitat mitigation for loss of feeding, roosting or loafing habitat is required, then the provision of open spaces within arrays of solar panels is not likely to be suitable. The species concerned require large open spaces with uninterrupted views, to allow them to scan for predators.

Protected and Priority Species

The submitted report indicates that habitat, breeding bird and wintering bird surveys have been carried out over most, but not all, of the application area and affected areas. It will be important to ascertain whether further surveys will be carried out to fill the gaps. Given the vast scale of the application, some of the areas omitted from survey would, in themselves, represent major planning applications in their own right and would ordinarily require their own detailed survey effort. If further survey work is not proposed, it will be important to understand on what basis assessments of baseline value are being made.

Planning Circular 06/2005 states that “It is essential that the presence or otherwise of protected species, and the extent that they may be affected by the proposed development, is established before the planning permission is granted, otherwise all relevant material considerations may not have been addressed in making the decision. The need to ensure ecological surveys are carried out should therefore only be left to coverage under planning conditions in exceptional circumstances, with the result that the surveys are carried out after planning permission has been granted.”

Breeding Birds

The Scoping report noted common crane and curlew as possible breeding species, whereas the PEIR breeding bird appendix notes no evidence of breeding for these species. It is important that the degree of evidence, or otherwise, for these species is clear as they are both species of considerable conservation importance that require large, open areas to breed.

Water Voles

I note that the Environment Agency has requested standard methods surveys, which will allow for easier interpretation of results.

Reptiles

No surveys are proposed for reptiles. I agree that arable land is unlikely to be of value for these species. However, adders could be present in field margins and grass, scrub mosaic habitats near the Humberhead Peatland National Nature Reserve (NNR) and grass snakes could be present near the NNR and near drains.

Standard methods reptile surveys will be required where such habitats will be affected in higher-risk areas.

Amphibians

The submitted results show negative eDNA results for all ponds surveyed, including a significant number of ponds assessed as having “excellent” or “good” suitability. This unexpected result requires more explanation than has been provided, and perhaps a degree of re-survey, to rule out the possibility of a systematic sampling error. It is noted that all ponds are to be retained.

Mitigation

It will be easier to comment on any impact avoidance, mitigation and compensation measures required once we have seen a draft Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and Landscape Ecology Management Plan (LEMP).

Biodiversity Enhancement and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

It is relatively straightforward for solar farm projects to demonstrate measurable BNG in the standard metrics. However, focusing entirely on trees, hedgerows and notionally species-rich grasslands may mean that opportunities for strategically important habitat creation, such as the creation of lagg fen at the edge of lowland raised peat bog, are missed.

Proposals for habitat and species enhancements should make reference to existing landscapes and biodiversity features and should seek to enhance these to create more habitat that is bigger, better and connected (Lawton Principles). Care must be taken to ensure that the proposals do not fragment existing habitat networks or conflict with biodiversity strategies for the area (for example, Humberhead Peatlands NNR management plans, Nature Improvement Area plans, Humber 2100+ or emerging Local Nature Recovery Strategies).

As well as the enhancement measures proposed in the PEIR, it might be useful to provide other measures such as:

- Cultivated arable margins, where appropriate
- Enhanced habitat for turtle dove and other farmland birds
- Mink trapping to benefit water voles and other wetland species
- Lagg fen adjacent to peat bog, as described above
- Ponds and other wetland features near watercourses

Where habitat creation is proposed as mitigation, compensation or planning gain, the underlying survey information should be adequate for regulatory authorities to assess whether the proposals are feasible. In addition to information on species and habitats, it will also be necessary to measure physical conditions including (but not

exclusively) soil nutrient status and hydrology. Where applicable, the applicant should follow the standards set out in Natural England Technical Information Notes.

Cultural Heritage

Having reviewed the draft PEIR the council's Historic Environment Officer has provided the following comments.

The heritage assessment should include ALL of the following iterative stages:

1. Research

- Collation and synthesis of existing historic environment data sources relating to all heritage assets that the proposed development may affect directly or indirectly. The spatial scope for the proposed development should be a minimum 2km for designated heritage assets and 1km for non-designated heritage assets and should provide the context for the subsequent archaeological fieldwork, including appropriate research objectives. Sources should include but not be limited to: the local and national historic environment databases of monuments and events; local archives; historic maps and plans including illustrating the development of the drainage of the area; assessment of aerial photographs, drone survey and LIDAR data; geo-technical and geo-archaeological data; other published and unpublished documents.
- *Geo-archaeological assessment of existing data for the site to produce a preliminary deposit model of the application site and identify gaps for further investigation; opportunity should be afforded for archaeological monitoring and recording during geo-technical investigations of the proposed development site to inform the deposit model.*
- Site visit to identify the presence of any above or below ground heritage assets, archaeological remains or historic landscape features within the application area and/or any constraints on the following stages of archaeological fieldwork.

2. Pre-application Archaeological Field Evaluation

- Systematic fieldwalking and metal detection for surface collection of archaeological artefacts, to identify the range and distribution of all materials and plot potential archaeological features.
- Geophysical survey of the proposed site to identify and plot anomalies of potential archaeological origin using magnetometry, resistivity or other appropriate techniques.
- Borehole survey and/or the excavation of test pits to where gaps are indicated in the preliminary deposit model and are necessary to inform subsequent stages of evaluation or mitigation; samples should be

retrieved for palaeo-environmental assessment and scientific dating of the deposit sequence as appropriate.

- Excavation of sample trial trenches to determine the nature, extent, state of preservation and importance of any archaeological remains within the proposed.
- development area informed by the results of preceding stages of research and survey.
- Specifications for each stage should be agreed with the HER prior to commencement, to accord with the HER brief for evaluation, and with the relevant Chartered Institute for Archaeologists published Standards and Guidance (<http://www.archaeologists.net/>) and Historic England professional guidelines (<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications>).
- The archaeological field evaluation be carried out by a suitably experienced archaeological contractor, such as a Registered Organisation accredited by the Chartered Institute for Archaeology (see <http://www.archaeologists.net/>) or an organisation that can demonstrate that they have equivalent experience, capability and quality management systems in place. The appointed contractor must have access to appropriate geo-archaeological expertise.

3. Assessment of Significance

- Assessment of the significance of those heritage assets and their settings likely to be directly or indirectly impacted by the development; the assessment of the significance of heritage assets will take account of the combined results of all the preceding stages of desk based assessment and archaeological field evaluation, and be based on the heritage values set out in Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the sustainable management of the historic environment, Historic England, 2008 <https://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/conservation-principlessustainable-management-historic-environment/>.
- The methodology of assessing the contribution of setting to significance should be undertaken as set out in Historic England's Historic Environment Good Practice Advice Note 3 ('The Setting of Heritage Assets' 2nd Edition, 2017) <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa3-setting-of-heritageassets/>.
- The use of photographic visualisations from appropriate viewpoints would be of particular use to demonstrate indirect effects of the proposals on settings of heritage assets including of the historic landscape, including evidence of no effects. Impacts other than visual, such as noise, dust and odour, should also be considered. Viewpoints should be agreed with the HER and planning case officers.

4. Assessment of Impact

- Assessment of impacts of the proposed development on the significance of the heritage assets and their settings based on the findings of the preceding stages, with reference to details of proposed construction ground works in relation to archaeological assets, and justification of impacts explaining why the works would be necessary or desirable, including any benefits or heritage enhancements which justify any resulting harm. In the case of substantial harm or loss of significance, the relevant tests in the NPPF should be applied.
- Assessment of the impacts of any other proposed mitigation measures in the ES that may further impact heritage assets, for example drainage and landscaping proposals.
- Consideration must also be given for future accessibility to the site and the ability to conduct archaeological investigations to ensure the archaeological interest is maintained and available for future generations to investigate.

5. Mitigation

- An explanation of any measures taken to avoid, minimise or mitigate any harm to the significance of the heritage asset/s, including within their settings, and maintaining archaeological interest including the ability to undertake future investigations.
- Where harm is unavoidable, measures to offset the harm to significance should be included.
- Measures to enhance heritage assets and engender community participation and appreciation.

The Cultural Heritage chapter of the EIA should be prepared on completion of ALL stages of the assessment and field evaluation set out above, and the Environmental Statement should include the results of all historic environment assessment and final archaeological fieldwork reports.

The council's Historic Environment Officer has confirmed that they have had discussions with your archaeological consultant; however they are not currently satisfied with the proposed approach and timings of the iterative stages set out above.

Specifically, there is no desk-based geoarchaeological assessment in the Cultural Heritage baseline in PEIR Chapter 8 (see italicised text above), nor are we aware of any fieldwalking/metal detecting surveys taking place. These preliminary stages should inform the strategies for the subsequent geophysical survey, purposive geoarchaeological fieldwork and trial trenching.

The archaeological consultant has however confirmed that geophysical survey has been largely completed across 95% of the accessible site areas. The consultant informs us that any geoarchaeological assessment is not going to happen until February 2024, presumably fieldwork but no desk-based research has been mentioned. This timeframe negates the usefulness of a preliminary deposit model of underlying deposits to inform the strategies for the geophysical survey and the trial trenching.

The Historic Environment Officer has confirmed that they will not be in a position to agree a trial trenching strategy until sufficient information has been received in the right order.

Ground Conditions

Having reviewed the Ground conditions section of the PEIR and the relevant Appendix's the council's Environmental Protection Officer (EPO) has the following comments to make.

The EPO has confirmed their agreement with the findings of the scoped topics and that an intrusive ground investigation will take place as part of the proposed scheme. The report does confirm that due to timescales it is unlikely to have the information prior to the ES and that the assessment will be undertaken based on desk-based information and a worst-case assumption of the likely ground conditions.

However, there is insufficient discussion regarding the following points which will need to be addressed within the final desk top study:

- The former airfield at Sandtoft will need a detailed UXO survey to be undertaken.
- More detailed is required in relation to the peat areas within North Lincolnshire and any potential issues regarding ground gas. Any gas monitoring should be undertaken in accordance with best practice and current guidance.
- Geotechnical stability regarding the peat and warp/floodwarp areas needs to be considered, although the report has suggested this will be undertaken at the intrusive ground investigation for the detailed construction and foundation design.

Water Resource

The Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) drainage officer has reviewed the water resources section of the draft PEIR and has provided the following comments.

The submitted documentation is acceptable in that it addresses pluvial flood risk and watercourses that border or pass through the site. Notwithstanding this, the LLFA would advise early discussions are had with the Environment Agency and the Internal Drainage board for all consents and alterations and/or connections into their watercourses/main river network.

The detailed design will include a surface water drainage strategy that addresses mitigation measures required to prevent flooding to themselves and the nearby catchment. The proposed development by default will indirectly improve the current situation by slowing down rainwater flows into the ground and it will remain

uncultivated for the lifetime of the development so infiltration rate is improved. The detailed design must incorporate appropriate measures to mitigate against erosion/increased run-off below the solar arrays and provision of cut-off drainage on the appropriate boundaries.

Socio-economics

I have reviewed the socio-economics section of the PEIR and can confirm that the LPA has no concerns or comments to raise in respect of the proposed methodology at this stage.

Transport and Access

The council's Highways Officer has reviewed the Transport and Access chapter of the draft PEIR as well as technical appendixes 12.1 (Transport Statement) and 12.2 (OCTMP) and has provided the following comments.

The proposed approach to assessing the impacts of construction traffic is acceptable. Whilst the information provided at this stage is high level, it is recognised that Chapter 12 will be updated as further assessments are undertaken. Some of the comments below do request additional information or clarification and have been provided with the aim of assisting the developer with future submissions.

Vehicle Movements

Figure 5.1 in the OCTMP provides an average assumption of 38 HGV movements per day over a 30 month construction period and 6 day working week, which is based on comparable schemes elsewhere. This assumes an equal spread of movements across the construction period, which is unlikely to occur in practice. It is assumed that the movements quoted are for the whole project and the number of vehicles accessing each compound would be less. As the project develops, it would be helpful if a more detailed breakdown of daily vehicle movements associated with each compound could be provided, along with the profile of vehicle movements across the construction period. This will assist with understanding variations in construction traffic and the maximum number of vehicles expected per day and duration of this on each construction route.

Para 3.1 of the OCTMP states that "the primary compounds will be located within the larger parcels of the scheme where the largest HGV's will offload and decant materials to access the remainder of the scheme". It is unclear whether these movements will occur within each parcel of land, or whether they will leave the site to access the parcel via an alternative access. If it is the latter, then an understanding of these vehicle movements is required.

More explanation for the other site accesses (not the compound accesses) is required as it is unclear on their usage from the information provided.

It is understood that 606 construction workers are anticipated to be on site during the peak construction period. More information on how construction workers will be expected to travel by staff mini-bus, to minimise the number of individual car trips would be helpful.

Access to Compounds

Compound 2: Cross Street is not suitable for HGV traffic. It is narrow in places, with a lot of on-street parking and it would be difficult for two HGVs to easily pass each other. Without a swept path analysis, it is unknown whether HGVs would be able to turn into and out of Cross Street. We would not be supportive of the use of Cross Street by HGVs.

Compound 5: A swept path analysis needs to be completed for the A161/unnamed road junction as it may be tight for HGVs to access/egress at this junction. Whilst we have no issue with the use of the unclassified road to access the compound, it is a single track road with no scope to provide any passing places. We would suggest a temporary one-way system is considered for this section to avoid any potential conflict.

Proposed Cable Routing

It is appreciated that the exact route of the cable will be determined at a later stage and that no further details are available at this point. However, we would recommend that the contractors engage in early discussions with the council's network Management Team regarding the proposed routes.

Public Rights of Way

The council's Neighbourhood Services team has reviewed Chapter 12 of the draft PEIR and have provided the following comments.

Please note that what is indicated as being Epworth FP45 on the Indicative Access Strategy map, 'Figure 12.1', is actually Belton FP21 – between South Engine Drain and the River Torne – north of Sandtoft Road.

At para 12.4.30 the draft PEIR states in respect of Crook o' Moor Road and Moor Owners Road (et al): "These roads consist of rural lanes with no kerbs, footways or street lighting. They generally measure around four metres in width". Assuming 'Moor Owners Road is what North Lincolnshire Council know as Yorkshire Moors Bottom Road (which together with Crook o' Moor Road forms Byway Open to all Traffic (BOAT21)), Crowle, we must highlight the fact that whatever the physical width of these on the ground, the legal widths of Crook o' Moor Road and Yorkshire Moors Bottom Road are 12.19 metres and 20.11 metres respectively.

These are the widths within the West Riding of Yorkshire (Crook o' Moor Road) and County of Lincoln, Parts of Lindsey (Isle of Axholme), (Yorkshire Moors Bottom Road) definitive statements, deriving from the Thorne Improvement Award 1879 in the case of the former and the Crowle, Eastoft and Ealand Inclosure Award 1823 in the case of the latter, via 'Definitive Map Modification (Byway Open to All Traffic 21, Crowle) Order 2003(2)' (Crook o' Moor Road, SE75381302 to SE74721227) and 'Definitive Map Modification (Byway Open to All Traffic 21, Crowle) Order 2009(1)' (Yorkshire Moors Bottom Road, SE76231388 to SE75381302) (the former order confirmed by, and the latter order made under the direction of, the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs).

In paragraph 12.4.66 'Dirt and Dust', moreover, it is stated, "The IEMA Guidelines suggest that 'problems with dust and dirt are unlikely to occur at distances greater than 50m from the road'". Paragraph 12.4.67 continues, "The primary site construction compounds will be located more than 50m from the adjacent adopted highway and it is considered that there will be a Negligible Effect on dust and dirt and

therefore Not Significant in EIA terms". Although within 'Table 12.5: Extract of aspect based scoping table from Scoping Opinion for Tween Bridge Solar Farm' it is stated under ID Ref. 2.1.12 (paras 2.23 to 2.25): "The applicant notes that detailed information regarding the size and locations of the temporary construction compounds is required, and this will be made available in the next iteration of the PEIR once the layout has been fixed", at paragraph 12.4.46 is added, "As set out in the draft OCTMP, five primary construction compounds will be provided in parcels A, B, F I [sic] and P". And from looking at 'Illustration 4.1: Land Parcel Plan' within PEIR 'Chapter 4 – Site Description' at paragraph 4.2.5, Parcel B both incorporates and flanks Crowle BOAT21.

Given 'adopted highway' is shorthand for 'highway maintained at the public expense', and that this term includes not just tarmacked public roads used mainly by motor vehicles, but public rights of way so maintained too, are the affected public rights of way, and BOAT 21 in particular, also deemed to be situated more than 50 metres from the primary site construction compounds, and if not, what are the intended mitigation measures for users of these (bearing in mind these are open to all traffic as well). Furthermore, what of secondary construction compounds?

Crowle BOAT21, BW17 and BW16, and Belton FP21, appear in the North Lincolnshire list of streets (the statutory register of highways maintainable at the public expense). As such, the surface of each is vested in North Lincolnshire Council as highway authority, and it is an offence to interfere with that surface without our express prior approval. The highway authority also have a duty to assert the public's use and enjoyment of the highway, and to prevent as far as possible obstructions and stoppings up.

Neighbourhood Services consider it vital that the above considerations in respect of public rights of way in North Lincolnshire are taken fully into account if this scheme is to progress beyond the consultation stage.

Noise and Vibration

The council's EPO has reviewed the Noise and Vibration Chapter of the draft PEIR.

A qualitative assessment of construction noise in line with BS5228 will be undertaken, considering potential noise levels from typical construction processes, noise limits and control measures that could be implemented at the closest residential properties should it be necessary.

A predictive assessment of construction phase traffic impacts will be undertaken in line with CRTN and DMRB LA111, with the relative change in noise level during each month of the construction phase compared with the existing traffic flow on local roads.

At this stage, the specifics of the noise generating equipment are unknown.

As the project design progresses and the technical data becomes established throughout the design process of the application, more relevant and accurate noise data will be used in the noise model to reflect the stages of the design process. As the noise model submitted with the report is based on assumptions, the EPO has stated that it is not appropriate to comment on its suitability at this time.

It is noted that the EPO is in the process of agreeing the noise monitoring locations with the developer and awaits the submission of a noise assessment with any future application submitted.

Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases

The council's EPO has reviewed Chapter 14 of the draft PEIR as well as technical appendix 14.5 (Construction Mitigation) and has provided the following comments.

The Scheme has the potential to affect air quality via the following processes:

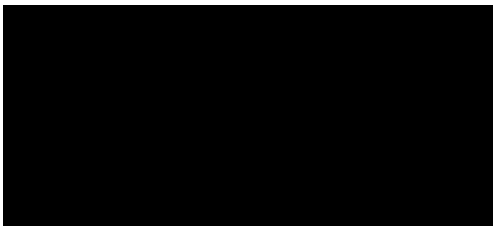
- Emissions from plant and equipment during the construction and operational phases;
- Emissions from road traffic during the construction and operational phases; and
- Dust emissions during the construction phase.

The assessment has demonstrated that, with mitigation, the effect of construction dust on sensitive receptors will be 'not significant'. Traffic generated by the Scheme during both the construction and operational phases will be below published screening thresholds, and thus will be 'not significant'.

Furthermore, Appendix 14.5 sets a list of construction mitigation measures. This is currently in draft and does not include impacts from light and noise. It is assumed this document will be further refined at a later date.

I trust that the comments contained within this letter and enclosures are helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss any aspect of this response or this development.

Yours Sincerely



Strategic Development Officer

Appendix 3.2 – Non-Statutory Stakeholder Letter

4th October 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

Tween Bridge Solar Farm – First Stage Consultation

RWE Renewables (The Applicant) is consulting on its proposals for the Tween Bridge Solar Farm (“the Scheme”) between Wednesday 4 October 2023 and Wednesday 29 November 2023 (inclusive).

During the pre-application process, we must consult with a variety of persons and organisations about our proposed application in accordance with the requirements of the 2008 Act. You have been identified as a prescribed consultee for the purposes of Section 42(1)(a) of the 2008 Act and Regulation 3 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended).

Tween Bridge Solar Farm comprises a solar farm capable of generating over 50MW of Alternating Current (AC) electricity with a co-located Battery Energy Storage System (“BESS”), located approximately 10km to the northeast of Doncaster and 14km to the west of Scunthorpe. The Scheme’s site area is approximately 1500 hectares. The primary substation would be located within the main development area, to the north of the Stainforth and Keadby Canal, adjacent to the existing overhead electricity pylons which traverse the site.

The Proposed Development comprises:

- Arrays of Ground Mounted Solar Panels
- Battery Energy Storage System (“BESS”)
- Electrical Vehicle (EV) charging point
- Formation of Ecological Corridors and Green Infrastructure
- Substation Building and Compounds
- Upgrade to Main Access Track
- Temporary Construction and Decommissioning Compounds
- Open Trench Cabling Works
- Directional drilling for cable works for various crossing including: rhynes; canal; railway; and, the M180
- Fencing and Security Measures
- Culverts and Upgrades to Existing Culverts

Tween Bridge Solar Farm is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008 (‘the 2008 Act’). This means we are required to make an application for a Development Consent Order (‘DCO’) to seek and obtain the consent we need.

This application will be made to the Planning Inspectorate (‘PINS’) who will examine the application on behalf of the Secretary of State. The application will seek permission to construct, operate and decommission the



Scheme. We expect to submit an application in late 2025.

We would be grateful for your views on the consultation material to help inform and further refine our proposals. We will be holding a second stage consultation (which will be our statutory consultation) in 2024.

RWE Renewables will consider and have regard to all responses when refining the Scheme once the consultation has closed. A Consultation Report submitted with the application will include an explanation of how responses have been considered in refining and finalising the proposals.

Tween Bridge Solar Farm is a development which requires an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. At this early non-statutory stage, we have prepared a draft Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) to help you understand the likely effects of our proposals on the environment. An Environmental Statement will be prepared and submitted as part of the application.

Consultation documents

To view the full suite of consultation documents listed below, please visit the project website at www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk. These are provided to help you understand the proposals and share your views with us:

- the consultation leaflet;
- the draft PEIR; and
- PEIR Non-Technical Summary
- associated plans and drawings (a shapefile of the order limits can be provided upon request)

Please supply any response using the contact methods below:

- Email: info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk
- Freepost*: FREEPOST TWEENBRIDGE
- Telephone: 08000 217877

**No stamp is required.*

Responses must be received no later than 11.59pm on Wednesday 29 November 2023.

For ease of reference, we enclose a plan showing the extents of the Scheme, which is called the “draft order limits”. The draft order limits can be provided via USB or file transfer upon request.

Printed copies of the consultation materials may be requested during the consultation period from RWE Renewables using the email address, postal address or telephone number provided in this letter. The cost for print and postage will be supplied upon request.



We are holding two public exhibitions and an online webinar as part of our consultation, the details of which are provided below:

| Date | Location | Time |
|---------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Monday 16 October 2023 | Thornesians RUFC, Church Balk, Thorne DN8 5BU | 2pm – 7pm |
| Tuesday 17 October 2023 | Crowle Community Hub, Market Place, Crowle, Scunthorpe DN17 4LA | 2pm – 7pm |
| Wednesday 1 November 2023 | Online webinar Please visit www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk for details on how to register. A recording of the webinar will subsequently be uploaded to the website and can be supplied upon request. | 6:30pm – 7:30pm |

Should you have any queries about this correspondence, the Scheme or the consultation, please do not hesitate to contact us using the details provided below.

Yours Sincerely



Senior Development Manager RWE Renewables

Enclosed: draft order limits

RWE

At RWE, we are the leading power generator and one of the largest renewables developers in the UK. We already provide 15% of the UK's energy needs through our wind farms, hydro, biomass and gas energy generation facilities.

In March 2023 RWE acquired JBM Solar, a large independent developer of solar and battery storage systems. This acquisition will significantly accelerate RWE's solar development in the UK and places the company amongst the largest solar developers in the UK.

By 2030, RWE expects to invest £15bn in new green technologies and infrastructure, to help the UK become more energy independent and achieve its climate goals. RWE directly employs around 3000 people in the UK, plus many more indirectly.

UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The personal data processed in connection with releases will be processed in compliance with the legal data protection requirements. If you are not interested in continuing to receive the press release for this scheme, please inform us at info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk. If you have any questions about our data protection policy or the exercise of your rights under the GDPR, please contact ukdataprotectionrwe@rwe.com.

Appendix 3.3 – Non-Statutory Interested Parties Letter

4th October 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

Tween Bridge Solar Farm – First Stage Consultation

RWE Renewables (The Applicant) is consulting on its proposals for the Tween Bridge Solar Farm (“the Scheme”) between Wednesday 4 October 2023 and Wednesday 29 November 2023 (inclusive).

I am writing to you as an organisation or individual that may be interested in the Scheme. This letter explains how to take part in the first round of consultation and invites you to share your views on our proposals. The Scheme would be located between Thorne and Crowle, on the district boundaries of Doncaster Council and North Lincolnshire Council.

The Scheme comprises a solar farm capable of generating over 50MW of Alternating Current (AC) electricity with a co-located Battery Energy Storage System (“BESS”), located approximately 10km to the northeast of Doncaster and 14km to the west of Scunthorpe. The Scheme’s site area is approximately 1500 hectares. The primary substation would be located within the main development area, to the north of the Stainforth and Keadby Canal, adjacent to the existing overhead electricity pylons which traverse the site.

The Scheme comprises:

- Arrays of Ground Mounted Solar Panels
- Battery Energy Storage System (“BESS”)
- Electrical Vehicle (EV) charging point
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- Upgrade to Main Access Track
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- Open Trench Cabling Works
- Directional drilling for cable works for various crossing including: rhynes; canal; railway; and, the M180
- Fencing and Security Measures
- Culverts and Upgrades to Existing Culverts

Tween Bridge Solar Farm is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008 (as amended (‘the 2008 Act’). This means we are required to make an application for a Development Consent Order (‘DCO’) to seek and obtain the consent we need.

This application will be made to the Planning Inspectorate (‘PINS’) who will examine the application on behalf of the Secretary of State. The application will seek permission to construct, operate and decommission the



Proposed Development. We expect to submit an application in late 2025.

We would be grateful for your views on the consultation material to help inform and further refine our proposals. We will be holding a second stage consultation (which will be our statutory consultation) in 2024.

RWE Renewables will consider and have regard to all responses when refining the Scheme once the consultation has closed. A Consultation Report submitted with the application will include an explanation of how responses have been considered in refining and finalising the proposals.

The Scheme is a development which requires an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. At this early non-statutory stage, we have prepared a draft Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) to help you understand the likely effects of our proposals on the environment. An Environmental Statement will be prepared and submitted as part of the application.

Consultation documents

To view the full suite of consultation documents listed below, please visit the project website at www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk. These are provided to help you understand the proposals and share your views with us:

- the consultation leaflet;
- the consultation feedback questionnaire;
- the draft PEIR; and
- PEIR Non-Technical Summary
- associated plans and drawings (a shapefile of the order limits can be provided upon request)

Please supply any response using the contact methods below:

- Online: www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk
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- Freepost*: FREEPOST TWEEN BRIDGE SOLAR FARM
- Call: Telephone: 08000 217877

**No stamp is required.*

Responses must be received no later than 11.59pm on Wednesday 29 November 2023.

If you would like further information about this notice, the consultation or the Scheme, please contact the project team by using one of the contact methods provided above.

For ease of reference, we enclose a plan showing the extents of the Scheme, which is called the “draft order



limits". The draft order limits can be provided via USB or file transfer upon request.

Printed copies of the consultation materials may be requested during the consultation period from RWE Renewables using the email address, postal address or telephone number provided in this letter. The cost for print and postage will be supplied upon request.

We are holding two public exhibitions and an online webinar as part of our consultation, the details of which are provided below.

We are also opening the two exhibitions early for key stakeholders, and we cordially invite you to attend the pre-exhibition event which starts at 12.30. If you wish to attend the pre-exhibition event, please do let us know.

| Date | Location | Time |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| Monday 16 October 2023 | Thornesians RUFC, Church Balk, Thorne DN8 5BU | Pre-exhibition opening 12:30 – 1:30 Public exhibition 2pm – 7pm |
| Tuesday 17 October 2023 | Crowle Community Hub, Market Place, Crowle, Scunthorpe DN17 4LA | Pre-exhibition opening 12:30 – 1:30 Public exhibition 2pm – 7pm |
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Should you have any queries about this correspondence, the Scheme or the consultation, please do not hesitate to contact me using the details provided below.

Yours Sincerely



Senior Development Manager RWE Renewables

Enclosed: draft order limits



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Appendix 3.4 – How Section 51 advice has been addressed through the pre-application process

Appendix 3.4 –Regard to S51 Advice.

| Date of Meeting/Advice Received | S51 advice received | Applicant's Regard to S51 Advice |
|--|--|--|
| 19 th December 2022 – Project Inception Meeting | The Inspectorate also advised that early consultation with National Rail to establish any protective provisions or initial agreements would be beneficial to the application. | The Applicant is in active discussions with Network Rail with regards to any bespoke protective provisions they may need. |
| | The Inspectorate queried the agricultural classification of the land, to which the Applicant confirmed that to their current knowledge the land is primarily grade 3 but also comprises some grade 2 land. Further studies are being undertaken to confirm this. | The extent of BMV land within the Order Limits is assessed, as set out in Section 15.4 of ES Chapter 15 Agricultural Circumstances [Document Reference 6.2.15] . This extent of BMV within the Order Limits is illustrated in ES Figure 15.1 [Document Reference 6.4.15.1] |
| | The Inspectorate advised that the Applicant should clearly demonstrate their sequential approach to use of lower grade agricultural land and areas of lower flood risk in their documentation. | <p>The site identification methodology is provided in ES Chapter 3 Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process [Document Reference 6.1.3].</p> <p>The extent of BMV land within the Order Limits is assessed, in Section 15.4 of ES Chapter 15 [Document Reference 6.2.15]. The economic and land use implications are considered in Sections 15.5 to 15.7 [Document Reference 6.2.15].</p> |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| | <p>The Inspectorate asked whether the potential for the site to comprise land functionally linked to the Thorne and Hatfield Moors Special Protection Area (SPA) had been considered, since the land abuts the moors.</p> | <p>Impacts on statutory designated sites (with mobile qualifying features) within 10km of the Order Limits have been scoped into the ES Chapter 7 Ecology and Nature Conservation [Document Reference 6.2.7]. This includes an assessment of the potential for significant effects on functionally linked land associated with such sites.</p> |
| | <p>The Inspectorate queried if the project will involve the permanent acquisition of land.</p> | <p>Areas of the land associated with the solar panel areas have been secured by the Applicant via negotiation and voluntary agreement.</p> <p>The Order Limits (and therefore the land to be subject to compulsory acquisition powers) establishes the extent of the land affected by the Scheme and is shown on the Land Plans [Document Reference 2.2] and is described in the Book of Reference [Document Reference 4.3].</p> |
| <p>24th April 2023 – Project Update Meeting</p> | <p>The Applicant made amendments to the draft order limits presented in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report, which have reduced the overall extent of the site boundary. The Inspectorate advised that the baseline studies and potential impacts considered in the Environmental Statement</p> | <p>Additional baseline surveys have undertaken to account of the Order Limits submitted with the DCO application. The Environmental Statement assess the potential impacts of the Scheme.</p> |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| | (ES) should address the new areas of land take and changes to the Proposed Development. | |
| | The Inspectorate advised that where options/uncertainty remains regarding the proposed substation at the point of DCO application, the assessment in the ES should be based on reasonable worse case scenarios considering the information available at the time of assessment. | The Environmental Statement [Document Reference 6.1.0-6.4.17.1] does assess the worst-case scenario considering the information available at the time of assessment. |
| | The Inspectorate advised that the Outline Decommissioning Plan should include as much detail as possible on how waste would be managed, taking account of the available information, and identifying where assumptions have been made or uncertainty exists. | <p>An Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (ODEMP) has been produced [Document Reference 7.3].</p> <p>The ODEMP [Document Reference 7.3] provides the proposed structure of the Final Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan(s). It also indicates additional information or controls which might be included within the Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan(s) to deliver the decommissioning phase of the Scheme. At the time of preparation, the Final DEMP(s) will of course be subject to the relevant standards and legislation at the time of decommissioning.</p> |
| | The approach to the biodiversity assessment | Habitats and supporting survey information has been |

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| | <p>was discussed; the Inspectorate advised the Applicant to maintain up to date evidence of agreements with relevant consultation bodies and to justify the approach taken in the ES</p> | <p>discussed with Natural England and the host authorities as part of the consultation process. The ecology assessment methodology is provided in ES Chapter 7 Ecology & Nature Conservation [Document Reference 6.2.7].</p> |
| | <p>The Inspectorate noted that concerns had been raised by local authorities around archaeological sensitivities and scope of survey effort in relation to other NSIPs in the Lincolnshire area and advised the Applicant to make effort to discuss and agree the approach with relevant consultation bodies, including local authorities.</p> | <p>ES Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology [Document Reference 6.2.8] assessment the Scheme potential impact of Cultural Heritage and Archaeology.</p> <p>This is supplemented by Appendix 8.6 Outline Archaeological Mitigation Strategy [Document Reference 6.3.8.6].</p> <p>Discussions were held with Historic Environment Officer at North Lincolnshire Council and the Historic Environment Officer, South Yorkshire Archaeology Team.</p> <p>Survey works have been completed in line with the approved WSI. Results are available at Appendix 8.2 Geophysical Survey Report [Document Reference 6.3.8.2].</p> <p>The archaeological fieldwork strategy remains an ongoing discussion with the archaeological officers. This is discussed further in the Potential Main Issues for</p> |

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| | | Examination [Document Reference 5.9], ES Chapter 8 [Document Reference 6.2.8], the Consultation Report [Document Reference 5.1], and the Consultation Report Appendices [Document Reference 5.2]. |
| | The Inspectorate queried if the Applicant had made attempts to secure Land Agreements and if any compulsory acquisition had been established. | <p>Areas of the land associated with the solar panel areas have been secured by the Applicant via negotiation and voluntary agreement.</p> <p>The Order Limits (and therefore the land to be subject to compulsory acquisition powers) establishes the extent of the land affected by the Scheme and is shown on the Land Plans (Application Document: 2.2) and is described in the Book of Reference (Application Document 4.3) accompanying the Application.</p> |
| 24th January 2025 – Project Update Meeting. | Noting the location of the proposed development relative to European sites, the Inspectorate advised the Applicant about the importance of working towards agreement with NE and other relevant bodies on the scope and extent of the baseline bird surveys and the required extent of the ecological mitigation areas before submission of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application, to | ES Chapter 7 Ecology and Natural Conservation [Document Reference 6.2.7] sets out the methodology adopted for the ecological assessment based on published ecological guidance such as that issued by CIEEM which includes accepted approaches to the identification of habitats and appraisal of ecological value based on plant communities present, the species such habitats may support along |

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| | <p>help ensure a more efficient Examination.</p> | <p>with information on underlying environmental conditions and land management practices.</p> <p>Habitats and supporting survey information has been discussed with Natural England and the relevant LPA as part of the consultation process. Results of this are included within ES Chapter 7 [Document Reference 6.2.7].</p> |
| | <p>The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to review other solar projects in Lincolnshire as to how cumulative effects have been examined and the types of questions asked by Examining Authorities.</p> | <p>The potential for cumulative effects from the Scheme and other developments have been considered, as well as in-combination effects (multiple environmental effects from the Scheme combined to affect the same receptor or resource). The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is carried out prior to the submission of the DCO application. The methodology and approach of the EIA process is explained in detail at ES Chapter 4 Approach to Environmental Impact Assessment [Document Reference 6.1.4].</p> |
| <p>15th May 2025 – Project Update Meeting.</p> | <p>The Inspectorate asked about the level of detail provided by the applicant to consultees during statutory consultation, pointing out the need for a sufficient level of detail required for consultees to be able to provide informed feedback.</p> | <p>The Consultation Report [Document Reference 5.1] provides details of how consultation and engagement has been delivered in line with the Planning Act 2008 and associated regulation and guidance.</p> |

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| | <p>The Inspectorate enquired about the general position of NE regarding potential effects on birds from the proposed development, along with the methodology and extent of surveys undertaken and proposed mitigation measures.</p> | <p>Habitats and supporting survey information has been discussed with Natural England and the relevant LPA as part of the consultation process. Results of this are included within ES Chapter 7 Ecology & Nature Conservation [Document Reference 6.2.7].</p> <p>Information on the potential effects on wintering birds and any proposed mitigation measures is included within the ES and has been subject to consultation with NE, see ES Appendix 7.9 Natural England Discretionary Advice Note – December 2024 and April 2025 [Document Reference 6.3.7.9].</p> |
| | <p>The Inspectorate sought clarification on ongoing environmental surveys and if they were to be completed before submission.</p> | <p>ES Chapter 7 Ecology and Nature Conservation outlines the extent of surveys completed at the site. [Document Reference 6.2.7].</p> <p>Comprehensive ecological surveys have been undertaken since 2022 and are continuing to be undertaken to inform the ES, with the aim of providing the required information regarding habitats along with protected species. This includes breeding and non-breeding birds, badger, otter, water voles, amphibians and invertebrates.</p> |

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| | | <p>These surveys were used (and continue to be used, as results are returned) to inform the iterative design of the Scheme and avoidance of ecological features of value, such as hedgerows, woodland and watercourses, has been a core design principle.</p> <p>Some surveys including bats, great crested newts and water vole will be finished following the formal submission in July 2025 and will be issued to the Inspectorate for the relevant consultees to consider during the pre-examination period.</p> |
| | The Inspectorate advised that applicants are encouraged to produce a Programme Document at the outset and to make this available to parties online. | The applicant supplied the Inspectorate with its initial Programme Document in July 2024, in line with the Inspectorate's Expression of Interest process. |
| | The Inspectorate agreed with the applicant that it could submit its Adequacy of Consultation Milestone statement in June 2025, less than 3 months before the submission of the application (as outlined in government guidance). | The Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (provided at Appendix 2.1 of the Consultation Report Appendices [Document Reference 5.2]) was submitted to PINS in advance of the application submission. |
| | The Inspectorate enquired about protected provisions and whether any draft DCO provisions had been shared with relevant statutory undertakers. | Advanced conversations had been held with the Canal and River Trust and Network Rail, as well as National Highways and others. Negotiations on protected provisions will be ongoing upon submission. |

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| | <p>The Inspectorate informed the applicant of the pre-submission letter to be issued, including information on file sharing and the need to supply an updated GIS shapefile at least 10 working days before submission.</p> | <p>The Applicant submitted the draft Order Limits shapefile with PINS on Thursday 3rd July 2025, allowing for more than 10 works days prior to the submission of the application.</p> |
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Appendix 3.4 - The Applicant's Response to the Planning Inspectorate's Section 51 Advice (dated 15 August 2025)

| Ref. | Planning Inspectorate's Section 51 Advice | The Applicant's Response | Addressed in DCO Application? |
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| 1 | Absence of survey coverage of areas added to the solar development (Parcels A – E) and NGET substation area (Parcel F), and subsequent omission of Parcel F from relevant figures and appendices | | |
| A | Environmental Statement (ES) Figure 6.4.1.2 shows Land Parcel Plan 'Parcel F' as the largest parcel, comprising an area of 606.62 hectares (approximately 25% of the proposed Order Limits). The proposed 400kv underground cable (proposed Work No. 2) would be located somewhere within Parcel F and connect with a proposed substation that is being promoted by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET). The precise location for the proposed NGET substation is currently unknown. The proposed development includes works for making a connection between the proposed development and NGET's proposed substation (Work No. 6). The transmission of electricity generated by the proposed development would be dependent on the availability of NGET's proposed substation. | The Applicant notes this commentary, no response is required. | n/a |

| Ref. | Planning Inspectorate's Section 51 Advice | The Applicant's Response | Addressed in DCO Application? |
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| B | <p>A number of documents which present the baseline data, and subsequently on which the environmental impact assessment (EIA) for the proposed development are based, are noted to completely or partially omit parcel F (and may omit some other parcels added to areas A to E). It therefore appears the EIA for the proposed development reported upon in the submitted ES does not fully reflect the project's zone of influence and effects on its potential receptors.</p> | <p>Land Parcel F has been removed from the Scheme. Part of the bird mitigation area formerly included in Land Parcel F now forms part of Land Parcel E. This bird mitigation area has been included in the EIA for the Scheme, as reported in the submitted ES, together with the necessary baseline surveys.</p> <p>ES Chapter 7 Ecology and Nature Conservation [Document Reference 6.2.7] confirms which surveys have been carried out for the bird mitigation area, which include breeding and wintering bird surveys. The Applicant does not consider it proportionate or necessary as part of the EIA to carry out wider environmental surveys within this area, due to the nature of what is proposed – that is, a continuation of the current arable use of the land (with differing farming practices which assist bird numbers) with no infrastructure proposed.</p> <p>The relevant ES chapters set out the approach to surveys for Parcels A-E more widely. Further detail is provided in responses E(a) to E(nn), however in summary, the Applicant confirms that the ES includes all relevant survey data for Parcels A-E more widely (including the areas added through the pre-application process). As outlined further in response E(b), supplementary survey data for water voles will be available for submission to the Planning Inspectorate in September 2025. Similarly, the full analysis of the 2025 additional breeding bird survey data will be available for</p> | Yes |

| Ref. | Planning Inspectorate's Section 51 Advice | The Applicant's Response | Addressed in DCO Application? |
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| | | <p>submission to the Planning Inspectorate in September 2025, although the Applicant notes that it has included and considered the raw data which covers the 2025 survey period in line with best practice guidelines, within the DCO Application.</p> <p>The full analysis of the data will be available in September 2025 once the final survey has been completed and will therefore be submitted as an update during acceptance (should the Inspectorate request it) or otherwise during the pre-examination stage.</p> <p>Bat surveys have been undertaken in 2025, are ongoing and will be completed by October 2025. Data that is available, including surveys that incorporate the spring and summer periods in 2025, has been included in the DCO Application. The remaining data will be available for submission to the Planning Inspectorate in October 2025.</p> <p>Justification for the Applicant's approach to surveys is also included within the relevant chapters of the ES.</p> | |
| C | <p>Within ES Appendix 7-6, access to Parcel F appears to have been possible prior to the application's submission, with otter and water vole surveys having been undertaken. As such it is unclear why other surveys within Parcel F have not</p> | <p>Land Parcel F has been removed from the Scheme. Part of the bird mitigation area which was previously included in Parcel F has been incorporated into Parcel E.</p> <p>As outlined in response B, ES Chapter 7 Ecology and Nature Conservation [Document Reference 6.2.7] confirms which</p> | Yes |

| Ref. | Planning Inspectorate's Section 51 Advice | The Applicant's Response | Addressed in DCO Application? |
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| | been completed prior to the application's submission. The exact area covered by the omitted or outstanding surveys has not been specified. | surveys have been carried out for the bird mitigation area, which include breeding and wintering bird surveys. The Applicant does not consider it proportionate or necessary as part of the EIA to carry out wider environmental surveys within this area, due to the nature of what is proposed – that is, a continuation of the current arable use of the land (with differing farming practices which assist bird numbers) with no infrastructure proposed. | |
| E | The documents which are noted to omit parcel F (and may omit some other parcels added to areas A to E) include: | Parcel F has been removed from the Scheme, with part of the bird mitigation area previously included in Parcel F now incorporated into Parcel E. The responses in E(a) to E(nn) below therefore focus on the survey requirements for the bird mitigation area, and the other areas that have been added to Parcels A-E throughout the pre-application stage. | n/a |
| E(a) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doc 2.6 Trees and Hedgerows to be Removed or Managed Plan | <p>None of the trees or hedgerows in the bird mitigation area are to be removed hence they are not shown on this plan.</p> <p>The Plan correctly captures all of the tree and hedgerow removal and management requirements across the remainder of Parcels A-E.</p> | Yes |
| E(b) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doc 6.2.7 ES chapter 7 notes outstanding water vole and otter surveys, a requirement to update Great crested newt (GCN) surveys, and breeding bird surveys in area previously not covered. These are | With the exception of breeding bird surveys, the other surveys referred to are not considered to be relevant for the bird mitigation area, for the reasons outlined in response B. The Applicant confirms that it has completed breeding bird surveys within the bird mitigation area and this data is | Yes. |

| Ref. | Planning Inspectorate's Section 51 Advice | The Applicant's Response | Addressed in DCO Application? |
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| | referred to as being available "autumn 2025" | <p>included in ES Chapter 7 Ecology and Nature Conservation [Document Reference 6.2.7].</p> <p>Supplementary water vole survey data and full analysis of the 2025 breeding bird survey data will also be available for submission to the Inspectorate in September 2025.</p> <p>In terms of Parcels A-E more widely –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCN surveys have been completed in 2025 (including the areas added to during the pre-application process).The methodology and results are included ES Chapter 7 Ecology and Nature Conservation [Document Reference 6.2.7] and Doc 6.3.7.7 ES Appendix 7.6 GCN surveys. • Water vole and otter surveys were completed in 2023 and have been updated in June 2025. This includes the areas added to Parcels A-E during the pre-application process. The methodologies and results are included ES Chapter 7 Ecology and Nature Conservation [Document Reference 6.2.7] and Appendix 7.6 Confidential Report – Otter and Water Vole Survey Report. A further water vole survey is proposed for September 2025, although this is a repeat of the June 2025 survey and is only being completed for absolute robustness. It must be noted | |

| Ref. | Planning Inspectorate's Section 51 Advice | The Applicant's Response | Addressed in DCO Application? |
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| | | <p>that consultation on survey effort with the Ecologists at City of Doncaster Council and North Lincolnshire Council in April 2025, confirmed that there may not be a need to complete the 2025 surveys as water voles are mobile and that updated surveys prior to construction would be sensible to fully inform the required mitigation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breeding bird surveys have been undertaken in 2025 to include the areas of land added to Parcels A-E during the pre-application process (the majority of Parcels A-E had been previously subject to breeding bird surveys). All the additional areas have been subject to habitat surveys and based on these habitats and the breeding bird surveys already undertaken, the likely bird assemblage that is present can be presumed. In addition, during breeding bird surveys, all birds seen and heard in the area are recorded, and as much of the areas added to Parcels A-E during the pre-application stage are adjacent to areas previously surveyed, any breeding birds in these areas that call or fly will likely have been recorded. Therefore, based on all these reasons the bird assemblage in the additional area is unlikely to significantly change based on the updated 2025 survey data. The Applicant has submitted and considered the 2025 survey data as part of the ES. At | |

| Ref. | Planning Inspectorate's Section 51 Advice | The Applicant's Response | Addressed in DCO Application? |
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| | | <p>this stage only the final month of surveys are missing and would not be expected to make a significant change to the results. The full analysis of the data will be available in September 2025 and will therefore be submitted as an update during acceptance (should the Inspectorate request it) or otherwise during the pre-examination stage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the chapter author's professional opinion, the information provided to date is sufficient to provide a complete EIA. | |
| E(c) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doc 6.3.6.6 ES Appendix 6.6 Arboricultural Impact Assessment – It is presumed that within Parcel F there would be potential for trees and hedgerows needing to be removed in associated with the undertaking of proposed Work Nos. 2 and 6. | <p>There are no trees or hedgerows within the bird mitigation area that require removal. One mature Ash tree will require its crown to be raised to allow vehicles to enter the bird mitigation fields from the highway during the operational phase. This has been assessed within ES Appendix 6.6 Arboricultural Impact Assessment [Document Reference 6.3.6.6].</p> <p>Work No. 6 has been removed from the Scheme. Work No. 2 does not extend to the bird mitigation area, as shown on the Works Plans [Document Reference 2.3].</p> <p>Parcels A-E more widely are comprehensively covered within ES Appendix 6.6 Arboricultural Impact Assessment [Document Reference 6.3.6.6].</p> | Yes |

| Ref. | Planning Inspectorate's Section 51 Advice | The Applicant's Response | Addressed in DCO Application? |
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| E(d) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doc 6.3.7.1 ES Appendix 7.1 Baseline Habitats and Desk Study Report – Figure 1 includes margin hedgerows but none are shown within Parcel F. | <p>Figure 1 has been updated to show the margin hedgerows within the bird mitigation area.</p> <p>Figure 1 comprehensively covers Parcels A–E more widely.</p> | Yes |
| E(e) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doc 6.3.7.2 ES Appendix 7.2 Breeding Bird Surveys | <p>Breeding bird surveys have been completed for the bird mitigation area, as explained in responses B and E(b). The results of these surveys are included in the ES.</p> <p>The breeding bird surveys have been updated in 2025 to include the areas of land added to Parcels A–E during the pre-application process (the majority of Parcels A–E had been previously subject to breeding bird surveys). Please refer to response E(b) for a detailed overview of how these surveys have informed the ES.</p> | Yes |
| E(f) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doc 6.3.7.3 ES Appendix 7.3 Non Breeding Bird Surveys | <p>Non-breeding bird surveys have been completed in September 2022 and April 2023 and September 2023 and March 2024 across the entire Order Limits, including the bird mitigation area and the additional areas added to Parcels A–E.</p> | Yes |

| Ref. | Planning Inspectorate's Section 51 Advice | The Applicant's Response | Addressed in DCO Application? |
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| E(g) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doc 6.3.7.4 ES Appendix 7.4 Nightjar Surveys – comprises copies of surveys undertaken on behalf of Natural England. The most recent is July 2022 and does not include the majority of the order limits. Additionally see below for detailed comments on nightjar surveys and assessment | The survey effort for nightjar followed recommendations from Natural England – further detail is provided in response 4A(a) below. | |
| E(h) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doc 6.3.7.5 ES Appendix 7.5 Badger Surveys | Badger surveys are not required for the bird mitigation area, for the reasons explained in response B. Badger surveys have otherwise been completed across the entirety of Parcels A-E (including the areas added during the pre-application stage). | Yes |
| E(i) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doc 6.3.7.7 ES Appendix 7.6 GCN surveys | GCN surveys are not required for the bird mitigation area, for the reasons explained in response B. GCN surveys have otherwise been completed across the entirety of Parcels A-E (including the areas added during the pre-application stage), as explained in response E(b). | Yes |
| E(j) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doc 6.3.7.10 ES Appendix 7.10 Non breeding bird mitigation | Parcel F is no longer included in the application Non-breeding bird surveys have been completed in September 2022 and April 2023 and September 2023 and March 2024 across the entire Order Limits, including the bird mitigation area and the additional areas added to Parcels A-E. | |

| Ref. | Planning Inspectorate's Section 51 Advice | The Applicant's Response | Addressed in DCO Application? |
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| E(k) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doc 6.3.7.11 ES Appendix 7.11 Invertebrates (area not given) | ES Appendix 7.11 Invertebrates [Document Reference 6.3.7.11] has been updated to include a plan showing the survey area. | Yes |
| E(l) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doc 6.3.7.12 ES Appendix 7.12 Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment | ES Appendix 7.12 Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment [Document Reference 6.3.7.12] has been updated to reflect the removal of Parcel F from the Scheme and the inclusion of the bird mitigation area within Parcel E. All other areas within Parcels A-E are included within the assessment. | Yes |
| E(m) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doc 6.3.8.2 ES Appendix 8.2 Geophysical Survey (the date of the provision of further survey results for these areas does not appear to be given) | <p>No intrusive infrastructure is proposed as part of the bird mitigation area – the land will continue in its current arable use albeit with differing farming practices which assist bird numbers. Therefore, there is no risk of disturbance to below ground archaeology as a result of the Scheme in the location of the bird mitigation area and geophysical surveys are not required.</p> <p>The Environmental Impact Assessment identifies some areas where a different surveys, within Areas A-E, have been completed and what data is accompanying the DCO application. Where there is a variation in approach or survey data within the EIA, this summarised below for ease of reference.</p> | Yes |

| Ref. | Planning Inspectorate's Section 51 Advice | The Applicant's Response | Addressed in DCO Application? |
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| | | <p><i>Heritage</i></p> <p>Environmental Statement Technical Appendix 8.5 [Document Reference 6.3.8.5] includes the test pitting survey results of 444 shovel test pit sites across 11 areas within Parcels A, C and D of the Order Limits. These parcels are within the City of Doncaster Area. The WSI for this test pitting survey work was agreed with South Yorkshire Archaeology Service on the 3rd June 2025. Test Pitting has not been used as a survey tool for the Order Limit parcels within North Lincolnshire. The Parcels within North Lincolnshire have already been trial trenched or had been subject to fieldwalking historically, meaning the resource was better understood. The applicant does not intend to undertake further test pitting survey work as this has not been requested through the Formal Consultation process with the lead Authorities.</p> <p>Geophysical surveys have been carried out across all of the Order Limits with the exception of areas proposed only for use as ecological mitigation, with no built infrastructure proposed and therefore no potential physical impact arising from the scheme. In the previous application and the new application, we have advised that the data from the geophysical survey in Area C is being prepared and will follow as a supplementary document. A geophysical survey of Area F is no longer required as this has been removed from the Order Limits.</p> | |

| Ref. | Planning Inspectorate's Section 51 Advice | The Applicant's Response | Addressed in DCO Application? |
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| E(n) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doc 6.3.8.3 ES Appendix 8.3 Geoarchaeological Assessment – (it is noted that the applicant has submitted separate LIDAR data which does include Parcel F but this is not addressed in Appendix 6.3.8.3). It is noted that this is to be updated September 2025 | <p>No intrusive infrastructure is proposed as part of the bird mitigation area – the land will continue in its current arable use (with differing farming practices which assist bird numbers). Therefore there is no risk of disturbance to below ground archaeology as a result of the Scheme in this location and LIDAR data is therefore not required in this location.</p> <p>An extensive programme of geoarchaeological assessment has taken place across all areas of the Order Limits and the information presented within 6.3.8.3 provides a good understanding of the geoarchaeological resource to enable potential impacts and effects to be considered.</p> <p>Where further geoarchaeological assessment may be required, the process for this is outlined in ES Appendix 8.6 Outline Archaeological Strategy [Document Reference 6.3.8.6].</p> <p>Area E does not require geoarchaeological assessment due to the nature of the proposed works in this zone (set out above).</p> | Yes |
| E(o) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doc 6.3.8.4 ES Appendix 8.4 Trial Trenching Report (the date of the | No intrusive infrastructure is proposed as part of the bird mitigation area – the land will continue in its current arable | Yes |

| Ref. | Planning Inspectorate's Section 51 Advice | The Applicant's Response | Addressed in DCO Application? |
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| | provision of further survey results for these areas does not appear to be given) | <p>use (with differing farming practices which assist bird numbers). Therefore there is no risk of disturbance to below ground archaeology as a result of the Scheme in this location and trial trenching is not required.</p> <p>If further survey work in Parcels A-E is determined to be necessary through the course of the Examination, this would be completed post consent in accordance with the methodology outlined in ES Appendix 8.6 Outline Archaeological Strategy [Document Reference 6.3.8.6].</p> <p>The Applicant considers that the trial trenching undertaken and reported within ES Appendix 8.4 Trial Trenching Report [Document Reference 6.3.8.4] was proportionate and allows a robust assessment of likely significant effects to be undertaken. The scope of this trial trenching was set out within a WSI agreed with the Historic Environment Officer for North Lincolnshire in September 2024.</p> | |
| E(p) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doc 6.3.8.5 ES Appendix 8.5 Test Pitting Report (the date of the provision of further survey results for these areas does not appear to be given) | No intrusive infrastructure is proposed as part of the bird mitigation area – the land will continue in its current arable use (with differing farming practices which assist bird numbers). Therefore there is no risk of disturbance to below ground archaeology as a result of the Scheme in this location and test pitting is not required. If further survey work in Parcels A-E is determined to be necessary through the course of the Examination, this would be completed post consent. | Yes |

| Ref. | Planning Inspectorate's Section 51 Advice | The Applicant's Response | Addressed in DCO Application? |
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| | | <p>The Applicant considers the test pitting undertaken and reported within ES Appendix 8.5 Test Pitting Report [Document Reference 6.3.8.5] to be sufficient and proportionate to enable the potential impacts and effects of the Scheme to be assessed.</p> <p>Any further test pitting as part of mitigation strategies will be carried out in accordance with ES Appendix 8.6 Outline Archaeological Strategy [Document Reference 6.3.8.6].</p> | |
| E(q) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doc 6.3.9.1 ES Appendix 9.1 Phase 1 Desk Study (utilises a previous version of the boundary) | <p>No intrusive infrastructure is proposed as part of the bird mitigation area – the land will continue in its current arable use (with differing farming practices which assist bird numbers). Therefore there is no risk of disturbance to contaminated land as a result of the Scheme in this location.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this, Appendix 9.1 has been updated to include the correct Order Limits.</p> | |
| E(r) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doc 6.3.12.1 ES Appendix 12.1 Transport Statement – this only shows personal injury collision data for part of the site. It is not clear whether any assessment has been undertaken in relation to Parcel F despite the indicative | <p>The access point for the bird mitigation area is included in Appendix 12.1. This includes personal injury collision data for the A161 from which the land is accessed.</p> <p>Appendix 12.1 includes personal injury collision data for all other access locations across Parcels A–E more widely.</p> | Yes |

| Ref. | Planning Inspectorate's Section 51 Advice | The Applicant's Response | Addressed in DCO Application? |
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| | location of two proposed access points adjoining this parcel. | | |
| E(s) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doc 6.3.12.2 ES Appendix 12.2 Traffic Counts | The bird mitigation area will be associated with very few vehicle movements and as such no traffic data or assessment of the A161 in this location is considered necessary. Vehicle movements associated with the wider Order Limits are set out in ES Chapter 12 Transport and Access [Document Reference 6.2.12] . | Yes |
| E(t) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doc 6.3.13.1 ES Appendix 13.1 Baseline Noise survey | <p>The Biodiversity Mitigation Area would not generate any significant noise therefore does not generate any noise contours. Furthermore, the area falls outside of the lowest noise contours from the operational site indicating that noise levels from the development, in 'Bird Land' would fall below LAeq 30dB.</p> <p>The baseline noise survey quantified noise levels across the Order Limits, at locations representative of the nearest noise sensitive receptor locations. This is considered to accurately represent the noise climate across land parcels A-E (including the Biodiversity Mitigation Area).</p> | |
| E(u) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doc 6.3.15.1 ES Appendix 15.1 Agricultural Land Classification (the date of the provision of further survey results for these areas does not appear to be given) | The bird mitigation area would continue in its current arable use, meaning that the Scheme would not have an impact on agricultural land in this location. As there would not be any loss of or degradation to the quality of the land in this location, the Applicant does not consider it proportionate or | Yes. |

| Ref. | Planning Inspectorate's Section 51 Advice | The Applicant's Response | Addressed in DCO Application? |
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| | | <p>necessary to carry out Agricultural Land Classification surveys.</p> <p>ALC surveys have been completed for Parcels A-E more widely, including the areas added during the pre-application process.</p> | |
| E(v) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doc 6.3.15.2 ES Appendix 15.2 Farm Reports – Whilst the land would likely be restored after construction there would be potential disruption to agricultural activities during the construction phase which should be considered. | <p>As noted in response E(u), the bird mitigation area would continue in its current arable use and no construction activities are proposed. Therefore there would not be any impact on agricultural activities during the construction phase in this location.</p> <p>All of the order limits including bird mitigation area in Area E have been surveyed for farm impacts, and included in the farm impacts appendix.</p> | Yes |
| E(w) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doc 6.4.6.5 ES Figure 6.5 Residential Receptors – this does not include any details for Parcel F, despite some dwellings appearing to be situated in Parcel F. | <p>The bird mitigation area would continue in its current arable use. Therefore there would not be any impact on residential receptors as a result of the proposals in this location.</p> | Yes |
| E(x) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doc 6.4.13.1 ES Figure 13.1 Noise Receptors – this figure does not appear to show any noise sensitive receptors in Parcel F, despite the presence of various | <p>The bird mitigation area would continue in its current arable use and no construction activities or cabling works are proposed. Therefore there would not be any impact on noise sensitive receptors as a result of the proposals in this location.</p> | Yes |

| Ref. | Planning Inspectorate's Section 51 Advice | The Applicant's Response | Addressed in DCO Application? |
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| | residential properties (along Hagg Lane for example). Note that 400kv HDD crossing (if required) would likely be noisiest form of construction work. | ES Figure 13.1 Noise Receptors [Document Reference 6.4.13.1] identifies all relevant noise sensitive receptors across Parcels A-E more widely. | |
| E(y) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doc 6.4.13.3 ES Figure 13.2 Noise Monitoring locations -- there are no monitoring locations in or around Parcel F despite the potential for noise during construction (HDD or general construction works associated with the 400kv cable). | Please see response E(x) immediately above. For this reason, noise monitoring is not considered to be required to inform the assessment. | Yes |
| E(z) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doc 6.4.13.3 ES Figure 13.3 Daytime Noise Contours | <p>The bird mitigation area would continue in its current arable use. No daytime noise contours have been submitted for the bird mitigation area as the agricultural activity would be the same as currently occurring on this area of land.</p> <p>The noise contour plots present the propagation of noise from the various noise sources associated with the development (inverters, transformers, BESS etc). There are no sources of this nature in the Biodiversity Mitigation Area therefore they do not generate any contours.</p> | Yes |

| Ref. | Planning Inspectorate's Section 51 Advice | The Applicant's Response | Addressed in DCO Application? |
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| | | ES Figure 13.3 Daytime Noise Contours [Document Reference 6.4.13.3] provides the noise contours for Parcels A-E more widely. | |
| E(aa) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doc 6.4.13.4 ES Figure 13.4 Nighttime Noise Contours | <p>The bird mitigation area would continue in its current arable use. No night time noise contours have been submitted for the bird mitigation area as the agricultural activity would be the same as currently occurring on this area of land.</p> <p>The noise contour plots present the propagation of noise from the various noise sources associated with the development (inverters, transformers, BESS etc). There are no sources of this nature in the Biodiversity Mitigation Area therefore they do not generate any contours.</p> <p>ES Figure 13.4 Nighttime Noise Contours [Document Reference 6.4.13.4] provides the noise contours for Parcels A-E more widely.</p> | Yes |
| E(bb) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doc 6.4.15.1 ES Figure 15.1 Agricultural Land Classification | Please refer to response E(u) | Yes |
| E(cc) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doc 6.4.15.2 ES Figure 15.2 Land Ownership – (also appears to contain a different boundary to the current Order Limits) | ES Figure 15.2 Land Ownership [Document Reference 6.4.15.2] has been updated to show the correct Order Limits, and identifies all land ownership within this boundary. | |
| E(dd) | Additionally, where figures or parameters are given showing the layout of the proposed development during | As noted in response B, Land Parcel F has been removed from the Scheme, with the bird mitigation previously forming part of Land Parcel F now included in Land Parcel E. The bird | |

| Ref. | Planning Inspectorate's Section 51 Advice | The Applicant's Response | Addressed in DCO Application? |
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| | <p>construction and operation, no information is given on the works within Parcel F including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doc 6.4.1.3 ES Figure 1.3 parcel plan • Doc 6.4.2.1 ES Figure 2.1 construction layout • Doc 6.4.2.2 ES Figure 2.2 operational layout • Doc 6.4.2.3 ES Figure 2.3 height parameters • • Doc 6.4.2.4 ES Figure 2.4 Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) crossing – this does not appear to include any HDD crossings in Parcel F, despite Figure 6.4.2.5 (Culvert Crossings) showing no culvert crossings in Parcel F. • Doc 6.4.2.5 ES Figure 2.5 culverts crossing • Doc 6.4.6.1 ES Figure 6.1 site context • Doc 6.4.6.3 ES Figure 6.3 Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) • Doc 6.4.6.6 ES Figure 6.6 ZTV | <p>mitigation area would continue in its current arable use and no infrastructure is proposed within the bird mitigation area. The bird mitigation land is defined in Work No 3 of the DCO.</p> <p>As no infrastructure is proposed within the bird mitigation area, it is not relevant to several of the figures referred to in the Inspectorate's advice. However, all figures have been updated to show the correct Order Limits, which include the bird mitigation area.</p> | |

| Ref. | Planning Inspectorate's Section 51 Advice | The Applicant's Response | Addressed in DCO Application? |
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| E(ee) | <p>An example of how the 400kv cable route (Parcel F) has not been considered sufficiently includes the lack of viewpoints in this area, as shown on ES Figure 6.4.6.3. That is despite ES Figure 6.4.3.1 showing the Peatlands Way Long Distance Walk and public right of way (PRoW) bisecting this part of the Order Limits. It is not clear whether temporary closure of this PRoW has been considered.</p> | <p>As noted in response B, Land Parcel F has been removed from the Scheme, with the bird mitigation previously forming part of Land Parcel F now included in Land Parcel E. The PRoW referred to and the Peatlands Way Long Distance Walk are no longer within the Order Limits. No viewpoints from these receptors have been provided as the activity that will be ongoing in the bird mitigation area of Parcel E will be arable agriculture.</p> | |
| E(ff) | <p>ES paragraph 6.2.7.1.8 also indicates that the following surveys are yet to be undertaken and submitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> bat activity surveys across the Order Limits | <p>Bat surveys have been undertaken in Spring, Summer and Autumn 2025, are ongoing and will be completed by October 2025. Data that is available, including surveys that incorporate the spring and summer periods in 2025, is being included within the new application. The remaining data will be provided within the examination period.</p> <p>The majority of habitats within the Order Limits is sub-optimal for bat species due to comprising large open areas of arable farmland. Therefore, the proposals that include new native planting, minimal lighting and buffers potential corridors that bats could use, such as the canal, are likely to be an enhancement for bats. Based on the findings of the spring and summer 2025 bat surveys, and the nature and scale of impacts of the development, it is considered that</p> | n/a |

| Ref. | Planning Inspectorate's Section 51 Advice | The Applicant's Response | Addressed in DCO Application? |
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| | | the outstanding autumn 2025 bat survey data is not required at this stage as they are not likely to modify the assessment of effects and mitigation required. | |
| E(gg) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> updated water vole surveys across the Order Limits, targeting the location of proposed ditch crossing points | As above – water vole surveys have been updated in 2025 and are included in the ES. This is clarified and updated in the ES. | Yes |
| E(hh) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> updated Great Crested Newt (GCN) Surveys, to provide updated data compared to the 2023 surveys; and | As above – water vole surveys have been updated in 2025 and are included in the ES. This is clarified and updated in the ES. | Yes |
| E(ii) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> breeding bird surveys of land not previously covered during surveys. | As above – Breeding bird surveys have been undertaken in 2025 to include the areas of land added to Parcels A-E during the pre-application process (the majority of Parcels A-E had been previously subject to breeding bird surveys). All the additional areas have been subject to habitat surveys and based on these habitats and the breeding bird surveys already undertaken, the likely bird assemblage that is present can be presumed. In addition, during breeding bird surveys, all birds seen and heard in the area are recorded, and as much of the areas added to Parcels A-E during the pre-application stage are adjacent to areas previously surveyed, any breeding birds in these areas that call or fly will likely have been recorded. Therefore, based on all these reasons the bird assemblage in the additional area is unlikely | Yes |

| Ref. | Planning Inspectorate's Section 51 Advice | The Applicant's Response | Addressed in DCO Application? |
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| | | to significantly change based on the updated 2025 survey data. The Applicant has submitted and considered the 2025 survey data as part of the ES. At this stage only the final month of surveys are missing and would not be expected to make a significant change to the results. The full analysis of the data will be available in September 2025 and will therefore be submitted as an update during acceptance (should the Inspectorate request it) or otherwise during the pre-examination stage. | |
| E(jj) | The ES indicates that this is to ensure that the application is kept in line with best practice, with survey data kept up-to-date. The ES also suggests that this relates to small areas of land added to order limits and survey findings are not likely to change. However, submitted ES Figure 6.4.3.2 shows that the additional areas added to the Order Limits are substantial, with Parcel F comprising the largest parcel within the proposed Order Limits. | As above – Parcel F is no longer part of the application. Surveys have been updated in 2025 to include additional land not part of the Order Limits and all available data has been included. Where this is not possible, based on the required survey timings, an assessment of likely impacts has been made using the available data, which includes previous survey data that has been undertaken across the majority of the Order Limits. | n/a |

| Ref. | Planning Inspectorate's Section 51 Advice | The Applicant's Response | Addressed in DCO Application? |
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| E(kk) | <p>It is also noted that no bat surveys for any part of the Order Limits have been undertaken in time to be submitted with the application, despite those surveys being noted to be required for the assessment.</p> | <p>As above – Bat surveys have been undertaken in 2025, are ongoing and will be completed by October 2025. Data that is available, including surveys that incorporate the spring and summer periods in 2025, is being included within the new application. The remaining data will be provided within the examination period. Based on the findings of the spring and summer 2025 bat surveys, and the nature and impacts of the development, it is considered that the outstanding autumn 2025 bat survey data are not required at this stage as they are not likely to modify the assessment of effects and mitigation required.</p> <p>The majority of habitats within the Order Limits is sub-optimal for bat species due to comprising large open areas of arable farmland. Therefore, the proposals that include new native planting, minimal lighting and buffers potential corridors that bats could use, such as the canal, are likely to be an enhancement for bats.</p> | |
| E(II) | <p>Whilst the applicant has submitted that the precise cable route is not known, the EIA should be undertaken on a reasonable worst-case scenario basis. The applicant's need for flexibility is noted but this therefore necessitates the provision of survey information for Parcel F and the application of various</p> | <p>As noted in response B, Land Parcel F has been removed from the Scheme, with the bird mitigation area previously forming part of Land Parcel F now included in Land Parcel E. As a result, Works Nos 2 and 6 will not be taking place in the bird mitigation area of Parcel E.</p> | Yes |

| Ref. | Planning Inspectorate's Section 51 Advice | The Applicant's Response | Addressed in DCO Application? |
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| | assumptions for Work Nos 2 and 6 in each respective EIA topic. | | |
| E(mm) | The failure to undertake a full environmental impact assessment for Parcel F, which constitutes approximately 25% of the Order Limits, has resulted in the submission of what is considered to be an incomplete ES. The submitted ES is therefore considered to be of an unsatisfactory standard for the purposes of section 55(3)(f) of the Planning Act 2008, which states that 'The Secretary of State may accept the application only if the Secretary of State concludes ... that the application (including accompaniments) is of a standard that the Secretary of State considers satisfactory'. | As noted in response B, Land Parcel F has been removed from the Scheme, with the bird mitigation area previously forming part of Land Parcel F now included in Land Parcel E. The EIA has, where necessary in the technical chapters, considered the construction, operational and decommissioning effects of the bird mitigation area and the farming practices that will take place within it. These activities are listed under Works No 3. The ES that has been prepared against the Scheme complies with Regulation 14 of the EIA Infrastructure Regulation and specifically complies with paragraph 3(b) which states that an EIA must include <i>" the information reasonably required for reaching a reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of the development on the environment, taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment"</i> . | Yes |
| E(nn) | The applicant is advised to take into account the absence of the requisite detail in the ES chapters given the omissions in the appendices and figures identified above to ensure that all assessments undertaken in the ES fully reflect all potential receptors or the zone of influence for the proposed | As noted in response B, Land Parcel F has been removed from the Scheme, with the bird mitigation area previously forming part of Land Parcel F now included in Land Parcel E. The EIA has applied a 10km Zone of Influence to the reduced area of the Order Limits. The EIA has, where necessary in the technical chapters, considered the construction, operational and decommissioning effects of the bird mitigation area and | Yes |

| Ref. | Planning Inspectorate's Section 51 Advice | The Applicant's Response | Addressed in DCO Application? |
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| | development. The applicant is advised that this should be addressed and updates be made, as necessary, to the assessments within the ES and any relevant application documents. | the farming practices within Parcel E and the other elements of infrastructure and mitigation land within Parcel A-E. | |
| Other matters the applicant is advised to address prior to submission | | | |
| 2 | Draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) (Doc 3.1) | | |
| A | Some of the cross referencing to sub-paragraphs in paragraphs in the proposed Articles and Schedules with sub-paragraphs incorrectly refers to 'paragraphs' rather than sub-paragraphs. For example in Article 8 cross references to paragraphs have been made in sub-paragraphs (1) and (3) when the references should be to sub-paragraphs (1) and (3). | Where applicable these cross-references have been updated in the submitted Draft DCO [Document Reference 3.1] It is noted that the examples referred to in Article 8 are cross-references to paragraphs with that article and not sub-paragraphs within that article so these references have not been changed. | Yes |
| B | The entirety of the dDCO should be reviewed and all erroneous cross references to paragraphs should be changed to sub-paragraphs. | Where applicable these cross-references have been updated in the submitted Draft DCO [Document Reference 3.1]. | Yes |
| 3 | Funding Statement (Doc 4.2) | | |
| A | The demonstration of the applicant's financial standing relies on accessing an interim financial statement via a hyperlink rather than a copy of the interim financial | The Applicant's interim financial statement has been appended to the Funding Statement [Document Reference 4.2] . | Yes |

| Ref. | Planning Inspectorate's Section 51 Advice | The Applicant's Response | Addressed in DCO Application? |
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| | statement being included as an Appendix. The Funding Statement should be amended so that the applicant's interim financial statement is physically appended to it. | | |
| 4 | Report to Inform Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA report) [Doc 5.3] | | |
| A(a) | Assessment of effects for the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA – Given the proximity to the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA to the Order Limits, a number of entries in the consultation report [Doc 5.2] refer to ongoing discussion about the scope and coverage of the surveys for nightjars. The only qualifying feature for this SPA is the European nightjar (breeding). | <p>Consultation with Natural England was undertaken, with DAS responses back from them in December 2024 and April 2025. Both of which included detail on nightjar and recommendations for survey data that should be reviewed as part of the ES. This comprised the results from the 'LIFE+ – 'That's Life' Monitoring of European Nightjar 2015 – 2017.'</p> <p>It has been agreed with Natural England that the habitats within the Order Limits are not optimal for nightjar and that grassland and new tree planting provision could enhance foraging opportunities for nightjar as part of the Scheme.</p> <p>Natural England also commented on the PEIR chapter, which included the scope undertaken for nightjar at that stage and no requirement for further nightjar surveys was requested. However, again the requirement for reviewing the 'LIFE+ – 'That's Life' Monitoring of European Nightjar 2015 – 2017' was made.</p> <p>As detailed, this data was requested and has been reviewed and included in the ES and HRA.</p> <p>In addition, when discussing the survey scope with the two relevant local authorities, North Lincolnshire and the City of</p> | Yes |

| Ref. | Planning Inspectorate's Section 51 Advice | The Applicant's Response | Addressed in DCO Application? |
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| | | <p>Doncaster Councils, no requirement for further nightjar surveys was made.</p> <p>Therefore, the approach with regards to nightjar has followed the recommendations of Natural England, North Lincolnshire Council and the City of Doncaster Council. The Order Limits does not comprise optimal habitat for this species as confirmed by Natural England, and measures are provided to prevent impacts during construction and operation, which will create an enhancement for this species as part of the Scheme.</p> <p>The ES and HRA has been updated to reflect this.</p> | |
| A(b) | <p>Paragraphs 6.2.9 to 6.2.13 of the HRA report [Doc 5.3] summarise the position with respect to the survey effort for nightjars. The applicant predominately relies on historic survey data, including that dating from a 2022 survey report [Doc 6.3.7.4]. The 2022 survey does not appear to include the Order Limits, as it surveys the SPA's compartments. The survey data that has been submitted appears to be at least three years old.</p> | <p>Paragraph 6.2.9 of the HRA Report [Document Reference 5.3] has been updated to confirm the scope of surveys and assessment which has been agreed with Natural England.</p> | Yes |
| A(c) | <p>It is not clear from the submitted application documents whether application site specific surveys for nightjars have been undertaken at any</p> | <p>As stated in ref A(a) above, the scope of surveys and assessment required to inform the assessment has been agreed with Natural England.</p> | Yes |

| Ref. | Planning Inspectorate's Section 51 Advice | The Applicant's Response | Addressed in DCO Application? |
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| | time. It appears that the applicant is seeking to rely on the 2022 survey not identifying the presence of nightjars within the Order Limits at that time. The Planning Inspectorate notes that Appendix 1 of the breeding bird survey [Doc 6.3.7.2] refers to nightjars being encountered during the surveys, however that does not appear to be represented on the accompanying figures, nor is an explanation provided as to why nightjars are not represented. | | |
| A(d) | The applicant is advised to clarify the spatial and temporal scope and coverage for the breeding nightjar surveys in the HRA and ES, and explain the position of relevant consultees, in particular Natural England, in any application resubmitted for acceptance. | Paragraph 6.2.9 of the HRA Report [Document Reference 5.3] has been updated to confirm the scope of surveys and assessment which has been agreed with Natural England. | Yes |
| B | Search area of 10km – Paragraph 4.2.4 of the HRA refers to the search area for European sites being 10km, however no reference is made to a typical wider search area of up to 30km for sites with mobile qualifying features such as bats. The applicant is advised to consider | This has been updated in ES Chapter 7 [Document Reference 6.2.7] and paragraph 4.2.4 of the Habitats Regulation Assessment [Document Reference 5.3] | Yes |

| Ref. | Planning Inspectorate's Section 51 Advice | The Applicant's Response | Addressed in DCO Application? |
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| | whether an assessment of any further sites with mobile qualifying features is required and confirm that in the HRA report. | | |
| C | <p>Consistency of the description of the qualifying features – Throughout the HRA report, there are a number of inconsistencies between the presentation of the relevant qualifying features. For example differences between Table 5-2 and Table 6-3, or where sites are considered together such as the Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar site in Table 5-2, it is not clear which qualifying features relate to each site. Some features of the Ramsar site have been omitted (these are however included in the more detailed Table 6-3). The applicant is advised to review the HRA report to ensure a clear description of all sites and qualifying features screened in.</p> | This has been updated throughout the Report to Inform the Habitats Regulations Assessment [Document Reference 5.3] | Yes |
| D | <p>Consistency of the description of the pathways for Likely Significant Effects (LSE) and Adverse Effects on Integrity (AEoI) – Throughout the HRA report,</p> | This has been updated throughout the Report to Inform the Habitats Regulations Assessment [Document Reference 5.3] | Yes |

| Ref. | Planning Inspectorate's Section 51 Advice | The Applicant's Response | Addressed in DCO Application? |
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| | <p>there are a number of inconsistencies between the presentation of the potential LSE/ AEol pathways, for example between the written text, Table 6-3 and paragraph 7.2.1. The applicant is advised to review the HRA report to ensure a clear description of all LSE/ AEol impact pathways screened in, and an explanation of where conclusions differ for overlapping sites (for example lamprey in the Humber Estuary SAC and Ramsar site). The applicant is also advised that the HRA report would benefit from a final summary/ conclusion table.</p> | | |
| E(a) | <p>Inclusion of additional species which are not listed as qualifying features –</p> <p>1. Paragraph 6.2.30 and Table 6-1 refer to a "wider survey area" of 600m (later represented on the figures in Appendix 1), and to a number of species that do not appear to be relevant as either individual qualifying features or parts of ornithological assemblages of the relevant SPA sites. An explanation for the inclusion of these is not given.</p> | <p>This has been updated in the Report to Inform the Habitats Regulations Assessment [Document Reference 5.3]</p> | <p>Yes</p> |

| Ref. | Planning Inspectorate's Section 51 Advice | The Applicant's Response | Addressed in DCO Application? |
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| E(b) | <p>2. Paragraphs 6.2.35 refers to the survey results which found that the number of species meeting the threshold of 1% of the SPA population to define the surveyed area as functionally linked land was three (SPA features lapwing, mallard and pink footed goose). Paragraphs 6.2.36 and 6.2.40 also gives the reason for inclusion of greylag goose and golden plover. However a higher number of species than these are taken forwards to the assessment of LSE to functionally linked land (including some qualifying features which are not listed as being recorded in Tables 6-1 and 6-2 which show presence of species on site). The reasons for this are not clearly explained.</p> | <p>Further reasoning has been included at paragraphs 6.2.37 and 6.2.38 of the Report to Inform the Habitats Regulations Assessment [Document Reference 5.3]</p> | Yes |
| E(c) | <p>3. It is also not explained why greylag goose is taken forwards to appropriate assessment despite not being a qualifying feature. It is stated that counts exceed the 1% threshold but as greylag goose is not a qualifying feature it is not clear why this species is in the HRA report.</p> | <p>Greylag goose are included following consultation with Natural England who stated that they should be included based on the numbers that are present within the Humber Estuary SPA and the numbers recorded using the Order Limits. Explanation is provided in the HRA and in their DAS response dated 04.04.2025.</p> | Yes |

| Ref. | Planning Inspectorate's Section 51 Advice | The Applicant's Response | Addressed in DCO Application? |
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| E(d) | The applicant is advised to provide clarity as to why additional bird species are included in the HRA report. | This has been updated throughout the Report to Inform the Habitats Regulations Assessment [Document Reference 5.3] | |
| F | Presentation of conservation objectives – Section 5.1 refers to the conservation objectives, however does not use site specific objectives. The HRA report instead provides a series of generic objectives for SPAs (Table 5-3) and SACs (Table 5-4), and general favourable conservation status criteria (Table 7-1). The applicant is advised to provide site specific conservation objectives, or confirm that these are not available for the sites screened in to the assessment. | This has been updated in section 5.1 of the Report to Inform the Habitats Regulations Assessment [Document Reference 5.3] | Yes |
| G | General requirement for mitigation – There are some inconsistencies in the HRA report in relation to whether mitigation is needed for specific species. For example, paragraph 7.2.20 states that no mitigation is required for curlew, marsh harrier, hen harrier and teal, but these are include in the summary Table 7-2 of mitigation measures. The applicant | This has been updated in table 7-2 of the Report to Inform the Habitats Regulations Assessment [Document Reference 5.3] | Yes |

| Ref. | Planning Inspectorate's Section 51 Advice | The Applicant's Response | Addressed in DCO Application? |
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| | is advised to clarify which species require mitigation. | | |
| H | Mitigation for breeding birds – A specific mitigation strategy is provided for non-breeding birds (Appendices 2 and 3 of the HRA report), however an equivalent is not provided for breeding birds despite the HRA report suggesting that some mitigation is required for marsh harrier which is specifically screened in as a breeding bird. This may be due to breeding birds requiring generic/ site wide mitigation measures only, with non-breeding birds requiring specific measures but this is not stated. The applicant is advised to provide clarity on this matter in the HRA report. | No specific mitigation strategy is required for breeding birds due to the site wide mitigation measures. The Report to Inform the Habitats Regulations Assessment [Document Reference 5.3] has been updated to reflect this. | Yes |
| I | Phasing of the proposed development – Paragraph 2.1.8 refers to a potential mitigation measure of construction taking place in no more than two land parcels in areas A to E at the same time, with possible simultaneous construction of the two parcels and area F in the first phase. It is not clear whether this is relied upon as a mitigation measure to avoid | Parcel F is no longer part of the submission and the This has been updated throughout the Report to Inform the Habitats Regulations Assessment [Document Reference 5.3] has been updated accordingly. | Yes |

| Ref. | Planning Inspectorate's Section 51 Advice | The Applicant's Response | Addressed in DCO Application? |
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| | AEol. The applicant is advised to provide clarity on this matter in the HRA report. | | |
| J | Reference to mitigation as a beneficial effect – Table 7-2 refers to the mitigation measures proposed to avoid AEol as actually resulting in a major beneficial (significant) effect (likely in terms of EIA as these terms are not commonly used in HRA report). The applicant is advised to consider whether it is an EIA requirement to consider beneficial effects rather than being of relevance to the HRA. | This terminology was included to highlight the benefits that would take place as a consequence of the Scheme and to be consistent with the ES, but the Report to Inform the Habitats Regulations Assessment [Document Reference 5.3] has been updated to remove this terminology. | Yes |
| 5 | Flood Risk Assessment [Doc 6.3.10.1] | | |
| A(a) | Document accessibility – When viewed on a pdf display that allows comments to be viewed, parts 2 and 3 of the FRA appear to have several hundred to over 1000 comments, which appears to contribute to a large file size and slower loading. The applicant is advised to remove comments within submitted documentation. | All comments have now been removed from the Flood Risk Assessment [Document Reference 6.3.10.1] . | Yes |
| A(b) | Appendix C is split across Parts 1 and 2 of the FRA and Appendix I is split across Parts 2 and 3, with no title pages in the 2nd part of each. The applicant is advised | Where Appendix C is split across Part 1 and Part 2 of the Flood Risk Assessment [Document Reference 6.3.10.1] , an additional title page has been added to aid ease of reading. No other appendices are split. | Yes |

| Ref. | Planning Inspectorate's Section 51 Advice | The Applicant's Response | Addressed in DCO Application? |
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| | to avoid splitting appendices between parts where possible to aid ease of reading. | | |
| B | <p>Flood risk from ordinary watercourses –</p> <p>In relation to fluvial flooding, paragraph 2.5 of the FRA notes that Figure 2.3 and Appendix A3 show Internal Drainage Board maintained watercourses within the order limits only. The applicant is advised to clarify how the baseline flood modelling considers the flood risk from the IDB and other ordinary watercourses (for example under the jurisdiction of the Lead Local Flood Authority) within and adjoining the Order Limits.</p> | <p>The assessment of tidal and fluvial flood risk has been informed by detailed hydraulic model data from the Tidal Trent (2023) model and the River Torne Flood Hazard Mapping Study (2018). The Tidal Trent Model includes inflows from a range of tributaries, including those flowing through the Site and in the vicinity. The River Torne modelling includes 21 pumping stations represented in the 1D model, some of which are owned and operated by the Internal Drainage Board. In addition to the watercourses represented in the EA model data, the Flood Risk Assessment [Document Reference 6.3.10.1] also provides details of the Risk of Flooding from Surface Water dataset. This dataset has picked up the watercourses flowing through the Site and in the vicinity and provides a good assessment of the risk posed by these watercourses. As detailed in the FRA, the Risk of Flooding from Surface Water dataset generally does not predict flood depths on site to exceed 300mm. The lowest edge of solar PV modules and all infrastructure will be raised above these predicted depths, allowing flood waters to flow freely below and ensuring the site remains safe and operational over its lifetime. Overall, the data assessed within the Flood Risk Assessment [Document Reference 6.3.10.1] accounts for watercourses (Main Rivers, Ordinary</p> | Yes |

| Ref. | Planning Inspectorate's Section 51 Advice | The Applicant's Response | Addressed in DCO Application? |
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| | | Watercourses and IDB maintained watercourses) on Site and in the vicinity and proposed mitigation measures account for risk from these watercourses. | |
| C | Flood risk from reservoirs – The FRA identifies a residual “wet day” risk from reservoir flooding, however the name and location of the relevant reservoir(s) are not given. The applicant is advised to provide these. | Additional text has been included in the Flood Risk Assessment [Document Reference 6.3.10.1] to detail which reservoirs are shown to pose a risk to the Site (see Paragraph 5.58 and 5.59). Appendix A15 of the FRA has also been updated to show the location of the relevant reservoirs posing a risk to the Site relative to the Order Limits. | Yes |
| D | Climate change allowances – The FRA utilises published flood mapping and modelling for the Torne and Trent rivers. However, climate change factors used in this modelling is not specified. The applicant is advised to clarify how the FRA has considered climate change allowances in the modelling used. | Additional text has been included in the Flood Risk Assessment [Document Reference 6.3.10.1] (see paragraph 5.9 and 5.25) clarifying that as the 1 in 1,000 year event has been used to design mitigation measures against, that an allowance for climate change is not considered necessary above and beyond this, noting that the required design events are 1 in 200 year plus climate change or 1 in 100 year plus climate change, respectively for tidal and fluvial flood events. | Yes |
| E(a) | Mitigation measure of raising infrastructure – The proposed development is stated to require the raising of solar panels and infrastructure above the 1 in 1000 year flood event plus a 100mm freeboard with all infrastructure to be a minimum of 0.5m above ground level. For the solar panels and other | Additional text has been added into the Flood Risk Assessment [Document Reference 6.3.10.1] to clarify that the proposed raising of solar panels and infrastructure would not involve raising ground levels, with a summary of how the raising is achieved now also provided in text (see paragraph 5.20). | Yes |

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| | infrastructure, technical drawings are given in Appendix C which may be of use to understanding the proposed ground raising methods detailed in the FRA. The applicant is however advised to explain the methods of ground raising for all infrastructure in the text as this is not specified. | | |
| E(b) | The applicant is also advised to clarify how the raising of the panels and equipment by a minimum of 0.5m above ground levels has been taken into account in the maximum height parameters assessed within the ES. | The maximum height of the panels that has been assessed is 3.6m as set out in Table 2-1 of the Parameters Document Appendix A to the Design Approach Document [Document Reference 5.6.1]. This | n/a |
| 6 | Environmental Statement (ES) General comments | | |
| A | Construction phasing – Within the ES and accompanying appendices such as the FRA, it is stated that the operational lifespan of the proposed development may be longer than the 40 years assessed within the ES due to the potential that early phases of the solar generation and on site substation(s) would be constructed and operational as of 2029, prior to later stages which are | The Environmental Statement assumes that construction of the Scheme is built out over up to, a 54 month-period (2028– 2032) in either a single phased approach (development of Land Parcels completed one after another with the potential for breaks between development of Land Parcels) or through multiple phases (development of Land Parcels concurrently). For the multiple phase construction option, no more than two land parcels (within land parcels A–E) would be built out at the same time. ES Environmental Aspect Chapters determine in the methodology | Yes |

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| | <p>complete from 2032. The ES gives the temporal scope as commencement of operations in 2029 and cessation of operation in 2072, giving 43 years, plus a further 2 years decommissioning. The applicant is advised to clearly explain how it has defined the worst case scenario in relation to the length of construction and operation and to ensure that this reflects the maximum time periods for the construction and operational phases for the proposed development.</p> | <p>'Assessment Approach' section which of the two options for the construction phasing approach would give rise to the 'worst-case scenario' for the purpose of their assessment. The current connection date for the Scheme, within the NESO Connection Agreement is 2029. As with all electricity generation projects, this date is under review by NESO as part of the ongoing connections reform process.</p> <p>If the NESO Connection Agreement remains with the connection date of 2029, it would be possible to operate a phased start to operational generation. This phased approach would connect each Land Parcel to a connection point when construction of that Land Parcel was completed. In this operational scenario there would be partial Scheme operation from 2029-2032 (3 years). From 2032 onwards the full Scheme would be generating at full operational capacity. The full Scheme would operate for 40 years until 2072. If the NESO Grid Connection date varies, which is not within the Applicants direct control, the timeframe where there could be partial operation of the Scheme could reduce or fail to materialise. In this situation the full operational Scheme would operate for 40 years until 2072. In either connection scenario there will be full operational generation for 40 years, which would be the worst-case scenario operational time period for the Scheme.</p> | |

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| | | <p>Following 40- years of a fully operational Scheme, it is proposed that the Scheme will be decommissioned. This decommissioning will take approximately 24 months and will be in a phased approach.</p> <p>The final construction programme will depend on the detailed layout, design and potential environmental constraints on the timing of construction activities. An indicative overview of the final construction programme will be set out in the Construction Environmental Management Plan(s) for information</p> | |
| B | <p>Management plans and consistency of construction, operation and decommissioning activities – It is noted that there are some inconsistencies between the application documents in relation to the description of the proposed development. An example is that the Outline Soil Management Plan [Doc 7.8] infers at paragraph 7.3.1 that below-ground cables would be removed during decommissioning, whereas paragraph 3.2.2 of the Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan [Doc 7.3] states that it is assumed that underground cabling would be left in situ. The applicant is</p> | <p>The Outline Soil Management Plan [Document Reference 7.8] has been updated to remove reference to cables being removed during decommissioning and this has been checked across other documents.</p> | Yes |

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| | advised to undertake a check of all documentation to ensure that a consistent description of the proposed development is provided throughout the ES. | | |
| C(a) | Accuracy of figures and accompanying text for changes to the proposed development – The applicant has submitted figures and ES Chapter 3 to detail the changes between scoping and PEIR, and PEIR and the submission of the application for acceptance using a numbered system. However, ES Figure 3.2 [Doc 6.4.3.2] and Table 3-1 of ES Chapter 3 [Doc 6.1.3], and subsequently ES Figure 6.3 [Doc 6.4.3.3] and Table 3-2 of ES Chapter 3 [Doc 6.1.3] do not fully correspond. The applicant is advised to review these figures and the text entries for consistency. | Table 3-1 of ES Chapter 3 [Document Reference 6.1.2] has been updated to ensure the numbering corresponds with ES Figure 3.2. Table 3-2 of ES Chapter 3 [Document Reference 6.1.2] has been updated to ensure the numbering corresponds with ES Figure 3.3 [Document Reference 6.1.2] . | Yes |
| C(b) | The applicant is also advised to undertake a check of all application documents to ensure the correct and full Order Limits are shown, including where relevant, full labelling of smaller land parcels. | This has been updated across application documents. | Yes |

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| D(a) | <p>Cumulative effects long and short list –</p> <p>The future construction of the NGET substation does not appear to be included in the cumulative effects assessment [Doc 6.2.17]. The applicant should confirm how the ES has assessed cumulative effects with the proposed NGET substation or provide a justification for why that would not currently be possible.</p> | <p>As it is not possible for the potential route options for the 400kV export connection cable until the location of the NGET 400kV substation has been confirmed, the 400kV export connection cable does not form part of the Scheme. Whilst the Applicant continues to engage with NGET, there is therefore currently no meaningful information for the Applicant to assess that this export cable connection in the accompanying Environmental Impact Assessment for the Scheme. This approach is consistent with the requirements of the EIA Regulations (see, for example, R (Khan v. London Borough of Sutton ([2014] EWHC 3663 (Admin))).</p> <p>The exception is that the DCO includes powers for the provision of cables from the RWE on-site 400kV substation to the Order Limits, in order to facilitate a connection at the appropriate point with the remainder of the 400kV export cable to the NGET substation (once the location is confirmed), which has been assessed within the Applicant's Environmental Statement.</p> <p>The 400kV export connection cable beyond the Order Limits would be progressed via a separate consenting process once the location of the NGET 400kV substation is confirmed. The most appropriate consenting route will be determined at the appropriate stage once NGET have defined the location of the NGET 400kV substation and the cable route options can be established. This, in turn, will</p> | Yes |

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| | | ensure that the 400kV export connection cable beyond the Order Limits would be subject to appropriate environmental assessment. | |
| D(b) | The Consultation Report [Doc 5.2] also refers to an unspecified confidential development which appears to be in the vicinity of the proposed development. The applicant should confirm how the ES has assessed cumulative effects with the unspecified development, or provide a justification for why that would not currently be possible. | The unspecified confidential development that was referenced in the Consultation Report [Document reference 5.2] related to a project on land within Parcel F. As noted in response B, Land Parcel F has been removed from the Scheme, with the bird mitigation area previously forming part of Land Parcel F now included in Land Parcel E. Therefore, the unspecified confidential development is not within the Order Limits. This unspecified confidential development is at very early stages and therefore there is no defined location for the proposal, or scale of development and there is no information on the proposal within the public domain. Hence this unspecified confidential development has not been considered within the cumulative assessment of the ES. If over the course of the examination information on the unspecified confidential development becomes available it will be considered in the cumulative assessment of the ES. If following the consent of the Scheme this unspecified confidential development comes forward it will need to consider the Scheme within its cumulative assessment. | n/a |
| 7 | Compulsory Acquisition | | |
| A | The Consultation Report states that all persons identified under s42(1)(d) were consulted on 20 March 2025. However, | The Consultation Report [Document Reference 5.1] has been updated to include this list. Please refer to Appendix 7.1. | Yes |

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| | the list of persons consulted has not been provided. | | |
| 8 | ES Figures | | |
| A | ES Figure 6.4.8.1: Designated Heritage Assets does not use full Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping and is insufficient to identify the precise locations for the features. | This Figure has been updated to use the OS mapping and the revised Order Limits | Yes |
| B | ES Figure 6.4.8.2: Non Designated Heritage Assets does not use full OS mapping and is insufficient to identify the precise locations for the features. | This Figure has been updated to use the OS mapping and the revised Order Limits | Yes |
| C | ES Figure 6.4.8.3: Important Hedgerows is insufficiently detailed to the identify the locations for affected hedges. | This Figure has been updated to use the OS mapping and the revised Order Limits | Yes |
| 9 | Land Plans (Doc 2.2) | | |
| A | The cut lines are not obvious and very short, with a lot of overlap between the sheets. Also, the cut line between sheets 10 and 11 do not match. | Cut lines have now been updated and they do match between sheets 10 and 11 | Yes |
| B | Plot 7/15 is identified for permanent acquisition on the Land Plans and rights acquisition in the BoR. | This has been amended. | Yes |

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| C | Plot 2/27 has no reference to Moor Edge Road on the Land Plans but referenced in the BoR. | This has been amended. Note it is Moor Edges Road. | Yes |
| D | Plot 3/14 does not appear to be part of Medge Hall on the Land Plans but is in the BoR. | It is part of Medge Hall. | Yes |
| E | Plot 3/34 is away from previous consecutive plots. | This was amended to accommodate further plots during the preparation of the Land Plans. | Yes |
| F | The Land Plan sheet legends do not include any mention of where to find the appendix insets. The Appendix sheet legends do not include identification of the corresponding Land Plan sheet. | This has been amended. | Yes |
| G | Inset 2 on Sheet 2 does not contain the acquisition category colours as identified on the main Land Plan sheet. This makes it difficult to determine what rights are sought for plot references 2/2, 2/3 and 2/5. This is contrary to Compulsory Acquisition of Land Guidance Annex C. | This has been amended. | Yes |
| H | There is a small area of land between plot reference 2/1, 2/2 and 2/4 that appears to require a plot reference. | There is no plot number missing. The grey line that appears to split a plot is an OS Mastermap line. | n/a |
| I | Comparison between Land Plan Sheet 2 Appendix 2 and Appendix sheet 1 of 6 : | This is the same as H above – The grey line that appears to split a plot is an OS Mastermap line. | n/a |

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| I(a) | Appendix Sheet 2 Plot reference 1/57 straddles the boundary line between what appears to be 1/57 and an identified plot which lies between 1/54 and 1/57 | This is the same as H above – The grey line that appears to split a plot is an OS Mastermap line. | n/a |
| I(b) | Land Plan Sheet 2 Plot reference 1/57 appears to be below 1/54 and the unidentified plot. | Location of labels have been moved so that plots can be clearly identified. | Yes |
| I(c) | Is hard to identify some elements on Land Plan Sheet 11 of 14 as the text is obscured. | The Land Plan has been updated to make any text clearer. | Yes |
| J | The above mentioned deficiencies should be rectified and the Land Plans and Book of Reference should generally be reviewed for accuracy and consistency and be amended as necessary. | Land Plans and Book of Reference have been reviewed and updated. | Yes |
| 10 | Work Plans (Doc 2.3) | | |
| A | There is no key plan for the Land Plans and the identification of some of the works is unclear in instances where one work is overlaid on another one, because of the colours and/or notations used. | A key plan has been included in the updated Works Plans. | Yes |
| 11 | Street Works, Access and Public Rights of Way Plan (Doc 2.4) | | |
| A | PROW5-A and 5-B are on Sheet 12 of the plans but the dDCO states they are on Sheet 4. | PROW5-A and 5-B are no longer referenced in the dDCO and are no longer shown on Sheet 12 of the plans. | Yes |

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| B | PROW6-C is not shown on the plans and dDCO states it should be on Sheet 12. | PROW6-C is no longer referenced in the dDCO | Yes |
| C | STW16.1 is shown on the plans but has not been included in the dDCO. | Reference STW16.1 is now included in Schedule 5 of the dDCO | Yes |
| D | The previously mentioned inconsistencies should be addressed and the general consistency between the plans and the dDCO should be reviewed and any corrections be made as necessary. | The dDCO and plans have been reviewed and updated as necessary. | Yes |
| 12 | Book of Reference (Doc 4.3) | | |
| A | Square meters and meters have been used interchangeably to describe plot areas. All plot areas should be stated in square meters and the Book of Reference should be reviewed and corrected as necessary. | This has been amended. | Yes |
| B | There are multiple organisations present in part 3, but not part 1. | Any organisation that is listed under part 3 that has a category 1 or 2 interest is listed under part 1 of the Book of Reference (as required under Regulation 7(1)(a) of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009). The organisations listed under part 3 that are not listed under part 1 are listed under part 2 of the Book of Reference on the basis that they have a category 3 interest (this being in accordance with Regulation 7(1)(b) of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009). Taken | n/a |

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| | | together all parties with an interest under category 1 – 3 have been correctly recorded under parts 1 and 2 of the Book of Reference. Part 3 of the Book of Reference contains all parties who are entitled to enjoy easements or other private rights over land, in accordance with Regulation 7(1)(c) of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009. The applicant has on a precautionary basis also included category 3 interests in Part 3 of the Book of Reference given the potential for such parties to claim a right over land. Taken together the applicant is satisfied that the Book of Reference is complete and all interests have been recorded. | |
| 13 | Section 46: Duty to notify The Planning Inspectorate of proposed application | | |
| A | The applicant gave notice under s46 on 21 March 2025, which was after the beginning of s42 consultation 20 March 2025. | <p>As explained in the Section 55 Checklist [Document Reference 1.5] The applicant sent a letter to the Secretary of State on 20th March 2025 to provide notification of the consultation and provided a link on which consultation documents could be accessed.</p> <p>On 21st March 2025, the Applicant provided the Planning Inspectorate with the Section 46 notification. Evidence is provided at Appendix 6.12 of the Consultation Report Appendices (Document Reference 5.2).</p> | n/a |

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| | | The Applicant acknowledges that the consultation letter was sent directly to the Secretary of State on 20th March 2025 in error, where it should have been sent to the Planning Inspectorate. The Section 46 notice was sent directly to the Planning Inspectorate on 21st March 2025. | |