

## Tween Bridge Solar Farm

### 5.2 Consultation Report Appendices – Part 3 (Appendix 4.1 to 6.4)

Planning Act 2008

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

APFP Regulation 5(1)

Document Reference: 5.2

August 2025

Revision 1

## **Appendix 4.1 – EIA Scoping Report covering letter**

Our ref. P21-3484  
26 January 2023

Secretary of State  
Planning Inspectorate  
The Quare  
Temple Quay  
Room 3 O/P  
Temple Quay House  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN

**TWEEN BRIDGE SOLAR FARM  
REGULATION 8 & 10 OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT  
ASSESSMENT) REGULATION 2017 – SCOPING REQUEST**

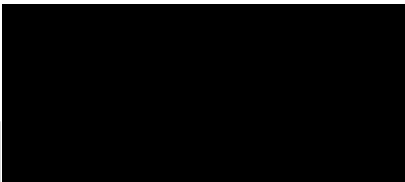
Dear Secretary of State,

RWE Renewables are proposing Tween Bridge Solar Farm (the “scheme”), comprises the construction, operation and decommissioning of a ground mounted solar photovoltaic electricity generating panels with a gross electrical output of more than 50 megawatts (MW) alternating current (AC).

Pursuant to Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations, RWE Renewables confirms that an Environmental Statement will be provided in support of an application for development consent for the scheme; and by virtue of Regulation 6(2)(a), that the proposed scheme constitutes EIA development.

Please find enclosed a Scoping Report which forms part of a formal request for a Scoping Opinion from the Secretary of State under Regulation 10 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulation 2017 (EIA Regulations).

Yours sincerely,



Principal Planner  
[Redacted]@pegasusgroup.co.uk

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**Expertly Done.**

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## **Appendix 4.2 – Regulation 11 list provided by the Planning Inspectorate**



PROPOSED TWEEN BRIDGE SOLAR FARM

PROJECT REFERENCE: EN010148

LIST OF CONSULTATION BODIES NOTIFIED BY THE PLANNING INSPECTORATE UNDER REGULATION 11(1)(A) OF  
THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2017 ('THE EIA  
REGULATIONS')

13 MARCH 2023

This information has been provided in accordance with Regulation 11(1)(b) of the the EIA Regulations in response to a Regulation 8 notification received from RWE Renewables Ltd via letter dated 26 January 2023. The tables below list the bodies that the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State has notified under Regulation 11(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations. They have been identified based on the red line boundary provided by the Applicant as a shapefile in the correspondence dated 22 December 2022.

When meeting its statutory pre-application obligations, the Applicant must make diligent inquiries, carry out its own investigations and take legal advice, as appropriate. Whilst the list of bodies identified by the Planning Inspectorate can inform the Applicant's own consultation, it should not be relied upon for that purpose. The Applicant should also have regard to the relevant guidance prepared by the Planning Inspectorate, which is available via our website<sup>1</sup>.

Please note that the consultation bodies have been identified and notified in accordance with the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note Three: EIA Notification and Consultation (version 7, Republished June 2017), which is available on our website<sup>1</sup>.

The consultation bodies are identified in the following tables:

|                                                                              |           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Table 1: Prescribed Consultation Bodies</b>                               | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>Table 2: Relevant Statutory Undertakers</b>                               | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>Table 3: Section 43 Consultees (for the purposes of Section 42(1)(b))</b> | <b>13</b> |

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<sup>1</sup> <http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/>

Table 4: Non-Prescribed Consultation Bodies ..... 14

**Table 1: Prescribed Consultation Bodies<sup>2</sup>**

| <b>Schedule 1 Description</b>                               | <b>Organisation</b>                                  | <b>Contact</b>                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The Health and Safety Executive                             | Health and Safety Executive                          | Mr [REDACTED] (MHPD)<br>NSIP.applications@hse.gov.uk                                                                                                                                     |
| The National Health Service Commissioning Board             | NHS England                                          | england.contactus@nhs.net                                                                                                                                                                |
| The relevant Integrated Care Board                          | NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board            | FAO South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board<br>helloworkingtogether@nhs.net                                                                                                                |
|                                                             | NHS Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board | hnyicb-hull.hnycontactus@nhs.net                                                                                                                                                         |
| Natural England                                             | Natural England                                      | consultations@naturalengland.org.uk                                                                                                                                                      |
| The Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England | Historic England                                     | [REDACTED]@historicengland.org.uk<br>Cc:<br>yorkshire@HistoricEngland.org.uk<br>e-neast@HistoricEngland.org.uk<br>[REDACTED]@HistoricEngland.org.uk<br>[REDACTED]@HistoricEngland.org.uk |
| The relevant fire and rescue authority                      | Humberside Fire and Rescue Service                   | emergencypreparedness@humbersidefire.gov.uk<br>Cc:<br>letusknow@humbersidefire.gov.uk                                                                                                    |
|                                                             | South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service              | comments@syfire.gov.uk                                                                                                                                                                   |

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<sup>2</sup> Schedule 1 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (the 'APFP Regulations')

| <b>Schedule 1 Description</b>                                                                                                   | <b>Organisation</b>                           | <b>Contact</b>                                                                                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The relevant police and crime commissioner                                                                                      | Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner      | PCC@humberside.pnn.police.uk                                                                                                  |
|                                                                                                                                 | South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner | info@southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk                                                                                                |
| The relevant parish council(s) or, where the application relates to land [in] Wales or Scotland, the relevant community council | Thorne-Moorends Town Council                  | FAO [REDACTED] - Clerk<br>clerk@thorne-moorends.gov.uk                                                                        |
|                                                                                                                                 | Hatfield Town Council                         | FAO [REDACTED] - Clerk<br>office@hatfield-tc.gov.uk                                                                           |
|                                                                                                                                 | Belton Parish Council                         | FAO [REDACTED] - Clerk<br>beltonparish@gmail.com                                                                              |
|                                                                                                                                 | Crowle and Ealand Town Council                | FAO [REDACTED] - Clerk<br>clerk@crowlealandcouncil.org                                                                        |
|                                                                                                                                 | The Environment Agency                        | [REDACTED]@environment-agency.gov.uk<br>Cc:<br>sp-yorkshire@environment-agency.gov.uk<br>LNplanning@environment-agency.gov.uk |
| The Civil Aviation Authority                                                                                                    | Civil Aviation Authority                      | OGCMailbox@caa.co.uk<br>Cc:<br>airspace@caa.co.uk                                                                             |
| Integrated Transport Authorities (ITAs) and Passenger Transport Executives (PTEs)                                               | South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive | communications@sypte.co.uk                                                                                                    |
| The Relevant Highways Authority                                                                                                 | North Lincolnshire Council Highways Authority | Head of Highways<br>traffic@northlincs.gov.uk                                                                                 |

| <b>Schedule 1 Description</b>           | <b>Organisation</b>                                                    | <b>Contact</b>                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                         | City of Doncaster Council Highways Authority                           | Head of Highways<br>highwaysdc@doncaster.gov.uk                                |
| The relevant strategic highways company | National Highways                                                      | planningYNE@nationalhighways.co.uk                                             |
| The Coal Authority                      | The Coal Authority                                                     | planningconsultation@coal.gov.uk                                               |
| The relevant internal drainage board    | Black Drain Internal Drainage Board                                    | FAO Black Drain Internal Drainage Board<br>info@yorkshirehumberdrainage.gov.uk |
|                                         | Doncaster East Internal Drainage Board                                 | enquiries@deidb.co.uk                                                          |
|                                         | Isle of Axholme and North Nottinghamshire Water Level Management Board | enquiries@ioadb.co.uk                                                          |
| The Canal and River Trust               | The Canal and River Trust                                              | planning@canalrivertrust.org.uk<br>Cc to: [REDACTED]@canalrivertrust.org.uk    |
|                                         | United Kingdom Health Security Agency                                  | Nsipconsultations@ukhsa.gov.uk                                                 |
| Relevant statutory undertakers          | See Table 2 below                                                      | See Table 2 below                                                              |
| The Crown Estate Commissioners          | The Crown Estate                                                       | NSIP@thecrownestate.co.uk                                                      |
| The Forestry Commission                 | Forestry Commission                                                    | yne@forestrycommission.gov.uk                                                  |
| The Secretary of State for Defence      | Ministry of Defence                                                    | DIO-Safeguarding-Statutory@mod.gov.uk                                          |

| Schedule 1 Description | Organisation | Contact                                  |
|------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------------|
|                        |              | Cc:<br>DIO-Safeguarding-Comms@mod.gov.uk |

**Table 2: Relevant Statutory Undertakers**

| <b>Statutory Undertaker<sup>3</sup></b>         | <b>Organisation</b>                                  | <b>Contact</b>                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The relevant Integrated Care Board              | NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board            | FAO South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board<br>helloworkingtogether@nhs.net   |
|                                                 | NHS Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board | hnyicb-hull.hnycontactus@nhs.net                                            |
| The National Health Service Commissioning Board | NHS England                                          | england.contactus@nhs.net                                                   |
| The relevant NHS Trust                          | Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust                | yas.legalservices@nhs.net                                                   |
| Railways                                        | Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd                      | TownPlanningLNE@networkrail.co.uk<br>Cc: [REDACTED]@networkrail.co.uk       |
|                                                 | National Highways Historical Railways Estate         | FAO: [REDACTED]<br>hreenquiries@nationalhighways.co.uk                      |
| Canal Or Inland Navigation Authorities          | The Canal and River Trust                            | planning@canalrivertrust.org.uk<br>Cc to: [REDACTED]@canalrivertrust.org.uk |
| Civil Aviation Authority                        | Civil Aviation Authority                             | OGCMailbox@caa.co.uk<br>Cc: airspace@caa.co.uk                              |

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<sup>3</sup> 'Statutory Undertaker' is defined in the APPF Regulations as having the same meaning as in Section 127 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008)

| <b>Statutory Undertaker<sup>3</sup></b>                    | <b>Organisation</b>           | <b>Contact</b>                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Licence Holder (Chapter 1 Of Part 1 Of Transport Act 2000) | NATS En-Route Safeguarding    | natssafeguarding@nats.co.uk                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Universal Service Provider                                 | Royal Mail Group              | <div> <div></div> <div>@realestate.bnpparibas</div> </div> <div> <div>Cc:</div> <div> <div></div> <div>@royalmail.com</div> </div> <div> <div></div> <div>@struttandparker.com</div> </div> </div>        |
| Homes and Communities Agency                               | Homes England                 | enquiries@homesengland.gov.uk                                                                                                                                                                             |
| The relevant Environment Agency                            | The Environment Agency        | <div> <div></div> <div>@environment-agency.gov.uk</div> </div> <div> <div>Cc:</div> <div> <div>sp-yorkshire@environment-agency.gov.uk</div> <div>LNplanning@environment-agency.gov.uk</div> </div> </div> |
| The relevant water and sewage undertaker                   | Anglian Water                 | <div> <div></div> <div>anglianwater.co.uk</div> </div>                                                                                                                                                    |
|                                                            | Severn Trent                  | stw.ofwat@severntrent.co.uk                                                                                                                                                                               |
|                                                            | Yorkshire Water               | <div> <div>wbu.service.centre@yorkshirewater.co.uk</div> </div> <div> <div>Cc:</div> <div>technical.sewerage@yorkshirewater.co.uk</div> </div>                                                            |
| The relevant public gas transporter                        | Cadent Gas Limited            | <div> <div></div> <div>@cadentgas.com</div> </div> <div> <div>Cc:</div> <div>landservices@cadentgas.com</div> </div>                                                                                      |
|                                                            | Northern Gas Networks Limited | BeforeYouDig@northerngas.co.uk                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                                                            | Scotland Gas Networks Plc     | customer@sgn.co.uk                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|                                                            | Southern Gas Networks Plc     |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |



| Statutory Undertaker <sup>3</sup> | Organisation                    | Contact                                                                                            |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                   | Wales and West Utilities Ltd    | enquiries@wwwutilities.co.uk                                                                       |
|                                   | Energy Assets Pipelines Limited | info@energyassetsnetworks.co.uk                                                                    |
|                                   | ES Pipelines Ltd                | Design@espug.com<br>Cc: ESPEDesign@espug.com<br>Operations@espug.com<br>CustomerServices@espug.com |
|                                   | ESP Connections Ltd             | PlantResponses@espipelines.com                                                                     |
|                                   | ESP Networks Ltd                | Design@espug.com<br>Cc:                                                                            |
|                                   | ESP Pipelines Ltd               | ESPEDesign@espug.com<br>Operations@espug.com<br>CustomerServices@espug.com                         |
|                                   | Fulcrum Pipelines Limited       | FPLPlant@fulcrum.co.uk                                                                             |
|                                   | GTC Pipelines Limited           | @gtc-uk.co.uk<br>Cc: @gtc-uk.co.uk                                                                 |
|                                   | Harlaxton Gas Networks Limited  | info@harlaxtonenergynetworks.com                                                                   |
|                                   | Independent Pipelines Limited   | @gtc-uk.co.uk<br>Cc: @gtc-uk.co.uk                                                                 |
|                                   | Indigo Pipelines Limited        | FAO: enquiries@indigopipelines.co.uk<br>Cc:                                                        |

| Statutory Undertaker <sup>3</sup>                    | Organisation                       | Contact                                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The relevant electricity distributor with CPO Powers |                                    | ██████████@indigopipelines.co.uk                                                                                                   |
|                                                      | Last Mile Gas Ltd                  | info@lastmile-uk.com                                                                                                               |
|                                                      | Leep Gas Networks Limited          | operations@leeputilities.co.uk                                                                                                     |
|                                                      | Quadrant Pipelines Limited         | ██████████@gtc-uk.co.uk<br>Cc: ██████████@gtc-uk.co.uk                                                                             |
|                                                      | Squire Energy Limited              | enquiries@squireenergy.co.uk                                                                                                       |
|                                                      | National Grid Gas Plc              | FAO: ██████████<br>box.landandacquisitions@nationalgrid.com<br>Cc: ██████████@nationalgrid.com<br>assetprotection@nationalgrid.com |
|                                                      | Eclipse Power Network Limited      | enquiries@eclipsepower.co.uk                                                                                                       |
|                                                      | Energy Assets Networks Limited     | info@energyassetsnetworks.co.uk                                                                                                    |
|                                                      | ESP Electricity Limited            | ESPEDesign@espug.com<br>Cc: Design@espug.com<br>Operations@espug.com<br>CustomerServices@espug.com                                 |
|                                                      | Fulcrum Electricity Assets Limited | enquiries@fulcrum.co.uk                                                                                                            |
|                                                      | Harlaxton Energy Networks Limited  | info@harlaxtonenergynetworks.com                                                                                                   |
|                                                      | Independent Power Networks Limited | ██████████@gtc-uk.co.uk                                                                                                            |

| Statutory Undertaker <sup>3</sup>                    | Organisation                               | Contact                                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                      |                                            | Cc: [REDACTED]@gtc-uk.co.uk                                                                                                        |
|                                                      | Indigo Power Limited                       | IndigoPower@indigopipelines.co.uk                                                                                                  |
|                                                      | Last Mile Electricity Ltd                  | info@lastmile-uk.com                                                                                                               |
|                                                      | Leap Electricity Networks Limited          | electricity@leeputilities.co.uk                                                                                                    |
|                                                      | Mua Electricity Limited                    | mail@murphygroup.co.uk                                                                                                             |
|                                                      | Optimal Power Networks Limited             | OptimalPowerNetworks@sse.com                                                                                                       |
|                                                      | The Electricity Network Company Limited    | [REDACTED]@gtc-uk.co.uk<br>Cc: [REDACTED]@gtc-uk.co.uk                                                                             |
|                                                      | UK Power Distribution Limited              | newconnections@ukpowerdistribution.co.uk                                                                                           |
|                                                      | Utility Assets Limited                     | distributionmanager@utilityassets.co.uk                                                                                            |
|                                                      | Vattenfall Networks Limited                | UK-networks@vattenfall.com                                                                                                         |
|                                                      | Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) plc         | getconnected@northernpowergrid.com                                                                                                 |
| The relevant electricity transmitter with CPO Powers | National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc | FAO: [REDACTED]<br>box.landandacquisitions@nationalgrid.com<br>Cc: [REDACTED]@nationalgrid.com<br>assetprotection@nationalgrid.com |

| Statutory Undertaker <sup>3</sup> | Organisation                                      | Contact                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                   | National Grid Electricity System Operator Limited | transmissionconnections@nationalgrideso.com<br>Cc:<br>commercial.operation@nationalgrideso.com<br>assetprotection@nationalgrid.com |
|                                   | Elexon Limited                                    | communications@elexon.co.uk                                                                                                        |

**Table 3: Section 43 Consultees (for the purposes of Section 42(1)(b))<sup>4</sup>**

| <b>Local Authority<sup>5</sup></b>     | <b>Contact</b>                            |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| North Lincolnshire Council             | planning@northlincs.gov.uk                |
| City of Doncaster Council              | tsi@doncaster.gov.uk                      |
| West Lindsey District Council          | planning.customercare@west-lindsey.gov.uk |
| Selby District Council                 | ppu@selby.gov.uk                          |
| Bassetlaw District Council             | planning@bassetlaw.gov.uk                 |
| Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council | development.management@rotherham.gov.uk   |
| Wakefield Council                      | devcontrol@wakefield.gov.uk               |
| Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council  | developmentmanagement@barnsley.gov.uk     |
| East Riding of Yorkshire Council       | beverley.dc@eastriding.gov.uk             |
| North East Lincolnshire Council        | planning@nelincs.gov.uk                   |
| Lincolnshire County Council            | dev_planningsupport@lincolnshire.gov.uk   |
| North Yorkshire County Council         | planning.control@northyorks.gov.uk        |
| Nottinghamshire County Council         | planning.policy@nottscc.gov.uk            |

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<sup>4</sup> Sections 43(3) and 42(b) of the PA2008

<sup>5</sup> As defined in Section 43(3) of the PA2008

**Table 4: Non-Prescribed Consultation Bodies**

Non-prescribed consultees have been identified in accordance with Table 3 of the annexe to Advice Note Three: EIA Notification and Consultation (Version 7, August 2017).

The following non-prescribed consultation body has been identified by the Planning Inspectorate. They are not a consultation body for the purposes of Regulation 11(3) of the EIA Regulations (who must, if requested by the Applicant, make information relevant to the preparation of the Environmental Statement available) and these duties not apply to the non-prescribed consultee identified.

| Organisation                               | Contact                            |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority | enquiries@southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk |

## **Appendix 4.3 – Statutory Consultation Letter and Email to Consultees**

Swindon, 20/03/2025

## **Tween Bridge Solar Farm – Statutory Consultation**

Good afternoon,

RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Limited of Windmill Hill Business Park, Whitehill Way, Swindon, Wiltshire, England, SN5 6PB (“the Applicant”) is consulting on its proposals for the Tween Bridge Solar Farm (“the Scheme”) between Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025 (inclusive).

The Scheme is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project and so in order to gain consent for the proposals, we are preparing to submit an application for a Development Consent Order (“DCO”). This application will be made to the Planning Inspectorate (‘PINS’) who will examine the application on behalf of the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, with the final decision on the proposals being made by the Secretary of State. The application will seek permission to construct, operate and decommission the Scheme, which will comprise the elements set out below. We expect to submit an application in late 2025.

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 Planning Act 2008 (“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).

This letter explains how to take part in the statutory 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.



## Description of the Scheme

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 2527 hectares. The electricity generated will feed into the grid through a new National Grid substation. The site will be connected to the National Grid substation via underground cable.

The location of the new National Grid substation is outside the control of The Applicant.<sup>[1]</sup> For the consultation, it has been assumed that the National Grid substation would be located within, or near to, the proposed draft order limits. We have included an area within our draft order limits where it is thought that the National Grid substation, and therefore the connection cable, might be located, in order to ensure that the appropriate parties are consulted with and that the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (“PEIR”) includes assessments in relation to this land, where possible.

The Scheme comprises:

- 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 four separate compounds.
- Seven on-site 33kV/132kV substation compounds.
- 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
- Envisaged works at the site of the proposed National Grid Substation to facilitate the connection of the 400kV underground cabling to the proposed National Grid Substation

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<sup>[1]</sup> The substation is being developed by National Grid and will be the subject of a separate planning application in due course.

- 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
- Electrical Car ('EV') charging point
- Permissive pathways and bird viewing gallery; and
- Temporary development during the construction phase of the Scheme including construction compounds, parking and temporary access roadways.

The Scheme is a development which requires an Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. We have prepared a 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 DCO application.

## **Approach to the consultation**

We would be grateful for your views on the consultation material to help inform and further refine our proposals.

We 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.

## **Consultation documents**

To view the full suite of consultation documents listed below free of charge, please visit the project website at [www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk](http://www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk). The documents can be accessed under the 'documents' tab and will be made available until Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025. These are provided to help you understand the proposals and share your views with us:

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

For enquiries in relation to these documents, please contact 08000 217877.

Please supply any response using the contact methods below:

- Email: [info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk](mailto:info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk)
- Freepost\*: FREEPOST TWEENBRIDGE
- Telephone: 08000 217877

*\*No stamp is required.*

**Responses must be received no later than 11.59pm on Thursday 8th May 2025.**

For ease for 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 the Applicant using the email address, postal address or telephone number provided in this letter. The cost for print and postage will be £0.35 per A4 page.

We are holding four public exhibitions and an online webinar, the details of which are provided below.

| Date                                  | Location                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Time       |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2025    | Crowle Community Hall, Market Place, Crowle, DN17 4LA                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 4pm–7pm    |
| Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2025   | Coulman Pavillion, Thorne, DN8 5JS                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 4pm–7pm    |
| Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2025  | Online webinar<br><br>Please visit <a href="http://www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk">www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk</a> 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–8pm |
| Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2025 | Miners Welfare and Community Development Centre, 24A West Road, Moorends, DN8 4LH                                                                                                                                                                       | 12pm–3pm   |
| Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2025  | Hatfield Woodhouse Village Hall, Main Street, Woodhouse, DN7 6GB                                                                                                                                                                                        | 3pm–6pm    |

We hope to see you at one of these events. Should you have any queries about this correspondence, the Scheme or the consultation, please do not hesitate to contact us using the details provided above.

Yours faithfully,



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.*

*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](mailto: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](mailto:ukdataprotectionrwe@rwe.com).*

**From:** Info Tweenbridgesolar <info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 21 March 2025 14:53  
**Subject:** RE: Tween Bridge Solar Farm – Statutory Consultation  
**Attachments:** Tween Bridge Solar Farm - Section 47 and 48 combined notice FINAL.docx

To whom it may concern,

Please find attached the Tween Bridge Solar Farm – Section 47 and 48 combined notice.

If you have any questions about this notice, the consultation, or the Project, please contact the Applicant by using one of the contact methods provided below:

Email: [info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk](mailto:info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk)

Telephone: 0800 021 7877

Postal address: FREEPOST TWEEN BRIDGE SOLAR (no stamp needed)

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**From:** Info Tweenbridgesolar  
**Sent:** 20 March 2025 12:09  
**Subject:** Tween Bridge Solar Farm – Statutory Consultation

Swindon, 20/03/2025

### **Tween Bridge Solar Farm – Statutory Consultation**

Good afternoon,

RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Limited of Windmill Hill Business Park, Whitehill Way, Swindon, Wiltshire, England, SN5 6PB (“the Applicant”) is consulting on its proposals for the Tween Bridge Solar Farm (“the Scheme”) between Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025 (inclusive).

The Scheme is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project and so in order to gain consent for the proposals, we are preparing to submit an application for a Development Consent Order (“DCO”). This application will be made to the Planning Inspectorate (‘PINS’) who will examine the application on behalf of the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, with the final decision on the proposals being made by the Secretary of State. The application will seek permission to construct, operate and decommission the Scheme, which will comprise the elements set out below. We expect to submit an application in late 2025.

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 Planning Act 2008 (“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).

This letter explains how to take part in the statutory 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.

## Description of the Scheme

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 2527 hectares. The electricity generated will feed into the grid through a new National Grid substation. The site will be connected to the National Grid substation via underground cable.

The location of the new National Grid substation is outside the control of The Applicant.<sup>[1]</sup> For the consultation, it has been assumed that the National Grid substation would be located within, or near to, the proposed draft order limits. We have included an area within our draft order limits where it is thought that the National Grid substation, and therefore the connection cable, might be located, in order to ensure that the appropriate parties are consulted with and that the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (“PEIR”) includes assessments in relation to this land, where possible.

The Scheme comprises:

- 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 four separate compounds.
- Seven on-site 33kV/132kV substation compounds.
- 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
- Envisaged works at the site of the proposed National Grid Substation to facilitate the connection of the 400kV underground cabling to the proposed National Grid Substation
- 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
- Electrical Car (‘EV’) charging point
- Permissive pathways and bird viewing gallery; and
- Temporary development during the construction phase of the Scheme including construction compounds, parking and temporary access roadways.

The Scheme is a development which requires an Environmental Impact Assessment (“EIA”) for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. We have prepared a 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 DCO application.

## Approach to the consultation

We would be grateful for your views on the consultation material to help inform and further refine our proposals.

We 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.

## Consultation documents

To view the full suite of consultation documents listed below free of charge, please visit the project website at [www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk](http://www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk). The documents can be accessed under the 'documents' tab and will be made available until Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025. These are provided to help you understand the proposals and share your views with us:

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

For enquiries in relation to these documents, please contact 08000 217877.

Please supply any response using the contact methods below:

- Email: [info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk](mailto:info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk)
- Freepost\*: FREEPOST TWEENBRIDGE
- Telephone: 08000 217877

*\*No stamp is required.*

## Responses must be received no later than 11.59pm on Thursday 8th May 2025.

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 the Applicant using the email address, postal address or telephone number provided in this letter. The cost for print and postage will be £0.35 per A4 page.

We are holding four public exhibitions and an online webinar, the details of which are provided below.

| Date                                  | Location                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Time       |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2025    | Crowle Community Hall, Market Place, Crowle, DN17 4LA                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 4pm–7pm    |
| Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2025   | Coulman Pavillion, Thorne, DN8 5JS                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 4pm–7pm    |
| Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2025  | Online webinar<br><br>Please visit <a href="http://www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk">www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk</a> 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–8pm |
| Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2025 | Miners Welfare and Community Development Centre, 24A West Road, Moorends, DN8 4LH                                                                                                                                                                       | 12pm–3pm   |
| Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2025  | Hatfield Woodhouse Village Hall, Main Street, Woodhouse, DN7 6GB                                                                                                                                                                                        | 3pm–6pm    |



We hope to see you at one of these events. Should you have any queries about this correspondence, the Scheme or the consultation, please do not hesitate to contact us using the details provided above.

Yours faithfully,



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.*

*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](mailto: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](mailto:ukdataprotectionrwe@rwe.com).*

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<sup>[1]</sup> The substation is being developed by National Grid and will be the subject of a separate planning application in due course.

## **Appendix 4.4 – Section 47 and 48 Combined Notice**

## **Tween Bridge Solar Farm**

### **The Planning Act 2008 - Sections 42, 47 and 48**

#### **The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 - Regulation 4**

#### **Notice of Publication of a Statement of Community Consultation and Notice Publicising a Proposed Application for a Development Consent Order**

## **Tween Bridge Solar Farm**

Notice is hereby given that RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Limited of Windmill Hill Business Park, Whitehill Way, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN5 6PB (the 'Applicant') intends to submit an application (the 'Proposed Application') to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the 'SoS') for a Development Consent Order ('DCO') under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (the '2008 Act').

The Proposed Application is for the Tween Bridge Solar Farm (the "Scheme") and is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under sections 14 and 15 of the 2008 Act.

In accordance with section 47 of the 2008 Act, this notice publicises where and when the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) can be inspected. The SoCC sets out how the Applicant will undertake its consultation.

Additionally, the Applicant has a duty to publicise the Proposed Application under section 48 of the 2008 Act in line with Regulation 4 of the 2009 Regulations. In accordance with those provisions, this notice also summarises the main proposals and explains where the consultation documents can be viewed.

### **Summary of the Project**

The land required for the Project (the 'Project Site') is located approximately 10km to the northeast of Doncaster and 14km to the west of Scunthorpe within the administrative boundaries of City of Doncaster Council and North Lincolnshire Council. The site area is approximately 2527 hectares.

The Project comprises the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of a ground mounted solar park with an intended design capacity of over 50MWp (megawatts peak), and a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with an export/import connection to the National Grid.

The electricity generated would equate to around 800 MW of alternating current (AC) capacity and will feed into the grid through a new National Grid substation. The Project Site will be connected to the substation via underground cable. Flexibility in panel design would be required to accommodate expected future technology developments as technology continues to evolve and become more efficient.

The Applicant has accepted a grid connection offer from National Grid. The connection date to the new National Grid substation is currently scheduled to be in 2029. This is subject to construction of the new substation and completion of the necessary grid reinforcement works by National Grid.

The National Grid Substation does not form part of the Project and therefore National Grid will be developing its own proposals and consenting for the substation separately. The location of the new substation is still to be confirmed and is dependent on technical, design, and environmental factors being considered.

The Proposed Application for the Project comprises:

- 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 four separate compounds. They would each be located next to one of the seven on-site 33kV/132kV substations
- The Solar PV Modules and BESS would be connected to one of the seven 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
- 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
- Works to establish environmental and ecological mitigation and enhancement measures;
- Upgrade to Main Access Tracks
- Directional drilling for cable works for various crossing including: rhynes; canal; railway; and, the M180
- Culverts & upgrades to existing culverts
- Fencing and Security Measures
- Electrical Car ('EV') charging point
- 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 Project Site.

The proposed DCO will authorise (among other things), if required:

- the compulsory acquisition of land and/or rights in, on, under or over land required for the Project, as well as rights authorising the temporary occupation of land for the Project.
- the extinguishment and/or overriding of easements and other rights over or affecting land required for the Project;
- the application and/or disapplication of legislation relevant to the Project;
- the temporary stopping up or diversion of public footpaths during construction works;
- permanent and temporary alterations to the highway network for and in the vicinity of the Project Site; and
- such ancillary, incidental and consequential works, provisions, permits, consents, waivers or releases as are necessary and convenient for the successful construction, operation and maintenance of the Project.

The Project is an Environmental Impact Assessment development ('EIA development') as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 'EIA Regulations') and an Environmental Statement ('ES') will form part of the Proposed Application. The Applicant has notified the SoS in writing under Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations that it intends to provide an ES in respect of the Project. The ES will provide a detailed description of the Project and its likely significant environmental effects. Information compiled so far about the Project's likely environmental impacts is contained in a Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR') and summarised in a Non-Technical Summary, both of which form part of the consultation material.

Consultation on the proposals will take place from **20 March 2025 to 8 May 2025** (the 'Consultation Period'). Responses must be received no later than 11:59pm on 8 May 2025 and responses received after that date may not be considered.

The consultation documents show the nature and location of the Project and will include plans, maps, and the PEIR and its Non-Technical Summary, among other documents ('the Consultation Documents'). The Consultation Documents are available to view or download free of charge from ([www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk](http://www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk)) (the 'Project Website') throughout the duration of the Consultation Period, from 20 March 2025 to 11:59pm on 8 May 2025. The Consultation Documents can be accessed under the 'documents' tab and will be made available until 11:59pm on 8 May 2025.

### How to view the Consultation Documents and the SoCC

Hard reference copies of the Consultation Documents, including the SoCC, will be available to view free of charge at the locations listed below during the Consultation Period.

| Location                   | Address                                                           | Standard opening hours<br>(Subject to change)                                                                                                                               |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Crowle Community Hub       | The Market Hall, Market Place,<br>Crowle, Scunthorpe DN17 4LA     | Monday to Friday: 9am to 12.30pm then 1pm to 5pm.<br>Saturday: 9am to 12 noon.<br>Sunday: Closed.                                                                           |
| Thorne Library             | The Vermuyden Centre, Field<br>Side, Thorne, Doncaster DN8<br>4BQ | Monday to Friday: 8:40am to 1pm then 1.30pm to 5pm.<br>Saturday: 8:40am to 1pm.<br>Sunday: Closed                                                                           |
| Hatfield Community Library | High Street, Hatfield, Doncaster<br>DN7 6RY                       | Monday: 10am to 4pm.<br>Tuesday: 10am to 4pm.<br>Wednesday: 10am to 1pm.<br>Thursday: 10am to 4pm.<br>Friday: 10am to 3pm.<br>Saturday: 10am to 12 noon..<br>Sunday: Closed |

The opening times of these venues are dependent on and are governed by the venues and may be subject to change. If in doubt, please phone ahead before visiting a venue.

The Applicant is hosting five public consultation events, comprising four face-to-face events and one online webinar to be held as follows. The Consultation Documents will also be available to view at the four face-to-face events:

| Venue                                                                                     | Date          | Time       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------|
| Crowle Community Hub<br><br>The Market Hall, Market Place,<br>Crowle, Scunthorpe DN17 4LA | 28 March 2025 | 4pm to 7pm |
| Coulman Pavillion<br><br>5 Coulman St, Thorne DN8<br>5JS                                  | 5 April 2025  | 4pm to 7pm |

|                                                                                                             |               |               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Online webinar<br><br>(Please get in touch to register using the contact details at the end of this notice) | 9 April 2025  | 6.30pm to 8pm |
| Moorends Miners Welfare & Community Development Centre<br><br>24A West Road, Moorends, Doncaster DN8 4LH    | 16 April 2025 | 12pm to 3pm   |
| Hatfield Woodhouse Village Hall<br><br>Main Street, Hatfield Woodhouse, Doncaster DN7 6NE                   | 17 April 2025 | 3pm to 6pm    |

All Consultation Documents, including the SoCC, will be available online to view on the Project website ([www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk](http://www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk)). A hard copy of the consultation material can also be supplied, but there will be a reasonable charge of £0.35 per page to cover the printing and posting costs associated with the PEIR. Upon request, all documents can be made available in alternative formats, such as large print, braille, audio and alternative languages. To request copies of the Consultation Documents, please contact the Applicant using the e-mail address, postal address or telephone number provided at the end of this notice.

When providing your response, please include your name and address or, if you would prefer your comments to be anonymous, your postcode only. Please also confirm the nature of your interest in the Project. Comments and representations may be submitted in the following ways:

**Feedback Questionnaire:** Complete or download the Feedback Questionnaire at the Project website [www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk](http://www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk); or it can be completed and left at one of the Consultation Events; or by request from the project team either at events or via phone or email.

**By email or post:** Completed Feedback Questionnaires, and any other comments, can be emailed to [info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk](mailto:info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk) or returned by post (no stamp required) to FREEPOST TWEEN BRIDGE SOLAR

**Responses must be received by the Applicant by no later than 11:59pm on 8 May 2025.** The Applicant will consider and have regard to all responses when developing the proposals for the Project once the consultation has closed. Responses will be reported in a Consultation Report which will form part of the Proposed Application. This will be taken into consideration by the Planning Inspectorate when deciding whether the Application can be accepted for examination. Therefore, in providing any comment, it should be noted that the substance of it may be communicated to others as part of the Consultation Report.

Personal data supplied to the Applicant in response to this consultation will be treated confidentially and processed and handled in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK GDPR. The information may be disclosed to or shared with the Applicant's connected companies, agents, contractors and advisors who provide services to the Applicant in connection with the preparation of an application for development consent under the 2008 Act. This will allow the Applicant to fully consider the responses and use them in the preparation of application materials. Upon submission of the Proposed Application, the SoS may require the Applicant to supply copies of all consultation responses received. If a request is made, the Applicant is under a legal obligation to supply such copies. By submitting a consultation response to the Applicant, you understand that we may supply a copy of your response to the SoS via the Planning Inspectorate if required.

**How to contact us**

If you have any questions about this notice, the consultation, or the Project, please contact the Applicant by using one of the contact methods provided below:

Email: [info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk](mailto:info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk)

Telephone: 0800 021 7877

Postal address: FREEPOST TWEEN BRIDGE SOLAR (no stamp needed)

**March 2025**

## **Appendix 4.5 – Section 42 and 47 Consultee Comments and Applicant Responses**



## Appendix 4.5 – Responses from Consultees.

### All s42(1)(a) Prescribed Consultee feedback

| Organisation/<br>Individual                 | Comments provided                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Applicant's response (if needed) |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Yorkshire<br/>Humber<br/>Drainage</b>    | <p>Thank you for your consultation on the Tween Bridge Solar Farm.</p> <p>Having reviewed the documents, the proposals do not fall within a drainage district of any of the Internal Drainage Boards we manage, and will not affect the surface water network in our Board areas. As such we have no comment to make at this stage.</p> <p>We would recommend consulting the various other Internal Drainage Boards in the vicinity of the proposed development if you have not already done so.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | No response.                     |
| <b>The Office of<br/>Rail and<br/>Roads</b> | <p>The Office of Rail and Road notes that the railway is not electrified. However, should the new transmission lines from the site cross or run parallel to electrified railways there is a risk of inducing electrical energy into the electrified railway systems.</p> <p>The project should contact Network Rail to find out what distance from the railway the facility and power cables can be installed to avoid induction. If this is not possible, then Network Rail may have to introduce additional arrangements to manage induced voltages.</p> <p>The management of hazards and risks from battery storage near an operational railway should also be considered and discussed with Network Rail, including emergency arrangements.</p>                                                                  | Noted.                           |
| <b>The Coal<br/>Authority</b>               | <p>Thank you for your notification of 20 March 2025 seeking the views of the Coal Authority on the above.</p> <p>The Coal Authority is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. As a statutory consultee, the Coal Authority has a duty to respond to planning applications and development plans in order to protect the public and the environment in mining areas.</p> <p>We have reviewed the site location plan provided and can confirm that the site falls within the Coal Authority's defined Development Low Risk Area. On this basis we have no specific comments to make.</p> <p>However, in the interest of public safety, it is requested that the Coal Authority's Standing Advice note is drawn to the applicant's attention, where relevant.</p> | No response.                     |

|                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Ministry of Defence</b>         | <p>Thank you for consulting the Ministry of Defence (MOD) on S47 and S48 Notification reference EN010148-000003, MOD reference DIO 10057948.</p> <p>The Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) Safeguarding Team represents the MOD as a consultee in UK planning and energy consenting systems to ensure that development does not compromise or degrade the operation of defence sites such as aerodromes, explosives storage sites, air weapon ranges, and technical sites or training resources such as the Military Low Flying System.</p> <p>I can confirm 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.</p> <p>I trust this is clear however should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.</p> | No response.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Fulcrum Pipelines Limited</b>   | <p>We can confirm Fulcrum Pipelines Limited do not have any existing pipes or equipment on or around the above site address.</p> <p>Please note that other gas transporters may have plant in the area which could be affected by your proposed works.</p> <p>We will always make every effort to help you where we can, but Fulcrum Pipelines Limited will not be held responsible for any incident or accident arising from the use of the information associated with this search. The details provided are given in good faith, but no liability whatsoever can be accepted in respect thereof.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | No response.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Health and Safety Executive</b> | <p>Thank you for your correspondence of 20 March 2025 regarding the proposed Tween bridge Solar Farm (2nd Consultation)..</p> <p>HSE's land use planning advice</p> <p>According to HSE's records, the proposed Tween Bridge Solar Farm Project components to the North West, as initially specified in the (Draft Order Limits Tween Bridge Solar Figure 4.1, Drawing Number P21-3484_O6, Rev P, Dated 13/06/23) and further refined in 2nd consultation document "RWE, Plans and Drawings" dated March 2025 , drawing Title ' DRAFT ORDER LIMITS PLAN' , Drawing number P21-3484_EN_63 Rev A, Dated 07/03/2025, still cross the consultation zones of one of the Major Accident Hazard (MAH) site as mentioned in HSE 's 1st consultation response , with the following operator: HSE Ref #3319 operated by H Burtwistle &amp; Sons, Causeway Farm, Thorne, South Yorkshire, DN8 5RY.</p>                          | <p>Consultation with [REDACTED] has confirmed that the HSE record relates to the ammonium nitrate storage facility used for farm fertiliser. They now use a different type of liquid fertiliser so large amounts of ammonium nitrate are no longer stored at this site.</p> <p>As such, no significant risks have been identified. Further information on consultation undertaken is provided within the <b>Consultation Report [Document Reference 5.]</b>.</p> <p>The Applicant will engage with the pipeline operator as required as part of the detailed design and construction stage post-consent.</p> |

|  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <p>The Applicant should make contact with the above operator, to inform an assessment of whether or not the proposed development is vulnerable to a possible major accident.</p> <p>The 2nd consultation document "RWE, Plans and Drawings" dated March 2025, drawing Title "DRAFT ORDER LIMITS PLAN", Drawing number P21-3484_EN_63 Rev A, dated 07/03/2025, also now crosses consultation zones of a major accident hazard pipeline, which is associated with the following operator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HSE Ref #7031, Transco Ref 1302, Operator National Gas, Pipeline 7 Feeder Eastoft / Susworth West.</li> </ul> <p>The Applicant should make the necessary approaches to the relevant pipeline operators. There are three particular reasons for this:</p> <p>(i) the pipeline operator may have a legal interest in developments in the vicinity of the pipeline. This may restrict developments within a certain proximity of the pipeline.</p> <p>(ii) the standards to which the pipeline is designed and operated may restrict major traffic routes within a certain proximity of the pipeline. Consequently, there may be a need for the operator to modify the pipeline or its operation, if the development proceeds.</p> <p>(iii) to establish the necessary measures required to alter/upgrade the pipeline to appropriate standards.</p> <p>Based on the information provided in the RWE PEIR Non-Technical Summary, dated March 2025, it is unlikely that HSE would advise against the development. Please note that the advice is based on HSE's existing policy for providing land-use planning advice and the information which has been provided. HSE's advice in response to a subsequent planning application may differ should HSE's policy or the scope of the development change by the time the Development Consent Order application is submitted.</p> <p>Would Hazardous Substances Consent be needed?</p> <p>The presence of hazardous substances on, over or under land at or above set threshold quantities (Controlled Quantities) will probably require Hazardous Substances Consent (HSC) under the Planning (Hazardous Substances) Act 1990 as amended. The substances, alone or when aggregated with others for which HSC is required, and the associated Controlled Quantities, are set out in The Planning (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2015 as amended. HSC would be required to store or use any of the Named Hazardous Substances or Categories of Substances at or above the controlled quantities set out in Schedule 1 of these Regulations. Further information on HSC should be sought from the relevant Hazardous Substances Authority.</p> | <p>The Draft DCO <b>[Document Reference 3.1]</b> includes protective provisions which will apply in respect of any works as part of the Proposed Development in close proximity to the pipeline listed.</p> <p>The Applicant notes the comments in relation to Hazardous Substances. It is not anticipated that hazardous substances will be encountered and therefore a hazardous substances consent is not expected to be required.</p> <p>The Scheme is not likely to cause a significant accident or risk of disaster during either the construction, operation or decommissioning phases.</p> <p>Noted.</p> |
|--|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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|                                       | <p>Consideration of risk assessments<br/>Regulation 5(4) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 requires the assessment of significant effects to include, where relevant, the expected significant effects arising from the proposed development's vulnerability to major accidents. HSE's role on NSIPs is summarised in the following Advice Note 11 Annex on the Planning Inspectorate's website - <a href="#">Annex G – The Health and Safety Executive</a>. This document includes consideration of risk assessments on page 3.</p> <p>Explosives Advice<br/>I have reviewed the documents and I can confirm that there are no HSE licenced sites in the vicinity of the proposed development therefore no comments to make.<br/>Please send any further communication on this project directly to the HSE's designated e-mail account for NSIP applications at <a href="mailto:nsip.applications@hse.gov.uk">nsip.applications@hse.gov.uk</a>.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <p><b>Canal &amp; River Trust</b></p> | <p><b>Tween Bridge Solar Farm – Statutory Consultation. Comments from the Canal &amp; River Trust.</b></p> <p>Thank you for your consultation on the Tween Bridge Solar Project.<br/>We are the charity who look after and bring to life 2000 miles of canals &amp; rivers. Our waterways contribute to the health and wellbeing of local communities and economies, creating attractive and connected places to live, work, volunteer and spend leisure time. These historic, natural and cultural assets form part of the strategic and local green-blue infrastructure network, linking urban and rural communities as well as habitats. By caring for our waterways and promoting their use we believe we can improve the wellbeing of our nation.<br/>The Trust are Landowner and Navigation Authority for the Stainforth &amp; Keadby Canal. The canal is included within the development boundary of the project.<br/>The available details, including the PEIR documents, confirm that the proposals include Horizontal Directional Drilling activities below the canal. The canal is classified as a freight waterway, and can accommodate large craft.<br/>Having reviewed the plans, drawings and latest draft PEIR documents, we wish to make the following comments:</p> | <p>The potential impacts from directional drilling beneath the Canal is considered within the ES. However, it is not considered that these works would give rise to significant effects, as defined in the EIA Regulations (as set out in the methodology section of the ES). Measures to address general protection measures and non-significant effects do however form part of the mitigation section of the ES, including in the <b>Outline Ecological Construction Management Plan (eCMP) [Document Reference 7.5]</b></p> |

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|  | <p><b>Landscape and Visual Impact</b></p> <p>The PER documentation highlights that the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) will include an analysis of viewpoints taken from the canal (viewpoints 4, 6, 27 and 28). Preliminary details suggest that impacts on the canal could be significant during the operational phase of the development (e.g. para 6.1.295).</p> <p>The PER states that the full Environmental Report will include a detailed linear study to inform potential effects on receptors using the canal (para 6.1.111). This approach would help to gauge the full impact of the scheme on users of the canal.</p> <p>From the preliminary information, it appears that the scheme will be highly visible from parts of the canal, which could adversely impact the landscape character of the waterway. We note that mitigation, in the form of woodland planting, is proposed (e.g. figure 6.5). However, dependant on the findings of the linear study, it may be prudent for woodland planting or additional hedgerows to be utilised in order to screen parts of the solar plant and equipment. Notably, we note that woodland planting to the north of the canal is shown. <b>However, there is little proposed planting to the south, and we do have reservations that the amount of screening indicated is likely to be insufficient due to this. Additional screening to the south may therefore be required.</b></p> <p>Little detail is available at this stage on the hedgerow planting proposed alongside the scheme. <b>The provision of additional planting specifications and a detailed plan showing the location of planting could assist in allowing decision-making authorities and statutory consultees to gauge the effectiveness of this part of the proposed mitigation strategy.</b></p> | <p>The Canal Corridor Study <b>ES Appendix 6.8 Stainforth &amp; Keadby Canal - Thorne to Crowle Corridor Study [Document Reference 6.3.6.7]</b> provides further detail on the context of the canal and the detailed mitigation proposed. The mitigation proposals include a combination of existing vegetation, offsets off elements of the Scheme and proposed planting.</p> <p>A comprehensive landscape Masterplan is provided at <b>ES Figure 6.4 Landscape and Visual Mitigation Strategy, (Landscape Masterplan). [Document Reference 6.4.6.4]</b> further detail of the proposed species rich native hedgerows, trees and woodland species are set out in the <b>Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [Document Reference 7.6]</b> which are reflective of the species recorded in <b>ES Appendix 6.6 Arboricultural Impact Assessment [Document Reference 6.3.6.6]</b></p> <p>As set out in the <b>Design Approach Document Appendix A: Parameters Document [Document reference 5.6.1] Work No.3 - Fencing</b>. The maximum height of perimeter security fencing will be 2m wire mesh or deer fencing to include small mammal gates. This galvanised wire fencing is a standard agricultural product and would not be at odds with the landscape setting of the Scheme. As set out in <b>Work No. 4 - Security fencing</b> around the substations will be 2.4m height palisade fencing. It is unlikely however that this element of the Scheme will be visible from any locations within the canal corridor.</p> |
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|  | <p>The Trust note that the perimeter fencing is proposed, which will be green or galvanised aluminium in finish (para 2.4.8). Parts of this could be highly visible from the canal, and we request that the final design should be green or black in colour (not galvanised aluminium), which would help to reduce its visual prominence alongside existing (and proposed) vegetation. We are unsure as to the proposed design of the perimeter fencing proposed, and would welcome further clarity at an early stage of the examination. The use of a mesh style fence would be recommended, as it would have less visual prominence than a palisade fence.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|  | <p><b>Biodiversity</b></p> <p>Previous comments made by the Trust on an earlier iteration of the PEIR highlighted the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A recommendation for an assessment to be made on the impact to bats that may use the canal corridor, including an assessment of the impact of any lighting scheme;</li> <li>• A request that impacts of Horizontal Directional Drilling on canal borne species be included in the Environmental Report;</li> <li>• Comments highlighting that the proposals would include new planting in proximity to the canal, and a suggestion that new planting should be native;</li> <li>• Comments highlighting the need for invasive species management; and</li> <li>• A request for clarification over the nature of biodiversity enhancement works to take place on Trust owned land next to the canal.</li> </ul> <p>The Biodiversity Chapter in the revised PEIR responds to the majority of the points above. We note that a bat survey is to be undertaken in 2025; an assessment for the impact of HDD activities on waterborne species will be made; and that lighting will form part of the ecological assessment in the ES, with reference to a variety of species which may be especially sensitive to changes in lighting. We appreciate that lighting will be temporary, during the construction phase, and have no significant issue with the proposal to control lighting impacts via the CEMP. We request that this matter should be addressed in any Framework CEMP or similar documentation likely to be submitted alongside the examination, to ensure that this matter is fully addressed.</p> <p>We note that comments raised above with regards to the final species to be utilised in any mitigation works are addressed in the latest chapter. Whilst</p> | <p>Additional detail has been provided within the <b>Outline eCMP [Document Reference 7.5]</b> and <b>Outline LEMP [Document Reference 7.6]</b> and the Ecology and Nature Conservation ES Chapter 7 <b>[Document Reference 6.2.7]</b>.</p> |



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|  | <p>clarification would be welcome, we appreciate that this detail may not be finalised and that details could be reserved as a requirement in the final Development Consent Order text. We request that the DCO is written so that this matter can be reserved and assessed at the relevant stage.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|  | <p><b>Ground Conditions</b></p> <p>Our previous comments highlighted risks from works in close proximity to the canal, and the potential for runoff from exposed soils and dust to result in pollution towards the canal.</p> <p>We appreciate that a Phase I survey has been carried out and identifies the risk of silt laden runoff (Appendix 9.1, para 4.6).</p> <p>We believe it is important that risks of runoff and dust towards the canal are addressed within any future Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) that seeks to specifically address this risk. We would request that any Framework CEMP submitted alongside a future application submission should address this matter.</p> <p>The Trust have raised comment with regards to the risks of horizontal directional drilling below the Stainforth &amp; Keadby Canal, and the need to protect the canal from vibrational impacts below. 9.715 in Chapter 9 of the latest PEIR addresses this point, and highlights that specific risk assessments, method statements and environmental management plans, based on location specific topography, ground and groundwater conditions, will be undertaken and agreed with consultees, stakeholders and regulators prior to commencement. The Trust welcome this approach. We request that this matter should be covered as part of Protective Provisions for the Trust within the DCO.</p> | <p>The risks to the Stainforth &amp; Keadby canal are considered further in <b>ES Phase 1 Ground Conditions Desk Study reports for Land Parcels A to E(Appendix 9.1) [Document Reference 6.3.9.1]</b>.</p> <p>Any future intrusive work within influencing distance of the canal will be carried out under appropriate specific risk assessments, method statements and environmental management plans, based on location specific topography, ground and groundwater conditions as reviewed and accepted by consultees, stakeholders and regulators prior to commencement.</p> |

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|  | <p><b>Transport and Access</b></p> <p>The Stainforth &amp; Keadby Canal consists of several bridge crossings, many owned and managed by the Trust. We wish to highlight that several of these bridges have weight limits or width restrictions that could make them susceptible to damage from HGV traffic.</p> <p>We recognise that the latest draft OCTMP (appendix 12.2) identifies that construction traffic will only cross the canal at the M18 bridge and the A161 bridge. As detailed in our previous response, these bridges are of appropriate loading capacity, and form adopted routes with no existing weight restrictions. As a result, use of these crossings should not pose a significant risk for the Trust. Account of this would help ensure compliance with the aims of paragraph 5.13.2 of the National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) concerning the need to assess transport impacts.</p> <p><b>Should any additional crossings be utilised for construction access, we would request to be consulted upon their use at the earliest opportunity, so as to ensure that any risks to potentially vulnerable bridges can be assessed at the earliest stage.</b> We would be happy to provide the applicant further advice on construction traffic routing over Trust owned bridges, should this be of use.</p> <p>As previously highlighted, the Stainforth &amp; Keadby Canal is a freight waterway capable of handling freight traffic. Opportunities may exist for the carriage of construction associated traffic to the site via waterborne craft, which could help reduce the need for carriage by road. This could help to reduce road miles and help improve the sustainability of the proposal, and to help mitigate the impacts of goods transport to and from site in line with the principles of section 5.13 of EN-1 and section 2 of the National Planning Policy Framework. <b>The potential use of the canal for such use is not discussed in the latest PEIR documents, and we request that this should be considered as part of the final Environmental Report, to explore whether this option is feasible.</b> We would be happy to provide further advice upon this, should the applicant wish to explore use of the canal for waterborne freight.</p> | No response. |
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|  | <p><b>Landowner Comments</b></p> <p>Our consent as Navigation Authority and Landowner would be required for the installation of a new cable below the Stainforth &amp; Keadby Canal.</p> <p>Please note that the Canal &amp; River Trust is a statutory undertaker which has specific duties to protect the waterways. <b>The Trust will seek to agree the rights the project requires over Trust land and we will resist the use of compulsory powers which may affect our undertakings.</b></p> <p>For the installation of a new cable below the canal, <b>the applicant is strongly advised to contact the Trust's Utilities section at <a href="mailto:utilitiesenquiry@canalrivertrust.org.uk">utilitiesenquiry@canalrivertrust.org.uk</a> as soon as possible for further advice to ensure that the principle of a cable crossing can be agreed.</b></p> <p>The proposals include works in close proximity to and crossing the canal. In our capacity as landowner, we advise that the applicant/undertaker would likely be required to comply with the Trust's 'Code of Practice for Works affecting the Canal &amp; River Trust' (available at: <a href="https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/business-and-trade/undertaking-works-on-our-property-and-our-code-of-practice">https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/business-and-trade/undertaking-works-on-our-property-and-our-code-of-practice</a>). <b>The applicant/developer is advised to contact the Canal &amp; River Trust's Infrastructure Services Team via switchboard on 0303 040 4040 should they have any questions or require further information upon the Code.</b></p> | <p>Noted.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|  | <p><b>Protective Provisions</b></p> <p>Due to the proximity of works to the Stainforth &amp; Keadby Canal, including works below the waterway, we consider that Protective Provisions will be necessary for the protection of the Trust during the construction, operation and any decommissioning stages of the development.</p> <p>We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further with the applicant during the development of their initial Development Consent Order. To assist with the applicant's drafting, we can provide a set of 'standard' draft protective provisions for the Trust, which can be used as a basis to work from and tailor to suit this development. We would seek to reach agreement on the provisions at the earliest possible opportunity. <b>Please contact myself on the details below should you wish to discuss this further.</b></p> <p>We hope the above comments are of use. If you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to contact me via the contact details below.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <p>The Draft DCO <b>[Document Reference 3.1]</b> includes protective provisions which will apply in respect of any works as part of the Scheme in close proximity to the canal and the Applicant will seek to agree such provisions with the Canal Trust.</p> |

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| <p><b>Thorne &amp; Hatfield Moors Conservation Forum</b></p> | <p><b>1. Introduction</b></p> <p>Thorne &amp; Hatfield Moors Conservation Forum was formed in 1989. Its area of geographical interest is broadly speaking the Humberhead Levels with the peatlands at Thorne and Hatfield Moors its principal focus. We have an extensive scientific output by virtue of our publications, including a series of 13 volumes of Thorne &amp; Hatfield Moors Papers (our journal), three Monographs, some 21 Technical Reports and <i>The Quaternary geology of the southern part of the Vale of York</i> (Gaunt, 2020). We have held third party interest status in public enquiries and make submissions to planning applications when we feel our area of expertise can be useful.</p> <p>Whilst we recognise that some of the points raised herein repeat concerns we raised in December 2023, given the failure to acknowledge or reply, they are repeated herein and the conclusion too is similar.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|                                                              | <p><b>2. Panel Design</b> We believe that there are now solar panels available which take into account the issue of giving the impression that they are open water and as a consequence can lead to significant loss of invertebrates We believe that if such a type were used it would reduce the risk of negative impact upon invertebrates. It may also reduce the likelihood of birds such as Common Cranes from attempting to land in unsuitable areas.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|                                                              | <p>3. The area in which the development is proposed, the Tween Bridge area, we believe should be considered as a <b>Functionally Linked Land</b> in relation to the species for which the Nature 2000 sites were designated but also for the Nationally significant populations of Cranes (which do not yet feature in the designation details).</p> <p>The proposed solar farm is not just on the edge of internationally important habitat but lies directly between Thorne and Hatfield Moors SSSI. As a consequence, this habitat is likely to have more sensitive receptors that utilise this particular peripheral habitat (rather than other margins of the Moors) as they move between the two sites.</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 <b>[Document Reference 6.2.7]</b> for detailed assessment. This includes an assessment of the potential for significant effects on functionally linked land associated with such sites.</p> |
|                                                              | <p>4. <b>Archaeology</b> The site includes the infilled former channels of both the Idle and Don and mitigation should include detailed study of both and not just a token outline pollen diagram. The Sandtoft site (see Samuels &amp; Buckland 1978) included not only evidence for the changing nature of alluviation in the Late Roman period (see Buckland &amp; Sadler 1985) but also an excellent Lateglacial sequence beneath blown sands. A preliminary examination of samples recovered during the</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <p>The Applicant has discussed the need for and scope of any archaeological recording with relevant consultation bodies.</p> <p>The Applicant has agreed the approach for further archaeological recording with relevant consultation bodies.</p>                                                                                             |

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|  | <p>archaeological mitigation work for the construction of the M180 indicated that peat deposits extended back to ca. 14500 bp to the warmer part of the Lateglacial interstadial. Iron Age and Roman field systems and settlements are also evident on aerial photographs, including unpublished material in the former Doncaster Museum, and much must be hidden beneath post-medieval warping to the north of the M180 (see unpubl. reports for Tween Bridge wind farm (Rackham et al. 2013; Trimble &amp; Peachey 2012).</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <p>The agreed approach is set out in the methodology section of <b>Appendix 8.1 Heritage Baseline Assessment [Document Reference 6.3.8.]</b>.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|  | <p>5. <b>Invertebrates:</b> RWE commissioned just nine days of invertebrate surveying in 2023 which took place late in the season between September and October. No specific location is detailed in the report produced by Peter Brash Ecology.</p> <p>We have been unable to locate any useful reference which takes account of key species occurring on both Thorne and Hatfield Moors SSSI. In our correspondence to the site's developers in 2023 we provided information and references to significant species particularly those associated with Inkle Moor. For unknown reasons this has not been used nor has any potential impact of the development been considered by the ecological study alone or in combination with other nearby projects (eg Tween Bridge Wind Farm or the solar farm on Thorne Colliery). Most notable is the failure to take account of the occurrence of the dytiscid water beetle <i>Agabus striolatus</i>. Both Natural England and the City of Doncaster Council are aware of both its presence and national importance. This area around the <i>A.striolatus</i> population has 90 species of water beetle alone recorded in the vicinity, see for example Skidmore (2006) Kirk et. al. (2021). Aquatic invertebrates see the solar panels as areas of open water and are fried when they land on it. The colliery solar farm development was reported to be undertaking monitoring of this issue – have their findings been accessed or made available to RWE or CDC? This somewhat cursory look at invertebrates does not accord with the 2023 Non-Technical Summary statement in section 7.5 on page 18 “<i>Comprehensive ecological surveys have been undertaken since 2022 and are continuing to be undertaken to inform the assessment.</i>” RWE were provided with information yet appear to have ignored it, even to the extent of failing to identify Thorne and Hatfield Moors SSSI (England's largest Lowland Raised Mires) on their stylised maps provided to local residents.</p> | <p>Invertebrate surveys have been undertaken, although not the entire Order Limits boundary was surveyed, but a targeted approach was undertaken. The results of the survey did not indicate that further surveys would be required, with no notable or significant numbers of species recorded. In addition, when considering the nature of the proposals results in minimal construction and the fact that the majority of ditches will remain unaffected, and their ecological condition improved due to the cessation of intensive arable management, resulting in a reduction to agrichemical inputs and an enhancement through adjacent native habitat creation, no further surveys were considered necessary.</p> |
|  | <p>6. We have not been able to locate any surveys in respect of <b>bat species</b> in the various survey reports, nor does it appear that questions relating to these protected species have been put to Natural England. Again this is an opportunity for RWE to demonstrate best practice in terms of potential impact on biodiversity. Mitigation should in our opinion be underpinned by robust science. See Barré et.al. (2023) <i>Insectivorous bats alter their flight and feeding behaviour</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <p>Bat transect surveys, comprising 'Night-time Bat Walkovers' are being completed across the Order Limits in 2025, targeting representative habitat types.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

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|  | <p>at ground-mounted solar farms. Journal of Applied Ecology. &lt;<a href="https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2664.14555">https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2664.14555</a>&gt;</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <p>An assessment on the likely significant effects on nightjars is included within <b>Chapter 7 Ecology and Nature Conservation</b> of the ES [<b>Document Reference 6.2.7</b>].</p> <p>This utilises data gathered as part of wind farm monitoring <b>Appendix 7.4 [Document Reference 6.3.7.4]</b> as well as from Natural England, where available, and data gathered through a literature based review. This assessment is included within the ES Chapter in section 7.5.</p> <p>The potential effects on soils and land quality are set out in the assessment in Section 15.5 of ES Chapter 15. Measures for soil management are set out in the <b>Outline Soil Management Plan [Document Reference 7.8]</b>.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|  | <p>7. <b>Birds:</b> The developers have relied upon Natural England Nightjar Surveys from 2022 but we have been unable to find any analysis and assessment of potential impact alone and in combination with other nearby developments (eg. the various wind farms) as required by planning regulations. A particularly useful study of the Thorne and Hatfield Moors Nightjar population's foraging habits can be found in Mitchell (2023) and illustrates why it would be unwise to rely on annual count reports alone. Likewise we have been unable to locate any consideration given to the Common Crane population which has a local breeding population on various component areas in the Humberhead Levels, most notably on Thorne and Hatfield Moors SSSI and importantly their use of peripheral farmland for feeding, post fledging feeding and use by non-breeders</p> | <p>8. <b>Agriculture:</b> Recent seasons have seen a lot of standing water in some of the areas where panels are proposed and we see any potential increased drainage activity as a threat to the NNR's and contiguous wetlands. Some land which has had a continuous crop of maize over a number of seasons appears to becoming degraded and may consequently become poorer grade agricultural land which could subsequently be prone to water logging. These areas could be managed in such a way to deliver a lag fen or paludiculture regime providing additional benefit from the proposed solar farm development.</p> <p>9. As we are beginning to see more frequent extreme weather, events a case might be made for restoration of a functioning <b>lagg fen</b> around both Moors (Thorne and Hatfield). We would be supportive of any measures which were proposed to achieve this key element of a functioning lowland raised mire.</p> |
|  | <p>10. Additionally, a case might be made for local landowners to consider <b>paludiculture</b> on wetter land holdings. Engineering advances today could address this double use to deliver genuine public benefit.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

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|                                  | <p>11. It is assumed that this development will need to deliver <b>Biodiversity Net Gain</b>. To demonstrate genuine commitment, we would like to see land abutting either Moor being transferred to an appropriate body for the creation of lagg fen. If not outright transfer, which we would prefer, then a long term arrangement in keeping at least as a minimum with the term of the solar farm, thereby offering exemplar best practice case study for the renewable industry. This could also tie in with the various paludiculture opportunities being explored in the area. The positives from such collaboration might also act as incentives for community support, for both this and future such projects.</p> <p>12. The <b>biodiversity mitigation areas</b> as a proportion of the proposed development seems very small and fail to provide useful corridors to facilitate species movement between areas of interest. Where local landowners have been funded to plant hedgerows many have been encased and then abandoned in plastic tubes. When they reach the ideal height to undertake management (layering) they have been neglected. Hedging whips should be of local provenance not imported stock with the inherent risk of plant pathogens etc. A maintenance plan should be agreed and funded as part of any conditions attached to any permission if it were to receive approval.</p> <p><b>In conclusion:</b> "The State of Nature" reports charts ongoing decline of biodiversity (see <a href="https://stateofnature.org.uk/countries/england/">https://stateofnature.org.uk/countries/england/</a>) and this development is on the edge of a particularly vulnerable area. Likewise, there is a growing concern around the loss of farmland for crops to feed humans which is becoming increasingly important given the politics around food chain supply and world trade issues.</p> <p><b>Whilst we recognise the benefit of renewable energy, the current offer made by this development falls short, in our opinion, of any which would justify potentially negative impact on the internationally recognised sites at Thorne &amp; Hatfield Moors SSSI. The points raised herein can, in our view be accommodated with little additional cost to the project and would provide this development with the potential to offer innovative solutions through a mixture of focus as outlined herein and offer a model for other developments to emulate.</b></p> <p>We look forward to receiving further information as the application advances. We reserve the right to draw to relevant parties attention any additional points we consider material to this proposed development.</p> | <p>Although not a mandatory requirement, the ES includes demonstrable BNG as part of the ecological and landscape enhancements proposed within the design with detail in <b>BNG Assessment Technical Appendix 7.12 Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment [Document Reference 6.3.7.12] and the Outline LEMP [Document Reference 7.6]</b>.</p> <p>The Statutory Biodiversity Metric has been used to assess impacts/uplifts on habitat units, linear units and watercourse units.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  |
|                                  | <p><b>In conclusion:</b> "The State of Nature" reports charts ongoing decline of biodiversity (see <a href="https://stateofnature.org.uk/countries/england/">https://stateofnature.org.uk/countries/england/</a>) and this development is on the edge of a particularly vulnerable area. Likewise, there is a growing concern around the loss of farmland for crops to feed humans which is becoming increasingly important given the politics around food chain supply and world trade issues.</p> <p><b>Whilst we recognise the benefit of renewable energy, the current offer made by this development falls short, in our opinion, of any which would justify potentially negative impact on the internationally recognised sites at Thorne &amp; Hatfield Moors SSSI. The points raised herein can, in our view be accommodated with little additional cost to the project and would provide this development with the potential to offer innovative solutions through a mixture of focus as outlined herein and offer a model for other developments to emulate.</b></p> <p>We look forward to receiving further information as the application advances. We reserve the right to draw to relevant parties attention any additional points we consider material to this proposed development.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <p>Additional detail has been provided within the Outline eCMP <b>[Document Reference 7.5]</b> and Outline LEMP <b>[Document Reference 7.6]</b> and the Ecology &amp; Nature Conservation ES Chapter <b>[Document Reference 6.2.7]</b>, as well as the non-breeding bird mitigation strategy. Further detail is also provided with regards to mitigation to prevent impacts to SSSIs. A BNG assessment has been completed demonstrating large measurable gains in biodiversity.</p> <p>The potential for direct and indirect effects on designated sites and their qualifying features are addressed in the ES, along with avoidance, protection and mitigation measures as appropriate.</p> |  |
| <b>UK Health Security Agency</b> | <p>Thank you for your consultation regarding the above development. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) welcomes the opportunity to comment on your proposals and Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) at this stage of the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). <b>Please note that we</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  |



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|  | <p><b>request views from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) and the response provided is sent on behalf of both UKHSA and OHID.</b></p> <p>Please note that we have replied to earlier consultations as listed below and this response should be read in conjunction with that earlier correspondence:</p> <p>Request for Scoping Opinion: 22/02/2023</p> <p>Public Consultation Section 42 Stage (Consultees only): 29/11/23</p> <p>The health of an individual or a population is the result of a complex interaction of a wide range of different determinants of health, from an individual's genetic make-up to lifestyles and behaviours, and the communities, local economy, built and natural environments to global ecosystem trends. All developments will have some effect on the determinants of health, which in turn will influence the health and wellbeing of the general population, vulnerable groups and individual people. Although assessing impacts on health beyond direct effects from, for example emissions to air or road traffic incidents is complex, there is a need to ensure a proportionate assessment focused on an application's significant effects. We have assessed the submitted documentation and wish to make the following comments:</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|  | <p><b>Environmental Public Health</b></p> <p>Whilst this latest version of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) has some additions, our comments from the last consultation remain valid so should be referred to. Overall, with mitigation we concur with the current risk assessment that the impacts should be negligible with respect to human health.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | No response.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|  | <p><b>Emissions to air</b></p> <p>This version of the PEIR no longer mentions the consideration of cumulative impacts from nearby schemes, if this is no longer a consideration can this be noted at the next stage. The draft Construction Environmental Management Plan remains outstanding.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | An <b>Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [Document Reference 7.1]</b> has been submitted as part of the DCO application which incorporates measures to minimise dust emissions.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|  | <p><b>Emissions to Land</b></p> <p>We are aware that the boundary changes to the proposed scheme have changed and some parcels of land have not been subject to a Preliminary Risk Assessment at this stage. This is acknowledged and further details will be considered. A generic Quantitative Risk Assessment is earmarked to take place, although it is not clear when, ideally this would be undertaken prior to the submission of the Environmental Statement. Ground gases from natural peat deposits have now been considered and a suitable scheme of risk assessment has been proposed. Mitigation details should be incorporated into any future design details.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p>All land parcels have now been considered in in <b>ES Phase 1 Ground Conditions Desk Study reports for Land Parcels A to E (Appendix 9.1) [Document Reference 6.3.9.1]</b>.</p> <p>Where required, a scheme of Phase 2 intrusive investigation has been recommended to assess soil and groundwater contamination and mitigation to key receptors. Phase 2 intrusive investigations including a generic risk assessment, are to be carried out, where required, post-consent.</p> |

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|  | <p><b>Emissions to Water</b><br/>We note that there is the potential for the Environment Agency's flooding dataset to be updated in Spring 2025, if this is the case and the development is impacted by any changes there will be an update to the flood risk assessment.</p> <p><b>Major accident and incidents</b><br/>We do specifically refer to comments made at the last stage. The risk of fire has now been considered and is determined to be low risk but there is no supporting evidence, which should be provided.</p> <p><b>Recommendations for Environmental Public Health</b><br/>There appears to be some disparity between the operational lifespan of the proposed development in different chapters and we do suggest this is regularised at the next stage.<br/>Several plans, strategies and design details remain outstanding which we had hoped to review prior to the submission of the Environmental Statement at the next stage. This includes, but is not limited to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detailed Designs</li> <li>• Generic Quantitative Risk Assessment</li> <li>• Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan</li> <li>• Glint and Glare Assessments</li> <li>• Flooding Emergency Management Plan</li> <li>• Battery Safety Management Plans</li> </ul> <p><b>Electromagnetic Fields (EMFs)</b><br/>It is noted that the current proposals do not appear to consider possible health impacts of Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF). In our previous, we asked for the potential impact to public health of EMFs to be assessed.</p> <p><b>Recommendation</b><br/>The applicant should assess the potential public health impact of EMFs arising</p> | <p>Chapter 10 of the submitted ES and the appended Flood Risk Assessment (<b>ES Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment [Document Reference 6.3.10.1]</b>) include that latest national flood risk data, including National Flood Risk Assessment data released in January 2025 and the updated Flood Map for Planning released in March 2025.<br/><b>Section 10.4</b> Baseline Conditions includes the latest flood data.</p> <p>The Major Accidents and Disasters section of <b>ES Chapter 16 [Document Reference 6.2.16]</b> assesses the risk of fire/ explosion due to the presence of the BESS.<br/>Embedded mitigation through the careful design of the Scheme and additional mitigation measures are secured in the unlikely event of an uncontrolled fire through the following documents - <b>Outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan [Document Reference 7.1], Outline Decommissioning Plan [Document Reference 7.3], and Outline Battery Safety Management Plan [Document Reference 7.5]</b>.</p> <p>The Applicant has consulted with the Humberside Fire and Rescue Service and South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service in regard to the measures outlined in the Outline Battery Safety Management Plan [<b>Document Reference 7.5</b>] and will continue liaison post submission of the DCO application.</p> <p>The Scheme is proposed to have an operational lifespan of up to 40 years.</p> <p><b>ES Chapter 16 Other Environmental Topics [Document Reference 6.2.16]</b> assesses the impacts on EMF sources for the Scheme. This is supported by a <b>High Level Electromagnetic Fields Assessment (Human Health) [Document Reference 6.3.16.3]</b> at Technical Appendix 16.3, focusing on likely significant effects to human health receptors arising from EMF.</p> |
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|                                         | <p>from any electrical equipment associated with the development. Alternatively, a statement should be provided explaining why EMFs can be scoped out. For more information on how to carry out the assessment, please see the accompanying guidance document for details.</p> <p>If you require any clarification on the above points or wish to discuss any issues, please do not hesitate to contact us.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |               |
| <p><b>National Gas Transmission</b></p> | <p>Date: 06th May 2025</p> <p>Dear Sir/Madam,</p> <p>Statutory Consultation in Accordance with Section 42 'Duty to Consult' of the Planning Act 2008.</p> <p>Application by RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Limited (the Applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Tween Bridge Solar Farm (the Proposed Development)</p> <p>I refer to your email dated 20/03/2025 regarding the above proposed DCO. This is a response on behalf of National Gas Transmission PLC (NGT). Having reviewed the scoping consultation documents, NGT wishes to make the following comments regarding gas infrastructure which may be affected by proposals. NGT has 1 feeder main located within or in proximity to the Order limits. Details of this infrastructure is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Feeder Main – FM07 – Cawood to Susworth T West</li> <li>▪ Cathodic Protection Groundbeds/TR</li> <li>▪ Ancillary apparatus</li> </ul> <p>Please note that NGT has existing easements for these pipelines which provides rights for ongoing access and prevents the erection of permanent / temporary buildings/structures, change to existing ground levels or storage of materials etc within the easement strip.</p> <p>You should also be aware of NGT's guidance for working in proximity to its assets, further guidance and links are available as follows.</p> <p>CATHODIC PROTECTION SYSTEM</p> <p>To ensure a high level of safety and reliability in operation, National Gas Transmission's assets are protected by a cathodic protection system. It is essential that buried steel pipework associated with the transmission and distribution of natural gas is designed, installed, commissioned and maintained to withstand the potentially harmful effects of corrosion and that the corrosion control systems employed are monitored to ensure continued effectiveness. Installations in the vicinity of National Gas Transmission's assets which may potentially interfere with the cathodic protection system must be assessed and approved by National Gas Transmission, and appropriate control measures must be put in place where required.</p> | <p>Noted.</p> |



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|  | <p>Installations which have the potential to interfere with National Gas Transmission's Cathodic protection system include (but are not limited to):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. High voltage cable crossings and parallelism</li> <li>2. High voltage ac pylon parallelism</li> <li>3. Battery Energy Storage Systems</li> <li>4. Third party pipelines with cathodic protection systems</li> <li>5. PV Solar arrays</li> </ol> <p>Further information on DC interference can be found in UKOPA/GPG/O31 Edition C Microsoft Word - UKOPA GPG O31 DC Interference Ed 1.docx</p> <p>Microsoft Word - UKOPA GPG O31 DC Interference Ed 1.docx (hold ctrl and click to access) Further information on AC interference can be found in UKOPA/GPG/O27 UKOPA Good Practice Guide UKOPA Good Practice Guide (hold ctrl and click to access)</p> <p>The safe limits for transfer voltage and impressed current that a high-pressure gas pipeline can be exposed to are outlined in T/PL/ECP/1, T/PL/ECP/2 and BS EN 50122-1. These are the safe limits for non-electrically trained personnel.</p> <p><b>SOLAR FARMS</b></p> <p>Please be aware of the specific guidance for developing solar farms near to gas transmission pipelines:</p> <p><a href="https://www.nationalgas.com/document/82936/download">https://www.nationalgas.com/document/82936/download</a></p> <p>UKOPA Good Practice Guide - Requirements for the Siting and Installation of Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Installations in the Vicinity of Buried Pipelines - UKOPA/GP/O14 Edition 1</p> <p>Where the Promoter intends to acquire land, extinguish rights, or interfere with any of NGT's apparatus, NGT will require appropriate protection and further discussion on the impact to its apparatus and rights including adequate Protective Provisions. A Deed of Consent will also be required for any works proposed within the easement strip.</p> <p><b>Key Considerations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NGT has a Deed of Grant of Easement for each pipeline, which prevents the erection of permanent / temporary buildings, or structures, change to existing ground levels, storage of materials etc.</li> <li>• Please be aware that written permission is required before any works commence within the NGT easement strip. Furthermore a Deed of Consent will be required prior to commencement of works within NGT's easement strip subject to approval by NGT's plant protection team.</li> <li>• Any large installations which may result in a large population increase in the vicinity of a high pressure gas pipeline must comply with the HSE's Land Use Planning methodology, and the HSE response should be submitted to National Gas Transmission for review</li> </ul> |  |
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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The below guidance is not exhaustive and all works in the vicinity of NGT's asset shall be subject to review and approval from NGT's plant protection team in advance of commencement of works on site.</li> </ul> <p>General Notes on Pipeline Safety:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You should be aware of the Health and Safety Executives guidance document HS(G) 47 "Avoiding Danger from Underground Services", and NGT's Dial Before You Dig Specification for Safe Working in the Vicinity of NGT Assets. There will be additional requirements dictated by NGT's plant protection team.</li> <li>• NGT will also need to ensure that its pipelines remain accessible during and after completion of the works.</li> <li>• Our pipelines are normally buried to a depth cover of 1.1 metres, however actual depth and position must be confirmed on site by trial hole investigation under the supervision of a NGT representative. Ground cover above our pipelines should not be reduced or increased.</li> <li>• If any excavations are planned within 3 metres of NGT High Pressure Pipeline or, within 10 metres of an AGI (Above Ground Installation), or if any embankment or dredging works are proposed then the actual position and depth of the pipeline must be established on site in the presence of a NGT representative. A safe working method agreed prior to any work taking place in order to minimise the risk of damage and ensure the final depth of cover does not affect the integrity of the pipeline.</li> <li>• Below are some examples of work types that have specific restrictions when being undertaken in the vicinity of gas assets therefore consultation with NGT's Plant Protection team is essential: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Demolition</li> <li>▪ Blasting</li> <li>▪ Piling and boring</li> <li>▪ Deep mining</li> <li>▪ Surface mineral extraction</li> <li>▪ Landfilling</li> <li>▪ Trenchless Techniques (e.g. HDD, pipe splitting, tunnelling etc.)</li> <li>▪ Wind turbine installation - minimum separation distance of 1.5x the mast/hub height is required, and any auxiliary installations such as cable or track crossings will require a deed of consent.</li> <li>▪ Solar farm installation</li> <li>▪ Tree planting schemes</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Traffic Crossings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where existing roads cannot be used, construction traffic should ONLY cross the pipeline at agreed locations.</li> <li>• Permanent road crossings will require a surface load calculation, and will require a deed of consent.</li> </ul> |  |
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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The pipeline shall be protected, at the crossing points, by temporary rafts constructed at ground level. The third party shall review ground conditions, vehicle types and crossing frequencies to determine the type and construction of the raft required.</li> <li>• The type of raft shall be agreed with NGT prior to installation.</li> <li>• No protective measures including the installation of concrete slab protection shall be installed over or near to the NGT pipeline without the prior permission of NGT</li> <li>• NGT will need to agree the material, the dimensions and method of installation of the proposed protective measure.</li> <li>• The method of installation shall be confirmed through the submission of a formal written method statement from the contractor to NGT.</li> <li>• An NGT representative shall monitor any works within close proximity to the pipeline to comply with NGT specification T/SP/SSW22</li> </ul> <p>New Asset Crossings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New assets (cables/pipelines etc) may cross the pipeline at perpendicular angle to the pipeline i.e. 90 degrees.</li> <li>• The separation distance for a cable &gt;33kV is 1000mm and pre and post energisation surveys may be required at National Gas Transmission's discretion. A risk assessment/method statement will need to be provided to, and accepted by National Gas Transmission prior to the deed of consent being agreed. Where a new asset is to cross over the pipeline a clearance distance of 0.6 metres between the crown of the pipeline and underside of the service should be maintained. If this cannot be achieved the service shall cross below the pipeline with a clearance distance of 0.6 metres.</li> <li>• A new service should not be laid parallel within an easement strip</li> <li>• Clearance must be at least 600mm above or below the pipeline</li> <li>• An NGT representative shall approve and supervise any cable crossing of a pipeline.</li> <li>• A Deed of Consent is required for any cable crossing the easement</li> </ul> <p>Where the promoter intends to acquire land, extinguish rights, or interfere with any of NGT apparatus, protective provisions will be required in a form acceptable to it to be included within the DCO. NGT requests to be consulted at the earliest stages to ensure that the most appropriate protective provisions are included within the DCO application to safeguard the integrity of our apparatus and to remove the requirement for objection.</p> <p>Adequate access to NGT pipelines must be maintained at all times during construction and post construction to ensure the safe operation of our network.</p> <p>Yours Faithfully</p> <p>Asset Protection Team</p> |  |
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| <p><b>National Highways</b></p>                       | <p>JSJV recommends that RWE reconsider how the SRN is considered and assessed within the submitted documentation. (refer paragraph 4.4, 5.2).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PIC data for the SRN at M18 Junctions 5 and 6, and M180 Junctions 1 and 2 should be considered, covering the most recent five-year period, excluding 2020 and 2021. (refer paragraph 4.6).</li> <li>• JSJV also requires that RWE presents the timings of vehicle movements to ensure that construction vehicles operate outside the SRN's peak hours. (refer paragraph 5.9).</li> <li>• The SRN needs to be explicitly identified and assessed within the OCTMP, in relation to the impact of construction traffic at the SRN. (refer paragraph 6.2, 6.4).</li> <li>• The OCTMP states that the development involves laying an underground cable, with access points from the A161 and A18. JSJV advises that any works on National Highways' land must be agreed in writing to ensure statutory functions can be exercised. For the HDD cable route under the SRN, a condition survey and monitoring regime must be reviewed and agreed by National Highways, with security measures in place to protect against financial loss. Proposed works to the SRN require review and certification by National Highways, and compliance with road space booking procedures is necessary. (refer paragraph 6.14 - 6.16).</li> <li>• JSJV notes that abnormal loads need approval via EDSAL. Proposals to acquire or use National Highways land, alter rights and covenants, or extinguish existing rights must be identified and discussed early to seek agreement. National Highways would object to compulsory acquisition without consent. (refer paragraphs 6.17 - 6.18).</li> <li>• Furthermore, the documentation must capture the physical impacts of the development proposals such as boundary treatments, drainage proposals, stability of M180 safeguarding and any construction safeguards that may need to be put in place, in relation to where the development proposals interface with the SRN. (refer paragraph 8.1).</li> <li>• JSJV requests that a Glint and Glare Assessment, along with a Framework DEMP, be provided to further evaluate the impact of the proposed development on the SRN. (refer paragraph 8.1).</li> </ul> | <p>The Outline CTMP [Document Reference 7.7] confirms that deliveries will not occur during the network peak hours. All traffic associated with Land Parcel A will utilise M18 junction 6, Land Parcel C and D will utilise the M18 junction 5, Land Parcels B and E will utilise M180 junction 2.</p> <p>The PIC records have been collected for the SRN and are summarised in Section 12.4 of ES Chapter 12 Transport and Access [Document Reference 6.2.12], with further detail included within Appendix 12.1 – Transport Statement [Document Reference 6.3.12.1].</p> <p>Restrictions on timings of vehicle movements to avoid the peak hours of operation of the SRN are set out in the Outline CTMP [Document Reference 7.7].</p> |
| <p><b>Doncaster East Internal Drainage Board.</b></p> | <p>With regard to the request for consultation response regarding the above project I would advise that the extent of the overall development covers areas under the control of Doncaster East Internal Drainage Board.</p> <p>There are numerous watercourses that are likely to be impacted by the development, either by the position of the proposed arrays, cable route or potential increase in flows.</p> <p>I feel that it is important to raise some specific issues that will need to be considered further and in detail as a part of the DCO process.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p>The approach to IDB bylaw consents is detailed in <b>Chapter 10 (Water Resource)</b> [Document Reference 6.2.10] of the ES</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

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|  | <p>All Board watercourses are subject to Byelaws, which are intended to protect the watercourses and the Board's ability to maintain them. With this in mind I would advise the following.</p> <p><u>Byelaw Number 3 states that:</u><br/>No person shall as a result of development (within the meaning of section 55 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended ("the 1990 Act")) (whether or not such development is authorised by the 1990 Act or any regulation or order whatsoever or none of them) for any purpose by means of any channel, siphon, pipeline or sluice or by any other means whatsoever introduce any water into any watercourse in the District so as to directly or indirectly increase the flow or volume of water in any watercourse in the District (without the previous consent of the Board)."</p> <p>Consent will only be granted for the increase in flow to a watercourse where the Board is happy that in doing so no demonstrable harm will be caused. It may be the case that appropriate mitigations are required to be put in place to either attenuate flow or to enhance the existing watercourse to ensure no detriment. If this is not possible alternative outfall locations may need to be considered.</p> <p><u>Byelaw Number 10 states that:</u><br/>No person without the previous consent of the Board shall erect any building or structure, whether temporary or permanent, or plant any tree, shrub, willow or other similar growth within nine metres of the landward toe of the bank where there is an embankment or wall or within nine metres of the top of the batter where there is no embankment or wall, or where the watercourse is enclosed within nine metres of the enclosing structure.</p> <p>This will relate primarily to the location of the arrays, compounds and transformer stations.</p> <p><u>Byelaw number 17 states that:</u><br/>No person shall without the previous consent of the Board -</p> <p>(a) place or affix or cause or permit to be placed or affixed any gas or water main or any pipe or appliance whatsoever or any electrical main or cable or wire in, under or over any watercourse or in, over or through any bank of any watercourse;</p> |
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(b) cut, pare, damage or remove or cause or permit to be cut, pared, damaged or removed any turf forming part of any bank of any watercourse, or dig for or remove or cause or permit to be dug for or removed any stone, gravel, clay, earth, timber or other material whatsoever forming part of any bank of any watercourse or do or cause or permit to be done anything in, to or upon such bank or any land adjoining such bank of such a nature as to cause damage to or endanger the stability of the bank;

(c) make or cut or cause or permit to be made or cut any excavation or any tunnel or any drain, culvert or other passage for water in, into or out of any watercourse or in or through any bank of any watercourse;

(d) erect or construct or cause or permit to be erected or constructed any fence, post, pylon, wall, wharf, jetty, pier, quay, bridge, loading stage, piling, groyne, revetment or any other building or structure whatsoever in, over or across any watercourse or in or on any bank thereof;

(e) place or fix or cause or permit to be placed or fixed any engine or mechanical contrivance whatsoever in, under or over any watercourse or in, over or on any bank of any watercourse in such a manner or for such length of time as to cause damage to the watercourse or banks thereof or obstruct the flow of water in, into or out of such watercourse.

Provided that this Byelaw shall not apply to any temporary work executed in an emergency but a person executing any work so excepted shall, as soon as practicable, inform the Board in writing of the execution and of the circumstances in which it was executed and comply with any reasonable directions the Board may give with regard thereto.

**The Board will require all watercourses to be crossed by means of HDD at a depth no less than 2 metres PLUS the cable safety distance below the hard bed level of all watercourses (to ODN if EA or IDB maintained). This will apply to the primary cable route and any interconnecting cables between array sites.** The purpose of this requirement is to allow the IDB to maintain and have the flexibility to improve watercourses in the future due to climate change (works will include deepening & widening of watercourses).

It is anticipated that the above requirements would be covered by SOCGs, MOU, and via Protective Provisions within the DCO. This matter should be discussed further and in more detail as the proposed cable route is refined.

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|                                                                                      | <p>Any culverting or other works within the bed of any riparian watercourse within the Board's district be they temporary or permanent will also require consent. The Board would not look to be disapplying section 23 of the Land Drainage Act (1991).</p> <p>It should be noted that the Board's consent is required irrespective of any permission gained under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. The Board's consent will only be granted where proposals are not detrimental to the flow or stability of the watercourse/ culvert or the Board's machinery access to the watercourse/ culvert which is required for annual maintenance, periodic improvement and emergency works.</p> <p>I hope that the above is of assistance and I look forward to further ongoing detailed discussions with regard to the proposal.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                   |
| <p><b>Isle of Axholme and North Nottinghamshire Water Level Management Board</b></p> | <p>With regard to the request for consultation response regarding the above project I would advise that parts of the overall development fall within areas under the control of Isle of Axholme and North Nottinghamshire Water Level Management Board.</p> <p>There are numerous watercourses that are likely to be impacted by the development, either by the position of the proposed arrays, cable route or potential increase in flows.</p> <p>I feel that it is important to raise some specific issues that will need to be considered further and in detail as a part of the DCO process.</p> <p>All Board watercourses are subject to Byelaws, which are intended to protect the watercourses and the Board's ability to maintain them. With this in mind I would advise the following.</p> <p><u>Byelaw Number 3 states that:</u></p> <p>No person shall as a result of development (within the meaning of section 55 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended ("the 1990 Act")) (whether or not such development is authorised by the 1990 Act or any regulation or order whatsoever or none of them) for any purpose by means of any channel, siphon, pipeline or sluice or by any other means whatsoever introduce any water into any watercourse in the District so as to directly or indirectly increase the flow or volume of water in any watercourse in the District (without the previous consent of the Board)."</p> | <p>The approach to IDB bylaw consents is detailed in <b>Chapter 10 (Water Resource)</b> [Document Reference 6.2.10] of the ES</p> |



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|  | <p>Consent will only be granted for the increase in flow to a watercourse where the Board is happy that in doing so no demonstrable harm will be caused. It may be the case that appropriate mitigations are required to be put in place to either attenuate flow or to enhance the existing watercourse to ensure no detriment. If this is not possible alternative outfall locations may need to be considered.</p> <p><u>Byelaw Number 10 states that:</u></p> <p>No person without the previous consent of the Board shall erect any building or structure, whether temporary or permanent, or plant any tree, shrub, willow or other similar growth within nine metres of the landward toe of the bank where there is an embankment or wall or within nine metres of the top of the batter where there is no embankment or wall, or where the watercourse is enclosed within nine metres of the enclosing structure.</p> <p>This will relate primarily to the location of the arrays, compounds and transformer stations.</p> <p><u>Byelaw number 17 states that:</u></p> <p>No person shall without the previous consent of the Board -</p> <p>(a) place or affix or cause or permit to be placed or affixed any gas or water main or any pipe or appliance whatsoever or any electrical main or cable or wire in, under or over any watercourse or in, over or through any bank of any watercourse;</p> <p>(b) cut, pare, damage or remove or cause or permit to be cut, pared, damaged or removed any turf forming part of any bank of any watercourse, or dig for or remove or cause or permit to be dug for or removed any stone, gravel, clay, earth, timber or other material whatsoever forming part of any bank of any watercourse or do or cause or permit to be done anything in, to or upon such bank or any land adjoining such bank of such a nature as to cause damage to or endanger the stability of the bank;</p> <p>(c) make or cut or cause or permit to be made or cut any excavation or any tunnel or any drain, culvert or other passage for water in, into or out of any watercourse or in or through any bank of any watercourse;</p> <p>(d) erect or construct or cause or permit to be erected or constructed any fence, post, pylon, wall, wharf, jetty, pier, quay, bridge, loading stage, piling, groyne, revetment or any other building or structure whatsoever in, over or across any watercourse or in or on any bank thereof;</p> |
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|  | <p>(e) place or fix or cause or permit to be placed or fixed any engine or mechanical contrivance whatsoever in, under or over any watercourse or in, over or on any bank of any watercourse in such a manner or for such length of time as to cause damage to the watercourse or banks thereof or obstruct the flow of water in, into or out of such watercourse.</p> <p>Provided that this Byelaw shall not apply to any temporary work executed in an emergency but a person executing any work so excepted shall, as soon as practicable, inform the Board in writing of the execution and of the circumstances in which it was executed and comply with any reasonable directions the Board may give with regard thereto.</p> <p><b>The Board will require all watercourses to be crossed by means of HDD at a depth no less than 2 metres PLUS the cable safety distance below the hard bed level of all watercourses (to ODN if EA or IDB maintained). This will apply to the primary cable route and any interconnecting cables between array sites.</b> The purpose of this requirement is to allow the IDB to maintain and have the flexibility to improve watercourses in the future due to climate change (works will include deepening &amp; widening of watercourses).</p> <p>It is anticipated that the above requirements would be covered by SOCGs, MOU, and via Protective Provisions within the DCO. This matter should be discussed further and in more detail as the proposed cable route is refined.</p> <p>Any culverting or other works within the bed of any riparian watercourse within the Board's district be they temporary or permanent will also require consent. The Board would not look to be disapplying section 23 of the Land Drainage Act (1991).</p> <p>It should be noted that the Board's consent is required irrespective of any permission gained under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. The Board's consent will only be granted where proposals are not detrimental to the flow or stability of the watercourse/ culvert or the Board's machinery access to the watercourse/ culvert which is required for annual maintenance, periodic improvement and emergency works.</p> <p>I hope that the above is of assistance and I look forward to further ongoing detailed discussions with regard to the proposal.</p> |  |
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| <p><b>South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue</b></p> | <p>South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue (SVFR) have provided the following comments for consideration following review of planning application 2024/1096.</p> <p>The following recommendations are advisory only and do not form part of any current legal requirement of this Authority. The information is provided to ensure that, in the event of an incident at the site, the FRS is able to act quickly and effectively to protect lives, infrastructure and the environment.</p> <p>SVFR would request due consideration be given by the applicant and the planning authority to ensure a fire involving BESS can be safely contained.</p> <p><b>1. Guidance</b></p> <p>The FRS advises that the guidance in the following documents is considered as part of the design process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ NFCC Grid Battery Energy Storage Systems Planning – Guidance for FRS</li> <li>□ National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 855 Standard for the Installation of Stationary Energy Storage Systems.</li> <li>□ FM Global Property Loss Prevention Data Sheets 5-33, as revised January 2024</li> </ul> | <p>The Major Accidents and Disasters section of ES Chapter 16 <b>[Document Reference 6.2.16]</b> assesses the risk of fire/ explosion due to the presence of the BESS.</p> <p>Embedded mitigation through the careful design of the Scheme and additional mitigation measures are secured in the unlikely event of an uncontrolled fire through the following documents - <b>Outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan [Document Reference 7.1], Outline Decommissioning Plan [Document Reference 7.3], and Outline Battery Safety Management Plan [Document Reference 7.4]</b>.</p> <p>The Applicant has consulted with the Humberside Fire and Rescue Service and South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service in regard to the measures outlined in the <b>Outline Battery Safety Management Plan [Document Reference 7.4]</b> and will continue liaison post submission of the DCO application.</p> |
|                                               | <p><b>2. Firefighting Arrangements</b></p> <p>SVFR procedures for fighting BESS fires may involve the use of multiple high reach appliances. This is to ensure that sufficient distance can be created to safeguard our attending crews from residual electrical current. Please ensure that suitable access roads are provided to support the weight of these appliances; please also ensure that there are no overhead obstructions (i.e. trees or overhead power lines) in the area around the BESS.</p> <p>Markings externally to the containers (similar to aircraft) to notify crews where a lance or stinger can be used without damaging any cells. Clear instructions and markings will aid crews in being able to tackle the fire quickly with the working site knowledge of the system.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p>The Applicant has consulted with the Humberside Fire and Rescue Service and South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service and will continue liaison post submission of the DCO application.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|                                               | <p><b>3. Site Access</b></p> <p>The NFCC guidance states at least 2 separate access points to the site to account for opposite wind conditions/direction. Firefighters should not have to enter the BESS site or drive through a vapour / gas cloud to reach the scene of operation, therefore an alternative access point, taking into account wind direction, is preferable.</p> <p>The principles contained within Approved Document B, in support of B5 may assist in providing proportionate and adequate provision of access and facilities for firefighting. Section 15 provides information relating to access routes and hardstanding areas that consider the dimensions of fire service vehicles.</p> <p>Where access is over 20m from the access road, a turning circle, hammerhead or other point at which a vehicle can turn should be provided. Road / hard standing</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p>Swept path assessments, management and mitigation is set out in the Outline CTMP <b>[Document Reference 7.7]</b></p> <p>Construction details of the accesses will be provided post consent and are proposed to be secured as a Requirement, prior to construction.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

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|  | <p>should be suitable to accommodate fire service vehicles in all weather conditions.</p> <p>Appliance dimensions are variable and designers should take account of this.</p> <p>SYFR appliance dimensions for the current fleet are as follows:</p> <p>Scania Rescue Pumps and Scania Turntable Ladders</p> <p>Type Turning Circle Front Axle Rear Axle Height Length Width Weight (Metres) (kg) (kg) (Metres) (Metres) Gross (kg) Scania Rescue Pump</p> <p>&lt;17</p> <p>6152 kg actual</p> <p>7500 kg MAM</p> <p>8086 kg actual</p> <p>11500 kg MAM</p> <p>3.33</p> <p>8.7</p> <p>2.5</p> <p>including mirrors</p> <p>3.0</p> <p>14500kg actual</p> <p>18000kg MAM Scania Turntable Ladder</p> <p>&lt;19</p> <p>6,356 kg actual</p> <p>8500 kg MAM</p> <p>10120 kg actual</p> <p>11500 kg MAM</p> <p>3.50</p> <p>10.5</p> <p>2.55 including mirrors</p> <p>With jacks deployed</p> <p>16476 kg actual</p> <p>18000kg MAM</p> <p>4.84</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|  | <p><b>4. Water Supply</b></p> <p>In the event of a fire involving BESS, it is likely that SYFR will need to apply a higher than average volume of water to restrict fire spread. Please ensure that there is an adequate water supply within 90m to allow continuous firefighting operations to take place; please also ensure due consideration has been given to containing fire water run-off.</p> <p>Separators, under the site can be introduced, to container fire water run-off.</p> <p>Firefighting run-off water can have a serious impact on the environment and</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>In the event of a fire a penstock will be shut off in the downstream manhole to allow any water used to fight the fire to be contained within the below ground network ready to be pumped off once the fire is out.</p> <p>There is a proposed storage tank on site, above ground, that will hold permanent water to fight the fire. The tank will be approximately 240m<sup>3</sup> satisfying the fire departments requirements of 1900L/min for 2 hours (228m<sup>3</sup>).</p> |

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|  | <p>nearby open water. Having water separators under the site to contain this hazard means the water can be properly disposed of after the incident.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|  | <p><b>5. Spacing between BESS units</b></p> <p>In order to restrict fire spread it is essential that suitable space be maintained around the BESS. If this space is not provided this may allow rapid fire to spread to nearby structures and combustible items.</p> <p>The emergency response plan should be predicated on the scenario of the fire will not spread beyond the BESS container of origin. With fire and rescue operations limited to boundary cooling of surrounding BESS and monitoring the BESS involved in thermal event.</p> <p>This outcome can be achieved through a number of different routes including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Adequate separation between the BESS enclosures to ensure that the radiant heat from a thermal event in one BESS will not trigger a secondary event.</li> <li>□ Provision of fire resistant materials that will prevent direct flame impingement or radiated heat affecting adjacent BESS and allowing the incident to develop beyond BESS of origin.</li> </ul> <p>The provision of a suppression system to the BESS is unlikely to provide a compensatory feature to allow reduced spacing between BESS.</p> <p>In the event that the developer cannot demonstrate that a thermal event / fire can be contained to the BESS of origin, then the developer should be referred to guidance such as the separation distances within NFPA 855 (current edition - 2023). NFPA 855 states separation can be reduced to at least 3 feet or 0.914m between BESS if tests such as UL 954OA shows propagation does not occur.</p> <p>Consideration should also be given to the provision of automatic suppression systems within each container to delay fire spread to neighbouring BESS units.</p> <p>With consideration for 'In rack' suppression as the external system may not penetrate the racks. Design of the suppression system is key to reducing the fire and fire spread, design of the system should be created by a Responsible Person such as a Fire Engineer.</p> <p>External audible and or visual warning to denote if the detection has activated or if the suppression has been deployed. Information and clear indication of warning and activation of systems is vital to fire operations on site. This will give notice to fire crews if another unit on site is affected by the fire or system malfunction.</p> <p>Remote activation of the suppression system so that the monitoring station can activate. When a site is monitored remotely, remote activation and communication between crews on site and the remote monitoring centre should be made available with clear instructions on how to do so with a 24hr telephone number.</p> <p>Blast walls across each entrance and between units to reduce the blast risk to first responders and limit radiated heat to other units. Reducing the risk of fire</p> | <p>The Scheme design will include appropriate separation distances between BESS containers to ensure that an isolated fire would not become widespread and lead to a major incident.</p> <p>To protect the BESS, it will be equipped with an FFSS (Fire Fighting Suppression System) inside each BESS container. An FFSS 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. It is intended the Scheme would be self-sufficient during a potential battery-based fire and would not require fire service intervention to prevent fire spread or any other significant risks to people or property.</p> <p>In the event of an explosion, the BESS containers are designed to release such explosive pressure upwards via roof vent panels instead of horizontally to reduce risk to emergency responders.</p> |

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|  | spreading to more than one unit a prioritised concern for the fire crews so any facilitation to reduce this risk is more than beneficial.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|  | <p><b>6. Spacing to other buildings beyond site perimeter</b></p> <p>Proposed distances should take into account risks including the impact of any vapour cloud and also any mitigation factors that have been incorporated into the site design.</p> <p>However, an initial minimum distance of 30m is proposed prior to any mitigation such as blast walls. This distance is based upon the 100ft distance cited in NFPA 855 for remote installations.</p> <p>1 NFPA 855. Standard for the Installation of Stationary Energy Storage Systems. (2023)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p>The buffer zones surrounding the BESS containers mean that there is no pathway for a fire to propagate to hedgerows or nearby woods.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|  | <p><b>7. Environmental Impact</b></p> <p>A well-developed fire involving BESS may have a large negative impact on the local environment. The Environment Agency should be involved at an early stage to discuss ways in which the environmental impact of this can be mitigated.</p> <p>A plan should be prepared to assist in discussions with developers and planners regarding the suitability of a site location highlighting all sensitive receptors within a 1km radius of the site to allow for appropriate emergency planning.</p> <p>Examples of sensitive receptors may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Schools, hospitals, nursing and care homes, residential areas, workplaces.</li> <li>□ Protected habitats, watercourses, groundwater, boreholes, wells and springs supplying water for human consumption. Further habitat information can be found on the DEFRA MAGIC map website.</li> <li>□ Roads, railways, bus stations, pylons (on or immediately adjacent to the site only), utilities, airports.</li> </ul> <p>Any plans created should have a compass rose showing north and the prevailing wind direction.</p> | <p>The buffer zones surrounding the BESS containers mean that there is no pathway for a fire to propagate to hedgerows or nearby woods and so no direct impacts due to fire are likely and as such, this risk event is unlikely to constitute a significant effect in relation to major accidents and disasters upon ecological receptors.</p> <p>For human residential receptors, whilst smoke from an uncontrolled fire event would disperse to some extent over the &gt;300m distances from BESS containers to the receptors, there would still be odour impacts and potential minor health impacts on residents such as aggravation of pre-existing respiratory conditions. However, given that serious injuries or fatalities are unlikely to residents due to the large separation distances involved, this risk event (i.e. an uncontrolled fire in one BESS Enclosure) is unlikely to constitute a significant effect in relation to major accidents and disasters upon residential receptors.</p> |
|  | <p><b>8. Emergency Plans</b></p> <p>Site operators should develop emergency plans and share these with the Fire and Rescue Service.</p> <p>A Risk Management Plan should be developed by the operator, which provides advice in relation to potential emergency response implications including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The hazards and risks at and to the facility and their proposed management.</li> <li>• Any safety issues for firefighters responding to emergencies at the facility.</li> <li>• Safe access to and within the facility for emergency vehicles and responders, including to key site infrastructure and fire protection systems.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <p>The <b>Outline Battery Safety Management Plan [Document Reference 7.4]</b> has been produced for the Scheme and will be updated and maintained as a 'live document' throughout the operational phase of the Scheme, to reduce the risk of fire and propagation within the BESS Compounds. Following this, the Battery Safety Management Plan (secured via DCO requirement) will be implemented prior to the operational phase, once detailed design is confirmed.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |



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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The adequacy of proposed fire detection and suppression systems (e.g., water supply) on-site.</li> <li>• Natural and built infrastructure and on-site processes that may impact or delay effective emergency response.</li> </ul> <p>An Emergency Response Plan should be developed to facilitate effective and safe emergency response and should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How the fire service will be alerted</li> <li>• A facility description, including infrastructure details, operations, number of personnel, and operating hours.</li> <li>• A site plan depicting key infrastructure: site access points and internal roads; firefighting facilities (water tanks, pumps, booster systems, fire hydrants, fire hose reels etc); drainage; and neighbouring properties.</li> <li>• Details of emergency resources, including fire detection and suppression systems and equipment; gas detection; emergency eye-wash and shower facilities; spill containment systems and equipment; emergency warning systems; communication systems; personal protective equipment; first aid.</li> <li>• Up-to-date contact details for facility personnel, and any relevant off-site personnel that could provide technical support during an emergency.</li> <li>• A list of dangerous goods stored on site.</li> <li>• Site evacuation procedures.</li> <li>• Emergency procedures for all credible hazards and risks, including building, infrastructure and vehicle fire, grassfire and bushfire</li> <li>• Site Information box (SIB) with action cards, plans and a risk assessment.</li> </ul> <p>Up to date and accurate site data will aid firefighters on arrival at site, upon fire incidents.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|  | <p><b>9. Recovery</b></p> <p>A post-incident recovery plan should be developed that addresses the potential for reigniting of ESS and de-energizing the system, as well as removal and disposal of damaged equipment.</p> <p>Fire Protection</p> <p>SYFR would strongly recommend that consideration is given to installation of an Automatic Water Fire Suppression Systems (AWFSS) to promote life safety and property protection within the premises.</p> <p>SYFR is fully committed to promoting Fire Protection Systems for both business and domestic premises.</p> <p>A direct, 24-hour contact number should be provided to allow SYFR to contact the monitoring station for the site and request further information.</p> <p>Before the site goes 'live' it is recommended that contact is made with the local fire station in order to arrange for Site Specific Risk Information (SSRI) to be</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <p>To protect the BESS, it will be equipped with an FFSS (Fire Fighting Suppression System) inside each BESS container. An FFSS 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.</p> <p>Once the system is commissioned, regardless of the technology used, the whole installation will be monitored continuously at a central hub where engineers and technology experts will ensure that it is operating optimally and safely 24 hours a day, 7 days a week</p> |

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|                        | <p>collected, this will enable fire crews to familiarise themselves with the development and protection measures that have been installed and location of site information box and associated response plans.</p> <p>Please quote our reference number on all correspondence.</p> <p>If have any queries concerning these matters may be directed to the inspector named above.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Natural England</b> | <p>In responding to your consultation, we have reviewed only those chapters that we consider to be most relevant to our statutory purpose. Therefore, our response is based on the following sections of the Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 1: Introduction</li> <li>• Chapter 7: Ecology</li> <li>• Technical Appendix O71: Habitat Report</li> <li>• Technical Appendix O72: Breeding Birds Report</li> <li>• Technical Appendix O73: Non-breeding Bird Survey Report</li> <li>• Technical Appendix O74: Nightjar Report</li> <li>• Technical Appendix 7.10 eCMP</li> <li>• Technical Appendix 7.11 LEMP</li> <li>• Technical Appendix 7.12 Non Breeding Bird Mitigation</li> <li>• Technical Appendix 7.13 Invertebrate Scoping</li> <li>• Chapter 9: Ground Conditions</li> <li>• Chapter 10: Water Resource</li> <li>• Chapter 14: Air quality and Greenhouse Gases</li> <li>• Technical Appendix 14.1: Designated Sites</li> <li>• Chapter 15: Agricultural Circumstances</li> <li>• Technical Appendix 15.1: Agricultural Circumstances Assessment Methodology</li> <li>• Chapter 16: Other Environmental Topics</li> </ul> <p><b>CONSERVATION OF HABITATS &amp; SPECIES REGULATION 2017 (AS AMENDED)</b></p> <p><b>1.0 Internationally designated sites</b></p> <p>The internationally designated sites relevant to this application are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thorne and Hatfield Moors Special Protection Area (SPA)</li> <li>• Thorne Moor Special Area of Conservation (SAC)</li> <li>• Hatfield Moor Special Area of Conservation (SAC)</li> <li>• Humber Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA)</li> <li>• Humber Estuary Ramsar</li> </ul> | <p>An 'Shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment' [Document Reference 5.3] in relation to internationally protected sites and associated qualifying features is submitted as a standalone document alongside Chapter 7 (Ecology and Nature Conservation) [Document Reference 6.2.7] of the ES.</p> |

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|                                          | <p>The application site is within/in close proximity to European designated sites (also commonly referred to as Natura 2000 sites), and therefore has the potential to affect their interest features. European sites are afforded protection under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, as amended (the 'Habitats Regulations').</p> <p>Natural England notes that a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) has not yet been completed.</p> <p>It is Natural England's advice that the proposal is not directly connected with or necessary for the management of the European site. You should therefore determine whether the proposal is likely to have a significant effect on any European site, proceeding to the appropriate assessment stage where significant effects cannot be ruled out. The HRA screening should consider potential likely significant effects on the European Sites specified above. We recommend you consider potential likely significant effects on these sites arising from the impact pathways identified in Natural England's EIA Scoping response, previous Section 42 (S42) response and detailed below, in addition to any other potential impact pathways identified during the assessment.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <p><b>11.0. Construction phasing</b></p> | <p><b>11. General comments on the updated PEIR</b></p> <p>Natural England welcomes the updates to the PEIR which address our previous S42 advice (dated 29 November 2023).</p> <p>Further advice on initial information/assessment provided in the PEIR is included below. Natural England considers that the Applicant should seek to address these issues prior to Examination, where possible. Natural England is engaging with the applicant via our Discretionary Advice Service (DAS) on a number of these issues and welcome continued engagement on the project.</p> <p>We note that a number of project changes have occurred since the previous iteration of the PEIR, including a change in the extent and location of the Draft Order Limits boundary. We welcome the commitment in the Ecology Chapter to undertake further surveys and assessments based on the updated Draft Order Limits boundary, with full detail to be provided in the Environmental Statement (ES).</p> <p>The advice is based on the information provided. Natural England may have additional comments to make when further information is provided.</p>                                                                                                               | <p>Additional detail has been provided within the Outline eCMP [Document Reference 7.5] and Outline LEMP [Document Reference 7.6] and ES Chapter 7 [Document Reference 6.2.7], to address the comments, as well as the non-breeding bird mitigation strategy. Further detail is also provided with regards to mitigation to prevent impacts to SSSIs. A BNG assessment has been completed demonstrating large measurable gains in biodiversity.</p> |



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|  | <p>Chapter 1.5 outlines that the Scheme is 'to be developed all at once or in phases - through a single continuous phase or in multiple phases. If the Scheme is to be constructed in single continuous phase, then an operational period of 40 years would be sought and the entire Scheme would be decommissioned after an operational lifespan of 40 years. If the Scheme is to be constructed in phases, then each phase would be decommissioned after achieving its 40 years operational lifespan.' We would welcome clarification about whether there would be a maximum time limit within which the multiple phase construction could take place.</p> <p>Natural England advises that the ES should assess whether the ecological impacts may be different under the two scenarios. Consideration should be given to whether the baseline ecological survey data would be adequate to inform the multiple phases construction scenario, or if updated surveys would be required prior to construction of the later phases.</p> <p>11.1. <i>Draft Order Limits within designated sites</i></p> <p>Natural England notes that the Draft Order Limits include areas within Thorne Moor SAC/Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA designated site boundaries. We welcome clarification in the Ecology Chapter that <i>"Whilst this small 0.53ha area is included within the Draft Order Limits, no development works are proposed within the SAC..."</i> and <i>"The small section comprises of wet woodland and will be retained and protected"</i> (7.4.107 and 7.4.111). We advise that potential for direct effects to the SAC/SPA should be assessed in the HRA, including details of how the habitats will be <i>'retained and protected'</i>. Any restrictions to works within the designated sites relied upon in the HRA should be appropriately secured via the Development Consent Order (DCO).</p> <p>11.2. <i>Air quality</i></p> <p>Natural England advises that construction phase dust impacts on designated sites should be assessed in the HRA. The draft eCMP states <i>"Dust arising during construction work is generally considered to only have a significant ecological impact within 20m"</i> However, we advise that dust produced during the construction phase could cause smothering effects if the designated site is within 200 m. The HRA appropriate assessment should therefore assess whether dust-suppression measures outlined in the eCMP provide adequate mitigation for impacts to designated sites within 200 m of the works, and would result in no significant change from the baseline.</p> <p>We note paragraph 14.5.6 states that non-road mobile machinery (NRM) is unlikely to have an impact on local air quality, however we advise that where</p> |  |
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|  | <p>NRMM are located in proximity to designated sites there is potential for impacts to sensitive habitats. An assessment should be undertaken which considers the impacts of NRMM on designated sites. Alternatively, precautionary mitigation could be applied by securing a separation distance of 200 m between NRMM and designated sites within the CMP or other relevant document. However, it is not currently stated which machinery types are included within the report's definition of NRMM. We advise that if back-up generators are part of the NRMM fleet then a 200 m separation distance will not be sufficient to avoid impacts on designated sites and an assessment which includes information on the location, number, capacity, and operational hours of proposed back-up generators should be undertaken.</p> <p>With regards to air quality impacts from traffic, we note that 14.1.6 states <i>"The routes between the primary compounds and the smaller parcels will be available for the ES, however, it is anticipated that these will be over 200 m from the boundary of the designated site"</i> and 14.1.8 states <i>"A small portion of the Draft Order Limits (~4.5 hectares) to the south adjacent to Moor Lane is within 200 m of the SAC and SSSI; however, it is unlikely that the internal access tracks will be built in this area, although this will be confirmed in the ES. On this basis, no further assessment is required."</i> We welcome that this will be confirmed in the ES, and advise that impacts from air pollution from traffic can be ruled out if all access tracks and other roads are confirmed to be over 200 m from the boundary of the designated sites. If it is determined that the access routes will be within 200 m of designated sites then an assessment of potential air quality impacts should be undertaken in the HRA. The assessment should be undertaken in line with Natural England's guidance NEA001.</p> <p><i>11.3. Water quality and resources</i></p> <p>We note that impacts to designated sites from changes to water quality and hydrology during construction, operation, and decommissioning will be assessed within the ES.</p> <p>Natural England notes that Chapter 10: Water Resources refers to potential impacts that have not been explicitly addressed in Chapter 7: Ecology, including: <i>"There is the potential for mud and debris arising from the construction works to enter the existing surface water / land drainage system, causing blockages and restricting flow."</i> We therefore advise that these potential impact pathways and/or mitigation measures are explored in more detail in the context of the relevant internationally designated sites in the HRA.</p> <p>Natural England notes from Chapter 9: Ground Conditions that potential impacts</p> |
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|  | <p>to water quality during construction has been considered in the PEIR. We welcome the commitment in Section 9.7.19 to producing an OEMP where 'Maintenance activities involving potentially contaminative products would be controlled under the OEMP'. We advise that the HRA should assess the potential sources of water pollution during operation, including details of the proposed approach to panel cleaning and potential nutrient or acidity effects of any chemicals used on the designated sites.</p> <p>Natural England notes from Section 10.6 of Chapter 10: Water Resources that a Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) scheme is proposed. Natural England would welcome the opportunity to provide further advice on SuDS design, linking with any Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and/or ecological enhancement proposals. Please see Section 3.3 below for further advice on wet habitat creation.</p> <p>Natural England advises that detail should also be provided on the proposed approach to any foul water arising from the construction and/or operational phases.</p> <p>With regards to water resources, it is unclear where the water required for construction works including horizontal directional drilling (HDD) activities will be sourced from. We advise that the HRA should consider water supply impacts on the relevant designated sites. Where water abstraction is required within designated site catchments, further assessment should be undertaken.</p> <p><b>11.4. In-combination assessment</b></p> <p>Natural England notes from Section 17.6 of Chapter 7: Ecology that '<i>Information relating to cumulative and in-combination effects will be presented within the Environmental Statement that will accompany the DCO submission.</i>'</p> <p>We highlight that the HRA should include an in-combination assessment following the screening stage. The in-combination requirement makes sure that the effects of numerous proposals, which alone would not result in a significant effect, are assessed to determine whether their combined effect would be significant enough to require more detailed assessment. Therefore, where there are small effects which are not significant alone, these should be assessed alongside small effects of other projects which were not significant alone.</p> <p>A further in-combination assessment should be carried out following the appropriate assessment stage, to assess the residual effects of developments together. If mitigation or compensation has completely avoided or removed the effect that this would not act in-combination with other projects. We advise that</p> |
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|  | <p>when considering in-combination impacts of loss of functionally linked land, the results of surveys undertaken for those developments should also be taken into account to understand whether there is a cumulative loss of land which can support wintering or passage birds.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|  | <p><b>1.2 Comments on mitigation measures during construction and operation</b></p> <p>On the basis of the information provided, Natural England's advice is that this proposed development may contain (or require) measures intended to avoid or reduce the likely harmful effects on a European site(s) which cannot be taken into account when determining whether or not a plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a site and requires an appropriate assessment (following the <i>People Over Wind</i> ruling by the Court of Justice of the European Union).</p> <p>For this reason, we advise that on the basis of the information supplied that the application may have a likely significant effect on the site(s). These measures therefore need to be formally checked and confirmed by the competent authority, via an appropriate assessment, in accordance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). These measures, and any additional measures that can avoid or reduce any likely harmful effects, can be considered as part of the appropriate assessment, to determine whether a plan or project will have an adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p> <p>Natural England advises that it is a matter for the relevant Authority to decide whether an appropriate assessment of this proposal is necessary in light of the <i>People Over Wind</i> ruling. In accordance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), Natural England must be consulted on any appropriate assessment the relevant Authority may decide to make.</p> <p><b>1.2.1. Construction and operational management/mitigation plans</b></p> <p>Natural England welcomes the provision of the Outline Ecological Construction Management Plan (eCMP) and Outline Landscape Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) and has provided impact-specific comments on the eCMP and LEMP in the relevant sections of this letter.</p> <p>We advise that the mitigation measures included in these plans should be assessed in the HRA, where relevant to internationally designated sites. Natural England advises that the appropriate assessment should assess the effectiveness of all relevant mitigation measures and demonstrate how the impact will be completely avoided or reduced to an acceptable level.</p> <p><b>1.2.2. Buffers</b></p> | <p>The potential for direct and indirect effects on designated sites and their qualifying features are summarised in the PEIR and will be fully addressed in the ES, along with avoidance, protection and mitigation measures as appropriate.</p> |

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|  | <p>Natural England welcomes the commitment to include 'biodiversity protection zones between the internationally designated sites and the proposed construction works. We note that the eCMP includes a 'Minimum of 15 m stand off from boundary of the SPA.' However, we advise that this mitigation measure should also be assessed in the context of the SAC. Further assessment should be provided in the HRA to determine whether this standoff distance is sufficient to mitigate all relevant impacts to the SAC and SPA. Larger buffers may be required for certain impacts at sensitive locations, such as disturbance to nesting nightjar (see section 1.4.3 below) and Humber Estuary functionally linked land (see section 1.3.3 below). The HRA should also assess whether 'biodiversity protection zones' are required for mitigation of any relevant operational impacts, and are suitably secured.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|  | <p><b>1.3. Humber Estuary SPA/Ramsar</b></p> <p><b>1.3.1. Loss of functionally linked land</b></p> <p>SPAs are classified for rare and vulnerable birds. Many of these sites are designated for mobile species that may also rely on areas outside of the site boundary. These supporting habitats may be used by SPA bird populations or some individuals of the population for some or all of the time. These supporting habitats can play an essential role in maintaining SPA species populations, and proposals affecting them may therefore have the potential to affect the European site.</p> <p>Natural England welcomes the commitment to secure a mitigation strategy for loss of functionally linked land associated with the scheme. We advise that the HRA should include a detailed assessment of the impacts of the scheme and predicted effectiveness of proposed mitigation measures.</p> <p>In addition to direct loss of functionally linked land due to siting of the solar panels, the HRA should also consider the potential for reduced suitability of adjacent land for birds due to disruption of open vistas and impacts on connectivity of feeding/roosting areas.</p> <p>We welcome the commitment to undertake a further assessment of impacts based on the updated Draft Order Limits boundary in the ES. Natural England may have further comments to make at that stage. Clarification should be provided on whether the existing bird survey data adequately covers the new Draft Order Limits boundary and surrounding areas.</p> <p><b>1.3.2 Comments on Technical Appendix 07.3: Non-Breeding Bird Survey Report</b></p> <p>Natural England notes that the Technical Appendix 07.3: Non-Breeding Bird</p> | <p>ES Chapter 7 Ecology &amp; Nature Conservation [Document Reference 6.2.7] assesses the Scheme's impacts on statutory designated sites (with mobile qualifying features) within 10km of the Order Limits. This has included an assessment of the potential for significant effects on functionally linked land associated with such sites.</p> |

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|  | <p>Survey Report submitted does not include the Year 2 (2023-24) non-breeding bird survey results and updated assessment. Therefore, we have provided the below comments on the full survey results provided in Appendix 1 of the Technical Appendix 7.12 - Outline Non-Breeding Bird Mitigation Strategy.</p> <p>Following our advice on the previous PEIR, we advise that the following comments on the Bird Survey Report are still outstanding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The results should be assessed in the context of percentages of the Humber Estuary SPA population according to the most recent Humber Estuary WeBS 5-year average count, not the Great Britain (GB) population. We note reference to a Natural England 2021 study from the North West of England that used the GB population to determine significance of functionally linked land; however, this approach was deemed suitable in the context of a regional-scale study and is not considered an appropriate threshold at a site level.</li> <li>• The results tables should therefore be amended to include peak counts and corresponding percentage of the Humber Estuary SPA population.</li> <li>• We recommend that further information is provided in the main report regarding the desk study results returned, including number of birds recorded for each record and the location of results, including a visual representation and / or map if possible, to allow for others to review the results.</li> </ul> <p>Please note that Natural England has generally advised that if <math>\geq 1\%</math> of a Humber Estuary bird species population could be affected by a proposal, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, then further consideration is required. However, where species are particularly vulnerable due to declines in the Humber population, then it may not be appropriate to rely on the 1% of the estuary population as the critical threshold. Mitigation measures may be required where lower numbers of vulnerable species are using a site that is proposed for development.</p> <p><i>1.3.3 Technical Appendix 7.12 Outline Non-Breeding Bird Mitigation Strategy</i></p> <p>Natural England welcomes progress made in ongoing discussions regarding the Non-breeding Bird Mitigation Strategy.</p> <p>We have provided detailed advice on the most recent iteration of the Non-breeding Bird Mitigation Strategy in our DAS response dated 04 April 2025. We advise that this advice is taken into account in the next iteration of the document and associated assessments. Key comments provided in this letter include:</p> |  |
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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• water level management of the proposed grassland areas should be considered in the scheme design, and we recommend assessing the existing drainage regime to determine the ability of the fields to hold sufficient water.</li> <li>• consideration should be given to ensuring suitable invertebrate numbers for waders.</li> <li>• further assessment of the habitat suitability and capacity of each parcel to deliver for the intended species should be provided, including application of ecological knowledge/evidence, in addition to the 'bird days' calculation results. For example, golden plover and lapwing rely on open vistas to forage, and the relevant mitigation areas should seek to deliver this site characteristic to ensure suitability for these species.</li> <li>• in line with the current approach for the BTO Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) recording!</li> <li>• 1 British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), 2023a. Greylag Goose populations (website). Available at: <a href="https://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/wetland-bird-survey/publications/webs-annual-report/numbers-trends/methods/analysis-and-presentation/spatial-allocation/53">https://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/wetland-bird-survey/publications/webs-annual-report/numbers-trends/methods/analysis-and-presentation/spatial-allocation/53</a>, BTO, 2023b. Greylag Goose (website). Available at: <a href="https://www.bto.org/understanding-birds/birdfacts/greylag-goose">https://www.bto.org/understanding-birds/birdfacts/greylag-goose</a>, greylag geese are included in the 'main component species' list for the Humber Estuary SPA, as they occur at site levels of more than 1% of the national population according to the most recent Humber Estuary WeBS 5-year average count. Impacts to loss of functionally linked land for this species should therefore be assessed.</li> </ul> <p>We advise that all mitigation areas should be adequately managed, monitored and secured in-perpetuity, at least for the lifetime of the development. This should be clearly demonstrated in the relevant assessments. Natural England advises the ecological mitigation plan should be secured and include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear objectives.</li> <li>• Target/s for each objective, including SPA bird use targets and habitat targets.</li> <li>• Details of required management and monitoring (including who is responsible and when it will take place).</li> <li>• Details of limits of acceptable change.</li> <li>• Details of remedial actions, where appropriate.</li> </ul> <p>The mitigation areas should be in place and functioning prior to construction works which lead to a loss of functionally linked land. We welcome the proposed</p> |  |
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|  | <p>approach in the Outline LEMP that “initial ground preparation and sowing of seed mix will take place in the season before the main construction activity commences, to ensure that favourable bird habitat is available for birds to relocate once construction activity commences.” We recommend pre-construction monitoring of the grassland areas to ensure that they are suitably established prior to construction works commencing.</p> <p>1.3.4. <i>Noise and visual disturbance to SPA birds using functionally linked land</i></p> <p>Natural England advises that noise and visual disturbance impacts on functionally linked land during construction, operation and decommissioning should be assessed in the HRA. We note that the outline eCMP includes some detail of predicted noise levels and anticipated impact levels, based on the Institute for Estuarine Studies (IECS) Toolkit. However, whilst Natural England recognise that some of the general advice on bird disturbance within the IECS Toolkit is useful, we do not endorse the specific noise and distance ‘triggers’ identified.</p> <p>Therefore, we advise that further assessment should be provided in the HRA regarding the predicted location of ‘noisy’ works in the context of the bird survey results, to identify whether disturbing noise levels from the development will reach land utilised by birds in significant numbers and determine whether additional mitigation measures are required at sensitive locations.</p> <p>When interpreting noise assessment results, Natural England does not propose specific thresholds for determining when an impact will occur. Relevant factors including the degree of change, nature of the sound, duration of exposure and extent of area used by birds that is affected should all be considered together. For predicted noise levels between 50dB and 70dB L<sub>Amax</sub>, suitable mitigation measures should potentially be explored, depending on these factors. Noise levels above 70dB L<sub>Amax</sub> are likely to be disturbing, and suitable mitigation measures should be explored.</p> <p>Mitigation measures may include (one or a combination of) restrictions to timing of works, buffer zones, acoustic screening, piling shrouding or other measures. We advise that an assessment should be provided of the predicted reduction in noise levels that will occur as a result of the proposed mitigation measures, in order to assess their effectiveness. NatureScot’s Disturbance Distances in selected Scottish Bird Species Guidance may be helpful for determining appropriate buffer distances, if required.</p> <p>Natural England welcomes that visual disturbance is also considered in the</p> |  |
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|  | <p>eCMP. The proposed mitigation measures should be assessed in the HRA appropriate assessment. We advise that further detail should be provided on the proposed approach to identifying when and where additional mitigation measures will be required. Natural England would not support an approach which delays the assessment of effects until after the granting of development consent. We also note that visual and acoustic barriers have the potential to be disturbing to birds during installation and removal, and should parts come loose while in-situ. We advise that it is therefore necessary for the suitability of the locations to be considered.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|  | <p><b>1.4 Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA</b></p> <p><i>1.4.1 Comments on Technical Appendix 07.4: Nightjar Report</i></p> <p>Natural England welcomes inclusion of the Nightjar Survey Report in the assessment and advises that the information may inform the assessment of impacts on Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA in the HRA. However, as stated previously, these results are not considered sufficient in the absence of additional evidence to inform the assessment of potential impacts on nightjar associated with Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA.</p> <p>Natural England has also been involved in nightjar tagging studies in the area. We highlight the results from the 'LIFE+ - <i>'That's Life' Monitoring of European Nightjar 2015 – 2017</i>' project that showed tagged nightjar foraged within the proposed application site boundary. Nightjar were also recorded nesting in proximity to the site boundary. We acknowledge the applicant's intention to use data <i>'from Natural England where available'</i> and have previously provided the applicant with contact details for obtaining the LIFE study data.</p> <p>We consider that impacts to nightjar from the proposed development from the below impact pathways cannot be ruled out at this stage, and further assessment should be made at the appropriate assessment stage of the HRA.</p> <p>We acknowledge that the applicant has amended their position regarding Thorne and Hatfield SPA, having now screened in breeding nightjar for disturbance during the construction phase and degradation of habitat. We welcome the intention to provide mitigation for impacts to nightjar, if mitigation is found to be required.</p> <p><i>1.4.2 Loss of functionally linked land and impacts on habitat suitability/connectivity</i></p> <p>Natural England advises that the HRA should provide a detailed assessment of potential impacts on Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA from loss of functionally linked land and changes to habitat suitability/connectivity of habitats outside the</p> | <p>An assessment on the likely significant effects on nightjar will be undertaken. This will utilise data gathered as part of wind farm monitoring (<b>Appendix 7.4</b>) as well as from Natural England, where available, and data gathered through a literature based review. This assessment is included within <b>ES Chapter 7 [Document Reference 6.2.7]</b>. This will look at potential impact pathways including lighting and noise.</p> <p>Impacts on statutory designated sites (with mobile qualifying features) within 10km of the Order Limits have been scoped into ES Chapter 7 <b>[Document Reference 6.2.7]</b> for detailed assessment. This includes an assessment of the potential for significant effects on functionally linked land associated with such sites.</p> |

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|  | <p>designated site. The intention to 'provide strengthened green corridors along field boundary features, specifically for the benefit of nightjar' and the 'introduction of species-rich wildflower grasslands around field boundaries' should be assessed in the context of mitigation measures at the appropriate assessment stage of the HRA, where relevant. Furthermore, if the 'adoption of eCMP and LEMP' are to constitute mitigation for impacts to nightjar, the HRA should explicitly state how the proposed actions will mitigate any adverse impacts for nightjar, rather than generally accounting for bird species.</p> <p>Natural England can provide additional advice on mitigation measures if required. We highlight that Policy 30(E) of Doncaster Local Plan (2015-2035) states: 'In order to ensure development does not negatively impact on nightjar populations, proposals located within 3km of Thorne and Hatfield Moors Special Protection Area, that impact habitats that nightjars may use for feeding on, will only be supported where they deliver a net gain in nightjar foraging habitat.'</p> <p>Table 7.13 of the Ecology chapter states that 'large areas of open, permanent pasture managed sensitively for target species' will be provided as mitigation for the loss of nightjar foraging habitat. Nightjar typically forage along field boundaries and hedgerows rather than open areas. Therefore, the requirement for alternative mitigation measures should be considered.</p> <p>1.4.3. Noise, visual and lighting disturbance impacts on nightjar within the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA during construction and operation</p> <p>Natural England welcomes that "disturbance to nightjar utilising adjacent Moors during construction phase" has been screened in for further assessment.</p> <p>NatureScot's Disturbance Distances in selected Scottish Bird Species Guidance identifies breeding nightjar as having Medium/High sensitivity to disturbance and recommends a buffer zone of 150m-500m. Nightjar have been recorded nesting in close proximity to the site boundary (&lt;50m), making them potentially susceptible to disturbance. We therefore advise that the HRA should include a detailed assessment of disturbance impacts to nesting nightjar, including noise and visual disturbance.</p> <p>Our above advice on assessing noise disturbance impacts and identifying suitable mitigation measures (section 1.3.3) should be applied to the assessment, where relevant. Buffer zones or restrictions to timings of works may be required in close proximity to the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA boundary during nightjar nesting season.</p> <p>The potential impacts of noise, lighting, and visual disturbance on nightjar are</p> |
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|  | <p>briefly discussed in the Outline eCMP, though only in reference to the Humber Estuary SPA. We advise that noise to Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA should be factored into the design of the final eCMP.</p> <p>We advise that visual disturbance during construction and operation (such as movement of large machinery, and works associated with erection and operation of the substation), should be included in the HRA. If sensitive lighting schemes are proposed to mitigate for lighting impacts on SPA birds, these should be assessed at the appropriate assessment stage of the HRA.</p> <p>Natural England would welcome the inclusion of white grids on the solar panels to reduce potential collision risk for bird species, including nightjar.</p> <p><i>1.4.4. Noise, visual and lighting disturbance impacts on nightjar using functionally linked land during construction and operation</i></p> <p>Natural England advises that the HRA should also assess the impacts of noise and visual disturbance on nightjar using functionally linked land around the SPA. As highlighted above, tagging studies have confirmed usage of the proposed development site by foraging nightjar. Nightjar forage at night; therefore, particular consideration should be given to any construction/operational activities and associated lighting/noise proposed during the nightjar breeding season.</p> <p><b>WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT</b></p> <p><b>2.0 Nationally designated sites</b></p> <p>The nationally designated sites relevant to this application are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crowle Borrow Pits SSSI</li> <li>• Thorne, Crowle &amp; Goole Moors SSSI</li> <li>• Hatfield Moor SSSI</li> <li>• Hatfield Chase Ditches SSSI</li> <li>• Humber Estuary SSSI</li> </ul> <p><b>2.0 Crowle Borrow Pits SSSI</b></p> <p>Natural England highlights that the revised draft Order Limits are within 100 m of Crowle Borrow Pits SSSI, which is designated for a number of swamp, fen and woodland features. Therefore, an assessment of potential impacts to Crowle Borrow Pits SSSI should be provided in the ES, including (but not necessarily limited to) air quality, water quality, water supply and habitat damage.</p> <p>Natural England's guidance NEAO01 should be used to undertake the assessment</p> |
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|  | <p>of road traffic emissions: Natural England's approach to advising competent authorities on the assessment of road traffic emissions under the Habitats Regulations - NEA001. It should be clarified whether there are any roads or proposed tracks within 200 m of the SSSI.</p> <p><b>2.1. Thorne, Crowle &amp; Goole Moors SSSI</b></p> <p>Our advice regarding Thorne, Crowle &amp; Goole Moors SSSI broadly coincides with the above advice for Thorne Moor SAC and Thorne &amp; Hatfield Moors SPA. Therefore, this advice should be taken into account when revising the SSSI assessment.</p> <p>However, we highlight that Thorne, Crowle &amp; Goole Moors SSSI is designated for additional features including assemblages of breeding birds (mixed: lowland damp grassland, lowland heath, scrub, woodland) and invertebrate assemblage. Although this is acknowledged in Chapter 7 Ecology, we advise that further information is explicitly provided in the ES on the assessment of impacts on the SSSI features, for example where water quality mitigation measures are relied upon to determine that effects on the SSSI features can be ruled out. Potential disturbance impacts to the breeding bird assemblage should also be assessed, in line with the above advice for nightjar (where relevant).</p> <p><b>2.2. Hatfield Moor SSSI</b></p> <p>We note that there is no specific assessment in Chapter 7: Ecology of Hatfield Moor SSSI and advise that this should be included in the ES. Our above advice regarding Hatfield Moor SAC, Thorne &amp; Hatfield Moors SPA, and Thorne, Crowle &amp; Goole Moors SSSI should be taken into account in the assessment, where relevant.</p> <p><b>2.3. Hatfield Chase Ditches SSSI</b></p> <p>Natural England notes that the Draft Order Limits include areas within Hatfield Chase Ditches SSSI. We advise that the SSSI assessment in the ES should include a detailed map of the relevant areas, in addition to assessing any infrastructure (including fencing) or other works to be carried out in these areas. We consider that more detailed design of the proposed crossing across a SSSI ditch should be provided to inform the assessment. Any restrictions to works within the designated sites relied upon in the SSSI assessment should be appropriately secured via the DCO.</p> <p>We welcome the commitment to undertake a full assessment of any potential impacts as a consequence of the updated Draft Order Limits boundary within the ES.</p> |
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|  | <p>Natural England also advises that the relevant advice in Section 1.1 and 1.2 above, regarding air quality, water quality/supply, and mitigation/management plans, should be considered in the context of Hatfield Chase Ditches SSSI.</p> <p><b>2.4. Humber Estuary SSSI</b></p> <p>We note that there is no specific assessment in Chapter 7: Ecology of impacts on the Humber Estuary SSSI. Our advice regarding Humber Estuary SSSI broadly coincides with those set out above for Humber Estuary SPA/Ramsar. However, we highlight that Humber Estuary SSSI is designated for additional features. Therefore, potential impacts on these features should also be considered in the relevant assessment and appropriate justification provided where impacts are ruled out.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|  | <p><b>3.0 Other advice</b></p> <p>In addition, Natural England would advise on the following issues.</p> <p><b>3.1 Protected species</b></p> <p>Natural England will provide detailed advice regarding protected species following completion of the relevant surveys and assessments in the ES.</p> <p>Please refer to standing advice for protected species, which includes guidance on survey and mitigation measures. A separate protected species licence from Natural England or Defra may be required. Applicants should refer to the guidance at Wildlife licences: when you need to apply to check to see if a mitigation licence is required.</p> <p>Where a disturbance/mitigation licence may be required for protected species, we recommend engaging with Natural England's charged service Pre Submission Screening Service for a review of a draft wildlife licence application. Natural England can then review a full draft licence application to issue a Letter of No Impediment (LONI) which explains that based on the information reviewed to date, that it sees no impediment to a licence being granted in the future should the DCO be issued. See Advice Note Eleven, Annex C – Natural England and the Planning Inspectorate   National Page Infrastructure Planning for details of the LONI process.</p> | <p>ES Chapter 7 <b>[Document Reference 6.2.7]</b> provides information on the potential for effects on protected species including nightjar and bats as well as habitats and peat soils.</p> <p>Comprehensive ecological surveys have been undertaken since 2022 to inform this assessment. With the aim of providing the required 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 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> |

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| <p><b>3.2 Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land</b></p> <p><b>3.2.1 ALC survey Methodology</b></p> <p>Natural England advises that a detailed Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) and soil survey of the agricultural land should be undertaken across the full Study Area to inform the ES. The ALC survey should follow the Guide to assessing development proposals on agricultural land - GOV.UK (<a href="http://www.gov.uk">www.gov.uk</a>). All land which may experience temporary or permanent disturbance should be subject to a detailed ALC survey, to inform suitable handling and restoration. We have provided the below comments regarding the results provided at this stage.</p> <p>Natural England note that the ALC survey does not include the whole area within the DCO limits, including the grid connection route corridors. Natural England reiterates that there is a risk of soil damage, ALC degradation and long term or permanent loss of BMV from the areas not yet surveyed. The temporary displacement of soil during construction as a result of the underground cable installation and temporary access tracks/construction compounds can result in permanent land quality change and soil damage if undertaken inappropriately. Therefore, soil will need to be handled according to best practice and reinstated to a high standard to reduce the impacts. The results from a detailed ALC survey would provide soils data to inform a soil management plan for the whole site regardless of whether the use is permanent or temporary in nature.</p> <p>We welcome that further ALC surveys are underway and will review the results once provided. In the absence of the full survey results, Natural England cannot check the full robustness of the ALC survey and subsequent results at this stage. We advise that where Best and Most Versatile (BMV) land is identified, 1 auger per ha (plus representative pits), should be used. A semi-detailed survey (1 auger per 2ha, plus representative pits) is considered acceptable where the site is clearly not expected to be BMV agricultural land.</p> <p>When mapping ALC data, Natural England advise the ALC grades are defined by a standard colour notation. It is recommended that this is complied with to avoid confusing users. The RGB codes in ArcGIS systems used by Natural England are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grade 1: Red = 0, Green = 129, Blue = 254</li> <li>• Grade 2: Red = 194, Green = 251, Blue = 254</li> <li>• Grade 3a: Red = 1, Green = 129, Blue = 0</li> <li>• Grade 3b: Red = 165, Green = 254, Blue = 164</li> <li>• Grade 4: Red = 254, Green = 251, Blue = 105</li> <li>• Grade 5: Red = 178, Green = 136, Blue = 100</li> </ul> | <p>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].</p> <p>The majority of the Development will not affect agricultural land quality. Works that involve soil disturbance are limited in scale, temporary and reversible, and therefore of low magnitude.</p> <p>There is BMV land within the Order Limits (approximately 44.3%), but the quantum disturbed is only 13.7ha. All but 0.4ha of this will be fully restored on decommissioning.</p> <p>Overall, for the majority of land within the Order Limits, where arable soils will go into long-term grassland land coverage, there will be a significant benefit for soils.</p> <p>The economic and land use implications are considered in Sections 15.5 to 15.7 of ES Chapter 15 Agricultural Circumstances [Document Reference 6.2.15].</p> |
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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-Agricultural: Red = 254, Green = 196, Blue = 85</li> <li>• Urban: Red = 255, Green = 99, Blue = 85</li> </ul> <p><b>3.2.2 Assessment of ALC survey results</b></p> <p>The ALC survey and soil mapping should be used to inform site layout, where possible. The ES should clearly demonstrate how the master planning has considered the ALC grades and avoided BMV land where possible, in line with paragraph 5.10.8 of the Revised (Draft) National Policy Statement EN-1.</p> <p>The ES should include a breakdown of the ALC grades (area, %) in relation to all relevant areas within the application site boundary. Natural England advises that areas of permanent land take (e.g. substations, access roads etc), areas of temporary land take (e.g. underground cabling) and areas of habitat enhancement are clearly presented and assessed (broken down by ALC grade).</p> <p>Natural England supports the use of the IEMA (2022) guidance to determine soil receptor sensitivity (Reproduced from the ICE Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook – A Practical Guide for Planners, Developers and Communities (3rd Edition)).</p> <p>We note that Chapter 15.5.9 refers to a number of works and the potential restorability of associated soil loss, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “access tracks. Restorable;</li> <li>• central inverters. Restorable;</li> <li>• substations. These may be restorable, but there could be a permanent effect on land quality;</li> <li>• BESS. This is likely to be restorable”</li> </ul> <p>However, justification should be provided on how the soils associated with these ‘restorable’ works will be returned to the original ALC grade. Where there is uncertainty over the restorability of the works, including the substations and BESS, we recommend that these are assessed as permanent losses. Clarification should also be provided on the final size of the substation.</p> <p>When assessing the magnitude of effect, we advise that soil damage (harm) as a result of temporary works (e.g. inappropriate soil handling or soil loss) should also be considered.</p> <p><b>3.2.3 Peat soils</b></p> <p>Given that the proposed development is located on mapped areas of peat, it would be expected for the potential impact of the development on peat to be</p> | <p><b>ES Phase 1 Ground Conditions Desk Study reports for Land Parcels A to E (Appendix 9.1) [Document Reference 6.3.9.1]</b></p> <p>Desk based review of publicly available borehole logs and previous site investigations (where available) to determine approximate spatial and vertical extent of peat deposits.</p> <p>Drilling/augering recommended within each land parcel to accurately calculate the extent of peat across the scheme. From this geological data, assessments of carbon sequestering can be undertaken.</p> <p>Where required, a scheme of Phase 2 intrusive investigation has been recommended to assess soil and groundwater contamination, to include chemical assessment of topsoil and subsoil.</p> |
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|  | <p>included in the assessment, including the potential impact on the carbon within the peat as per the IEMA (2022) guidance. Natural England welcome the provision of information provided with regards to peat soils (highlighted in Chapter 9 - Ground Conditions and Chapter 14 - Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases). We look forward to a more detailed assessment provided in the ES including <i>'Volume of peat to be disturbed, and subsequently the effect on carbon sequestration, as a result of the Scheme'</i> as set out in Chapter 14.</p> <p>Natural England highlights that fenland peat soils may have highly acidic subsols which can influence the ALC grade by restricting rooting depth and causing a drought limitation. Determination of pH should be carried out for areas comprising peaty soils to assess the depth(s) at which highly acidic conditions (if any) occur.</p> <p>When assessing the sensitivity of topsoil and subsoil in Table 1 of Technical Appendix 15.1, we advise peat and peaty soils should also be considered. Natural England advises that potential damage to the soil resource (including peat) caused by inappropriate soil handling for temporary works may result in a downgrading of the ALC grade.</p> <p>We highlight that for solar NSIPs EN-3 includes <i>"2.10.156 Where developments are proposed on peat, to ensure the development will result in minimal disruption to the ecology, or release of CO<sub>2</sub>, and that the carbon balance savings of the scheme are maximised"</i>.</p> <p><b>3.2.4 Soil Management Plan</b></p> <p>Natural England advise that the ALC survey data can be used to ensure the soil is restored to its baseline condition (i.e. the soil profile as described during the ALC survey). Soil data collected as part of an ALC survey can also be used to inform the soil resource and management plan as set out in the Defra Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites.</p> <p>Natural England note that an outline Soil Management Plan (oSMP) will be prepared once field surveys are complete and we welcome that the SMP is to be secured in the DCO. Natural England will provide comments on the oSMP once provided.</p> <p>We also note that further information on soil damage, the handling of soils and decommissioning is due to be set out in the oSMP and we will review the this once completed. We recommend that a programme of monitoring should be applied during the operational phase in order to recognise soil health and quality.</p> |
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|  | <p>Plans of the detailed ALC grades should be provided in the oSMP. The SMP should include an aftercare programme which would enable a satisfactory standard of agricultural after-use to be reached, with regards to cultivating, reseeded, draining or irrigating, applying fertiliser, or cutting and grazing the site. The SMP should recognise the exact amount (%) of BMV land that has been identified in the ALC report.</p> <p>Where topsoil is proposed to be stripped, the soil handling methodology (movement, storage &amp; replacement) and soil protection proposals should be reviewed to ensure that appropriate mitigation is in place to allow for the restoration of the land to the baseline ALC Grade. We advise that the ES should consider whether there is sufficient space to store any removed topsoil or subsoil on-site to enable successful restoration.</p> <p>Natural England seek clarification on the phrase '<i>restoring of arable soils with grassland</i>'. The applicant has indicated the intention is more in line with arable reversion, which Natural England would agree, providing measures were in place. For example, to enable to correct seed choice, ensure that sward height is managed correctly and the use of fertilizers and pesticides would be prohibited; these could have some benefit to soil health. Guidance on arable reversion can be found here.</p> <p>We note that guidance for the decommission process on soils is due to be set out in the oSMP. We reiterate that the decommissioning process should include reference to BMV land. Natural England advise that the ES should adequately consider the latter stages of project lifecycles (i.e. decommissioning), with appropriate reinstatement measures secured via an outline decommissioning plan. The spatial distribution of ALC grades determined from a detailed ALC survey should inform the reinstatement criteria, which allows the area of each ALC Grade temporarily disturbed to be returned to the same quality as far as practicable to minimise potential loss.</p> <p>For decommissioning it would be expected that cable removal would result in a similar degree of impact as cable installation, and therefore we would typically be satisfied if the EIA for agricultural land and soils is the same for decommissioning as it is for commissioning (this is for cable only). For cables, if they are installed deep enough, we would be satisfied for them to remain in situ (from an agricultural land and soils perspective), as they would be avoiding the soil disturbance altogether at decommissioning. The main requirement would be that the cables are installed deep enough to avoid any potential impact from</p> |  |
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|  | <p>standard agricultural practices during operation (i.e. the installation depth). The position of a minimum depth of 900mm is recognised as the industry standard.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|  | <p><b>3.3 Biodiversity Net Gain and Enhancement</b></p> <p><b>3.3.0. Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)</b></p> <p>Although BNG is not yet a mandatory requirement for NSIPs, Natural England strongly recommend that BNG provision is secured through this development. This will reflect the important role NSIPs must play in delivering the government's environmental targets.</p> <p>The biodiversity baseline should include all land contained within the site's red line boundary and proposals can be iteratively refined over time and throughout detailed design.</p> <p>We encourage developers to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop their BNG proposals in adherence with well-established BNG principles</li> <li>• Use the statutory Defra biodiversity metric, adhering to the metric guidance: Calculate biodiversity value with the statutory biodiversity metric - GOV.UK</li> <li>• Adhere to BS 8683:2021 Process for designing and implementing Biodiversity Net Gain and CIEEM/IEMA/CIRIA good practice principles (2016) and guidance (2019).</li> <li>• Undertake early engagement with Natural England on BNG proposals, which will help maximise outcomes and reduce risks.</li> </ul> <p>Biodiversity gains should be secured for a minimum of 30 years and be subject to adaptive management and monitoring. BNG plans should be secured via a suitably worded requirement in the DCO.</p> <p>We note from Ecology Chapter 7.3.42 that <i>"the Applicant intends to provide evidence of the deliverability of measurable BNG as part of the final submitted ES Chapter."</i> We welcome the commitment to provide details of the BNG proposals at the ES stage. We advise that the target increase should be at least 10% across all three types of biodiversity units (area, hedgerow and watercourse), which should not be combined.</p> <p>It is best practice to submit a biodiversity gain plan and completed biodiversity</p> | <p>Although not a mandatory requirement, the ES includes demonstrable BNG as part of the ecological and landscape enhancements proposed within the design with detail in <b>ES Technical Appendix 7.12 Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment [Document Reference 6.3.7.12]</b> and the <b>Outline LEMP [Document Reference 7.6]</b>.</p> <p>The Statutory Biodiversity Metric has been used to assess impacts/uplifts on habitat units, linear units and watercourse units.</p> |

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|  | <p>metric with the application, with enhancements then being secured via requirements in the DCO. We advise that the BNG proposals align with guidance and industry best practice. Any non-adherence to rules and principles should be clearly and transparently reported.</p> <p>Created and enhanced habitats should seek, where practical and reasonable, to be local to any impact. They should also deliver strategically important outcomes for nature conservation. We recommend that opportunities should be sought to link delivery to relevant plans or strategies. This could include Green Infrastructure Strategies or Local Nature Recovery Strategies. We welcome the statement that there <i>“will be the commitment to long-term measurable benefits that will contribute to enhancement of the natural environment and resilient ecological networks.”</i></p> <p>We also offer the following recommendations for habitat creation and enhancement, informed by Natural England's local and specialist knowledge of the area. These additional comments are intended to provide guidance on the design of enhancement measures and are not intended to influence the outcomes of the relevant statutory environmental assessments.</p> <p><i>3.3.1. Hydrological buffer to Thorne Moor SAC habitat</i></p> <p>The development site is immediately adjacent to Thorne Moor SAC, which is designated for H7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration. The peat bog habitat is located above the water table and is rainwater fed. The existing boundary ditches are preventing the adjacent peat bog within Thorne Moor SAC achieving favourable condition status by creating a hydrological gradient between the peat bog habitat and the ditch. A wet grassland or wet woodland buffer at the boundary of the SAC would help to prevent drying and oxidization of the peat bog.</p> <p>We therefore advise there is an opportunity to better manage water levels at the boundary between the development site and Thorne Moor SAC, aiming to raise water levels and improve the hydrology of the habitat within the SAC boundary. In particular, we highlight opportunities for wet habitat creation at the boundaries with Thorne Moor and East of Crowle Moor. We would recommend these buffer zones should be as wide as possible, with a minimum of 50m, and include the whole area east of Thorne Waste Drain.</p> <p>Natural England welcomes the proposed approach to implement a wet grassland scheme in Parcel 1 with ditch raising and water level management, in line with our</p> |  |
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|  | <p>previous advice. Proposals to incorporate appropriate management of northern and southern margins of Parcel 1 are also welcomed. The clarification regarding habitats within the SPA and SAC is noted.</p> <p>As discussed via DAS, we would encourage continued engagement on the proposed design and management of Parcel 1 and surrounding areas to provide suitable mitigation for Humber Estuary SPA/Ramsar/SSSI wading birds, alongside water management improvements for Thorne &amp; Hatfield Moors SPA/Thorne Moor SAC/SSSI. This is considered to be an important opportunity for Nature Recovery in the area.</p> <p>For detailed advice on enhancements relating to hydrological issues associated with Thorne Moors SAC we highlight our DAS letter dated 19/03/25: <i>‘Hydrological Issues Associated with Thorne Moors SAC and Potential Buried Peat on Farmland Adjacent’</i>.</p> <p><b>3.3.2. Water level raising on peat soils</b><br/> There may be opportunities within the development site to raise water levels on peaty soils. Managing these areas with water levels high enough that the peat becomes saturated could have significant carbon benefit, in addition to biodiversity benefits. We recommend using Natural England peat mapping, LIDAR mapping and field augering when considering areas suitable for wet habitat creation.</p> <p>As mentioned above, for solar NSIPs EN-3 includes “2.10.156 <i>Where developments are proposed on peat, to ensure the development will result in minimal disruption to the ecology, or release of CO2, and that the carbon balance savings of the scheme are maximised</i>”.</p> | <p><b>ES Technical Appendix 9.1: Phase 1 Ground Conditions Desk Study reports for Land Parcels A to E [Document Reference 6.3.9.1]</b></p> <p>Desk based review of publicly available borehole logs and previous site investigations (where available) to determine approximate spatial and vertical extent of peat deposits. Drilling/augering recommended within each land parcel to accurately calculate the extent of peat across the scheme. From this geological data, assessments of carbon sequestering can be undertaken.</p> <p>Where required, a scheme of Phase 2 intrusive investigation has been recommended to assess soil and groundwater contamination, to include chemical assessment of topsoil and subsoil.</p> |
|  | <p><b>3.3.3. Grassland under panels</b><br/> Natural England has provided the following recommendations for establishing grassland under solar panels. Note that this advice does not relate to management of the bird mitigation areas, which will require different ecological considerations.</p> <p>Natural England welcomes the panel area planting approach set out in the <i>Technical Appendix 7.11 - Outline Landscape Ecological Management Plan</i>. The commitment to using a high standard of seed is welcomed, and the example selection (Emorsgate EM1) is considered likely appropriate for use under panels.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

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|  | <p>We recommend soil tests should be undertaken to determine appropriate target species to ensure the mix is suitable for the context.</p> <p>To improve the grassland for pollinators the inclusion of the species below could be considered. These native wildflowers have been found to be thrive under solar panels as they require less direct sun and are naturally low growing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bluebell <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i></li> <li>• Wild garlic <i>Allium ursinum</i></li> <li>• Primrose <i>Primula vulgaris</i></li> <li>• Cowslip <i>Primula veris</i></li> <li>• Lady's bedstraw <i>Galium verum</i></li> <li>• Betony <i>Betonica officinalis</i></li> <li>• Wood avens <i>Geum urbanum</i></li> <li>• Dog violet <i>Viola riviniana</i></li> <li>• Selfheal <i>Prunella vulgaris</i></li> <li>• Hedge bedstraw <i>Galium album (mollugo)</i></li> </ul> <p>For optimal site preparation we ideally recommend an initial mowing phase followed by cultivation (in addition to the weed removal proposed) in spring, repeated several times over the summer to prevent annual weeds and grasses consolidating before the final autumn sowing.</p> <p>The aftercare of any sown sward is vital, and management will be required to ensure the establishment of the grassland. While it is likely that species will colonise naturally, periodic re-seeding every few years may be required to maintain plant biodiversity. We advise that the monitoring of botanical diversity should be factored into the ongoing management of the site, with reseeded considered where appropriate.</p> <p>We welcome the avoidance of the bird nesting/flowering season in the grazing regime, though the grazing regime requires further detail. If grazing with sheep it is important to maintain an appropriate density to allow the sward to develop. Low intensity spring and winter sheep grazing has been shown to increase plant diversity on solar sites and is therefore welcomed. Summer grazing has been shown to have a negative effect on plant diversity and is discouraged. The cessation of grazing from May to August/September (depending on seed mix) will allow wildflowers to flower and set seed, reducing the need for reseeded in later seasons.</p> <p><b>3.3.4. Ponds</b></p> <p>Natural England welcomes the commitment in Section 17 of Chapter 7: Ecology to</p> |  |
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|                         | <p>retaining 'high value habitat features' such as ponds. We advise that if any ponds are to be created for amphibians, these should be close to wider habitat features, such as close to the moors or near the canal, and not isolated or hemmed in by roads.</p> <p><b>3.3.5. Linear features</b></p> <p>Natural England welcomes the commitment to retaining field boundaries such as hedgerows, trees ditches and drains and, where required, provide replacement through 'extensive new native species hedgerow planting'. We welcome the objective of 'creating more diverse, resilient and connected habitat networks of biodiversity value (measurable via BNG), enhancing ecological connectivity between The Scheme and the wider landscape, including nearby designated sites.' The intention to develop meadow grassland around linear features during the construction period is welcomed, though we advise that the management of the hedgerows and their surrounding buffers should account for nightjar and the red-listed scarce vapourer moth <i>Telochorus recens</i>. The management schedule, accounting for these species, should be detailed in the LEMP.</p> <p>Natural England welcomes the commitment in Section 17.5.7 of Chapter 7: Ecology to enhance the area to the north of Stainforth &amp; Keadby Canal for the use of birds (both breeding and wintering). We advise that the canal is a key bird migration route that links the moors to the River Trent and the River Humber. We recommend that opportunities to link together existing linear features with the wider habitat network are explored.</p> <p><b>3.3.6 Green Infrastructure</b></p> <p>Natural England recommends consideration of the Green Infrastructure Framework in detailed scheme design. Further guidance on incorporating Green Infrastructure into developments can be found at: Green Infrastructure Process Journey for Developers and Design Team. We can provide further advice on the GI Framework if requested.</p> <p>For any further advice on this consultation or future consultations please contact <a href="mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk">consultations@naturalengland.org.uk</a></p> |  |
| <b>Historic England</b> | <p>Thank you for your communication on 20 March 2025 seeking our pre-application advice on proposals for the above site.</p> <p>While Historic England broadly welcomes measures to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change, we are aware that such developments have the potential to harm the significance of heritage assets and their settings. With this</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |



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|  | <p>in mind Historic England has drawn up guidance for planners and developers on climate change and renewable energy technologies, available at <a href="http://www.helm.org.uk">www.helm.org.uk</a>. To assist in the implementation of national planning policy Historic England has produced guidance on managing change within the settings of heritage assets. The guidance offers a structured framework for the consideration of setting, applicable to designated and non-designated heritage assets, and for assessing the implications of development affecting the setting of a heritage asset. It provides the principal Historic England advice on the issue of setting and should be used by the applicant in conjunction with other relevant guidance. The <i>Setting of Heritage Assets</i> is available at <a href="http://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa3-setting-of-heritageassets/">www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa3-setting-of-heritageassets/</a></p> <p>In line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 207, we would expect the Environmental Statement to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance.</p> <p>We would also expect the Environmental Statement to consider the potential impacts which the proposals might have upon those heritage assets which are not designated. The NPPF defines a heritage asset as "a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest". This includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authorities (including local listing). This information is available via the local authority Historic Environment Record (HER) (<a href="http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk">www.heritagegateway.org.uk</a>) and relevant local authority staff.</p> <p>We recommend that the applicant involve the Conservation Officers of the named local authorities and the archaeological staff of the relevant HERs in the development of this assessment. They are best placed to advise on: local historic environment issues and priorities; how the proposal can be tailored to avoid and minimise potential adverse impacts on the historic environment; the nature and design of any required mitigation measures; and opportunities for securing wider benefits for the future conservation and management of heritage assets.</p> <p>We provide targeted science support through our Science Advisors (<a href="http://www.historicengland.org.uk/advice/technical-advice/archaeological-science/scienceadvisors">www.historicengland.org.uk/advice/technical-advice/archaeological-science/scienceadvisors</a>), this forms part of our Extended Advice Service on NSIPS.</p> | <p>The relevant LPA Officers are being engaged with, regarding the next steps regarding archaeological works.</p> <p>The assessment takes account of the potential impact which associated activities might have.</p> <p>Hydrology data has been reviewed for the dewatering risk flagged has been addressed in baseline assessment <b>Flood Risk Assessment Appendix 10.1 [Document Reference</b></p> |
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|  | <p>The assessment should also take account of the potential impact which associated activities (such as construction, servicing and maintenance, and associated traffic) might have upon perceptions, understanding and appreciation of the heritage assets in the area. A number of considerations will need to be taken into account when proposals for green energy are assessed. This includes consideration of the impact of ancillary infrastructure, such as tracks and grid connections, as well as the built infrastructure.</p> <p>The assessment should also consider, where appropriate, the likelihood of alterations to drainage patterns that might lead to <i>in situ</i> decomposition or destruction of below ground archaeological remains and deposits and can also lead to subsidence of buildings and monuments.</p> <p>In general terms Historic England is broadly comfortable with the information submitted in the PEIR. We make the following points for your consideration in progressing these proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The data relating to the trial trenching still need to be written up and included in the relevant submission documents.</li> <li>• Data from previous archaeological and geoarchaeological investigations for the Old River Don Wind Farm (Technical Appendix 9.3) should be utilised in developing a more appropriate geophysical survey strategy.</li> <li>• The historical ground conditions of the proposed development area (marshy/wetland until the 17th century) have not been taken into account in the proposed archaeological evaluation methodology. A generic approach of magnetometry, long linear trial trenches <i>etc.</i> has been proposed without consideration of whether this would be appropriate across the proposal site.</li> <li>• Sondages created during trial trenching (September 2024; PEIR Chapter 8, Table 8.1, Consultation Summary) produced data regarding sub-surface topography, which has not been included in the submission documents. The data obtained from this work should inform an updated geoarchaeological and palaeoenvironmental Desk-Based Assessment (DBA; Technical Appendix 8.4).</li> <li>• Magnetometry is more suited to near surface archaeology rather than deep alluvium. This does not appear to be taken into account in developing the archaeological evaluation methodology.</li> <li>• In certain areas deep stepped trenches may be a more appropriate methodological approach to assess the significance of features.</li> <li>• There appears to be a discrepancy between South Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire HERs in terms of asset distribution, with almost all non-designated heritage assets located in North Lincolnshire. Care should be taken not to rely on any recording bias in these data. Assumptions based on these data in planning archaeological investigations should be avoided.</li> </ul> | <p><b>6.3.10.1]</b> and at paragraphs 5.40 and 5.41 in <b>Appendix 8.1 Heritage Baseline Assessment [Document Reference 6.3.8.1]</b></p> <p>The targeted trial trenching assessment report now included in assessment documents <b>Appendix 8.4 Trial Trenching Report [Document Reference 6.3.8.4]</b></p> <p>A revised geoarchaeological assessment is in preparation.</p> <p>The sondage data from the trial trenching and the Old River Don reports are discussed in the revised baseline assessment. At paragraphs 5.15-5.33 in <b>Appendix 8.1 Heritage Baseline Assessment [Document Reference 6.3.8.1]</b></p> <p>Magnetometry was not intended for consideration of deep deposits – the approach was discussed and agreed with LPAs prior to commencement and was purely to identify cut -feature archaeology. <b>The survey results are available in Appendix 8.2 Geophysical Survey Report [Document Reference 6.3.8.2]</b></p> <p>Trial trenching undertaken to date has been targeted on specific areas of archaeological potential. Results in <b>Appendix 8.4 Trial Trenching Report [Document Reference 6.3.8.4]</b></p> <p>Due to the discrepancy in HER data and differing archaeological potential within parts of the Order Limits shovel test -pitting has been undertaken within the City of Doncaster Council section of the Order Limits to better define the potential for prehistoric material. The results of this evaluation are in <b>Appendix 8.5 Test Pitting Report [Document Reference 6.3.8.5]</b></p> <p>Alternative approaches are proposed for a subsequent phase of archaeological investigation (set out in <b>Appendix 8.6 Outline Archaeological Mitigation Strategy [Document Reference 6.3.8.6]</b></p> |
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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Once the detailed design is available, areas involving deeper excavation (for cables, battery storage etc.) may require more detailed geoarchaeological and palaeoenvironmental investigation. Given the potential for prehistoric material sealed within alluvium and peat (such as the Neolithic land surface) this is likely to be in the form of borehole survey.</li> <li>Any of the palaeochannels of the old River Don should also be subject to similar investigation if impacted by the scheme.</li> <li>Water Environment Assessments may be required where hydrological and geochemical changes to the burial environment are likely. Historic England has produced guidance for developers, owners, archaeologists and planners working on projects where the intention is to retain and protect archaeological sites beneath or within the development. The <i>Preserving Archaeological Remains</i> document can be found online at: <a href="https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/preservingarchaeological-remains/">https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/preservingarchaeological-remains/</a></li> </ul> <p>In regard to specific comments on <i>Chapter 8 - Cultural Heritage and Archaeology</i> of the PEIR document (March 2025):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paragraph 8.6.17 notes the potential for earlier prehistoric activity, which it describes as "low". The explanation offered states: "... the likely levels of disturbance to such remains through industrial peat extraction in the 20<sup>th</sup> century diminish the chances of their having survived". This assertion is not supported by current evidence. No field investigations have been undertaken to test this hypothesis. Appropriate geoarchaeological field investigations (expanding on the existing geoarchaeological DBA) could yield valuable data and provide a more accurate assessment of the potential.</li> <li>Paragraph 8.6.17 also notes that there is "moderate" potential for "surface finds dating to the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age to be found within the Site". Several Mesolithic and Neolithic findspots of this nature are documented in the Heritage Technical Baseline (Technical Appendix 8.1, paragraphs 5.17–5.30).</li> </ul> <p>We are encouraged that the valuable potential of lithic scatters has been recognised in the submission documents. However, the forms of archaeological evaluation then proposed (geophysical survey and trial trenching) are not well suited to prospecting for and identifying such remains. To ensure that important evidence is not lost through the removal of the deposits containing the lithic resource, more targeted methods are required. As per Historic England's guidance on working with lithic material - and following on from recommendations made by the LPA's Historic Environment Officer (September</p> |  |
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|                                                   | <p>2024) - a staged and targeted methodology is required. This should include field-based geoaarchaeological investigations and systematic fieldwalking. The <i>Managing Lithic Sites</i> (2024) document can be accessed at <a href="https://historiceingland.org.uk/images-books/publications/managing-lithic-sites/">https://historiceingland.org.uk/images-books/publications/managing-lithic-sites/</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Paragraph 8.6.17 also notes that “it is likely that such remains lie at a greater depth than the works required to construct the solar farm...”. There is the potential for the proposed development to impact such remains through changes to the hydrology and geochemistry of the burial environment. This needs to be fully considered.</li><li>• Paragraph 8.6.26- The list of scheme components and activities potentially impacting archaeological remains should also include Construction Compounds. It is important that the assessment is designed to ensure that all impacts are fully understood.</li></ul> <p>If you have any queries about any of the above, or would like to discuss anything further, please contact me.</p>                                |                                                                                           |
| <b>National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC</b> | <p><b>Statutory Consultation: Sections 42 of the Planning Act 2008 (the “Act”)</b></p> <p>I refer to your notice dated 20th March 2025 regarding the Proposed Development. This is a response on behalf of National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC (NGET).</p> <p>Due to the proximity of some of our existing or future assets, NGET wishes to express their interest in further consultation while the impact on our assets is still being assessed.</p> <p>Where the Promoter intends to acquire land, extinguish rights, or interfere with or work within close proximity to any of NGET’s apparatus and land, this will require appropriate protection and further discussion on the impact to its apparatus and rights.</p> <p>NGET assets form an essential part of the electricity transmission network in England and Wales. Please continue to consult NGET in regards to this development.</p> <p><b>NGET will require an adequate form of Protective Provisions included within the Order.</b></p> <p><b>Existing Infrastructure</b></p> <p>Overhead Lines</p> <p>ZDA 400 kV OHL DRAX - KEADBY - THORPE MARSH</p> <p>DRAX - KEADBY - THORPE MARSH</p> <p>ZDA 400 kV OHL COTTAM - KEADBY 1</p> <p>COTTAM - KEADBY 2</p> | <p>Ther Applicant are seeking to agree the necessary protective provisions with NGET.</p> |

4TM 400 kV OHL KEADBY - WEST BURTON 1

KEADBY - WEST BURTON 2

I enclose a plan showing the location of NGET's apparatus in the scoping area.

#### **New Infrastructure**

Please refer to the Holistic Network Design (HND) and the National Grid ESO website to view the strategic vision for the UK's ever growing electricity transmission network. <https://www.nationalgrideso.com/future-energy/the-pathway-2030-holistic-network-design/hnd/>

NGET requests that all existing and future assets are given due consideration given their criticality to distribution of energy across the UK. We remain committed to working with the promoter in a proactive manner, enabling both parties to deliver successful projects wherever reasonably possible. As such we encourage that ongoing discussion and consultation between both parties is maintained on interactions with existing or future assets, land interests, connections or consents and any other NGET interests which have the potential to be impacted prior to submission of the Proposed DCO.

The Great Grid Upgrade is the largest overhaul of the electricity grid in generations, we are in the middle of a transformation, with the energy we use increasingly coming from cleaner greener sources. Our infrastructure projects across England and Wales are helping to connect more renewable energy to homes and businesses. To find out more about our current projects please refer to our network and infrastructure webpage.

<https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-andinfrastructure/infrastructure-projects> . Where it has been identified that your project interacts with or is in close proximity to one of NGET's infrastructure projects, we would welcome further discussion at the earliest opportunity. These projects are all essential to increase the overall network capability to connect the numerous new offshore wind farms that are being developed, and transport new clean green energy to the homes and businesses where it is needed.

The following points should be taken into consideration.

#### **Electricity Infrastructure:**

- National Grid's Overhead Line/s is protected by a Deed of Easement/Wayleave Agreement which provides full right of access to retain, maintain, repair and inspect our asset
- Statutory electrical safety clearances must be maintained at all times. Any proposed buildings must not be closer than 5.3m to the lowest conductor. National Grid recommends that no permanent structures are built directly beneath overhead lines. These distances are set out in EN 43 – 8 Technical

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|  | <p>Specification for “overhead line clearances Issue 5 (2019)”, which publicly available..</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If any changes in ground levels are proposed either beneath or in close proximity to our existing overhead lines, then this would serve to reduce the safety clearances for such overhead lines. Safe clearances for existing overhead lines must be maintained in all circumstances.</li> <li>• The relevant guidance in relation to working safely near to existing overhead lines is contained within the Health and Safety Executive’s (<a href="http://www.hse.gov.uk">www.hse.gov.uk</a>) Guidance Note GS 6 “Avoidance of Danger from Overhead Electric Lines” and all relevant site staff should make sure that they are both aware of and understand this guidance.</li> <li>• Plant, machinery, equipment, buildings or scaffolding should not encroach within 5.3 metres of any of our high voltage conductors when those conductors are under their worse conditions of maximum “sag” and “swing” and overhead line profile (maximum “sag” and “swing”) drawings should be obtained using the contact details above.</li> <li>• If a landscaping scheme is proposed as part of the proposal, we request that only slow and low growing species of trees and shrubs are planted beneath and adjacent to the existing overhead line to reduce the risk of growth to a height which compromises statutory safety clearances.</li> <li>• Drilling or excavation works should not be undertaken if they have the potential to disturb or adversely affect the foundations or “pillars of support” of any existing tower. These foundations always extend beyond the base area of the existing tower and foundation (“pillar of support”) drawings can be obtained using the contact details above</li> <li>• National Grid Electricity Transmission high voltage underground cables are protected by a Deed of Grant; Easement; Wayleave Agreement or the provisions of the New Roads and Street Works Act. These provisions provide National Grid full right of access to retain, maintain, repair and inspect our assets. Hence, we require that no permanent / temporary structures are to be built over our cables or within the easement strip. Any such proposals should be discussed and agreed with National Grid prior to any works taking place.</li> <li>• Ground levels above our cables must not be altered in any way. Any alterations to the depth of our cables will subsequently alter the rating of the circuit and can compromise the reliability, efficiency and safety of our electricity network and requires consultation with National Grid prior to any such changes in both level and construction being implemented.</li> </ul> <p>NGET requests to be consulted at the earliest stages to ensure that the most appropriate protective provisions are included within the DCO application to</p> |  |
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|                        | <p>safeguard the integrity of our apparatus and to remove the requirement for objection. All consultations should be sent to the following email address: <a href="mailto:box.landandacquisitions@nationalgrid.com">box.landandacquisitions@nationalgrid.com</a></p> <p>I hope the above information is useful. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me. In the meantime, we look forward to receipt of further information and consultation relating to potential impacts on our assets.</p> <p>The information in this letter is provided not withstanding any discussions taking place in relation to connections with electricity customer services.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |  |
| <b>Yorkshire Water</b> | <p>Thank you for consulting Yorkshire Water Services (YWS) on the Tween Bridge Solar Farm development. YWS have previously offered comment following consultation first stage consultation in 2023.</p> <p><b>Operational Area</b></p> <p>The proposed draft order limits land parcels A-F occupy land for which YWS is the statutory water and wastewater undertaker in full and in-part respectively. YWS is the water undertaker for the entire development area and wastewater undertaker for parcels A1-A21, B6 &amp; B7, C1-C8, D1-D17 and E1 &amp; E2.</p> <p><b>YWS Operational Assets</b></p> <p>YWS clean water assets are positioned within the draft order limits including but not limited to a 4" Cast Iron treated live water main between parcels E2 and E19 as well as a 10" Asbestos Cement (AC) and 315mm HPPE treated live water main along Low Level Bank. The exact location of apparatus on YWS statutory mapping records is indicative only; the exact position and depths can only be determined by on-site survey. Subject to appropriate asset location survey, no building or other obstruction including the storage of materials or placement of any compound are permitted within the below distances of the centreline of water mains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mains less than 200mm diameter - 3m</li> <li>• Mains 200 - 600 mm diameter - 5m</li> <li>• Mains above 600mm diameter - 6m</li> </ul> <p>Under no circumstances should construction activity near YWS assets commence until the actual position of the company's mains/services within the draft order limits have been confirmed by trial holes.</p> <p>YWS advises the RWE Renewables team to in the first instance identify the location of YWS assets from a desktop study of YWS statutory mapping records available at <a href="http://maps.yorkshirewater.com">http://maps.yorkshirewater.com</a>. An impact schedule can then be</p> |  |



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|                                                                 | <p>produced indicating the need for further on-site survey and any required diversion and/or protections. Where diversion of YWS assets is necessary the project team is invited to engage with our water diversions teams at <a href="http://www.yorkshirewater.com/developers/water/water-main-diversion/">www.yorkshirewater.com/developers/water/water-main-diversion/</a>. YWS welcomes engagement and asks that adequate assessment of our assets is given to minimise disruption and the need to divert assets.</p> <p>Source Protection Zone</p> <p>The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), Chapter 9 – Ground Conditions identifies western and central site area located in Source Protection Zone 3. The significance of effect to groundwater quality during construction is assessed as minor to locally moderate adverse. Areas of potential source contamination are in array areas only and due to limited earthworks required where solar arrays are proposed flow pathways are unlikely to be altered. Mitigation measures relevant to groundwater quality will be embedded in the design and mitigation measures highlighted within the CEMP. The CEMP must detail required mitigation</p> <p>measure to safeguard the SPZ. Further consultation on the mitigation and safeguarding measures should be directed to: <a href="mailto:planningconsultation@yorkshirewater.co.uk">planningconsultation@yorkshirewater.co.uk</a>.</p> <p>Ongoing consultation</p> <p>There remain some unknown elements of this development and from the information provided it is likely there will be interaction with YWS assets. It is therefore essential that there is ongoing engagement. We would recommend further discussion on the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design of the scheme to minimise interaction with YWS assets and sensitive receptors.</li> <li>• Where interaction is identified details of required mitigation and / or diversion to be agreed with YWS in advance of development</li> <li>• A Statement of Common Ground completed before the submission</li> </ul> <p>Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any clarification on the points raised.</p> | <p>Summarised in <b>ES Phase 1 Ground Conditions Desk Study reports for Land Parcels A to E (Appendix 9.1) [Document Reference 6.3.9.]</b>.</p> <p>Any future intrusive work within influencing distance of an SPZ will be carried out under appropriate specific risk assessments, method statements and environmental management plans, based on location specific topography, ground and groundwater conditions as reviewed and accepted by consultees, stakeholders and regulators prior to commencement</p> |
| <p><b>Forestry Commission Yorkshire and North East Area</b></p> | <p>Thank you for consulting the Forestry Commission on this proposal.</p> <p>As a Non-Ministerial Government Department, the Forestry Commission provide no opinion supporting or objecting to an application. Rather we provide advice on the potential impact that the proposed development could have on trees and woodland including ancient woodland.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <p>A comprehensive landscape Masterplan is provided at <b>ES Figure 6.4 Landscape and Visual Mitigation Strategy, (Landscape Masterplan)</b>. <b>[Document Reference 6.4.6.4]</b> further detail of the proposed species rich native hedgerows, trees and woodland species are set out in the <b>Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [Document Reference 7.6]</b>. The Scheme has been designed to be responsive to the</p>                                                                         |



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|  | <p>We can confirm there are no Ancient Semi-Natural Woodlands or Plantations on Ancient Woodlands Sites, within the site boundary outlined in the Site Layout Plan. However there are a number of areas designated as Priority Habitat, Deciduous Woodlands within the site area, notably centered around grid reference SE 7778 1027 (The Lincolnshire Golf Course, A161, Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire, DN17 4BU). Deciduous Woodlands are on the National Forest Inventory and the Priority Habitat Inventory (England).</p> <p>Fragmentation is one of the greatest threats to deciduous woodland. Woodlands can suffer loss or deterioration from development through damage to soils, roots and vegetation and changes to drainage and air pollution from an increase in traffic, particularly during the construction phase of a development.</p> <p>For any trees and woodland within the development boundary, land required for temporary use or land where rights are required for the diversion of utilities, you must take into consideration the Root Protection Zone. The Root Protection Zone (as specified in British Standard 5837) is there to protect the roots of trees, which often spread out further than the tree canopy. Protection measures include taking care not to cut tree roots (e.g., by trenching) or causing soil compaction around trees (e.g., through vehicle movements or stacking heavy equipment) or contamination from poisons (e.g., site stored fuel or chemicals).</p> <p>Consideration should also be given to the presence of Countryside Stewardship targeting areas, present across the site, which are in place to address the population decline of the Willow Tit. Willow Tits are Red Listed by The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and are U.K. Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) priority bird species. Considering that Biodiversity Net Gain will become mandatory for NSIPs, beginning in 2025, this may provide opportunities for enhancing and increasing habitat for Willow Tits, in addition to the net gain commitment in relation to Nightjar foraging habitat discussed in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (Appendix 1.1, pg 7).</p> <p>With the Government commitment to increase tree and canopy cover to 16.5% of land area in England by 2050, The Forestry Commission is seeking to ensure that a net gain of trees and canopy cover is delivered with <u>every</u> development, not just as compensations for loss. There are a number of issues that need to be considered when proposing significant planting schemes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biosecurity of all planting stock needs to be considered.</li> <li>• Woodlands need to be climate, pest and disease resilient.</li> <li>• Maximise the ecosystem services benefits of all new woodland wherever possible (e.g. flood reduction).</li> <li>• Planting contributes to a 'resilient treescape' by maximising connectivity across the landscape.</li> <li>• Plans are in place to ensure long term management and maintenance of woodland.</li> </ul> | <p>local landscape pattern and connect into the existing vegetation recorded in <b>ES Appendix 6.6 Arboricultural Impact Assessment [Document Reference 6.3.6.6]</b></p> |
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|                                  | <p>Hedgerows, individual trees and woodlands within a development site should also be considered in terms of their connectivity function, both between woodlands affected by the development and those unaffected. Linking small fragmented woodlands, to create larger woodland blocks and using hedgerows/hedgerow trees can increase habitat connectivity and benefit biodiversity across the whole site and beyond.</p> <p>Plans should also be in place for the long term management and maintenance of any new and existing woodland, with access needing to be considered for future management.</p> <p>I hope these comments have been useful to you, if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <p><b>Environment Agency</b></p> | <p>Thank you for consulting us on your Preliminary Environmental Information Report, on 20 March 2025.</p> <p>We have considered the information in the Report and provide the following comments on it, in respect of topics that fall within our remit.</p> <p><b>Chapter 7 – Ecology</b></p> <p>Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)</p> <p>We support that it is intended for the Environmental Statement (ES) to demonstrate BNG as part of the ecological and landscape enhancements proposed within the design. We acknowledge that 10% BNG is not currently mandatory for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs); however, as noted to in Section 7.3.42, it is intended that BNG will become a mandatory requirement for NSIPs in the future and could come into place during the timeline of this project seeking consent. We therefore advise that you fully commit to achieving BNG. We consider that the project offers an opportunity to provide positive benefits for the environment and recommend engagement with partners who can provide insights into where appropriate benefits can be sought.</p> <p>Water voles</p> <p>We are pleased to see confirmation in Table 7.6 that two separate water vole surveys are being undertaken in line with accepted survey methods in 2025. We encourage that water vole enhancement opportunities are sought within the proposal. We recommend the guidance contained in 'Water Vole Conservation Handbook 2011', published by the Wild Conservation Research Unit, University of Oxford, to inform any proposals for water vole enhancement.</p> | <p>The ES demonstrates BNG as part of proposed enhancements as set out in ES Appendix 12 Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment <b>[Document Reference 6.3.7.12]</b>.</p> <p>Two separate water vole surveys are being undertaken in line with standard survey methodology, targeting key ditches within the Order Limits.</p> |

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|  | <p>We would welcome discussion regarding water vole mitigation, with our Fisheries, Biodiversity and Geomorphology Officer, who is aware of work happening in and around the area, particularly in terms of mink control.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|  | <p><b>Chapter 9 – Ground Conditions</b></p> <p>Cable route</p> <p>As outlined in Section 9.5.7, the western and central site areas are within Source Protection Zone (SPZ) 3. A small area of the draft order limits falls within SPZ1 and 2 to the west, but we understand based on the information submitted, that no cabling is proposed in this area. It is important that the proposed cable route avoids sensitive receptors, as far as practicable, to protect groundwater from contamination in SPZs. We note that <i>The Environment Agency's approach to groundwater protection, Version 1.2 (2018)</i> is referenced within Table 9.1 and support that this guidance is followed to ensure that sufficient mitigation for pollution is incorporated.</p> <p>Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)</p> <p>The CEMP will need to assess the risks to controlled waters associated with the chosen construction methods and detail any required mitigation measures. It is unclear whether certain activities that could pose a risk to controlled waters will be included in the CEMP; of particular concern are the risks associated with</p> | <p>Location to SPZs and sensitive groundwater abstractions are summarised in <b>ES Phase 1 Ground Conditions Desk Study reports for Land Parcels A to E (Appendix 9.1) [Document Reference 6.3.9.1]</b>.</p> <p>Any future intrusive work within influencing distance of an SPZ will be carried out under appropriate specific risk assessments, method statements and environmental management plans, based on location specific topography, ground and groundwater conditions as reviewed and accepted by consultees, stakeholders and regulators prior to commencement.</p> <p>Site specific detailed assessments of Unexploded Ordnance will take place post-consent.</p> <p>Where required, a scheme of Phase 2 intrusive investigation has been recommended to assess soil and groundwater contamination and mitigation to key receptors. Phase 2 intrusive investigations including a generic risk assessment, are to be carried out, where required, post-consent.</p> |

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|  | <p>horizontal directional drilling and foundation works, especially where there is presence of principal aquifer and within SPZs.</p> <p>Private water supplies</p> <p>We acknowledge that private water supplies have been noted in Table 10.3 of Chapter 10. We advise that these are identified within the ES as a receptor due to their vulnerable nature. We recommend that an up-to-date list of private water supplies are acquired from the Local Authority's to inform your future assessments.</p> <p>UXO report</p> <p>We note that Paragraph 9.5.13 refers to a preliminary report being obtained in autumn 2023, but Paragraph 9.6.10 states that this is still to be obtained. We would like to request the latest copy of the UXO report to review if it has been undertaken.</p> <p>Appendix 9I – Volume 1 Phase 1 Ground Conditions Desk Study</p> <p>Potential contaminant linkages are identified within the Preliminary Risk Assessment. These linkages should be assessed further through site investigation as part of a Phase II Generic Quantitative Risk Assessment. We are satisfied that detailed investigations can be secured at the detailed design stage post-consent as suggested in Paragraph 9.5.21. of Chapter 9. In order to ensure groundwater protection is fully addressed post-consent, we ask that you consider including appropriate Development Consent Order requirements based on our standard planning conditions, which we set out below.</p> <p>Standard planning conditions</p> <p><i>Land contamination condition:</i></p> <p>Prior to each phase of development approved by this planning permission no development shall commence until a remediation strategy to deal with the risks associated with contamination of the site in respect of the development hereby permitted, has been submitted to, and approved in writing by, the local planning authority. This strategy will include the following components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A preliminary risk assessment which has identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• all previous uses</li> <li>• potential contaminants associated with those uses</li> <li>• a conceptual model of the site indicating sources, pathways and receptors</li> <li>• potentially unacceptable risks arising from contamination at the site</li> </ul> </li> <li>1. A site investigation scheme, based on (1) to provide information for a detailed assessment of the risk to all receptors that may be affected, including those off-site.</li> <li>2. The results of the site investigation and the detailed risk assessment referred to in (2) and, based on these, an options appraisal and</li> </ol> |
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|  | <p>remediation strategy giving full details of the remediation measures required and how they are to be undertaken.</p> <p>3. A verification plan providing details of the data that will be collected in order to demonstrate that the works set out in the remediation strategy in (3) are complete and identifying any requirements for longer - term monitoring of pollutant linkages, maintenance and arrangements for contingency action.</p> <p>Any changes to these components require the written consent of the local planning authority. The scheme shall be implemented as approved.</p> <p><i>Reason:</i></p> <p>To ensure that the development does not contribute to, and is not put at unacceptable risk from or adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of water pollution.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> Part 1 of this condition has been satisfied by the submission of the Preliminary Risk Assessment mentioned above.</p> <p><i>Verification report condition</i></p> <p>Prior to each phase of development being brought into use, a verification report demonstrating the completion of works set out in the approved remediation strategy and the effectiveness of the remediation shall be submitted to, and approved in writing, by the local planning authority. The report shall include results of sampling and monitoring carried out in accordance with the approved verification plan to demonstrate that the site remediation criteria have been met.</p> <p><i>Reason:</i></p> <p>To ensure that the site does not pose any further risk to the water environment by demonstrating that the requirements of the approved verification plan have been met and that remediation of the site is complete.</p> <p><i>Unexpected contamination condition</i></p> <p>If, during development, contamination not previously identified is found to be present at the site then no further development (unless otherwise agreed in writing with the local planning authority) shall be carried out until a remediation strategy detailing how this contamination will be dealt with has been submitted to, and approved in writing by, the local planning authority. The remediation strategy shall be implemented as approved.</p> <p><i>Reason</i></p> |  |
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|  | <p>To ensure that the development does not contribute to, and is not put at unacceptable risk from or adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of water pollution from previously unidentified contamination sources at the development site.</p> <p><i>No infiltration of surface water via SuDS, infiltration SuDs or soakaway condition</i></p> <p>No drainage systems for the infiltration of surface water to the ground (including infiltration SuDs or soakaway) are permitted permanently or for temporary construction works other than with the written consent of the local planning authority. Any proposals for such systems must be supported by an assessment of the risks to controlled waters. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.</p> <p><i>Reason</i></p> <p>To ensure that the development does not contribute to, and is not put at unacceptable risk from or adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of water pollution caused by mobilised contaminants.</p> <p><i>Site specific piling risk assessment condition</i></p> <p>Piling or any other foundation designs using penetrative methods shall not be carried out other than with the written consent of the local planning authority. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.</p> <p><i>Reason</i></p> <p>To ensure that any proposed penetrative foundation solutions do not harm groundwater resources.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> If piling is proposed, a piling risk assessment must be submitted, written in accordance with EA guidance document "Piling and Penetrative Ground Improvement Methods on Land Affected by Contamination: Guidance on Pollution Prevention. National Groundwater &amp; Contaminated Land Centre report NC/99/73". The site - specific piling risk assessment should be based on hydrogeological information and the Generic Quantitative Risk Assessment report (which includes a site investigation).</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|  | <p><b>Chapter 10 – Water Resource</b></p> <p>Water quality</p> <p>Sections 10.3.7. and 10.3.8. refer to the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and Table 10.6 (3.9.6) outlines that Section 10.5 of the PEIR assesses the likely significant effects of the project on surface and groundwater bodies. However, no</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <p>A WFD assessment is included in <b>ES Appendix 10.2 Flood Risk Assessment [Document Reference 6.3.10.2]</b>.</p> <p>The WFD Assessment (<b>ES Appendix 10.2 – Water Framework Directive Assessment [Document Reference: 6.3.10.2]</b>) concludes that "Overall, the assessment concluded</p> |



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|  | <p>WFD assessment has been provided as part of the PEIR and the Report has not considered the potential effects on water bodies with regard to the relevant River Basin Management Plan (RBMP). We advise that further consideration of the potential impact on water quality and geomorphological disturbances is required and would expect a WFD assessment to be submitted with the ES.</p> | <p>that none of the activities associated with the Scheme have the potential to cause a deterioration in status of WFD surface water bodies or groundwater bodies or impact hydrologically connected protected areas. The Scheme was not considered to jeopardise the attainment of 'good' overall status of WFD water bodies". The assessment also notes that "A positive effect on River Basin Management Plan objectives was identified within this assessment. The cessation of agricultural activities was considered to have an overall benefit to the status of WFD water bodies, and a positive improvement in biodiversity was identified through the proposed creation of species-rich grassland in place of cultivated land. The avoidance and management of riparian zones of all watercourses was considered to promote biodiversity. Additionally, the Scheme was considered to help combat climate change by helping reduce reliance on fossil fuels."</p> <p>As detailed in the appended FRA (<b>ES Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment [Document Reference 6.3.10.1]</b>), it is not feasible or proportionate to raise solar PV modules and associated infrastructure above the LoA critical flood level. To ensure the Site remains safe and operational over its lifetime, solar PV modules and infrastructure proposed on site will be raised above the modelled 1 in 1,000 year flood depths plus a 100mm allowance for freeboard (see <b>ES Figure 2.6 Indicative Layouts and Cross Section Plans [Document Reference 6.4.2.6]</b>). This is considered suitable flood risk mitigation on site as is detailed in full in <b>ES Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment [Document Reference 6.3.10.1]</b>.</p> <p><b>ES Figure 2.6 Indicative Layouts and Cross Section Plans [Document Reference 6.4.2.6]</b> includes typical sections of the proposed inverter buildings, battery containers, customer switchgear containers and spares containers and details that all of these will be raised above the ground (minimum 100mm above the 1 in 1,000 year flood level) using small footings which are sat on 300mm of permeable gravel. The impact of the proposed inverter buildings, battery containers, customer switchgear containers and spares containers on floodplain storage will therefore be negligible and floodplain compensation is not considered necessary. Previous advice for the Environment Agency received on the 22 January 2025 (<b>included in ES Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment [Document Reference 6.3.10.1]</b>), agreed with this conclusion "providing there is no raising of ground levels and panels and structures can be raised to allow the free flow of floodwater across the floodplain". There is no ground level raising proposed on site.</p> <p>The proposed Outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy is included in the appended FRA (<b>ES Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment [Document Reference 6.3.10.1]</b>). The exact details of the surface water drainage strategy will be confirmed during detailed</p> |
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| <p>Flood risk: Appendix 10.1 – Flood Risk Assessment (FRA)</p> <p>Flood risk mitigation</p> <p>The FRA states solar panels and all associated infrastructure (including inverter buildings and battery, customer switchgear and spares containers) will be set 100mm above the predicted 0.1% annual exceedance probability (AEP) River Trent flood level. We are satisfied that this ensures the development will remain safe in the event of flooding from the River Trent and/or the River Torne, the two main rivers in this location.</p> <p>As noted in Section 5.23 of the submitted FRA, a residual flood risk affecting the site arises from the network of Internal Drainage Board drains linking into the wider river/drain system in the Isle of Axholme (IoA). There is a risk that in the event of a breakdown in the pumping network, the drain network in the IoA would begin to flood. This risk is accounted for by the Critical Flood Level (CFL) for the IoA, as set out in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessments of North Lincolnshire and City of Doncaster. North Lincolnshire SFRA (2021) outlines that the CFL is 3.8m above Ordnance Datum for the IoA and that critical equipment should be raised 0.3m above this.</p> <p>In our previous pre-application advice included in Appendix E of the FRA, we highlighted the following: <i>‘While we acknowledge that the depths resulting in the CFL being reached are a residual risk based on the uncertainty surrounding future funding to maintain the pumping regime that protects the Isle of Axholme area it is a risk nonetheless. While you have noted that the site would be “switched off” during such an event the applicant should be aware that in order for these depths to be reached it would happen over a prolonged period of time where pumping has been ceased and therefore this may render the entire site permanently unavailable. We recognise that this is considered unlikely however we do highlight this as a residual risk to applicants.’</i></p> | <p>Flood risk: Appendix 10.1 – Flood Risk Assessment (FRA)</p> <p>Flood risk mitigation</p> <p>The FRA states solar panels and all associated infrastructure (including inverter buildings and battery, customer switchgear and spares containers) will be set 100mm above the predicted 0.1% annual exceedance probability (AEP) River Trent flood level. We are satisfied that this ensures the development will remain safe in the event of flooding from the River Trent and/or the River Torne, the two main rivers in this location.</p> <p>As noted in Section 5.23 of the submitted FRA, a residual flood risk affecting the site arises from the network of Internal Drainage Board drains linking into the wider river/drain system in the Isle of Axholme (IoA). There is a risk that in the event of a breakdown in the pumping network, the drain network in the IoA would begin to flood. This risk is accounted for by the Critical Flood Level (CFL) for the IoA, as set out in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessments of North Lincolnshire and City of Doncaster. North Lincolnshire SFRA (2021) outlines that the CFL is 3.8m above Ordnance Datum for the IoA and that critical equipment should be raised 0.3m above this.</p> <p>In our previous pre-application advice included in Appendix E of the FRA, we highlighted the following: <i>‘While we acknowledge that the depths resulting in the CFL being reached are a residual risk based on the uncertainty surrounding future funding to maintain the pumping regime that protects the Isle of Axholme area it is a risk nonetheless. While you have noted that the site would be “switched off” during such an event the applicant should be aware that in order for these depths to be reached it would happen over a prolonged period of time where pumping has been ceased and therefore this may render the entire site permanently unavailable. We recognise that this is considered unlikely however we do highlight this as a residual risk to applicants.’</i></p> | <p>design stage, post-consent of the DCO application but it is not expected that containment of fire water is in the form of a bund, with the indicative strategy shown to utilise below ground crates to contain this water.</p> <p><b>ES Figure 2.6 Indicative Layouts and Cross Section Plans [Document Reference 6.4.2.6]</b> includes typical fence details which comprise post and wire. The provision of a 10mm aperture would be considered at detailed design stage post-consent of the DCO application.</p> <p>This ES chapter and the appended FRA (<b>ES Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment [Document Reference 6.3.10.1]</b>) include that latest national flood risk data, including National Flood Risk Assessment data released in January 2025 and the updated Flood Map for Planning released in March 2025. <b>Section 10.4</b> Baseline Conditions includes the latest flood data.</p> |

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|  | <p>The pumping regime and maintenance of defences require substantial ongoing investment from several Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) to ensure they remain operational. The funding of maintenance cannot be guaranteed in perpetuity. Whilst the total abandonment of all infrastructure is considered an extreme outcome, we advise that the FRA should consider the impacts of CFL being reached on the development.</p> <p>Strategic decisions may be needed regarding ongoing funding of certain pump stations and/or defences over the long term, which could result in increased risks in pockets of the IoA; however, at present we do not have hydraulic modelling which can simulate the impact of non-operational infrastructure across the many single pump stations and defences.</p> <p>Paragraph 5.8.7 of the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), states that new energy infrastructure should be designed and constructed to remain operational in times of flood. EN-1 also outlines that where the Sequential Test has been passed, the Exception Test must be satisfied and Paragraph 5.8.12 states: <i>Development should be designed to ensure there is no increase in flood risk elsewhere, accounting for the predicted impacts of climate change throughout the lifetime of the development. There should be no net loss of floodplain storage and any deflection or constriction of flood flow routes should be safely managed within the site. Mitigation measures should make as much use as possible of natural flood management techniques.</i></p> <p>The FRA does not propose to raise critical equipment above the CFL. In terms of meeting the requirement of the National Policy Statements in relation to the development remaining operational during times of flood it would be for the Inspector to determine whether this would be acceptable.</p> <p>The IoA is currently on the Environment Agency model programme to be re-modelled; this is currently scheduled for approximately 2030. We appreciate that this project is likely to be fully constructed and operational by this time and we would therefore like you to consider the possibility of including a DCO requirement to reassess the resilience of the project when this information is available. This type of managed adaptive approach to climate change is strongly advocated in the National Policy Statement for Energy EN-1. It should be noted that following the re-modelling exercise planned for the IoA in the future, we (EA, NLC and CDC) plan to consider establishing a more bespoke CFL for each area of the IoA, if possible.</p> <p>Loss of floodplain storage</p> |  |
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|  | <p>The proposal includes development in the defended floodplain of the River Trent and the undefended floodplain of the River Torne. As the River Torne is undefended, the impacts on the loss of floodplain must be considered. It is important that any development or ground raising within the River Torne floodplain is compensated for on a level for level and volume for volume basis, to prevent displacing flood water onto third party land and property and increasing flood risk elsewhere.</p> <p>Loss of floodplain should be calculated up to the 1% AEP central climate change allowance flood event. However, if there is any 'essential infrastructure' within the affected area, the 'higher central' climate change scenario should be used for assessing off-site impacts and calculating floodplain storage compensation. We expect consideration to be given to likely future land uses, including local plan allocations and unimplemented extant planning permissions.</p> <p>We previously advised that providing there is no raising of ground levels and structures can be raised to allow the free flow of floodwater, the development would be acceptable in Flood Zone 3b. Section 5.18 and 5.19 of the FRA considers the requirement for floodplain compensation, although only for Flood Zone 3b; however, floodplain compensation is also required for Flood Zone 3a.</p> <p>We are satisfied that the impact of the solar panel legs will have a negligible impact on floodplain storage and flood flows as they are small and dispersed. However, we consider that the 300mm gravel bases for the inverter buildings, battery containers, customer switchgear containers and spares containers will impact the flow of floodwater and therefore result in a loss of floodplain storage. This loss of floodplain storage must be fully compensated for. It may be necessary to consider locations off site to find suitable higher ground to lower for compensation, but it must be demonstrated that the land is hydraulically linked to the lost storage.</p> <p>We note that Section 7.4 of the FRA refers to the containment of potentially contaminated fire water for the proposed battery energy storage systems. If the containment system is in the form of a bund, it must be ensured that any loss of floodplain storage is compensated for.</p> <p>Please note that any fencing in the floodplain should be post and wire with a minimum 10mm aperture to allow the free flow of floodwater and minimise the collection of flood debris.</p> |
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|  | <p><b>Easement</b></p> <p>We welcome that a 9m easement is proposed around main rivers, from top of bank either side.</p> <p><b>Flood map for planning</b></p> <p>We note that the Flood Map for Planning in Appendix D of the FRA should be updated with the new Flood Map for Planning, published in March 2025, from the Environment Agency website. There have been some small changes to the Flood Zones.</p> <p><b>Hydraulic modelling</b></p> <p>Please note the following updates regarding Environment Agency hydraulic modelling in this area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- New flood zone data has been released on the online Flood Map for Planning as part of the NaFRA2 data project. At present, flood outlines are available, flood depths have not yet been released. The flood depths are due to be released later this year and both the outlines and depths are based on the EA Trent and Torne models which you have been using.</li><li>- A new River Torne model is due to be released soon following changes to Keadby pumping station.</li><li>- The 1 in 30 year flood outline from the River Trent model, Jacobs 2023 is currently being reviewed and may reduce in extent. This does not affect the 1 in 30 year outlines from the River Torne. This may result in an update to the 1 in 30 year outline on the online Flood Map for Planning.</li></ul> <p><b>Informatives</b></p> <p>Environment Permitting Regulations 2016</p> <p>We previously advised in our response to the Tween Bridge Solar Farm Scoping Report, that you should consider at an early stage whether you wish to disapply any of the relevant environmental legislation and we would like to reiterate this advice.</p> <p>The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 require a permit or exemption to be obtained for any activities which will take place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• on or within 8 metres of a main river (16 metres if tidal)</li></ul> |
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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• on or within 8 metres of a flood defence structure or culverted main river (16 metres if tidal)</li> <li>• on or within 16 metres of a sea defence</li> <li>• involving quarrying or excavation within 16 metres of any main river, flood defence (including a remote defence) or culvert</li> <li>• in the floodplain of a main river if the activity could affect flood flow or storage and potential impacts are not controlled by a planning permission</li> </ul> <p>For further guidance please visit <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-activities-environmental-permits">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-activities-environmental-permits</a> or contact our National Customer Contact Centre on 03708 506 506 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm) or by emailing <a href="mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk">enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk</a>.</p> <p>The applicant should not assume that a permit will automatically be forthcoming once planning permission has been granted, and we advise them to consult with us at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p>Battery energy storage systems (BESS)</p> <p>We welcome that a Battery Safety Management Plan will support the ES. Under normal operation BESS developments do not present significant risks to groundwater or surface water. However, there is potential for pollution of the water environment due to abnormal and emergency situations at BESS developments, in particular fires.</p> <p>Generally, the risks to groundwater and surface water from BESS development would be from pollution of surface water drainage from the site due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a battery container fire at a BESS site</li> <li>• accidents or spillages from battery containers at a BESS site</li> </ul> <p>There is a risk that highly polluting chemicals in batteries could enter groundwater or surface water in firewater or rainfall. We expect applicants to consider this risk and ensure mitigation is in place to ensure containment of this water. To appropriately manage the risks from pollution of groundwater and surface water, you will need to produce a conceptual site model and assess the likelihood of pollutants within the site coming into contact with nearby waterbodies, directly or indirectly, and the degree of risk posed by the particular pollutants in question.</p> <p>We expect suitable provisions to contain water in the event of a fire to be designed into the site. The capacity for such systems should be determined in</p> |  |
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|  | <p>liaison with the fire service.</p> <p>If the site drains to a surface watercourse we will check the application includes suitable provisions to assess and mitigate risks from surface water drainage in the event of a fire.</p> <p>It may also be important to consider the risk of failure of mitigation measures to manage identified risks. For example, the risk that a containment system to contain surface water in the event of a fire may fail because of the fire. The extent of the measures taken to assess and manage this risk may depend on the sensitivity of the groundwater or surface water bodies affected.</p> <p>The National Fire Chief's Council detailed guidance on recommended fire protection measures for BESS sites is available here: <a href="https://www.grid-scale-battery-energy-storage.org.uk/guidance-for-frs">Grid Scale Battery Energy Storage System planning – Guidance for FRS (nfcc.org.uk)</a></p> <p>Movement of waste off site – Duty of Care &amp; Carriers, Brokers and Dealers Regulations</p> <p>The Environmental Protection (Duty of Care) Regulations 1991 for dealing with waste materials are applicable to any off-site movements of wastes.</p> <p>The code of practice applies to you if you produce, carry, keep, dispose of, treat, import or have control of waste in England or Wales.</p> <p>The law requires anyone dealing with waste to keep it safe and make sure it's dealt with responsibly and only given to businesses authorised to take it. The code of practice can be found here: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/data/waste-duty-care-code-practice-2016.pdf">https://www.gov.uk/government/data/waste-duty-care-code-practice-2016.pdf</a></p> <p>If you need to register as a carrier of waste, please follow the instructions here: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/register-as-a-waste-carrier-broker-or-dealer-wales">https://www.gov.uk/register-as-a-waste-carrier-broker-or-dealer-wales</a></p> <p>Movement of waste off site – Duty of Care &amp; Carriers, Brokers and Dealers Regulations Characterisation and classification of waste</p> <p>In order to meet the applicant's objectives for the waste hierarchy and obligations under the duty of care, it is important that waste is properly classified. Some waste (e.g. wood and wood based products) may be either a hazardous or non-hazardous waste dependent upon whether or not they have</p> |
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|  | <p>had preservative treatments.</p> <p>Proper classification of the waste both ensures compliance and enables the correct onward handling and treatment to be applied. In the case of treated wood, it may require high temperature incineration in a directive compliant facility. More information on this can be found here: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/how-to-classify-different-types-of-waste">https://www.gov.uk/how-to-classify-different-types-of-waste</a></p> <p>Use of waste on site - authorisation or permit required</p> <p>If materials that are potentially waste are to be used on site, the applicant will need to ensure they can comply with the exclusion from the Waste Framework Directive (WFD) (article 2(1) (c)) for the use of, 'uncontaminated soil and other naturally occurring material excavated in the course of construction activities, etc...' in order for the material not to be considered as waste. Meeting these criteria will mean waste permitting requirements do not apply.</p> <p>Where the applicant cannot meet the criteria, they will be required to obtain the appropriate waste permit or exemption from us.</p> <p>A deposit of waste to land will either be a disposal or a recovery activity. The legal test for recovery is set out in Article 3(15) of WFD as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• any operation the principal result of which is waste serving a useful purpose by replacing other materials which would otherwise have been used to fulfil a particular function, or waste being prepared to fulfil that function, in the plant or in the wider economy.</li> <li>• We have produced guidance on the recovery test which can be viewed at <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/deposit-for-recovery-operators-environmental-permits/waste-recovery-plans-and-deposit-for-recovery-permits#how-to-apply-for-an-environmental-permit-to-permanently-deposit-waste-on-land-as-a-recovery-activity">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/deposit-for-recovery-operators-environmental-permits/waste-recovery-plans-and-deposit-for-recovery-permits#how-to-apply-for-an-environmental-permit-to-permanently-deposit-waste-on-land-as-a-recovery-activity</a>.</li> </ul> <p>You can find more information on the Waste Framework Directive here: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-permitting-guidance-the-waste-framework-directive">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-permitting-guidance-the-waste-framework-directive</a></p> <p>More information on the definition of waste can be found here: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/legal-definition-of-waste-guidance">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/legal-definition-of-waste-guidance</a></p> <p>More information on the use of waste in exempt activities can be found here: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/waste-exemptions-using-waste">https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/waste-exemptions-using-waste</a></p> |
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|  | <p>Non-waste activities are not regulated by us (i.e. activities carried out under the CL:ARE Code of Practice), however you will need to decide if materials meet End of Waste or By-products criteria (as defined by the Waste Framework Directive). The 'Is it waste' tool, allows you to make an assessment and can be found here: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/is-it-waste-tool-for-advice-on-the-by-products-and-end-of-waste-tests">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/is-it-waste-tool-for-advice-on-the-by-products-and-end-of-waste-tests</a></p> <p>Storage of materials/chemicals/oil likely to cause pollution</p> <p>Materials and chemicals likely to cause pollution should be stored in appropriate containers and adhere to guidance for the storage of drums and intermediate bulk containers.</p> <p>Any facilities, above ground, for the storage of oils, fuels or chemicals shall be sited on impervious bases and surrounded by impervious bund walls. The volume of the bunded compound should be at least equivalent to the capacity of the tank plus 10%. All filling points, vents, gauges and sight glasses must be located within the bund. The drainage system of the bund shall be sealed with no discharge to any watercourse, land or underground strata. Associated pipework should be located above ground and protected from accidental damage. All filling points and tank overflow pipe outlets should be detailed to discharge downwards into the bund.</p> <p>Appropriate procedures, training and equipment should be provided for the site to adequately control and respond to any emergencies including the cleanup of spillages, to prevent environmental pollution from the site operations.</p> <p>We advise that polluting materials and chemicals are stored in an area with sealed drainage.</p> <p>Please contact our National Customer Call Centre (Tel: 03708 506 506) for further information and guidance.</p> <p>Additional information and guidance is available at:</p> <p>Oil storage regulations for businesses End 10</p> <p>Ciria: Containment systems for the prevention of pollution</p> <p>Should you require any additional information, or wish to discuss these matters</p> |  |
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|                              | further, please do not hesitate to contact me on the number below.<br><br>Yours sincerely                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Confidential response</b> | The Applicant is in receipt of a confidential representation. The third party has requested that the representation remains confidential.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | The Applicant is in receipt of a confidential representation. The third party has requested that the representation remains confidential. |
| <b>Network Rail</b>          | <p>Network Rail is a statutory undertaker responsible for maintaining and operating the railway infrastructure as well as both its associated assets and estates. Network Rail owns, operates, maintains, and develops the main rail network. Since Network Rail aims to protect and enhance the railway infrastructure, any proposed development from a third-party developer to be built either near the railway line or which could potentially affect our specific assets and/or land interests, will need to be carefully considered.</p> <p><u>Impact on Infrastructure</u></p> <p>Since your proposal would involve interaction with Network Rail's operational railway, it is strongly advised that you take all potential areas of concern to Network Rail into account, in their documentation for consideration at planning. Therefore, it is imperative that Network Rail's Asset Protection team in the eastern region be consulted directly by you, to ensure that all risks to our railway infrastructure are safely managed from all construction-related activities associated with your proposed development.</p> <p><u>Investigation and Mitigation</u></p> <p>Network Rail would have an interest in understanding the full impact of your proposed development on all our infrastructure in the vicinity. This further understanding should identify improvements and/or mitigations required to facilitate your proposed development. As such, these will need to be funded by you to ensure the safe and efficient running of our operational railway.</p> <p>A Basic Asset Protection Agreement or a Structures Agreement with Network Rail may be required before you can proceed with any design or construction work alongside, above or below Network Rail's Infrastructure. Therefore, we request that you engage with Network Rail's Asset Protection Eastern team (<a href="mailto:AssetProtectionEastern@networkrail.co.uk">AssetProtectionEastern@networkrail.co.uk</a>).</p> <p>Network Rail have their own standard protective provisions for third-party development that could potentially have an impact on Network Rail's operational railways, land and/or assets, and these must be included on the face of the DCO, as a minimum. To request a copy of our protective provisions and discuss any other agreements that will need to be entered with Network Rail, it is recommended that you contact both [REDACTED] through each of their respective email addresses: [REDACTED] <a href="mailto:@networkrail.co.uk">@networkrail.co.uk</a> and [REDACTED] <a href="mailto:@networkrail.co.uk">@networkrail.co.uk</a></p> <p>Several legal and commercial agreements might also need to be entered, for example, method statements, connection agreements, property agreements as</p> |                                                                                                                                           |

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|  | <p>well as any other relevant legal and commercial agreements that are deemed necessary. Please note that this list is not exhaustive and will need to be reviewed after further details of the scheme are discussed between both parties. In addition, any easements required by you are required to go through Network Rail's business and technical clearance processes, as well as all other relevant rail industry processes.</p> <p>Please note that Network Rail reserves the right to change its position in relation to any further information received about your proposed DCO and/or its impacts on Network Rail's operational railways, land and/or assets.</p> <p>On another note, you should be made aware of the likely possibility that you may be responsible for all charges and/or costs associated with Network Rail in relation to their proposed DCO.</p> <p>Thank you again for providing Network Rail with the opportunity to comment on this Section 42 Consultation. I trust that the above comments have been made clear, however, if you do require any further information or have any other queries, then please do not hesitate to contact me.</p> |  |
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#### s42(1)(b) Local Authority Feedback

| Organisation/Individual                       | Comments provided                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Applicant's response (if needed) |
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| <b>s43 A</b>                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                  |
| <b>West Lindsey District Council</b>          | No response.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                  |
| <b>Selby District Council</b>                 | No response.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                  |
| <b>Bassetlaw District Council</b>             | No response.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                  |
| <b>Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council</b> | I can confirm that due to the distance from Rotherham Borough, Rotherham Council have no comments to make on the proposed pre application consultation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Applicant notes the response.    |
| <b>Wakefield Council</b>                      | I trust that the above explains matters.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                  |
| <b>Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council</b>  | No response.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                  |
| <b>East Riding of Yorkshire Council</b>       | Thank you for consulting the East Riding of Yorkshire Council on the above. I can confirm that East Riding of Yorkshire Council do not have any comments to make. The Order Limits fall outside our administrative boundary.                                                                                                                                                                                            | Applicant notes the response.    |
| <b>s43 B</b>                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                  |
| <b>North Lincolnshire Council</b>             | I have taken the opportunity to review the Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) and the technical appendices submitted to the authority. Technical consultees within the Council have raised matters which will hopefully advise the final production of the Environmental Statement and support you in making a robust submission to the Planning Inspectorate. I have appended these consultation responses |                                  |

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|  | <p>for your information. At the examination stage North Lincolnshire Council will produce a Local Impact Report and as such we do reserve the right to raise additional comments/concerns at a later stage following consideration of the final application documents. At this stage of pre-application consultation I would like to make the following observations:</p> <p><b>Highways:</b> The main impact on the highway network will be during the construction phase as vehicle movements during the operational phase will be minimal. A draft outline construction phase traffic management has been submitted, and it is noted that this will be updated as the project progresses and in response to consultation. This should also include travel to site for construction workers. Some of the proposed access routes are narrow and without any obvious passing places, this needs to be considered in further detail and mitigation measures proposed. Initial thoughts on the proposed access routes are set out within the appendix.</p> | <p>The construction access route to Land Parcel B (see <b>ES Figure 1.2 Land Parcel Plan [Document Reference 6.4.1.2]</b>) has been discussed with NLC highway officers, with the route now proposed at <b>Section 12.5 of ES Chapter 12 Transport and Access [Document Reference 6.2.12]</b> as recommended by the officer. This will be secured by requirement via the <b>Outline CTMP [Document Reference 7.7]</b>.</p> <p><b>Movements through Crowle to Land Parcel B</b> would be strictly managed and would be timed to avoid the peak hours on the highway network and the busiest times of the school day. <b>This is set out in detail in the Outline CTMP [Document Reference 7.7],</b></p> |
|  | <p><b>Public Right of Way:</b> The 2023 Scoping Report comments still apply and it is important to note that Crowle BOAT21 has a statutory width of 20.1 metres (derived from the Crowle enclosure award and upheld on appeals by PINS)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|  | <p><b>LLFA Drainage Team:</b> The proposed solar farm and associated infrastructure are located to the west and south of Crowle, within the Isle of Axholme Critical Flood Level (CFL) zone. The site also falls within Flood Zones 3a and 3b, and as such, appropriate flood risk mitigation measures are essential.</p> <p>The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (Appendix 10.1 – FRA) suggests raising development above the 1 in 1000-year flood level with a 100mm freeboard. However, given the site's location in the CFL zone which is set at 3.8m AOD with a recommended 300mm freeboard (total 4.1m AOD). The LLFA expects developments to be protected to this level. This level reflects a worst-case scenario where prolonged flooding may occur due to pump failures, leading to semi-permanent or permanent inundation. The FRA indicates that raising the solar panels to meet the CFL is unfeasible due to site topography. However, the</p>                                                                                 | <p>Raising infrastructure within the Order Limits to a level of 4.1mAOD (the CFL inclusive of 300mm of freeboard) would comprise raising of over 4m above ground level at the lowest point of the infrastructure, with parts of the Order Limits situated below OmAOD in elevation. This would take solar PV modules for example notably above the maximum of 3.6mAOD at the top edge as defined in <b>ES Figure 2.6 Indicative Layouts and Cross</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

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|  | <p>LLFA would like to see evidence of why this is not achievable as it could enhance both energy due to increased exposure to the sun and allow the ground to recharge at a better rate due to the distance between panels and the ground as well as protect from potential flood events.</p> <p>Developments in Flood Zone 3b must not alter ground levels in a way that reduces flood storage. Battery storage infrastructure should be elevated, and structures designed to allow water to pass freely underneath and preferably be located outside of areas of low topography which would potentially be deemed Flood Zone 3b.</p> <p>The LLFA supports the use of above-ground attenuation features such as swales and basins, which not only assist in managing runoff but also offer biodiversity benefits and align with SuDS best practice. All drainage designs must be site - specific, with hydraulic modelling to reflect changes in impermeable areas and ensure greenfield runoff rates are achieved. The design should avoid extensive underground systems and instead favour open, maintainable features.</p> <p>Construction activities pose a risk of disrupting surface water flows and introducing organic material and sediment into watercourses. Regular inspections should be carried out on affected watercourses. Any use of culverts or bridges will require agreement with the IDB, who prefer bridges. The LLFA supports this and emphasises that all bridges must be structurally assessed during and after construction to ensure they are not compromised by heavy vehicle use.</p> <p>The drainage strategy must also account for the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and include provisions for containing contaminated fire water, in line with Fire Service guidance. The required containment volume should be determined in consultation with the Fire Service and justified within the final application to ensure compliance with flood and environmental protection standards.</p> <p>Flood Risk Activity Permits may be required for any directional drilling beneath main rivers or watercourses.</p> <p>Fencing that crosses watercourses must be maintained to avoid debris build-up, which can obstruct flow. A maintenance plan should be established to ensure regular inspections.</p> | <p><b>Section Plans [Document Reference 6.4.2.6].</b> Raising infrastructure above the CFL would have significant structural and visual impact implications. The significant raising already proposed is considered appropriately conservative.</p> <p>Ground levels in Flood Zone 3b are not proposed to be altered. <b>ES Figure 2.6 Indicative Layouts and Cross Section Plans [Document Reference 6.4.2.6]</b> includes typical sections of the proposed inverter buildings, battery containers, customer switchgear containers and spares containers and details that all of these will be raised above the ground (minimum 100mm above the 1 in 1,000 year flood level) using small footings which are sat on 300mm of permeable gravel. The impact of the proposed inverter buildings, battery containers, customer switchgear containers and spares containers on floodplain storage will therefore be negligible, with water able to pass freely underneath.</p> <p>In accordance with standard practice, an Outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy has been provided at this stage. A fully detailed drainage design will be prepared prior to construction. The proposed Outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy is included in the appended <b>FRA (ES Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment [Document Reference 6.3.10.1]).</b> Full details of the proposed drainage will be confirmed during detailed design post-consent of the DCO application. During this stage, an assessment on the suitability of above ground SuDS will be carried out when full details of the proposals are available. More detailed network calculations would also be prepared during detailed design.</p> |
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|  | <p>The <b>Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [Document Reference 7.1]</b> has been prepared as a stand alone document to assess the impact of construction activities.</p> <p>Construction details of proposed access crossing will be confirmed at detailed design stage post consent of the DCO application, ensuring the design does not impact current flow patterns.</p> <p>The proposed Outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy is included in the <b>appended FRA (ES Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment [Document Reference 6.3.10.1])</b> includes provisions for containing contaminated fire water. The containment volume is in accordance with the National Fire Chiefs Council Guidance on Grid Scale Battery Energy Storage System <b>[Ref. 10 - 1]</b>.</p> <p><b>An Outline Battery Safety Management Plan [Document Reference 7.4]</b> is included as a standalone document as part of the DCO application and details both the provision of fire water supply and containment. Flood Risk Activity Permits are to be disapproved, with protective measures included in the <b>draft DCO [Document Reference 3.1]</b>.</p> <p>An Operation and Maintenance Manual has been prepared and is included within the <b>appended FRA (ES Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment [Document Reference 6.3.10.1])</b>. The manual includes management of fencing across watercourses.</p> |
|  | <p><b>Conservation:</b> The expanded order limit area now includes a significant part of the designed landscape to Hirst Priory, a grade II listed building and also now encircles Mossword Manor which includes a grade II listed farmhouse. The two buildings are believed to be linked by historic ownership under the Stovin family. It may be that the fields around the farmhouse were all under similar ownership therefore the extended field system around here would be a direct part of the setting of the farmhouse. Further investigation of this area would enable informed decisions about the use of the land in this area. It is noted that this isn't included in the heritage statement, it appears that this would be done by National grid whenever they apply for the</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|  | <p>Hirst Priory is no longer within the Order Limits.</p> <p>The assessment of potential setting issues has been extended to consider Land Parcel F.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |



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|  | <p>substation, but this could change as the application develops so an assessment to understand the significance of these assets and their significance is required now.</p> <p>There are other listed structures forming a part of the expanded area, mostly the listed bridges and syphons which are more diminutive to the houses but are still an important part of the development of the landscape here and should also be considered during assessment.</p> <p>The other notable change is the addition of the parcel of land immediately south of Dirtiness Pumping Station and the listed cottage. These have been assessed within the Heritage Statement. My understanding is the purpose of the pumping stations was to help control the drainage and water level of the surrounding agricultural landscape here therefore the pumping station is a part of that landscape the same as farmhouses, agricultural buildings etc. If this is the case then NLC do not agree with Pegasus' assessment that the setting of the building is limited only to the waterway (p52 of Appendix 8.1) and therefore the addition of solar panels in that location would have no impact on the setting or views of the pumping station.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p>Comments regarding the Pumping Station have been considered and addressed in this Chapter and in <b>Appendix 8.1 Heritage Baseline Assessment [Document Reference 6.3.8.1]</b></p> <p>The various bridges and syphons within the study area have been considered during the preparation of the setting assessment within <b>Appendix 8.1 Heritage Baseline Assessment [Document Reference 6.3.8.1]</b>. None of these assets have been identified as being adversely affected by the Scheme.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|  | <p><b>Historic Environmental Record:</b> A substantial increase in the size of the development consent order within North Lincolnshire has been noted from the previous consultation. No additional data has been sought from the HER in response to the substantial change in order limits – which includes archaeological features contained within the new draft order limits. This had led to a flawed assessment of the archaeological resource of the site which requires redressing within the Heritage Baseline. Similarly, no amendment to the assessment of setting for designated and non-designated heritage assets has taken place with respect to the amended boundary.</p> <p>In addition to covering the potential effects to archaeology and built heritage, impacts on the historic landscape character of the Isle of Axholme should be assessed particularly as draft order limits now extend into the LC14 Area of Special Historic Landscape Interest.</p> <p>Recommendations for fieldwalking as part of pre-application fieldwork have not been undertaken whilst geophysical survey and geoarchaeological fieldwork have been completed to the smaller previous order limits. A very limited scheme of targeted archaeological trenching in three areas (one of which has been removed from the latest order limits) has been undertaken. It is considered that there has been insufficient investigation up until this stage to identify features with the potential to be impacted by proposals in accordance with local and national planning policy. Further desk-based work and archaeological fieldwork should be undertaken and submitted with the revised ES along with the previously recommended Heritage and Archaeological Mitigation Strategy.</p> | <p>LC14 – Isle of Axholme considered in revised assessment at paragraphs 5.42- 5.57 in <b>Appendix 8.1 Heritage Baseline Assessment [Document Reference 6.3.8.1]</b></p> <p>The reasoning behind the lack of fieldwalking (very limited ploughing within the Order Limits) has been explained several times to the officer – fieldwalking is proposed pre-commencement as detailed in <b>Appendix 8.6 Outline Archaeological Mitigation Strategy [Document 6.3.8.6]</b></p> <p>The export cable search area that was presented within the PEIR has been removed from the DCO application submission.</p> <p>The geophysical survey report is now completed and accompanies ES chapter 8 Cultural Heritage, as <b>Appendix 8.2 Geophysical Survey Report [Document Reference 6.3.8.2]</b></p> |



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|  | <p>The assessment at <b>Appendix 8.3 Geoarchaeological Assessment [Document Reference 6.3.8.3]</b> is based on an earlier iteration of the draft order limits.</p> <p>Further geoarchaeological works will be discussed with the Officer moving forwards and will be considered in line with <b>Appendix 8.6 Outline Archaeological Mitigation Strategy [Document Reference 6.3.8.6]</b></p> <p>None of the targeted trial trenching lies in areas that have been removed from the final Order Limits.</p> <p>The targeted trenching was deliberately limited in scope to focus on three areas of high potential to ensure these could be considered appropriately during the Scheme design.</p> <p>The targeted trial trenching report is now completed and accompanies this chapter as <b>Appendix 8.4 Trial Trenching Report [Document Reference 6.3.8.4]</b></p> |  |
|  | <p><b>Landscape:</b> A landscape consultant has been contracted to provide comments on the Tween Bridge Solar Farm consultations from North Lincolnshire Council's perspective. Initial comments with regards to landscape will follow separately and it is anticipated that this will precede more detailed discussions with the Applicant team to facilitate a robust Environmental Statement in this regard.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |

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|  | <p><b>Ecology:</b> Combining the landscape mitigation with ecological measures would be beneficial to ensure suitability (particularly with the Isle of Axholme setting) and connectivity across the site landscape and the wider area.</p> <p>The Stage 1 Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report will be submitted alongside the ES. The internationally designated sites and associated qualifying features considered to be screened in for further assessment based on Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA – breeding nightjar.</li> <li>• Thorne and Hatfield Moors SAC – 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration.</li> <li>• Humber Estuary SPA – hen harrier (wintering), golden plover (wintering), marsh harrier (breeding), dark-bellied brent goose (non-breeding), pink-footed goose (non-breeding), wigeon (non-breeding), teal (non-breeding), mallard (non-breeding), pocharard (non-breeding), scaup (non-breeding), goldeneye (non-breeding), oystercatcher (non-breeding), ringed plover (non-breeding), whimbrel (non-breeding) and curlew (non-breeding).</li> <li>• Humber Estuary Ramsar – waterfowl assemblage in non-breeding season, golden plover (passage), golden plover (wintering) and the migration route for river lamprey and sea lamprey.</li> </ul> <p>The outline Ecological Construction Management Plan (eCMP) and outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) provided for assessment indicate mitigation will occur during the construction phase as well as initial habitat interventions and subsequent long-term management of habitats. We welcome the mitigation measures and features, as appropriate for the setting, as well as the continued monitoring of the sites with remedial measures considered.</p> <p>Although not mandatory for NSIPs, Biodiversity Net Gain will be calculated and delivered across the site. While the proposals should seek to enhance, increase and connect the habitats present, as well as those created, care should be taken to ensure the provisions are appropriate for the local landscape and do not degrade the Isle of Axholme setting.</p> <p>It is noted that the proposed order limits have changed with further intrusion proposed into the Isle of Axholme Area of Special Historic Landscape Interest. The proposal raises concerns with regards to the potential landscape impact in this area</p> <p>which needs to be taken into account in future submissions. Further advice on this issue is provided in the response from the Councils Historic Environment Officer and will be further addressed by the independent landscape consultant.</p> <p>There is also the issue of the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land, which will need to be robustly considered and weighed in the planning balance against the benefits of the proposal.</p> | <p>Detail provided within the <b>Outline eCMP [Document Reference 7.5]</b>, <b>Outline LEMP [Document Reference 7.6]</b>, <b>ES Appendix 7.12 Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment [Document Reference 6.3.7.12]</b> and <b>Report to Inform Habitats Regulations Assessment [Document Reference 5.3]</b></p> |
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|                                  | <p>Finally, this statutory consultation has raised significant interest within the relevant local communities and with local elected members. I have been informed that a response to the consultation on behalf of elected members is being drafted and that this will be forwarded to you under separate cover.</p> <p>I trust that this response has provided the necessary clarification. Do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss this matter further.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>City of Doncaster Council</b> | <p>Thank you for formal notice of the Applicant's statutory consultation on the above Scheme. City of Doncaster Council (CDC) understands that the statutory consultation period will run until 08May 2025. We fully recognise the importance of responding to consultation at this stage, as an opportunity to guide and influence the proposals prior to any application to the Secretary of State for a Development Consent Order and as such we welcome the opportunity to respond to the statutory consultation.</p> <p>This response is reflective of the level of detail provided at this consultation stage and does not comprise a full detailed assessment of the local impacts of the proposed solar farm. Should the DCO application be accepted for Examination, CDC will submit a Local Impact Report(LIR) when invited to do so, which will provide a detailed assessment of the local impacts of the scheme.</p> <p>Equally, CDC reserve the right to submit more detailed responses to the proposals at the appropriate stage of the DCO process as and when more details of the scheme and its impacts become available. This is particularly pertinent as this is the first time CDC has had the opportunity to study much of the detailed information now contained within the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (the PEIR), and in many instances, detailed assessment on technical matters has yet to take place.</p> | <p>The Applicant has engaged with the Council at the non-statutory consultation (October-November 2023) and again during the statutory consultation (March-May 2025).</p> <p>Prior to non-stat consultation we did first meet with the host authorities in 2022.</p> <p>The Applicant has acknowledged the Council's request to illustrate the two host authority's administrative boundary on a map. This has been adopted on ES Chapter 11 Landscape &amp; Visual Figure 11.1 <b>[Document Reference6.4.11.1]</b>. However, it is not shown on every plan accompanying the application to avoid too much information being</p> |

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|  | <p>The land required for the Project (the 'Project Site') is located approximately 10km to the northeast of Doncaster and 14km to the west of Scunthorpe within the administrative boundaries of City of Doncaster Council and North Lincolnshire Council. The site area is approximately 252hectares. In this respect, CDC would request that wherever possible to do so, going forward plans and drawings clearly demark the boundary between the two administrative host authorities for ease of reference for all parties involved in the process.</p> <p>It should be highlighted that the Council's opinion could change should additional receptors and potential impacts be identified as the project is further refined.</p> <p>Overall, CDC acknowledges the need to increase renewable energy generation and in 2019declared a climate and biodiversity emergency. Policy 58 of the Doncaster Local Plan (2021)sets out the strategy for supporting the development of (inter alia) solar farms. Notwithstanding this, CDC would like to record that in general terms it remains concerned at the number of proposals coming forward incrementally for solar farms of varying scales across its administrative area, particularly in areas that are intrinsically rural and less well connected in terms of supporting infrastructure.</p> <p>In the meantime, CDC wishes to highlight the following key comments in detail below:</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <p>illustrated on plans and detracting from the purpose of each document.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|  | <p><b>Landscape and Visual Amenity</b> (PEIR Chapter 6)</p> <p>The Applicant is aware that it is CDC's intention to procure independent advice on landscape and visual matters. As the LVIA and EIA are progressed, CDC would welcome the opportunity to agree the methodology and assessment in accordance with GLIVA 3 to ensure a robust exercise takes place and to ensure appropriate mitigation can be embedded throughout the design.</p> <p>Given the lack of substantive engagement on such matters prior to the statutory consultation taking place, no such discussions have taken place to date and CDC considers that these will be crucial to the success of the project.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the above, it is noted that there does not appear to have been any assessment undertaken from within Thorne Moors (Humberhead Peatlands National Nature Reserve) which is Access Land, as defined by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. The public has a right of access on foot to areas mapped as 'open access land', for walking, sightseeing, birdwatching, climbing and running. Given a substantial area borders part of the solar farm site, CDC would expect assessments to have been carried out in the same way as for public rights of way. CDC would suggest that this is a fundamental flaw of the assessments undertaken to date and would welcome the opportunity to work with the Applicant with a view to correcting this.</p> <p>CDC would also advise that Paragraph 6.1130. of Chapter 6 which states...<i>terminates to the east with no further connections</i>, is not correct. A permissive path links the end footpath No.15 with Thorne Moors/Open</p> | <p>The Applicant acknowledged the Council's position regarding landscape expertise. The Applicant has prepared the application in accordance with the relevant landscape assessment requirements as set out in ES Chapter 6 (Landscape and Visual)<br/> <b>[Document Reference 6.2.6].</b></p> <p>The Applicant has volunteered to pay a fee for CDC and North Lincolnshire Council to obtain external resource to review the landscape methodology and proposals. This has not been achieved at the point of submission. However, the Applicant remains supportive and in communication the host authorities about securing this resource.</p> <p>The <b>ES Figure 6.3 Screened Zone of Theoretical Visibility with Viewpoints and Photomontage Locations [Document Reference 6.4.6.3]</b>, illustrates that there is limited visibility from the Access Land due to extensive woodland vegetation and</p> |

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|  | <p>Access Land. The path has been provided by Natural England over land in their ownership, providing a through route to the Moors.</p> <p>The plans show public footpath No.19 Thorne going through the middle of part of the site and it appears that it will be developed and used for site access. The footpath has a legally recorded width of 30 feet along its entire length. This needs to be considered and reflected in the plans.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p>therefore both areas are not considered further in this assessment.</p> <p>This has been added to the assessment.</p> <p>The width of public footpath No.19 has been reflected in the plans.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|  | <p><b>Ecology &amp; Nature Conservation</b> (PEIR Chapter 7)</p> <p>CDC would request that as the EIA progresses in respect of ecology, further specific discussions can be had to agree these matters wherever possible to do so. CDC has already provided some commentary in this respect, as set out in Table 7.1 of the PEIR, and this advice needs to be taken forward especially given the proximity to the designated sites of Thorne &amp; Hatfield Moors Special Protection Area (SPA) and Thorne Moor Special Area of Conservation (SAC).</p> <p>It is appreciated that there will be a net gain in biodiversity terms notwithstanding this is not a mandatory requirement for NSIPs. CDC welcomes that the Applicant is intending to meet a minimum of 10% BNG in this case, but the development represents an important opportunity to maximise BNG, and the Applicant should consider how this can be exceeded wherever possible.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                | <p>A Report to Inform Habitats Regulations Assessment <b>[Document Reference 7.10]</b> is provided with the application in order to provide specific information in regard to internationally designated sites and their qualifying interests including the Humber Estuary SPA, SAC and Ramsar, Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA, Hatfield Moors SAC and Thorne Moor SAC.</p> <p>The ES is supported by <b>Technical Appendix 7.12 Biodiversity Net Gain [Document Reference 6.3.7.12]</b> which concludes net gain significantly above 10%.</p>                                                                              |
|  | <p><b>Cultural Heritage &amp; Archaeology</b> (PEIR Chapter 8)</p> <p>In terms of built heritage, CDC notes that there are no designated heritage assets located within the Site Boundary. Notwithstanding this, CDC would have expected to have been involved in some engagement prior to the statutory consultation commencing. This lack of engagement is evidenced by Table 8.1 of Chapter 8.</p> <p>For example, whilst CDC acknowledges that the Order limits would be separated from Thorne Conservation Area to the west, there is no explanation provided as to why the Applicant considers the setting of the Conservation Area would be suitably preserved. CDC would have expected an acknowledgement of this within the assessment at least.</p> <p>Moving on to below-ground heritage, CDC have sought the advice of South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS). SYAS provide a technical archaeological service to each of the South Yorkshire authorities, Barnsley, Sheffield, Rotherham, and Doncaster via a Service Level Agreement between the four local authorities. The advice received to date is set out as follows.</p> | <p>The Applicant has engaged directly with the Historic Environmental Officer, South Yorkshire Archaeology Team, and the Historic Environmental Officer, North Lincolnshire Council, since March 2023. A summary of the engagement is provided at <b>Table 8-1 of ES Chapter 8 [Document Reference 6.2.8]</b>.</p> <p>The Applicant acknowledges that not all final information was ready for the statutory consultation. However, the appropriate assessments have now been complete and support the ES Chapter 8 <b>[Document Reference 6.2.8] and Technical Appendices [Document References 6.3.8.1 – 6.3.8.6]</b>.</p> |



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|  | <p>Cultural heritage and archaeology is considered in Chapter 8 of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and is supported by technical appendices consisting of a Heritage Technical Baseline (Appendix 8.1), a geophysical survey (Appendix 8.2) and a Geoarchaeological and Palaeoenvironmental Desk-based Assessment (Appendix 8.3). Appendix 8.4 Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching reports only results from North Lincolnshire as no intrusive investigations have yet taken place within the South Yorkshire part of the scheme.</p> <p>The Heritage Technical Baseline report is essentially an archaeological desk-based assessment which aims to review the known heritage resource, identify extant heritage assets and assess the potential for buried archaeological remains within the scheme. As such, it contains a gazetteer of archaeological monuments and events recorded on each authorities Historic Environment Record. The gazetteer contains approximately 58 pages of entries for North Lincolnshire and 3.5 pages for South Yorkshire despite the area being roughly equal and the similarity of the landscapes. A discussion of this imbalance in the evidence base (arising from modern political boundaries rather than being a reflection of past activity) needs to be included within the baseline to prevent a false impression of the archaeological potential being created. Some of the additional sources that SYAS advised should be consulted have been included (Humber Wetlands Project) although these consultations (phone call/ email/ face-to-face discussion) have not been recorded on the 'Summary of Consultation (PEIR Ch8: Table 8.1).</p> <p>The Heritage Technical Baseline report concludes that the "adverse effect of construction upon the archaeological resource is likely to require a programme of mitigation" (PEIR Technical Appendix 8.1: para 7.11). However, prior to this in order to understand the significance of the archaeological resource within the order limits and the potential impacts of the scheme upon it, a programme of intrusive evaluation will be required.</p> <p>A geophysical survey has been completed across much of the area. This is being updated to reflect changes to the draft order limits and will need reviewing once completed. Anomalies of probable or possible archaeological origin, although limited in number, were identified and will require further evaluation to establish their significance. Factors noted contributing to this scarcity were the nature of the former wetland environment, before widespread drainage in the 17th century, being unsuitable for settlement and agriculture and the local geology masking deeper or more ephemeral archaeological features. A third factor is the character of many of the known archaeological sites recorded in the Heritage Technical Baseline report i.e. flint scatters, not being amenable to recording by geophysical survey. Different evaluation techniques, such as fieldwalking and shovel testing, will be required to assess the extent of such archaeological interest.</p> <p>The Geoarchaeological and Palaeoenvironmental Desk-based Assessment examines the sub-surface stratigraphy to build a more detailed understanding of the former landscapes and environmental changes over time. It notes that there is a considerable literature on the geomorphological and palaeoenvironmental history and archaeology of the Humber Wetlands although the valley of the old River Don in particular has</p> | <p>Further consideration of Thorne Conservation Area provided in baseline assessment. CDC conservation officer engaged with regarding scope and methodology for built heritage surveys during ES scoping phase and also with regard to proposed heritage specific viewpoints.</p> <p>The archaeological methodology has been identified as a <b>Potential Main Issue for Examination [Document Reference 5.9]</b>.</p> |
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|  | <p>not been the focus of much research. The report identified four main character areas, the lake floor, former river channels, low-lying floodplain and the wetland/ dryland boundary zone illustrating the development of the landscape since the end of the last ice age. Rising sea levels led to deposit accumulation across the area and the formation of the wetland landscape discouraging widespread settlement from the later prehistoric period through to the extensive drainage works of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The character of the archaeological resource within the site is therefore likely to be represented by flint scatters of Mesolithic, Neolithic &amp; Bronze Age date (c.10,000-1,000 years ago), features dating to the 17th century or later and palaeoenvironmental evidence largely within former river channels or deposits of peat. Research in other areas of the Humber wetlands suggests that river channels were attractive locations for Mesolithic hunter-gatherers. Archaeological potential is characterised as low due to the deposits likely to contain archaeological evidence being deeply buried but impacts can't be ruled out on the basis of current information. It is not known how deep the deposits are and there is little information on the depth of any piles required. In addition, the nature of the archaeological material makes it susceptible to even minor damage.</p> <p>Based on these reports, it is now possible to begin to recognise the archaeological resource within the order limits and discuss appropriate techniques to evaluate it. Flint scatters are representative of important prehistoric activity such as transitory occupation or hunting camps. Known sites, areas of raised sandy ridges and former river channels should be targeted by a programme of shovel testing. The latter targets should also be assessed for palaeoenvironmental potential.</p> <p>Regarding the assessment methodology outlined in Chapter 8, I am unclear on some aspects. Some of the levels of effect described in Table 8.3 seem similar and it is not clear which effect would be applied in any given circumstance. Likewise, the description of 'Moderate Harm' where "a notable level of harm to the significance of a non-designated heritage asset" is "Not deemed to be significant effects in EIA terms" is worrying and requires clarification.</p> <p>As we are still at a relatively early stage in understanding the archaeological resource and the implications of the proposals upon it, the significance of any archaeological remains has yet to be determined and no mitigation proposals have been agreed. Given this, it is not possible to say that there will be no direct effects from the operational or decommissioning phases of the project and these should not be scoped out of discussion (PEIR Ch8: paras 8.6.65 &amp; 8.6.72).</p> <p>For example, during the operational phase ground disturbance could occur through panel or cable replacement and vehicle rutting. The removal of piles, cables and other infrastructure during decommissioning would also cause ground disturbance.</p> <p>Furthermore, a programme of geophysical survey has been completed and consultation with South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS) is ongoing with regards to further stages of evaluation surveys. It is understood that the full results of these reports (desk-based assessment, geophysical survey and any</p> |
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|  | <p>further evaluation surveys) were not available at time of writing the PEIR but will accompany the DCO Application by being presented in the ES.</p> <p>CDC therefore reserves its position in respect of these matters in the event that further results are forthcoming but in the meantime welcomes the fact that SYAS continue to be engaged in an ongoing workstream in respect of trial trenching and notwithstanding the geophysical survey results, as it is necessary for the applicant to provide sufficient trial trenching coverage to ensure that impacts on below-ground heritage assets can be mitigated by detailed design.</p> <p><b>Ground Conditions</b> (PEIR Chapter 9)</p> <p>Table 71 (PEIR Chapter 7) sets out that CDC have previously questioned whether an assessment be undertaken on peat soils and the impact of the Scheme on carbon sequestration, and that this will be addressed in Chapter 9 of the ES. However, very little information is provided within Chapter 9 of the PEIR to enable further comment at this stage.</p>                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|  | <p><b>Water Resource</b> (PEIR Chapter 10)</p> <p>CDC LLFA have previously met with the Applicant's hydrology team to share proposals of a Natural Flood Management scheme under construction with respect to the site. As part of this communication, CDC has also shared hydraulic modelling outputs to inform their baseline hydrology.</p> <p>In the absence of a drainage strategy at this time, CDC's response can only be exclusively based on the FRA, and is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CDC has collated some best practice for solar farms and have the following on our website CDC Document Title, which may be helpful guidance.</li> <li>• The applicant should consider CDC local requirements when the drainage strategy is produced - <a href="https://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/planning/development-and-floodrisk">https://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/planning/development-and-floodrisk</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/planning/ldf-supplementary-planning-documents">https://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/planning/ldf-supplementary-planning-documents</a></li> </ul> | <p>A Phase 1 Ground Conditions Desk Study [Document Reference 6.3.9.1 and 6.3.9.2] has been prepared to support ES Chapter 9 Ground Conditions [Document Reference 6.2.9].</p> <p>This includes a desk based review of publicly available borehole logs and previous site investigations (where available) to determine approximate spatial and vertical extent of peat deposits.</p> <p>Drilling/auguring recommended within each land parcel to accurately calculate the extent of peat across the scheme. From this geological data, assessments of carbon sequestering can be undertaken.</p> <p>The proposed Outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy is included in the appended FRA (ES Technical Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment [Document Reference 6.3.10.1]). CDC local requirements have been considered when preparing this strategy.</p> <p>Updated Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) information will be assessed as the DCO process continues if it becomes available. CDC note that their SFRA "has not yet been updated". It is noted however that as detailed in the appended FRA (ES Technical Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment [Document Reference</p> |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An outdated SFRA (CDC) has been referenced, although it should be noted that this has not yet been updated. Once this is updated, the Critical Flood Level may change and this should be checked as the process continues.</li> <li>• Humber 2100 strategy baseline modelling may not have been considered. There is a risk that without this information, tidal risk may not have been fully considered.</li> <li>• Recommend that a robust Flood Evacuation Plan is produced and submitted to CDC Emergency Planning team for consideration.</li> <li>• Flood plain compensation should be considered for any ground raising in flood zone 3 as described in the FRA.</li> <li>• Applicant should review the appropriateness of their easements requirements which may affect the proposed layout. The Internal Drainage Board (IDB) 9m easement is required regardless of whether the watercourse is board maintained. This should be confirmed with the IDB.</li> <li>• When a suitable surface water strategy is provided, the LLFA request that they are consulted on the proposals at the very earliest opportunity in order to ensure meaningful input.</li> <li>• It is advised that CDC LLFA preference is to store surface water above ground and not in underground tanks. This is to observe the four pillars of SuDS. This should be considered going forward.</li> <li>• Use of post and rail fencing encroaching into the cross-sectional area of the watercourse shown drawing no. 0309 should be reviewed. This is likely to be prone to blinding but that will be up to the IDB to determine whether they would support it through the consenting process.</li> </ul> <p>CDC would strongly encourage early engagement on the drainage strategy at the earliest opportunity.</p> | <p><b>6.3.10.1]),</b> it is not feasible or proportionate to raise solar PV modules and associated infrastructure above the IoA critical flood level.</p> <p>The Environment Agency are responsible for tidal flood risk and are generally content with the tidal flood risk mitigation measures proposed on site (see Environment Agency comments in this table). The Environment Agency did not provide results of the Humber 2100 strategy baseline modelling or raise assessment of this modelling as a concern in their statutory consultation comments. With a design life of 40 years, consideration of the Humber 2100 strategy baseline modelling is also considered disproportionate.</p> <p>A Flood Emergency Management Plan has been prepared and is included within the appended <b>FRA (ES Technical Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment [Document Reference 6.3.10.1]).</b></p> <p>Ground raising is not proposed. Ground raising had intentionally been avoided to ensure the impact of the Scheme of flood risk is minimised. Suitable flood risk mitigation measures are to be implemented on site that do not require ground level raising (see full details in <b>ES Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment [Document Reference 6.3.10.1] and also in Section 10.6</b></p> <p>If required by the Internal Drainage Board, watercourse buffers for Ordinary Watercourses/non-IDB maintained watercourses that are not Main Rivers will be reviewed at detailed design post-consent of the DCO application.</p> <p>We welcome comments from the LLFA on the proposed Outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy included in the appended <b>FRA (ES Technical Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk</b></p> |
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|  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p><b>Assessment [Document Reference 6.3.10.1].</b> Full details of the proposed drainage will be confirmed during detailed design post-consents of the DCO application. During this stage, an assessment on the suitability of above ground SuDS will be carried out when full details of the proposals are available. Above ground SuDS have been ruled out at this outline stage on the basis that available space for SuDS on Site is not presently known, with SuDS instead contained within the typical infrastructure layouts available (<b>the Outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy is included in (ES Technical Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment [Document Reference 6.3.10.1].</b></p> <p>Suggested maintenance of the fencing proposed across watercourses is detailed in the Operation and Maintenance Manual included in <b>ES Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment [Document Reference 6.3.10.1].</b></p> |
|  | <p><b>Socio-Economic</b> (PEIR Chapter 11)</p> <p>CDC would note at this stage that albeit any benefits in employment terms would be temporary in nature, opportunities to maximise utilising the local workforce, and maximising the socio- economic benefits of the scheme, should be fully explored. In this respect, CDC would strongly encourage the Applicant to engage positively with Business Doncaster<sup>1</sup> who are expertly placed to provide valuable insight into local markets. Through harnessing the local connections, intelligence and support networks that Business Doncaster has, we can ensure that the scheme achieves maximum output and added value in this respect.</p> <p>Furthermore, with regards to the wider opportunities to incorporate community benefits, teams within the wider council will have a strong understanding of local needs and would welcome the chance to work collaboratively with the applicant and local community.</p> | <p>The Applicant is committed to the enhancement of employment and skills effects during each development phase as far as is practicably possible. As such, an <b>Outline Supply Chain, Employment and Skills Plan ("OSCESP") [Document Reference 7.9]</b> is submitted with the application and the delivery of a final SCESP secured by a DCO requirement.</p> <p>The Applicant commits to £400 per MW per year of operation of the Scheme, which could equate to a total Community Benefit Fund of around £12.8 million to support local community groups and initiatives</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

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|  | <p><b>Transport and Access</b> (PEIR Chapter 12)</p> <p>Table 12.5 and that 'Temporary access tracks will be provided internal of the land parcels shown on Figure 12.1. This is set out at paragraphs 3.16 and 3.17 of the draft Outline CTMP ('OCTMP'):</p> <p>The drawings within the OCTMP show only the swept path manoeuvres for, both/either a proposed tractor and trailer or a 16.5m articulated HGV. Although the swept paths produced on these drawings show the vehicle movements for each of the access points, they do not show details of how these access points meet the design standards of the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges. They also do not provide any information of the typical construction details for these access points, nor any proposals for what is to be constructed within the development itself all of which are key considerations. Without this information, CDC is unable to offer a more substantive response.</p> <p>For clarity going forward, the works required to these access points within the CDC boundary, highlighted/listed within the OCTMP starting at Section 3.16, will and can only be progressed by the applicant entering into a Section 278 agreement with CDC. No works on site will be allowed to start until technical checks have been carried out and authorised by CDC and would advise that these agreements are progressed as soon as possible.</p> <p>It may be that the Section 278 agreement can be enshrined within the Draft Development Consent Order itself, along with all other CDC permitting schemes/requirements. Further discussion in this respect should take place prior to any submission being formally made to the Examining Authority.</p> <p>It is important to recognise that approaches to the site also need to be suitably constructed and fit for purpose. For example, Section 3.72 states 'that access tracks will be made of stone on top of permeable matting to protect and support the ground, enabling it to bear the weight of the plant and HGVs.' There are serious concerns regarding the use of matting so close to the adopted highway.</p> | <p>The majority of access points utilise existing agricultural access points that are not to DMRB standard.</p> <p>Where new accesses are to be created, no accesses proposed are from a trunk road, which DMRB standards typically apply to. Swept path assessments, management and mitigation is set out in the <b>Outline CTMP [Document Reference 7.7]</b>. This confirms that the proposed site access points are shown to function effectively during the construction phase. Once operational, the access points will not be associated with any intensification over and above the current uses.</p> <p>Temporary matting will not be proposed, as set out in the Outline CTMP <b>[Document Reference 7.7]</b>.</p> <p>Construction details of the accesses will be provided post consent and are proposed to be secured as a Requirement, prior to construction. However, the DCO identifies where these access works may be undertaken without the requirement for a s278 agreement through the DCO operating as a 'one stop shop' for the requisite consents to deliver the project</p> |
|  | <p><b>Noise</b> (Chapter 13 PEIR)</p> <p>Whilst in general terms, the methodology proposed to be utilised in this respect is considered to be appropriate, it is clear that assessment work itself in respect of noise and vibration is still ongoing at this time. The following comments are therefore offered at this stage:</p> <p>Paragraph 13.4.6 sets out that consultation will be undertaken with City of Doncaster Council and North Lincolnshire Council to agree and finalise the noise sensitive receptors to be considered. CDC suggests</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>The Applicant consulted with City of Doncaster Council and North Lincolnshire Council to agree noise-sensitive receptors to be considered in this assessment. Through this process, additional receptors were added. The identified noise sensitive receptors are provided in <b>ES Chapter 13</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

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|  | <p>that this consultation take place at the earliest opportunity to allow for meaningful engagement to take place.</p> <p>Paragraph 13.9.4 states that an assessment of the potential construction noise and vibration effects will be undertaken when the construction programme is known, and this will be presented in the Environmental Statement. Again, CDC would welcome the opportunity to review and comment on this, within the context of all proposed mitigation measures before the ES is finalised.</p> <p>Paragraph 13.9.7 explains that Table 13.16 summarises the identified effects and any mitigation, but that the table is currently only partially populated. Additional information is required to complete the cumulative and in combination effects portion. Again, this is to be included in the Environmental Statement. CDC would reiterate the importance of engagement taking place prior to the ES being finalised to allow for meaningful engagement to take place.</p> <p>At this time, there remain considerable unknowns and as a result the project is heavily reliant on a suitable and sufficient Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) being produced to control those factors as and when more information becomes available. CDC would expect to feed into this as it is developed and furthermore would suggest that a mechanism for regular contact with CDC's Environmental Health Team should be embedded within the CEMP.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p><b>Noise and Vibration [Document Reference 6.2.13].</b></p> <p>Construction Noise and Vibration have been considered in <b>Section 13.5 of Chapter 13 [Document Reference 6.2.13]</b> and mitigation measures are included in the <b>Outline CEMP [Document Reference 7.4]</b>.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|  | <p><b>Agricultural Circumstances (PEIR Chapter 15)</b></p> <p>The PEIR explains that survey work is currently underway, but the expectation is that the site will involve a mixture of lands of Grades 2, 3a and 3b. There are 19 farm businesses with land in the draft Order Limits. Otherwise, the PEIR sets out that any impacts on best and most versatile agricultural land will be short - term (for the life of the project), and reversible following decommissioning.</p> <p>Given that the survey work is still ongoing, it is not possible for CDC to make detailed representations in this respect presently. However, CDC would like to take the opportunity to make the following comments, which should be carefully considered as the survey work continues.</p> <p>Agriculture is the main land use within the Borough making up nearly two thirds of the total land area. The soils found in the Borough vary in quality from high-grade arable farmland (grades 2 and 3) and its extensive network of drains and channels in the east of the Borough, land reclamation on former colliery sites, through to remediated brownfield sites within former industrial areas. Around half of the land area of the Borough is given over to arable farming. The adopted local plan recognises that Doncaster's high quality agricultural land needs to be protected from inappropriate development so that we can maximise its economic benefits such as local food production.</p> <p>The local plan goes on to set out that where significant development is unavoidable, preference will be given to the use of poorer quality agricultural land in preference to higher quality land. Care should also be taken to avoid damage or disturbance to soils of high environmental value and other soils that contribute</p> | <p>The extent of BMV land within the Order Limits is assessed, as set out in Section 15.4 of <b>ES Chapter 15 Agricultural Circumstances, [Document Reference 6.2.15]</b>.</p> <p>The majority of the Development will not affect agricultural land quality. Works that involve soil disturbance are limited in scale, temporary and reversible, and therefore of low magnitude.</p> <p>There is BMV land within the Order Limits (approximately 44.3%), but the quantum disturbed is only 13.7ha. All but 0.4ha of this will be fully restored on decommissioning.</p> <p>Overall, for the majority of land within the Order Limits, where arable soils will go into long-term grassland land coverage, there will be a significant benefit for soils.</p> |



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|  | <p>significantly to ecosystem services. Local plan policy 60 refers specifically to the protection of BMV and the need to conserve and minimise the loss of Doncaster's extensive area of high-quality arable farmland, noting that agriculture is the main land use within Doncaster, making up nearly two thirds of the total area.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Written Ministerial Statement (WMS) published on 15 May 2024 sets out the steps the government is seeking to take to strengthen food resilience. The WMS recognises that BMV land should be protected, with specific reference given to ensuring large solar projects avoid this higher quality land where possible. Instead, they should be developed on brownfield land, contaminated land, industrial land, and lower quality agricultural land so as not to compromise the UK's food security.</p> <p>CDC would therefore stress, in line with the WMS, that all possible opportunities to limit the extent of BMV land being utilised by the scheme should be investigated including the removal of such land wherever possible from the extent of the scheme as the next stage of the process progresses. Where this is not possible, CDC would expect a full justification to be given.</p>                                                                                                                                                     | <p>The economic and land use implications are considered in Sections 15.5 to 15.7 of <b>ES Chapter 15 Agricultural Circumstances</b> [Document Reference 6.2.15].</p>                                                                                                                                                                   |
|  | <p><b>Other Environmental Considerations</b> (PEIR Chapter 16)</p> <p>Chapter 15 indicates that baseline and assessment work is ongoing, and that it is anticipated that the following information will accompany the Environmental Statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan</li> <li>• Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan</li> <li>• Outline Waste Management Plan</li> <li>• Glint and Glare Assessment</li> <li>• Consideration of Cumulative Impacts</li> <li>• Battery Safety Management Plan</li> <li>• Method statement for trenchless works</li> <li>• Consideration of climate change</li> </ul> <p>CDC would welcome the opportunity to feed into the preparation of these plans wherever possible to ensure they can be agreed as fit for purpose.</p> <p>Based on the information that has been provided to date, CDC notes that Chapter 15 indicates that risk from glint and glare to aircraft will be considered in the Environmental Statement. It is disappointing to not have further detailed assessment to consider at this stage of the process. Notwithstanding this, CDC would make clear that Policy 58(B) of the Doncaster Local Plan (2021) sets out that in all cases low carbon and renewable energy proposals will be supported where they (inter alia) allow the continued safe and efficient</p> | <p>The full study on glint and glare, undertaken for the Scheme is available in <b>ES Appendix 16.1 - Glint and Glare Assessment (fixed and tracker design)</b> [Document Reference 6.3.16.1] and <b>ES Appendix 16.2 - Glint and Glare Assessment (fixed design)</b> [Document Reference 6.3.16.2] of the Environmental Statement.</p> |

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|       | <p>operation of Doncaster Sheffield Airport. Since adoption of the DLP, the Doncaster Sheffield Airport has closed. Since then, reopening the airport has been a key strategic priority for the Council and continues to be, with a plan for passenger flights to resume in Spring 20262. The re-opening of the Airport is one of the Council's top priorities3 and has local, regional and national implications. It is therefore imperative that the future successful operation of the Airport, once reopened, is not jeopardised. As such, the baseline for all relevant assessments within the ES should be undertaken with the airport as fully operational.</p> <p><b>Approach to Environmental Impact Assessment (PEIR Chapter 3)</b></p> <p>CDC is satisfied with the approach taken to cumulative developments set out in Chapter 3. The Applicant may also wish to note that currently under consideration is a proposal for a solar farm at Marr, our reference 23/O2634/FULM. Whilst at this stage, this does not constitute a committed development, the Applicant should keep this under review as the EIA work progresses.</p> <p>Furthermore, CDC has recently issued a Screening Opinion under our reference 24/OO592/SCRE for ground mounted solar energy and battery energy storage development. Again, at this time this is not committed development for the purposes of EIA, but it may be worth continuing to monitor as we expect the application to be submitted imminently (notwithstanding determination dates are unknown at this time).</p> |  | Noted. |
|       | <p><b>Summary and Recommendations</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>           |  |        |
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| Lincolnshire County Council | <p>Thank you for consulting Lincolnshire County Council (LCC), as an adjacent authority, as part of the statutory consultation for the above proposal.</p> <p>Following a review of the consultation documents, this representation provides a summary of LCC's comments/views on the proposal at this stage.</p> <p>The Council notes that the proposal is the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of a 2,527 Ha ground mounted solar park with an export capacity of around 800MW of AC with associated development, including a co-located 400MW BESS system. The Council notes that the grid connection is estimated for 2029; included within a separate agreement for a grid connection offer from National Grid Electricity Transmission. The location of the substation is still yet to be confirmed, and National Grid will be developing their own proposals and consenting for the substation separately. This proposed substation would require planning permission from North Lincolnshire Council under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. It has only been included within this statutory consultation to demonstrate that the project will be connected to the national transmission network.</p> | No response.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|                             | <p><b>Highways</b></p> <p>LCC is pleased to see that construction traffic to site would be routed via the strategic road network (M18/M180) as shown on Figure 4.1 of the oCTMP, rather than routing through Lincolnshire using predominantly single carriageway A-roads.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <p>The Applicant thanks Lincolnshire County Council for its response and notes the representation made. As set out in <b>Section 12.5 of ES Chapter 12 Transport and Access [Document Reference 6.2.12]</b> and the <b>Outline CTMP [Document Reference 7.7]</b>, all construction deliveries will utilise the M180 and/or M18 to access the roads leading to the Scheme.</p> |
|                             | <p><b>Cultural Heritage</b></p> <p><u>Study Area</u></p> <p>It is noted in 8.3.3 of Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage and Archaeology, 'for built heritage assets a 1km buffer around the order limits and the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) produced by the Landscape team was used as the study area'. It is welcomed however that assets which lie outside the ZTV were also assessed to ensure they did not have an historic or functional association with the Scheme.</p> <p><u>Historic Landscape and Heritage Considerations in Local Policy</u></p> <p>It is noted that the South Yorkshire HER, North Lincolnshire HER, National Heritage List for England, historic maps, various historical aerial photo archives, Historic England's Aerial Archaeology Mapping Explorer, Lincolnshire Archives and other online resources have been consulted. It is suggested that 'The Historic Character of the County of Lincolnshire (2022)' report would also help to inform the characterisation of rural areas, where historic features overlap with landscape sensitivity. While not a policy document, its findings may support identification of sensitive receptors or valued landscapes. It is also recommended</p>             | <p>Noted.</p> <p>The HCC report has been consulted and the results incorporated into the baseline assessment (<b>Appendix 8.1 Heritage Baseline Assessment [Document Reference 6.3.8.1]</b>) and <b>ES Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology [Document Reference 6.2.8]</b>.</p>                                                                                        |

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|  | <p>that relevant Local and Neighbourhood Plans should also be consulted to inform the assessment of local heritage sensitivities.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p>No neighbourhood plans pertinent to the Scheme were identified.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|  | <p><b>Landscape and Visual Impact</b></p> <p>LCC welcomes the inclusion of a Residential Visual Amenity assessment, Consideration of Cumulative Impacts, Detailed design parameters of the scheme and further linear study along the canal.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <p>A Residential Visual Amenity Assessment is included at <b>ES Appendix 6.2 [Document Reference 6.3.6.2] of ES Chapter 6 (Landscape and Visual) [Document Reference 6.2.6]</b>.</p> <p>A further linear study of the canal is provided at <b>ES Appendix 6.8 Stainforth &amp; Keadby Canal - Thorne to Crowle Corridor Study [Document Reference 6.3.6.7]</b></p> |
|  | <p><b>Cumulative Effects</b></p> <p>LCC notes that consideration of Cumulative effects is proposed to be presented in the ES and that baseline and assessment work is ongoing (PEIR Chapter 16, paragraph 16.1.14). LCC welcomes the Applicant's intentions to seek to agree a list of cumulative developments with relevant planning authorities, in order to identify likely significant effects. Projects to be assessed in combination with Tween Bridge as part of the cumulative assessment should be kept under regular review as the proposal progresses, to identify any new developments that come forward which may interact with the development. Please note that the Zone of Influence for cumulative impacts may geographically and/or temporally differ.</p> <p><b>Waste</b></p> <p>LCC is pleased to see various references to following the waste hierarchy in PEIR chapter 16. Table 16.3, item 3.4.1 is in line with PINS comments. It is also noted that waste is proposed to be included under a chapter entitled 'Other Matters' rather than in a separate chapter in the ES, which LCC agree providing the issues are fully considered.</p> <p>LCC is disappointed to that operational waste has been scoped out of the ES. In relation to 16.3.20, it is noted that 'The waste streams will be set out in the Environmental Statement. The Environmental Statement will also consider the potential waste streams for and expected programme of replacement of equipment.' LCC is concerned about the waste produced during the operational phase with regard to PV panels and requests that the developer provides an estimate of the annual failure rate of panels, what they intend to do with the failed panels (i.e. repair, recycle or disposal), and the annual quantity and fate of any associated waste arising. In terms of construction waste LCC welcomes the reference to an outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) to be secured by virtue of a DCO Requirement, (paragraph 16.3.19) The commitment to provide data on the operational waste is also appreciated but in light of the above comment regarding PV panel failures, LCC require clarification around waste arisings and</p> | <p>A cumulative short list was provided as part of the PEIR documents, this has been reviewed and updated for the ES and is provided as <b>ES Appendix 17.2 Cumulative Short List [Document Reference 6.3.17.2]</b>.</p> <p>A cumulative waste assessment is provided in <b>Paragraph 17.4.97-17.4.99 of [Document Reference 6.3.17.2]</b>.</p>                    |

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|  | <p>their fate, and recommend addressing PV failures in the operational phase in the oOEMP and Outline Waste Management Plan. LCC welcome the commitment to recycle PV panels but note that recycling facilities are currently limited. LCC requests the developer to please clarify what will happen to PV panel waste if recycling facilities do not become available in the meantime (paragraph 16.3.26).</p> <p>LCC appreciates the commitment to assess cumulative effects for waste arisings, particularly as there are a number of solar NSIP proposals in the north of the LCC area (paragraph 16.3.28).</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|  | <p><b>Considering Lincolnshire</b></p> <p>Baseline information (paragraph 11.3.3) should look at emerging work and policies of the Greater Lincolnshire Mayoral County Combined Authority (GLMCCA) – covering North Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire and Lincolnshire County Council. This will present and review plans and information from the Greater Lincolnshire perspective which will have a bearing on this NSIP. This is in a similar way to accommodating the East Riding of Yorkshire in the baseline assessments (paragraph 11.3.4)</p> <p>In relation to receptors, Table 11.6 ignores the potential for receptors to include Lincolnshire, which at its closest is only around 5 km away. Each receptor lists Doncaster, North Lincolnshire and East Riding of Yorkshire but not Lincolnshire County or West Lindsey District Likewise, Lincolnshire County and West Lindsey are ignored in Figures, e.g. 11.3 and 11.4, and Tables, e.g. 11.11 and 11.12. Again, Lincolnshire County and West Lindsey District are ignored in the analysis in paragraphs 11.5.30 to 11.5.37. Therefore, these receptors are ignored in the assessment of likely significant effects, e.g. at paragraphs 11.6.4 and 11.6.6. This is contrary to the PINS Scoping Opinion 3.10.3 which states <i>‘The description of baseline conditions and assessment in the ES should be sufficient to address impacts on all areas likely to be affected by the Proposed Development’</i> This should be amended for further rounds of the EIA.</p> | <p>The Applicant has included coverage of the emerging work of the Greater Lincolnshire County Combined Authority (GLCCA). The GLCCA covers North Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire and Lincolnshire County Council: North Lincolnshire is one of the two host authorities of the Order Limits and one of the three local authorities identified within the study area for the purposes of the baseline and receptors of the impact assessment therefore relevant to include.</p> <p>It is considered that, as North Lincolnshire and City of Doncaster are host authorities of the Scheme, they are the receptors for the assessment. While East Riding of Yorkshire is not a host authority, the Scheme is 2.1km at its nearest point from the administrative boundary and, with North Lincolnshire and Doncaster, sits within Yorkshire and Humber region. As such, the Applicant considers it appropriate to include these three administrative areas (North Lincolnshire, City of Doncaster and East Riding of Yorkshire) in the study area and also as receptors for the assessment. No authorities outside of Yorkshire and Humber region are included within the study area or as receptors of the assessment.</p> |
|  | <p><b>Temporary workforce</b></p> <p>Of the 640 FTE construction and 1,491 total temporary jobs (noted at paragraph 11.6.2), a proportion of workers would be travelling to or staying in temporary accommodation from outside the area (region).</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <p>Requirement for accommodation of construction and/or decommissioning</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

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| <p>Although the report looks at accommodation demand, which is welcome, it ignores the potential negative socio-economic effects that could arise from this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demographic changes and potentially community cohesion, which could be</li> <li>• significant depending on workforce age, gender and location of temporary accommodation.</li> <li>• Impact on local housing markets, including availability and affordability, particularly if the workforce is located within nearby smaller settlements.</li> <li>• Social services and infrastructure, an obvious area for consideration is healthcare but perhaps education and other services, again, depending on age, gender and location of temporary accommodation.</li> <li>• Public health and safety, depending on age, gender and location of temporary accommodation, with potential for anti-social behaviour.</li> </ul> <p>This is similar for the lower number of decommissioning jobs as per paragraphs 11.6.29 and 11.6.30.</p> <p>In considering the impacts above and other impacts of accommodating the workforce during the peak construction period, efforts should be taken to avoid a negative impact of nearby (including Lincolnshire) holiday let/Airbnb and the private rental capacity in the area at the expense/exclusion of tourists visiting the area (overnight stays typically contribute more to the local economy). Further, any reduction in supply/increased cost of private rentals could have an impact on the local community and/or overspill from social housing waiting lists.</p> <p><b>Cumulative impacts</b></p> <p>The above (temporary workforce) matters must be considered, in relation to cumulative impacts from other schemes in the region which will also have a temporary construction workforce. Section 11.8 does mention accommodation demand, which is welcome, but this is implied only at the Doncaster and North Lincolnshire level when clearly accommodation demand could be in parts of the County of Lincolnshire too.</p> <p>There also needs to be consideration of other cumulative impacts of NSIPs in the region regarding skills/workforce availability and commuting profiles</p> <p><b>Mitigation</b></p> <p>We welcome the mention of potential targets for minimum proportion of workers from within an agreed spatial area. Consideration of how this target can be formulated and met should consider the County of Lincolnshire.</p> <p>We also welcome the opportunities for skills mentioned in the PEIR. Early discussion with skills providers, including those in Gainsborough and Lincoln, should be carried out as soon as possible.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

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|  | <p><b>Ecology</b></p> <p>LCC is of the opinion that survey work undertaken to date employs appropriate methods and appears to have been undertaken to a good standard. LCC notes that further ecological surveys in relation to breeding birds, water vole, great crested newt and bats will be undertaken in 2025. LCC will be happy to provide additional comments when the results of this additional work are available.</p> <p>The Applicant has undertaken a data search against records held in local ecological records centres. This has ensured that sites protected or important at international, national and local levels have been correctly identified and that information on the presence of protected and priority species has been obtained. LCC notes the content of the Ecological Construction Management Plan (eCMP) and Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) and welcomes approaches to the establishment and management of ecological mitigation measures set out therein. LCC notes that final details of construction methods and site design have not yet been fully determined and hence impacts on ecology such as the extent of the losses of certain habitats, both temporary and permanent cannot yet be fully identified. The Applicant should ensure that the impacts of the final design and construction methodology are fully assessed in the Environmental Statement.</p> <p>LCC welcomes the Applicant's commitment to the development mitigation and enhancement measures to various species and species groups but advises that the applicant should ensure clarity around which measures are mitigation and which are genuine enhancement. Little information is currently presented about the potential design and layout of ecological mitigation and enhancement including opportunities for delivering BNG, but LCC notes the Applicant's intention to develop this area as the environmental assessment work progresses. LCC would welcome the opportunity to provide further input to the detailed design of new habitats to be established on site at the appropriate stage. LCC welcomes the Applicant's commitment to delivery of "measurable" Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) as a result of the development stated at Chapter 7 (7.3.42). Whilst this is not currently mandatory for NSIPs it is good practice. LCC would encourage the Applicant to maximise opportunities for the delivery of BNG and to seek to deliver</p> | <p>Although not a mandatory requirement, the ES includes demonstrable BNG as part of the ecological and landscape enhancements</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |



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|  | <p>significantly in excess of 10% given the scale and nature of the proposed development. LCC advises that the delivery of BNG should be quantified by employing Defra's Statutory Biodiversity Metric.</p> <p>Any commitments to the delivery of BNG submitted alongside the DCO application should be sufficiently detailed to give certainty as to the level of BNG that will be delivered if the applicant is seeking weight to be applied to this matter by the Examining Authority. Any gains in biodiversity and their monitoring and management will need to be secured via a specific requirement in the DCO. LCC advises that Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping has been produced by the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership and a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Greater Lincolnshire is currently being developed. These documents will provide useful guidance when considering opportunities to deliver BNG and the establishment of new habitats.</p> <p>Specific comments:</p> <p><b>Botanical interest:</b> LCC notes that data from botanical surveys is not included in the PEIR. The applicant should ensure that they have undertaken sufficiently detailed and appropriately timed botanical survey work to be confident that the presence of any scarce arable plants or plants species associated with peat soils occurring on the site are detected and to inform the calculation of the baseline biodiversity values.</p> <p><b>Bats:</b> LCC notes that additional surveys are planned to determine the level of bat activity and the presence of any roosts within the proposed boundary. Recent studies have shown a decrease in levels of bat activity associated with the presence of solar developments though reasons for this are not yet clearly understood. The applicant should ensure that bat surveys are appropriately timed and detailed to ensure that impacts on bats can be properly assessed in the Environmental Statement.</p> <p><b>Breeding birds:</b> LCC notes that additional surveys are planned and advises that the applicant should ensure that adequate information is available to ensure that the impacts on breeding birds and in particular, ground nesting species such as skylark can be properly assessed in the Environmental Statement. LCC notes that surveys have detected the presence of species listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act within the proposed Order limits. The Applicant should ensure that appropriate mitigation measures are in place to avoid negative impacts (including disturbance) on these species. LCC advises that Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust is working to develop some best practice guidance for solar developments in Lincolnshire which seeks to identify strategic opportunities for ecological mitigation and enhancement linked to solar development including for ground nesting bird species.</p> | <p>proposed within the design with detail in <b>BNG Assessment Technical Appendix 7.12 Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment [Document Reference 6.3.7.12] and the Outline LEMP [Document Reference 7.6].</b></p> <p>The Statutory Biodiversity Metric has been used to assess impacts/uplifts on habitat units, linear units and watercourse units.</p> <p><b>The potential for impacts on scarce or priority botanical species, ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees are considered as part of Chapter 7 of the ES [Document Reference 6.2.7].</b> Opportunities for enhancement are addressed as part of the proposed BNG approach.</p> <p>Bat transect surveys, comprising 'Night-time Bat Walkovers' are proposed across the Order Limits in 2025, targeting representative habitat types.</p> <p><b>ES Chapter 7 [Document Reference 6.2.7]</b> discusses the proposed mitigation strategy, taking account of the land proposed purely for bird mitigation, and an indication of the format of the agreement regarding off-site skylark plots. Surveys will be undertaken in 2025 to cover areas which were not previously subject to survey given changes to the Order Limits since the working draft</p> |
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|  | <p><b>Great crested newt (GCN):</b> Given the presence of GCN in the wider area around the proposal, obtaining negative eDNA results from all sampled ponds is somewhat surprising. LCC notes that additional GCN surveys are to be undertaken during 2025.</p> <p><b>Non-breeding birds:</b> Given the presence in significant numbers of non-breeding bird species associated with the Humber Estuary SPA, the final design of mitigation and enhancement measures will need to take these species and their requirements into account.</p> <p><b>Terrestrial invertebrates:</b> LCC advises that where appropriate the design of ecological mitigation and enhancement measures should cater for the needs of less common species detected.</p> <p><b>Invasive non-native species (INNS):</b> LCC notes that INNS have been identified within the study area. Appropriate control measures aimed preventing the spread of INNS should be set out within the CEMP.</p> | <p>PEIR chapter and non-statutory consultation.</p> <p>It is proposed that selected ponds will be re-surveyed in 2025 to target those of greatest suitability for GCN (identified via Habitat Suitability Index – HSI – assessment).</p> <p>Invertebrate surveys have been undertaken, although not the entire Order Limits boundary was surveyed, but a targeted approach was undertaken. The results of the survey did not indicate that further surveys would be required, with no notable or significant numbers of species recorded. In addition, when considering the nature of the proposals results in minimal construction and the fact that the majority of ditches will remain unaffected, and their ecological condition improved due to the cessation of intensive arable management, resulting in a reduction to agrichemical inputs and an enhancement through adjacent native habitat creation, no further surveys were considered necessary.</p> <p>Prior to the commencement of the construction programme an invasive species walkover survey will be undertaken during an appropriate time of year (May – October) in order to assess the distribution of invasive species within the Order Limits, in particular within or near construction working areas.</p> |
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|                                        | <p>If required, an appropriate invasive species management and treatment programme will be implemented by a licensed and experienced invasive species contractor. A detailed method statement will be produced to inform these actions and prevent further spread within the Order Limits during the construction phases, detailing the commitment to control or undertake long-term eradication of the species from within the Order Limits. Further information is provided within the LEMP.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|                                        | <p><b>Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA):</b> Given the presence of several Statutorily designated sites in the vicinity of the proposal, the Applicant will need to ensure that sufficient information has been submitted to allow HRAs to be undertaken.</p> <p><b>Cumulative effects:</b> There are several development proposals of varying scales in the vicinity of this proposal including other solar developments. A detailed assessment of the cumulative impacts of these proposals on sensitive ecological receptors in the area should be undertaken in the Environmental Statement. This should include habitat change, as well as the magnitude of change, that will result from conversion of arable farmland to a solar farm, alongside other solar NSIP projects in the area.</p> <p>LCC's Infrastructure Ecologist will be happy to work with the Applicant, their consultants and other stakeholders throughout the EIA process to ensure that ecological elements of the application are properly addressed, and that scheme secures the maximum potential benefits for biodiversity.</p> <p>LCC welcomes the opportunity to continue working with Tween Bridge Solar in developing its proposals and provide technical feedback and engagement at appropriate times, based on the above. If you require any further clarification or assistance on this matter, please contact Justine Foster, Infrastructure Manager (NSIPS@lincolnshire.gov.uk)</p> | <p>The ES provides information as set out in the EIA Regulations, and assesses the potential for cumulative effects, effects in relation to designated sites of nature conservation interest and protected species along with mitigation and protection measures as necessary.</p> |
| <b>s43 D</b>                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | No response.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>North East Lincolnshire Council</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

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| North Yorkshire County Council | Thank you for consulting North Yorkshire Council on the above.<br>I can confirm we have no comments to make.<br>If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to make contact. | No response. |
| Nottinghamshire County Council |                                                                                                                                                                                                 | No response. |

#### s42(1)(d) PILs Feedback

| Organisation/Individual              | Comments provided                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Applicant's response (if needed)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
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| <div> <div></div> <div></div> </div> | <p><b>1. Do you have any comments on the scheme?</b></p> <p>We have a number of concerns over the proposed Tween Bridges project. 1. Visual Impact. Solar arrays will be visible from our property also the private lane to our property will be surrounded by these arrays and are concerned that they will not be screened and so destroy the rural outlook of our residence of choice. 2. Effect on property valuation and/or saleability. What compensation will be offered to householders who are surrounded by solar arrays? At the time of the first announcement of the proposed project our property was up for sale, since announcement no new viewings have been forthcoming and so have had to remove the property from the market. 3. Deer. I see no mention of deer in the documentation. We have wild deer that roam the land between The M180 and A18. Parts of the proposed plan has solar arrays completely covering the area between the two roads. As the arrays will be totally fenced in for security reasons the deer would be forced onto the M180 and/or A18. Which would be a danger to both the deer and road users. We would also potentially lose the amenity and pleasure of the deer visits. The inclusion of fence free corridors to allow the deer free passage through these areas of total array coverage should be considered. 4. Bees. The proposal is to place 50 bee hives within the project area. As a beekeeper this raises a numbers of questions. a. Have you carried out a survey of beekeepers and number of colonies already located within foraging distance of the project area. b. Have you consulted with the National Bee Unit c. Who will manage these colonies of bees. Unmanaged colonies are a disease risk to surrounding colonies and a risk to the general public from swarming bees. To manage the colonies would require a workshop and storage for equipment and a honey house with extraction equipment for honey processing. Where would this be sited? An alternative would be to offer local beekeepers the opportunity to establish out apiaries at a number of sites within the project boundaries. 5. Weight limited roads. Many roads around the project area are overlaid on peat and are limited to 7.5 tonnes. What provision is being made to repair these roads after their use by heavy construction traffic. 6 Use of grade 2 land It has been stated that the average land usage is grade 3, which I would dispute. Most of the land south of the Stainforth and Keadby canal appears to be grade two and the quoted average figure has been achieved by including Grade 4 land north of the canal and very little grade 3 land. The proposal is to graze sheep on the land under the array, land currently largely used for cereal production. UK currently exports 80,000 tons of sheep meat (2024 figures) and imports 2.75 million tons of wheat annually. From national food security and balance of payments point of view this makes absolutely no sense at all.</p> <p><b>2. Do you have any comments on the environmental information provided in the PEIR?</b></p> | <p><b>ES Chapter 6 Landscape and Visual Impact [Document Reference 6.2.6]</b> and supporting technical appendices details and assesses the landscape and visual impact of the Scheme.</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.</p> <p><b>Appendix 6.2</b> of the ES contains a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment which assesses the impact of the proposed scheme on nearby residential receptors.</p> |

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|  | <p>No provision for the needs of wild deer that roam the area. I see no mention of deer in the documentation. We have wild deer that roam the land roam the land between The M180 and A18. Parts of the proposed plan has solar arrays completely covering the area between the the two roads. As the arrays will be totally fenced in for security reasons the deer would be forced onto the M180 and/or A18. Which would be a danger to both the deer and road users. We would also potentially lose the amenity and pleasure of the deer visits. The inclusion of fence free corridors to allow the deer free passage through these areas of total array coverage should be considered. Bees. The proposal is to place 50 bee hives within the project area. As a beekeeper this raises a numbers of questions. a. Have you carried out a survey of beekeepers and number of colonies already located within foraging distance of the project area. b. Have you consulted with the National Bee Unit c. Who will manage theses colonies of bees. Unmanaged colonies are a disease risk to surrounding colonies and a risk to the general public from swarming bees. To manage the colonies would require a workshop and storage for equipment and a honey house with extraction equipment for honey processing. Where would this be sited? An alternative would be to offer local beekeepers the opportunity to establish out apiaries at a number of sites within the project boundaries.</p> <p><b>5. Based on the information presented as part of our consultation, how supportive are you of our proposals for Tween Bridge Solar Farm?</b></p> <p>I do not support the proposals</p> <p><b>6. Please detail the reasons for your response to Question 5 below:</b></p> <p>loss of use of large areas of Grade 2 land for cereal production Effect on wild deer population Effect on property values Concerns on visual impact of arrays</p> | <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> <p><b>Chapter 12 of the ES, Transport and Access [Document Reference 6.2.12] and the Outline CTMP [Document Reference 7.7]</b> provide further details on access and routing for construction traffic, including those routes via Crowle, <b>Document Reference 7.7</b></p> |
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|  | <p>and sets out the how arrivals and departures of construction vehicles will be managed.</p> <p>Furthermore, the oCTMP (<b>Document Reference 7.7</b>) confirms that a pre-commencement walk-over Condition Survey on the local highway network will be carried out to assess the baseline condition of the adopted highway before relevant construction activities commence. This would be followed by a further Condition Survey with a further photographic record covering the same extents as previously assessed at the end of the relevant construction activities, in order to identify and agree any remedial works reasonably attributable to construction activities.</p> <p>The extent of BMV land within the Order Limits is assessed, as set out in <b>Section 15.4 of ES Chapter 15 Agricultural Circumstances [Document Reference 6.2.15]</b>.</p> <p>The majority of the Development will not affect agricultural land quality. Works that involve soil disturbance are limited in scale, temporary and reversible, and therefore of low magnitude.</p> <p>There is BMV land within the Order Limits (approximately 44.3%), but the quantum disturbed is only 13.7ha. All but 0.4ha of this will be fully restored on decommissioning.</p> <p>Overall, for the majority of land within the Order Limits, where arable soils will go into long-term grassland land coverage, there will be a significant benefit for soils.</p> |
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| <div><div></div><div></div></div> | <p><b>1. Do you have any comments on the scheme?</b></p> <p>Far too large will have a major impact on the local area Flooding in particular is a major concern to me as my residence &amp; business are surround on 4 sides 3 of which are built on concrete rafts, as it may not be obvious from the plans I am not the benefitting farmer but the owner of a small enclave of houses and buildings 10mm of rainfall per hectare equates to 100,000 ltrs (100M3 ) (100 tons ) Of water which will run off when ground conditions meet saturation point, this is made worse with concrete bases covering potential soak up soil In the floods of 2019 the main Anchor Drain was within a few mm of overtopping The whole site is some 2527 hectare lets assume there to be a 60% density of solar arrays and ignore the roadways, inverter and battery storage facilities 10mm of rainfall on saturated land would equate to 115,162,000 ltrs or 115162 m3 or 115162 tons of runoff water, can the local drainage system cope? Aside from the proximity it would have a major visual impact &amp; potential value negative impact</p> <p><b>2. Do you have any comments on the environmental information provided in the PEIR?</b></p> <p>Sorry but I feel I really must comment on the PEIR it is quiet obviously a cut &amp; paste drizzle with no useful information ref hydrology Wild life poor attention to detail photos don't correspond to location</p> <p><b>3. Do you have any ideas or suggestions about how the community benefits package could best support your local community?</b></p> <p>History shows community uptake of grants is minimal</p> <p><b>4. Do you have any further comments on our plans for an electric vehicle charging hub?</b></p> <p>Purely a tick box exercise, given its rural location it is never going to need any maintenance</p> <p><b>5. Based on the information presented as part of our consultation, how supportive are you of our proposals for Tween Bridge Solar Farm?</b></p> <p>I do not support the proposals</p> <p><b>6. Please detail the reasons for your response to Question 5 below:</b></p> <p>As previously stated flooding is my main concern, we have never flooded but came very close in 2019</p> <p><b>7. Do you have any information relevant to Tween Bridge Solar Farm that we need to take into account, or any other</b></p> | <p><b>ES Chapter 10 [Document Reference: 6.2.10]</b> and the appended FRA (<b>ES Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment [Document Reference 6.3.10.1]</b>) include the latest national flood risk data, including National Flood Risk Assessment data released in January 2025 and the updated Flood Map for Planning released in March 2025. <b>Section 10.4</b> Baseline Conditions includes the latest flood data.</p> <p>A Flood Emergency Management Plan has been prepared and is included within the appended FRA (<b>ES Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment [Document Reference 6.3.10.1]</b>).</p> <p>The proposed Outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy is included in the appended FRA (<b>ES Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment [Document Reference 6.3.10.1]</b>). The exact details of the surface water drainage strategy will be confirmed during detailed design stage, post - consent of the DCO application.</p> <p>Net zero cannot be achieved through rooftop and brownfield solar installations</p> |



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|             | <p><b>general comments you wish to share?</b></p> <p>As an engineer I do believe that solar has a part to play in our energy mix but should be restricted to rooftops where it will not affect run off or food security, it is also a very unreliable source of energy (no sun no power) there are possible more reliable sources as yet not full explored such as tidal &amp; geothermal I do feel we are in grave danger of over committing to renewable energy as we risk what recently occurred in Spain and Portugal (await report see if I am wrong) Solar and wind or any other variable output power need a stable grid to follow Otherwise power outages will occur due to lack of synchronous inertia provided by large generators</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>alone, as they have considerable practical barriers of their own. Many domestic and industrial buildings either do not have roofs made of suitable material to support a solar system, do not have the infrastructure to export electricity to the grid, or simply represent an unaffordable solution, with high initial costs of installation.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 66          | <p><b>1. Do you have any comments on the scheme?</b></p> <p>This, and the other schemes of this nature around the country is absolute nonsense. England is a tiny country yet very densely populated, the population requires feeding. Taking away 1000's of acres of perfectly good farmland will result in less growing capacity and consequently reduced food security - both in terms of self sufficient quantity as well as quality. Food security has to be a major concern given the fragile geopolitical landscape evidenced recently with the restriction on grain from Ukraine alongside higher prices. If one also takes into consideration weather conditions in other countries affecting the supply chain - shortages recently experienced with tomatoes etc then it is blatantly obvious that solar farms on farmland is not the way forward.</p> <p><b>3. Do you have any ideas or suggestions about how the community benefits package could best support your local community?</b></p> <p>12 million over a period of probably 40 years is embarrassing - the costs to the consumer for green energy are ludicrously high whilst the meagre 12 million to a whole community will be insignificant. The scheme will benefit a very small number of investors, not the community at large.</p> <p><b>5. Based on the information presented as part of our consultation, how supportive are you of our proposals for Tween Bridge Solar Farm?</b></p> <p>I do not support the proposals</p> <p><b>6. Please detail the reasons for your response to Question 5 below:</b></p> <p>READ ABOVE</p> | <p>There is no concern from Government about food security, and no requirements or incentives to manage land for food production. The temporary land use change from agriculture (only some of which is for food) to a mix of energy production and agriculture will not result in any significant adverse environmental or economic effects.</p> <p>An <b>Outline Soil Management Plan</b> [Document Reference 7.8], <b>ES Chapter 15 Agriculture Circumstances</b> [Document Reference 6.2.15] and supporting technical appendices details and assesses the land use impact of the Scheme.</p> <p>The community benefit fund was revisited following feedback at the non-statutory consultation 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.</p> |
| Form ID 128 | <p><b>Do you have any comments on this scheme?</b> – There will be major impact to us as we love opposite the proposed site. It will be noisy in the construction and bring much more traffic down a small country land. A scenic piece of countryside will be destroyed and despite your plans will impact the local wildlife, deers and horses which are part of this piece of countryside. The prospects of selling Stone Lodge are no doubt slim if this goes ahead.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>The impacts of the proposed Scheme on local residents have been considered throughout the project. These are assessed in detail in the supporting Environmental Statement, including in relation to Landscape and Visual Impacts (ES Chapter</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

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|              | <p><b>Based on the information presented as part of our consultation, how supportive are you of our proposals for Tween Bridge Solar Farm?</b> – I did not support the proposals</p> <p><b>How would you describe your interest in our proposals?</b><br/>Local resident<br/>Landowner</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p>6) [Document Reference 6.2.6]. Transport and Access (ES Chapter 12) [Document Reference 6.2.12], Noise and Vibration (ES Chapter 13) [Document Reference 6.2.13] and Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases (ES Chapter 14) [Document Reference 6.2.14].</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Form ID: 131 | <p><b>Do you have any comments on the scheme?</b> – Too big. On prime agricultural land. Most farmers would love that land (no [REDACTED] land). Tilt and turn panels can be placed on any land even sand land. See ENSO website.</p> <p><b>Do you have any further comments on our plans for an electric vehicle charging hub?</b> – You have to travel to Mooredet, roads not passable. Now electricity charging points nearer to homes.</p> <p><b>Please detail the reasons for your response to Question 5 below?</b> – Scale of the proposal – wildlife – where do the deer go now</p> <p><b>How would you describe your interest in our proposals?</b> – Local resident<br/>Local representative<br/>Landowner<br/>Work locally<br/>Regularly visit the area<br/>Local business or contractor</p> | <p>The extent of BMV land within the Order Limits is assessed, as set out in <b>Section 15.4 of ES Chapter 15 Agricultural Circumstances</b> [Document Reference 6.2.15].</p> <p>The majority of the Development will not affect agricultural land quality. Works that involve soil disturbance are limited in scale, temporary and reversible, and therefore of low magnitude.</p> <p>Chapter 7 of the ES relates to Ecology and Nature Conservation [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> <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> |
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s47 Summary of General Public Feedback

| Comments provided                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |  | Applicant's response (if needed)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
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| Recognition of the need for renewable energy                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  | Supported.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Food security – concerns around the loss of agricultural land: respondents are worried that using productive farmland for solar panels will reduce the UK's capacity to grow food, especially in the context of rising food imports and prices. |  | <p>There is no concern from Government about food security, and no requirements or incentives to manage land for food production. The temporary land use change from agriculture (only some of which is for food) to a mix of energy production and agriculture will not result in any significant adverse environmental or economic effects.</p> <p>The Food Security Report 2024<sup>1</sup> identified a small improvement since 2022 to 74% self-sufficiency in the products we can produce in the UK.</p> |
| Land use and suitability – preference for alternative sites: many suggest solar panels should be placed on rooftops, car parks, brownfield land or industrial buildings instead of open countryside.                                            |  | Net zero cannot be achieved through rooftop and brownfield solar installations alone, as they have considerable practical barriers of their own. Many domestic and industrial buildings either do not have roofs made of suitable material to support a solar system, do not have the infrastructure to export electricity to the grid, or simply represent an unaffordable solution, with high initial costs of installation.                                                                                 |
| Do not believe in Net Zero, the need for renewable energy.                                                                                                                                                                                      |  | <p>The UK has a legally binding commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. As one of the cheapest and most rapidly deployable forms of renewable energy, solar will play an important role in achieving this commitment. The British Energy Security Strategy<sup>2</sup> published in April 2022 set an ambition of 70 GW of solar by 2035. The Government has made major commitments</p>                                                                                                       |

<sup>1</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6756e300a63e1781efb877a1/United\\_Kingdom\\_Food\\_Security\\_Report\\_2024\\_11dec2024\\_printable.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6756e300a63e1781efb877a1/United_Kingdom_Food_Security_Report_2024_11dec2024_printable.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy. (2022). British Energy Security Strategy. Published on April 7, 2022. Available at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/62611337d3b7f55cc9fd89f/british-energy-security-strategy-print-ready.pdf>

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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>to the delivery of clean energy in the Clean Power 2030 Action Plan<sup>3</sup>, published in December 2024 which outlines the DESNZ's ambition for 45-47 GW of solar power by 2030 as well as onshore and offshore wind.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <p>Visual and landscape impact – concerns about industrialisation: strong objections were raised to the visual intrusion of large solar farms, particularly in areas described as scenic, rural or historic, with the development seen as out of character with the surroundings. Many felt the area already has too many large developments.</p> | <p>It is acknowledged that in common with almost all commercial solar energy development proposals, some landscape and visual effects would occur as a result of the proposals.</p> <p>Therefore an assessment of landscape and visual impact (LVIA) has been undertaken and forms part of ES Chapter 6 <b>[Document Reference 6.2.6]</b>. This assessment has been undertaken by Chartered Landscape Architects at Pegasus Group who are experienced in this assessment of landscape and visual effects of solar energy developments and are familiar with the local landscape.</p> |
| <p>Scale and permanence of the development – concerns about long-term consequences: concerns were raised about the large size of the scheme, its long lifespan, and the uncertainty of what will happen to the land after the solar panels are decommissioned.</p>                                                                                | <p><b>ES Chapter 6 Landscape and Visual Impact [Document Reference 6.2.6]</b> and supporting technical appendices details and assesses the landscape and visual impact of the Scheme.</p> <p>An <b>Outline Soil Management Plan [Document Reference 7.8]</b>, <b>ES Chapter 15 Agriculture Circumstances [Document Reference 6.2.15]</b> and supporting technical appendices details and assesses the land use impact of the Scheme.</p>                                                                                                                                             |

<sup>3</sup> Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. Clean Power 2030 Action Plan: A new era of clean electricity (2024). Available online: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67bc80399c93b7286a396d6/clean-power-2030-action-plan-main-report.pdf>

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| <p>Impact on wildlife and natural environment – disruption to habitats: respondents highlighted risks to wildlife, including deer, migrating birds hedgehogs and birds; and questioned claims that the project would provide environmental enhancements. Several individuals asked for pathways to be made for migrating deer.</p> | <p>With embedded design measures and mitigation in place as described, The Scheme will not result in any significant adverse effects on any habitats or species, or non-statutory designated sites, with the exception of statutory designated sites, ground nesting birds and non-breeding birds.</p> <p>Major beneficial effects are anticipated as a result of habitat creation and diversification accompanied by long-term habitat management for the benefit of biodiversity.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <p>Lack of direct local benefit – calls for fair compensation or clearer advantages: there is scepticism about whether the local community will benefit from the scheme, with some demanding compensation or a clearer explanation of how they would gain.</p>                                                                     | <p>There are a number of local benefits associated with the scheme:</p> <p>The Applicant has committed to £400 per MW per year of operation of the Scheme, which could equate to a total Community Benefit Fund of around £12.8 million to support local community groups and initiatives.</p> <p>The Applicant is committed to the enhancement of employment and skills effects during each development phase as far as is practicably possible. As such, an <b>Outline Supply Chain, Employment and Skills Plan (“OSCESP”)</b> [Document <b>Reference 7.9.9</b>] is submitted with the application and the delivery of a final SCESP secured by a DCO requirement.</p> <p>Solar farms, such as Tween Bridge Solar Farm, will make a significant contribution to the local, and national, climate commitments.</p> <p>There will be significant ecological enhancements within the Order Limits including:</p> |

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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ecological corridors and green infrastructure</li> <li>• New grassland meadows for wildlife</li> <li>• Habitat enhancements for insects, bats and other native species.</li> <li>• Provision of bird boxes and bee hives.</li> <li>• Sheep grazing underneath and around the solar arrays</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Electric vehicle charging hub – most respondents responded negatively to the proposals on themes such as, nobody here has an electric car, the location is too hard to get to, unsuitable road access.                                                                                    | The proposed electric vehicle charging hub has been removed from the Scheme as a result of the feedback received.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Fairness and regional equity – disproportionate impact on the local area: several comments referenced the perceived over-concentration of infrastructure projects in Doncaster and northern areas, and suggested that wealthier southern counties were being spared similar developments. | <p>It is widely recognised that the electricity grid is constrained, and grid connection delays are threatening net-zero goals<sup>4</sup>. So, where capacity is identified this presents an opportunity to contribute to delivering much-needed renewable energy generation, pursuant to local and national targets to a low carbon future and to address the climate emergency.</p> <p>National Policy Statement EN-1 identifies how grid connection is an important consideration for applicants wishing to construct a generation plant; and this consideration is an important element for any renewable energy project which is seeking to connect to the national electricity infrastructure.</p> <p>As such the starting point for identifying suitable sites for renewable energy developments, is to identify areas with a grid connection that has spare capacity.</p> |

## Parish Councils feedback

| Organisation/Individual | Comments provided | Applicant's response (if needed) |
|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|
|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|

<sup>4</sup> <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/62/environmental-audit-committee/news/201721/grid-connections-and-storage-issues-must-be-addressed-to-decarbonise-the-economy-mps-find/>

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| <p><b>Belton Parish Council</b></p> | <p>Belton Parish Council recently considered the proposed Tween Bridge Solar Farm. The Parish Council wish to formally object to this application on the grounds of the unacceptable loss of high-grade agricultural land and its long-term implications for food security, rural character, and sustainable land use.</p> <p>The proposed site consists of agricultural land – a finite and nationally valuable resource that should be protected for food production. The irreversible loss of such land to energy infrastructure undermines the government's commitment to maintaining a secure and sustainable food supply, especially at a time when global pressures are already affecting agricultural output.</p> <p>While the Parish Council support the shift towards renewable energy, it should not come at the expense of land that is critical for food production. There are ample opportunities to site solar farms on brownfield land, industrial rooftops, or less productive agricultural areas, where the environmental and economic impacts would be significantly less severe.</p> <p>Additionally, the industrial scale and visual impact of the proposed solar installation would be detrimental to the rural character of the surrounding landscape, harming biodiversity, local heritage, and the enjoyment of the countryside by residents and visitors alike.</p> <p>The Parish Council wish these points to be considered carefully and do not wish to sacrifice our most productive agricultural land.</p> | <p>On 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2025</p> <p>RWE offered a full briefing for the council at the next monthly meeting. Members of the project team would come to the meeting to speak with councillors and answer any questions they might have.</p> <p>A face to face meeting was held at the next council meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> June at 6.30 pm.</p> <p>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 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). ES Chapter 15 <b>[Document Reference 6.2.15]</b> assesses the schemes impacts on the temporary use of agricultural land.</p> <p>There are no brownfield sites suitable or available to accommodate the proposals.</p> <p>As set out in ES Chapter 7 <b>[Document Reference 6.2.7]</b>, the proposal will provide significant ecological enhancements.</p> <p><b>ES Chapter 6 Landscape and Visual Impact [Document Reference 6.2.6]</b> and supporting technical appendices details and assesses the landscape and visual impact of the Scheme.</p> <p>An <b>Outline Soil Management Plan [Document Reference 7.8]</b>, <b>ES Chapter 15 Agriculture Circumstances [Document</b></p> |
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| <p><b>Thorne - Moorends Town Council</b></p> | <p>Thorne-Moorends Town Council, as a statutory consultee, submits the following response to the current consultation on the Tween Bridge Solar Farm proposal.</p> <p>Firstly, the Town Council wishes to express its appreciation for the presentation given at the April Full Council meeting. The opportunity to hear directly from the project team and ask questions was valuable and appreciated.</p> <p>However, the Council remains concerned about the broader consultation process and wishes to raise the following points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Perceived Lack of Meaningful Consultation:</b> The Council does not believe that this consultation constitutes a meaningful engagement exercise. There is a strong perception that issues and concerns raised by the local community are not being genuinely considered or addressed. Effective consultation should be a two-way process, yet there is little evidence that previous feedback has resulted in tangible changes to the scheme or approach.</li> <li>2. <b>Lack of Response to Previous Feedback:</b> The Council is disappointed that it did not receive a response to the formal concerns submitted during the previous consultation round. This absence of acknowledgment or engagement undermines the credibility of the process and contributes to local scepticism about whether the views of impacted communities are being taken seriously.</li> <li>3. <b>Request for a Meeting with Decision Makers:</b> The Council requests a direct meeting with project decision makers to discuss the concerns raised both by the Council and by residents. This meeting should take place after the Council has had the opportunity to formally consult with the local community it represents. Engagement at this level is essential to build trust and ensure that local voices are genuinely factored into the decision-making process.</li> </ol> <p>In summary, while the Council appreciates the scale and importance of renewable energy infrastructure projects, it believes that the rights and interests of host communities must be treated with equal seriousness. We reiterate our call for constructive dialogue and a fair, transparent process that recognises the legitimate concerns of local residents and their elected representatives.</p> | <p>Full details of all of the consultation exercise and engagement carried out in support of the Tween Bridge Scheme can be read in the Consultation Report.</p> <p>Feedback from the non-statutory consultation and ongoing design development led to a number of changes to the design presented at statutory consultation.</p> <p>All feedback received during the non-statutory consultation was set out in the non-statutory consultation report along with a response from the applicant. This report was made available to view on the project website as well as at the in-person exhibition events and document deposit locations throughout the statutory consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant undertook a careful and thorough review of the consultation responses received across the non-statutory and statutory consultations and has had regard to all responses in finalising its proposals.</p> |  |
| <p><b>Crowle Town Council</b></p>            | <p><b>Minutes from meeting with Crowle Town Council on 11/03/2025</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council are explicitly against the proposals and the meeting was quite heated.</li> <li>• The Council made it clear that their concerns are heightened as this is the third solar farm in the area, in addition to Pilfrey Solar Farm &amp; another.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |



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|                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The main concern was the construction access through Crowle.</li> <li>• Councillors said the route is not suitable for HGVs, and where HGVs do use the highway it will make the conditions worse.</li> <li>• HS explained that there would be a pre and post construction highway survey and that it would be Applicant's responsibility to repair the road if any damage is caused.</li> <li>• The Councillors responded that lots of the roads in the area have recently been repaired. Their concerns are that the residents will be frustrated public money has been spent on roads for them to be damaged and subsequently repaired by a developer.</li> <li>• Councillors suggested that a purpose-built construction road should be included in the proposals, north from A18 to avoid Crowle. Our take away from the meeting is that avoid access through Crowle would broadly overcome their concerns on the proposals.</li> <li>• Councillors suggested using the crossing at Medge Hall to avoid Crowle.</li> <li>• One Councillor suggested using Jacks Bank for access. However, other Councillors recognised this wasn't suitable route and another noted there was a live appeal on this route.</li> <li>• Councillors considered the best way they could get involved in the project is to review and comment on the OCTMP to mitigate potential impacts on local residents. We welcomed their comments.</li> <li>• The Council's chair question whether the proposals truly consider the environmental impacts.</li> <li>• Concerns that fencing surrounding the proposals would negatively impact the high population of deer in the area.</li> <li>• Concerns that we are proposing ecology enhancements that is already in the area. HS explained that this is because ecological enhancements are based on the present of wildlife in the area as opposed to providing an area in the scheme for biodiversity that is not suitable for this context. HS invited the Councillors to advise through the consultation what types of ecology enhancement they believe the area would benefit from.</li> <li>• Councillors advised the location of Crowle Community Hub should be clarified on consultation material by adding the exact location i.e. Market Hall. 7</li> </ul> <p>More general comments were that the proposals were for the financial benefit of the developer and not for its contribution to meeting the Government's energy targets.</p> | <p><b>ES Chapter 12 Transport and Access</b><br/>[Document Reference 6.2.12] and the <b>Outline CTMP</b> [Document Reference 7.7] provide further details on access and routing for construction traffic, including those routes via Crowle, <b>Document Reference 7.7</b> sets out the how arrivals and departures of construction vehicles will be managed.</p> <p>A summary of the mitigation proposed is set out in <b>Section 12.6 of ES Chapter 12 Transport and Access</b> [Document Reference 6.2.12] and is also set out in detail the <b>Outline CTMP</b> [Document Reference 7.7], including management measures for accesses off the A18.</p> <p>Although not a mandatory requirement, the ES includes demonstrable BNG as part of the ecological and landscape enhancements proposed within the design. The Statutory Biodiversity Metric has been used to assess impacts/uplifts on habitat units, linear units and watercourse units.</p> |
| <b>Keadby with Althorpe Parish Council</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scale of the project: The sheer size of the Tween Bridge Solar Farm will blight the countryside for miles around.</li> <li>• Impact on agriculture: The project will seriously affect the ability to grow food and crops on greenbelt land.</li> <li>• Existing infrastructure: The area already has windfarms, pylons, two power stations (with one pending), and two further solar farms planned for the Keadby area.</li> <li>• Industrial eyesores: The region is already filled with industrial structures, and adding more is unacceptable.</li> <li>• Alternative locations: Solar panels should be positioned on rooftops, not on prime agricultural land. Large warehouses around the M18/M62 could be used instead.</li> <li>• Flood risk: The area is a known flood zone, which increases the risk of flooding.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p><b>ES Chapter 6 Landscape and Visual Impact</b> [Document Reference 6.2.6] and supporting technical appendices details and assesses the landscape and visual impact of the Scheme.</p> <p>An <b>Outline Soil Management Plan</b> [Document Reference 7.8], <b>ES Chapter 15 Agriculture Circumstances</b> [Document</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |



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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Power cuts: The Isle of Axholme already experiences frequent power cuts, raising concerns about the National Grid's capacity to withstand the solar farm.</li><li>• Impact on residents: There is concern about the greater impact on local residents.</li><li>• Request for consideration: A plea for authorities to take people's concerns seriously and listen.</li></ul> | <p><b>Reference 6.2.15]</b> and supporting technical appendices details and assesses the land use impact of the Scheme.</p> <p>There are no brownfield sites suitable or available to accommodate proposals of this scale.</p> <p>The proposed Outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy is included in the appended <b>FRA (ES Technical Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment [Document Reference 6.3.10.1])</b>.</p> <p>In order to secure the Grid Connection, the Applicant undertook discussions with the local network operator, National Grid Energy Distribution (NGED). This confirmed that a solar development of this size can be supported at this connection point.</p> <p>The impacts of the proposed Scheme on local residents have been considered throughout the project. These are assessed in detail in the supporting Environmental Statement, including in relation to <b>Landscape and Visual Impacts (Chapter 6) [Document Reference 6.2.6], Transport and Access (Chapter 12) [Document Reference 6.2.12], Noise and Vibration (Chapter 13) [Document Reference 6.2.13] and Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases (Chapter 14) [Document Reference 6.2.14]</b>.</p> |
|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## **Appendix 5.1 – Draft SoCC Email to CDC**

**Gregory Anderson**

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**From:** [REDACTED]@pegasusgroup.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 16 July 2025 16:29  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Tween Bridge Solar Farm - draft Statement of Community Consultation

[REDACTED]  
Senior Planner - Planning

E [REDACTED]@pegasusgroup.co.uk

M [REDACTED] | T [REDACTED]

3 West Links | Tollgate | Chandlers Ford | Eastleigh | Hampshire | SO53 3TG



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**From:** [REDACTED]@pegasusgroup.co.uk>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 14, 2024 1:36 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@doncaster.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@pegasusgroup.co.uk>  
**Subject:** Tween Bridge Solar Farm - draft Statement of Community Consultation

Dear [REDACTED]

RWE are making significant progress with Tween Bridge Solar Farm and have pencilled in February 2025 as the start date for formal consultation. Whilst we are several months away from formal consultation, we attach for your consideration the draft Statement of Community Consultation.

Please advise if you have a designated officer who will review the draft SoCC. I would be grateful of comments by end of November 2024, and we would then aim to provide Doncaster and North Lincs councils with an updated and final SoCC in January 2025 for you both to formally approve.

It would also be useful if we can have a meeting in November 2024 to talk through the draft SoCC and update you on the other project matters. To this end, could you kindly provide your availability for a face-to-face meeting in mid November.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Senior Director

E [REDACTED]@pegasusgroup.co.uk

M [REDACTED] | DD [REDACTED] T [REDACTED] | EXT [REDACTED]

First Floor | South Wing | Equinox North | Great Park Road | Almondsbury | Bristol | BS32 4QL



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## **Appendix 5.2 – Draft SoCC Email to NLC**

Gregory Anderson

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**From:** [REDACTED]@pegasusgroup.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 16 July 2025 16:28  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Tween Bridge Solar farm - draft SoCC

---

[REDACTED]  
Senior Planner - Planning

E [REDACTED]@pegasusgroup.co.uk

M [REDACTED] T [REDACTED]

3 West Links | Tollgate | Chandlers Ford | Eastleigh | Hampshire | SO53 3TG



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**Please exercise extreme caution with attachments and website links or instructions to undertake financial transactions.**

**From:** [REDACTED]@pegasusgroup.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 14 October 2024 1:25 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@northlincs.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@pegasusgroup.co.uk>  
**Subject:** Tween Bridge Solar farm - draft SoCC

Dear [REDACTED]

RWE are making significant progress with Tween Bridge Solar Farm and have pencilled in February 2025 as the start date for formal consultation. Whilst we are several months away from formal consultation, we attach for your consideration the draft Statement of Community Consultation. Could you please review the attached and provide any comments by end of November 2024. We would then aim to provide North Lincs and Doncaster councils with an updated and final SoCC in January 2025 for you both to formally approve.

It would also be useful if we can have a meeting in November 2024 to talk through the draft SoCC and update you on the other project matters. To this end, could you kindly provide your availability for a face-to-face meeting in mid November.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]  
Senior Director

E [REDACTED]@pegasusgroup.co.uk

M [REDACTED] | DD [REDACTED] | T [REDACTED] | EXT [REDACTED]



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## **Appendix 5.3 – NLC Comments on the SoCC**

**Gregory Anderson**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@pegasusgroup.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 16 July 2025 15:22  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fw: Tween Bridge Solar farm - draft SoCC

[REDACTED]  
Associate Planner - Planning

**E** [REDACTED]@pegasusgroup.co.uk

**M** [REDACTED] | **T** [REDACTED]

First Floor | South Wing | Equinox North | Great Park Road | Almondsbury | Bristol | BS32 4QL



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**Please exercise extreme caution with attachments and website links or instructions to undertake financial transactions.**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@northlincs.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 20 November 2024 10:56 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@pegasusgroup.co.uk>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@northlincs.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Tween Bridge Solar farm - draft SoCC

Hi [REDACTED]

Apologies for not responding to your earlier emails.

We have reviewed the draft SoCC and I can confirm that we have no concerns to raise in respect of the proposed approach to consultation. The only comment that we have to make is in relation to the press release list and newspaper advert lists. The relevant local newspaper for North Lincolnshire is the Scunthorpe Telegraph, this is where NLC publicise any planning related applications. The related website is Scunthorpe Live. Other than this I have no other comments to make.

I would be happy to arrange a catch-up meeting to discuss progress on the project etc. However, it may be useful to have a joint meeting with yourselves and Doncaster Council. [REDACTED] had taken the lead on approaching landscaping consultants to provide advice for both local authorities but I am awaiting an update from him in this regard. If Doncaster are ok with it I would be happy to join the meeting you already have arranged. Alternatively, I can provide some dates for a separate meeting in early December. If you could let me know which approach would be preferable then we can finalise details.

**Kind Regards**

[REDACTED]  
**Development Management Specialist | Development Management | Economy and Environment**

@ [REDACTED]@northlincs.gov.uk



☒ North Lincolnshire Council, Church Square House, 30 – 40 High Street, Scunthorpe, DN15 6NL

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@pegasusgroup.co.uk>

**Sent:** 20 November 2024 08:37

**To:** [REDACTED]@northlincs.gov.uk>

**Cc:** [REDACTED]@northlincs.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@pegasusgroup.co.uk>

**Subject:** Re: Tween Bridge Solar farm - draft SoCC

**Importance:** High

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

Hi [REDACTED]

I hope you're well.

We have been unable to get a response from [REDACTED] to the below emails (as well as emails sent under a separate email chain). Please could you follow this up internally. In short, we would like to confirm that North Lincs have no comments on the draft SoCC, arrange a meeting to provide an update on the proposals, and understand if North Lincs have appointed a landscape consultant to act on their behalf.

We have a meeting schedule with [REDACTED] and some of his colleagues for Doncaster Council the first week in December. We would be grateful if we could make the same progress with North Lincs.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Principal Planner

E [REDACTED]@pegasusgroup.co.uk

M [REDACTED] | DD [REDACTED] | EXT [REDACTED] | T [REDACTED]

First Floor | South Wing | Equinox North | Great Park Road | Almondsbury | Bristol | BS32 4QL

**PEGASUS**  
GROUP 

---

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---

**From:** [REDACTED]@pegasusgroup.co.uk>

**Sent:** 11 November 2024 9:32 AM

**To:** [REDACTED]@pegasusgroup.co.uk> [REDACTED]@northlincs.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Re: Tween Bridge Solar farm - draft SoCC

Hi [REDACTED],

Please can you respond to the below emails. The project is now on a critical path with tight timelines. We would be grateful if you could confirm receipt of the below emails and respond to our queries.

We did try to call you last week too and a colleague said they would pass you a message requesting that you call us back.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Principal Planner

E [REDACTED]@pegasusgroup.co.uk

M [REDACTED] | DD [REDACTED] | EXT [REDACTED] | T [REDACTED]

First Floor | South Wing | Equinox North | Great Park Road | Almondsbury | Bristol | BS32 4QL



---

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---

**From:** [REDACTED]@pegasusgroup.co.uk>

**Sent:** 05 November 2024 12:30 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]@pegasusgroup.co.uk>; [REDACTED]@northlincs.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Re: Tween Bridge Solar farm - draft SoCC

Hi [REDACTED],

Please can you come back to us on the below points requests in the previous emails:

- Comments on the Draft SOCC
- Availability for a meeting
- Progress on appointed a landscape consultant to act on behalf of North Lincs (and Doncaster)

By way of an update, Doncaster Council have provided only very minor corrections to the Draft SOCC and have expressed that they were pleased with the proposed strategy.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Principal Planner

E [REDACTED]@pegasusgroup.co.uk

M [REDACTED] | DD [REDACTED] | EXT [REDACTED] | T [REDACTED]

First Floor | South Wing | Equinox North | Great Park Road | Almondsbury | Bristol | BS32 4QL



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---

**From:** [REDACTED]@pegasusgroup.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 28 October 2024 12:25 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@pegasusgroup.co.uk>; [REDACTED]@northlincs.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Re: Tween Bridge Solar farm - draft SoCC

Hi [REDACTED]

I hope you're well.

Please can you come back to us regarding [REDACTED] below email. We're keen to arrange a progress meeting with North Lincs Council (and Doncaster Council) at the earliest opportunity in November.

It would also be helpful to understand if any progress has been made regarding the appointment of a suitably qualified landscape architect to act on behalf of Doncaster Council. We can discuss this in more detail during the catch up meeting.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
Principal Planner

E [REDACTED]@pegasusgroup.co.uk

M [REDACTED] | DD [REDACTED] | EXT [REDACTED] | T [REDACTED]

First Floor | South Wing | Equinox North | Great Park Road | Almondsbury | Bristol | BS32 4QL

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---

**From:** [REDACTED]@pegasusgroup.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 14 October 2024 1:25 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@northlincs.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@pegasusgroup.co.uk>  
**Subject:** Tween Bridge Solar farm - draft SoCC

Dear [REDACTED]

RWE are making significant progress with Tween Bridge Solar Farm and have pencilled in February 2025 as the start date for formal consultation. Whilst we are several months away from formal consultation, we attach for your consideration the draft Statement of Community Consultation. Could you please review the attached and provide any comments by end of November 2024. We would then aim to provide North Lincs and Doncaster councils with an updated and final SoCC in January 2025 for you both to formally approve.

It would also be useful if we can have a meeting in November 2024 to talk through the draft SoCC and update you on the other project matters. To this end, could you kindly provide your availability for a face-to-face meeting in mid November.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Senior Director

E [REDACTED]@pegasusgroup.co.uk

M [REDACTED] | DD [REDACTED] | T [REDACTED] | EXT [REDACTED]

First Floor | South Wing | Equinox North | Great Park Road | Almondsbury | Bristol | BS32 4QL



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## **Appendix 5.4 – CDC Comments on the SoCC**



Gregory Anderson

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@pegasusgroup.co.uk  
**Sent:** 16 July 2025 15:48  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fw: Tween Bridge Solar Farm - draft Statement of Community Consultation

See below.

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@doncaster.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 04 November 2024 9:04 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@pegasusgroup.co.uk>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@pegasusgroup.co.uk>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@doncaster.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@doncaster.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@doncaster.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** FW: Tween Bridge Solar Farm - draft Statement of Community Consultation

Hi [REDACTED]

Apologies for the delay.

Comments from our policy team on the consultation document FYI:

*Its pleasing to see that they have included a free local newspaper (Thorne Times) and not just Doncaster Free Press. Also, I'm sure there's lots of groups who meet in Thorne Vermuyden Centre who would welcome the consultation documents to be in there so that's also a positive step.*

*Other than the suggested changes to include "City of Doncaster Council" I cannot think of anything they haven't included and appears in line with the current SCI.*

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@pegasusgroup.co.uk>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 14, 2024 1:36 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@doncaster.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@pegasusgroup.co.uk>  
**Subject:** Tween Bridge Solar Farm - draft Statement of Commuiny Consultation

Dear [REDACTED]

RWE are making significant progress with Tween Bridge Solar Farm and have pencilled in February 2025 as the start date for formal consultation. Whilst we are several months away from formal consultation, we attach for your consideration the draft Statement of Community Consultation.

Please advise if you have a designated officer who will review the draft SoCC. I would be grateful of comments by end of November 2024, and we would then aim to provide Doncaster and North Lincs councils with an updated and final SoCC in January 2025 for you both to formally approve.

It would also be useful if we can have a meeting in November 2024 to talk through the draft SoCC and update you on the other project matters. To this end, could you kindly provide your availability for a face-to-face meeting in mid November.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Senior Director

E [REDACTED]@pegasusgroup.co.uk

M [REDACTED] | DD [REDACTED] | T [REDACTED] EXT [REDACTED]

First Floor | South Wing | Equinox North | Great Park Road | Almondsbury | Bristol | BS32 4QL



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## **Appendix 5.5 – CDC Approval of the SoCC`**

---

**RE: Tween Bridge Solar Farm - Statement of Community Consultation**

---

**From** [REDACTED]@doncaster.gov.uk>  
**Date** Thu 20/02/2025 14:04  
**To** [REDACTED]@pegasusgroup.co.uk> [REDACTED]@doncaster.gov.uk>  
**Cc** [REDACTED]@pegasusgroup.co.uk> [REDACTED]@doncaster.gov.uk>;  
[REDACTED]@doncaster.gov.uk>

H [REDACTED],

Thanks for your email. I can confirm that we're happy to agree the document from our perspective – do you need anything more formal setting this out? If so, please advise and I will arrange for this to be done.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Planning Development Manager  
Directorate of Place  
City of Doncaster Council

**Tel:** [REDACTED]  
**Address:** Civic Office, Waterdale, Doncaster, DN1 3BU  
**E-mail:** [REDACTED]@doncaster.gov.uk  
**Website:** [www.doncaster.gov.uk](http://www.doncaster.gov.uk)

 cdc grey

---

**Fr** [REDACTED]@pegasusgroup.co.uk>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2025 9:27 AM  
**T** [REDACTED]@doncaster.gov.uk> [REDACTED]@doncaster.gov.uk>  
[REDACTED]@pegasusgroup.co.uk [REDACTED]@doncaster.gov.uk>;  
[REDACTED]@doncaster.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Re: Tween Bridge Solar Farm - Statement of Community Consultation

---

**De** [REDACTED]

Just wondering if you've had the opportunity to review and approve the Tween Bridge SoCC?

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Senior Director - Planning

[REDACTED]s@pegasusgroup.co.uk

M [REDACTED] 2 | DD [REDACTED] - [REDACTED] EX [REDACTED]

First Floor | South Wing | Equinox North | Great Park Road | Almondsbury | Bristol | BS32 4QL

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**From** [REDACTED]s@pegasusgroup.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 13 February 2025 18:43  
**To** [REDACTED]@doncaster.gov.uk> [REDACTED]@doncaster.gov.uk>  
**Cc** [REDACTED]@pegasusgroup.co.uk> [REDACTED]@doncaster.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@doncaster.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Re: Tween Bridge Solar Farm - Statement of Community Consultation

De [REDACTED]

**Section 47(2) of the Planning Act 2008**

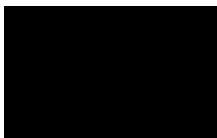
**Tween Bridge Solar Farm - Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project**

## Duty of Developer to Consult with North Lincolnshire Council Over the Statement of Community Consultation

Further to my email dated Tuesday 11 February 2025, and on behalf of RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Limited, I enclose for your acceptance the Tween Bridge Solar Farm Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). I look forward to your acceptance over the attached SoCC within the prerequisite 28 day period as set out by Section 47(3) of the 2008 Act, namely by Thursday 13th March 2025.

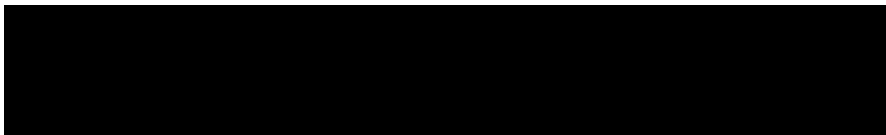
I duly confirm that this final SoCC incorporates the observations provided by City of Doncaster Council policy team on 4th November 2024 to the draft version of the SoCC. Accordingly, I trust that you will be in position to swiftly accept the document. The SoCC sets out how consultation will start on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and ends on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

Kind regards



Senior Director - Planning

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



First Floor | South Wing | Equinox North | Great Park Road | Almondsbury | Bristol |  
BS32 4QL

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---

**From:** [REDACTED]@doncaster.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 11 February 2025 09:05  
**T:** [REDACTED].pegasusgroup.co.uk [REDACTED]doncaster.gov.uk>  
**C:** [REDACTED]pegasusgroup.co.uk [REDACTED]doncaster.gov.uk>;  
[REDACTED]doncaster.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Tween Bridge Solar Farm - draft Statement of Community Consultation

Good morning, Gareth. Thank you for letting us know, and we look forward to receiving the updated document.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Planning Development Manager

Directorate of Place

City of Doncaster Council

**Tel:** [REDACTED]

**Address:** Civic Office, Waterdale, Doncaster, DN1 3BU

**E-mail:** [REDACTED]@doncaster.gov.uk

**Website:** [www.doncaster.gov.uk](http://www.doncaster.gov.uk)

 cdc grey



## **Appendix 5.6 – NLC Approval of the SoCC**

---

RE: Tween Bridge - Statement of Community Consultation

---

From [REDACTED]@northlincs.gov.uk>  
Date Fri 28/02/2025 12:26  
To [REDACTED]@pegasusgroup.co.uk>

H [REDACTED]

Apologies for the delay in responding.

I can confirm that I have reviewed the updated SoCC and that the content of this document is agreed. The document takes account of NLC's comments on the draft SoCC with regards to the Scunthorpe Telegraph being the relevant newspaper for North Lincolnshire and I can confirm that the LPA is now content with the document and has no further comments to make.

I trust that this has provided the necessary clarification. Do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss this matter further.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]  
Development Management Specialist | Development Management | Economy and Environment

@ [REDACTED]@northlincs.gov.uk



[REDACTED]

✉ North Lincolnshire Council, Church Square House, 30 – 40 High Street, Scunthorpe, DN15 6NL

---

From: [REDACTED]@pegasusgroup.co.uk>  
Sent: 20 February 2025 09:25  
To: [REDACTED]@northlincs.gov.uk>  
Cc: [REDACTED]@pegasusgroup.co.uk>  
Subject: Re: Tween Bridge - Statement of Community Consultation

|                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>CAUTION:</b> External Email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe. |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

De [REDACTED]

Have you had the opportunity to review & approve the SoCC?

[REDACTED]

Senior Director - Planning

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

  
First Floor | South Wing | Equinox North | Great Park Road | Almondsbury | Bristol | BS32 4QL

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**From**  [@pegasusgroup.co.uk](mailto:pegasusgroup.co.uk)>  
**Sent:** 13 February 2025 18:40  
**To**  [@northlincs.gov.uk](mailto:northlincs.gov.uk)>  
**Cc**  [\\_pegasusgroup.co.uk](mailto:pegasusgroup.co.uk)>  
**Subject:** Re: Tween Bridge - Statement of Community Consultation

Dea 

**Section 47(2) of the Planning Act 2008**

**Tween Bridge Solar Farm - Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project**

**Duty of Developer to Consult with North Lincolnshire Council Over the Statement of Community Consultation**

Further to my email dated Tuesday 11 February 2025, and on behalf of RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Limited, I enclose for your acceptance the Tween Bridge Solar Farm Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). I look forward to your acceptance over the attached SoCC within the prerequisite 28 day period as set out by Section 47(3) of the 2008 Act, namely by Thursday 13th March 2025.

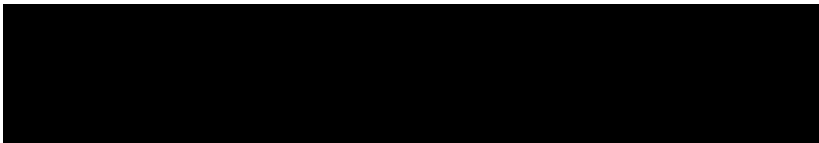
I duly confirm that this final SoCC incorporates the observations provided by the Council on 20th November 2024 to the draft version of the SoCC with regards to its referencing to the Scunthorpe Telegraph. Accordingly, I trust that you will be in position to swiftly accept the document. The SoCC sets out how consultation will start on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and ends on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

Kind regards



Senior Director - Planning

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



First Floor | South Wing | Equinox North | Great Park Road | Almondsbury | Bristol |  
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## **Appendix 5.7 – Final copy of the SoCC**



# Tween Bridge Solar Farm

A Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project

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## Statement of Community Consultation

February 2025



On behalf of RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Limited







# Contents

|                                  |         |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| 1 Introduction                   | page 4  |
| 2 About RWE Renewables           | page 6  |
| 3 The Proposal                   | page 8  |
| 4 Statutory Consultation         | page 12 |
| 5 Responding to the Consultation | page 22 |
| Appendices                       | page 24 |
| Appendix 1 – Order Limits        | page 26 |

# 1 Introduction

- <sup>1.1</sup> RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Limited (“we” or “the Applicant”) is publishing this Statement of Community Consultation (“SoCC”) in connection with its proposals for a new solar energy and storage scheme known as Tween Bridge Solar Farm (“TBSF”). This is a renewable energy scheme comprising the construction, operation and decommissioning of ground mounted solar photovoltaic electricity generating panels with a gross electrical output of more than 50 megawatts alternating current (AC). Associated development would include an electrical storage facility, electrical equipment, substations, cabling, landscaping and biodiversity measures.
- <sup>1.2</sup> This Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) sets out how we intend to carry out the statutory phase of consultation for TBSF. This SoCC has been developed in consultation with City of Doncaster Council and North Lincolnshire Council. Statutory consultation is intended to be carried out in early 2025.

## Project Location

- <sup>1.3</sup> TBSF is located within the Yorkshire and Humber regions. The site extends to over 2526 hectares, centred at approximately 10 kilometres to the northeast of Doncaster and 14 kilometres to the west of Scunthorpe. The Scheme straddles two host authorities; City of Doncaster Council and North Lincolnshire Council. At a local level, the Scheme is made up of a number of land areas. These comprise land east of Thorne; land to the south of Tween Bridge Moors; land to the west of Crowle; land to the north and northwest of Sandtoft & Sandtoft Industrial Estate; land to the north of Hatfield Moors; and, land to the northeast of Hatfield. The Scheme is located on land on either side of the M180, High Level Banks (the A18) and the Stainforth and Keadby Canal.
- <sup>1.4</sup> A site boundary plan is provided at Appendix 1.

## Aerial



## KEY

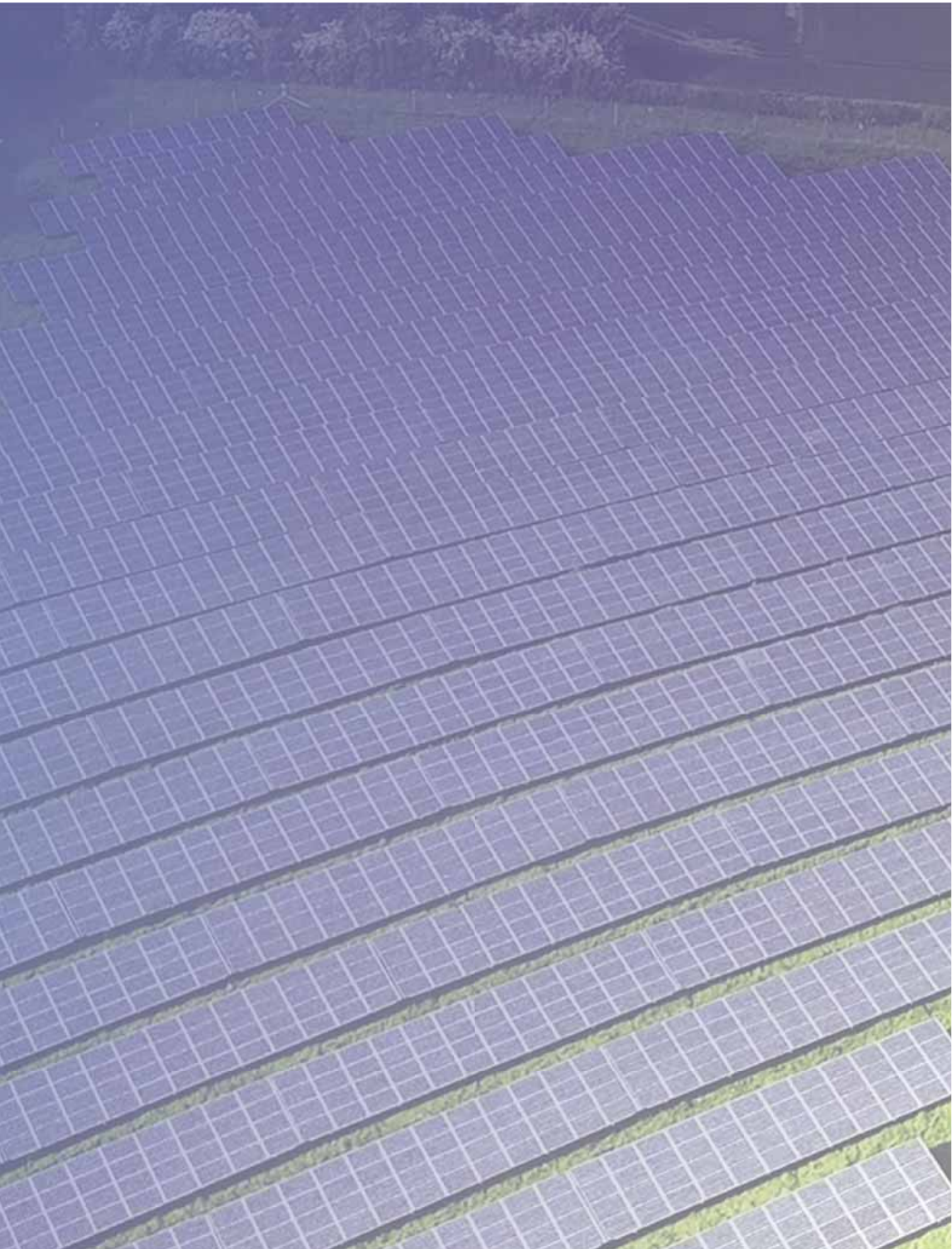


DRAFT ORDER LIMITS



## 2 About RWE Renewables

- 2.1 RWE Renewables is one of the world's leading producers of renewable energy. RWE Renewables is now the world's second largest offshore wind developer and third largest provider of renewable electricity across Europe. The Applicant has the necessary knowledge and experience in renewable energy to develop the Scheme.
- 2.2 RWE Renewables are the leading power generator and one of the largest renewables developers in the UK. They already provide 15% of the UK's energy needs through our wind farms, hydro, biomass and gas energy generation facilities.
- 2.3 By 2030, RWE Renewables 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 Renewables directly employs around 3,000 people in the UK, plus many more indirectly.





## 3 The Proposal

### Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project

3.1 TBSF is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) because it will generate over 50MW and requires consent from the Secretary of State (SoS) for Energy Security and Net Zero (ESNZ), via a Development Consent Order (DCO). Accordingly, this SoCC has been prepared pursuant to section 47(1) of the Planning Act 2008 (the Act) and Regulation 12 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.

3.2 The Application will be examined by an inspector(s) appointed by the Planning Inspectorate – the independent body responsible for examining NSIPs – which would make a recommendation on the application to the SoS. The SoS will make the final decision on a DCO application.

3.3 Before submitting an application, the Act requires the Applicant to carry out consultation with people living in the vicinity of the land and prescribed stakeholders.

3.4 Consultation ensures that potential mitigation measures can be considered and, where appropriate, built into our designs before an application for development consent is submitted.

## The Proposed Development

3.5 The main element of the Scheme is the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of a ground mounted solar park with an intended design capacity of over 50MWp (megawatts peak), and a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with an export/import connection to the National Grid.

3.6 Based on a wattage output of 570Wp (watt power) panel, the potential maximum range for energy generation is around 1250 MWp of direct current (DC) capacity. This would equate to around 800 MW of alternating current (AC) capacity. Flexibility in panel design would be required to accommodate expected future technology developments as technology continues to evolve and become more efficient.

3.7 RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Limited have accepted a grid connection offer from National Grid. This confirms that the energy generated by TBSF can be fed into the National Grid at the existing 400kV (kilovolt) Drax to Keadby overhead line. To connect the solar farm to the national electricity transmission network, National Grid has identified that a new 400 kV substation will need to be built. The location of the new substation is still to be confirmed and is dependent on technical, design, and environmental factors being considered. National Grid, as part of its legal obligation to facilitate new connections, will be developing its own proposals and consenting for the substation separately. The location is outside the control of the Applicant. For the consultation, it has been assumed that the 400kV substation would be located within, or near to, the proposed draft Order Limits. RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Limited have included an area within the draft Order limits where it is thought that the substation, and therefore the connection cable, might be located, in order to ensure that we consult with the appropriate parties and that our consultation materials include assessments in relation to this land, where possible.

3.8 The connection date to the new National Grid substation is currently scheduled to be in 2029. This is subject to construction of the new substation and completion of the necessary grid reinforcement works by National Grid. A 400kV underground cable will be used to connect TBSF to the new National Grid substation. The National Grid substation will be subject to a separate consenting application by National Grid.



## Environmental Impact Assessment

3.9 TBSF constitutes an 'environmental impact assessment development' as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. An Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") is therefore being prepared to ensure the likely significant effects of the Scheme are understood and whether appropriate mitigation measures should be put in place to control or reduce environmental effects. The DCO application will be accompanied by an Environmental Statement containing the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment.

3.10 An EIA Scoping Opinion was issued by the Planning Inspectorate on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023. Together with the Applicant's Scoping Report, this identifies the environmental issues relevant to the Scheme and suggests any potential mitigation measures. The Scoping Opinion is available to view on the Planning Inspectorate website at:

**[national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010148](https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010148)**

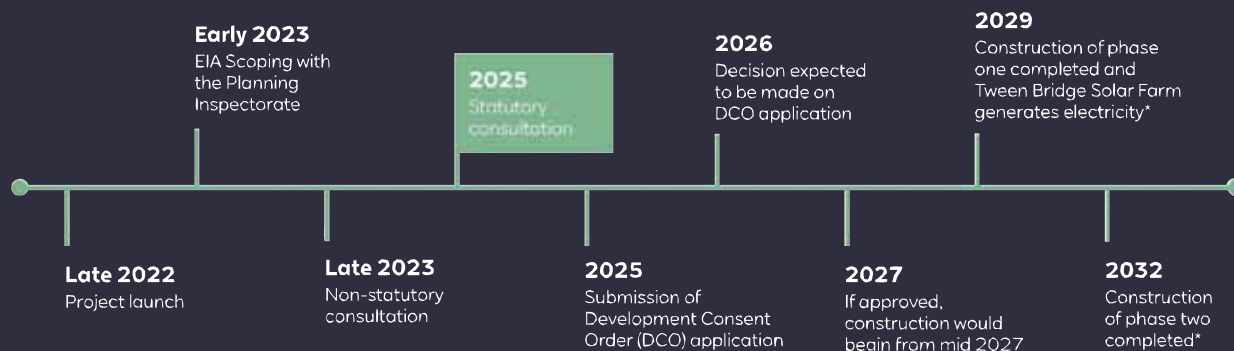
3.11 In accordance with Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) which sets out the current information on the potential environmental effects of the Scheme, and any proposed mitigation, accompanies the statutory consultation.

3.12 The Applicant invites feedback on the information presented in the PEIR as part of the statutory consultation. Feedback received will be considered before the DCO application and EIA are finalised for submission.

## Timeline for Tween Bridge Solar Farm

3.13 The below sets out an indicative timeline for each stage of TBSF from consultation through to the Secretary of State decision.

All dates subject to change



\*Indicative completion dates

## 4 Statutory Consultation

### When will the Consultation Take Place

4.1 We currently intend to undertake statutory consultation for seven weeks starting on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025. The deadline for accepting consultation responses is 11.59pm on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025. All responses to the consultation must be received by the deadline date.

### What Are We Consulting On

4.2 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:

- **Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)** – the PEIR sets out the preliminary findings from the ongoing Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). It also includes the photomontages of the Scheme from various locations around the site. 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.
- **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.
- **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.

4.3 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.

## Who Are We Consulting

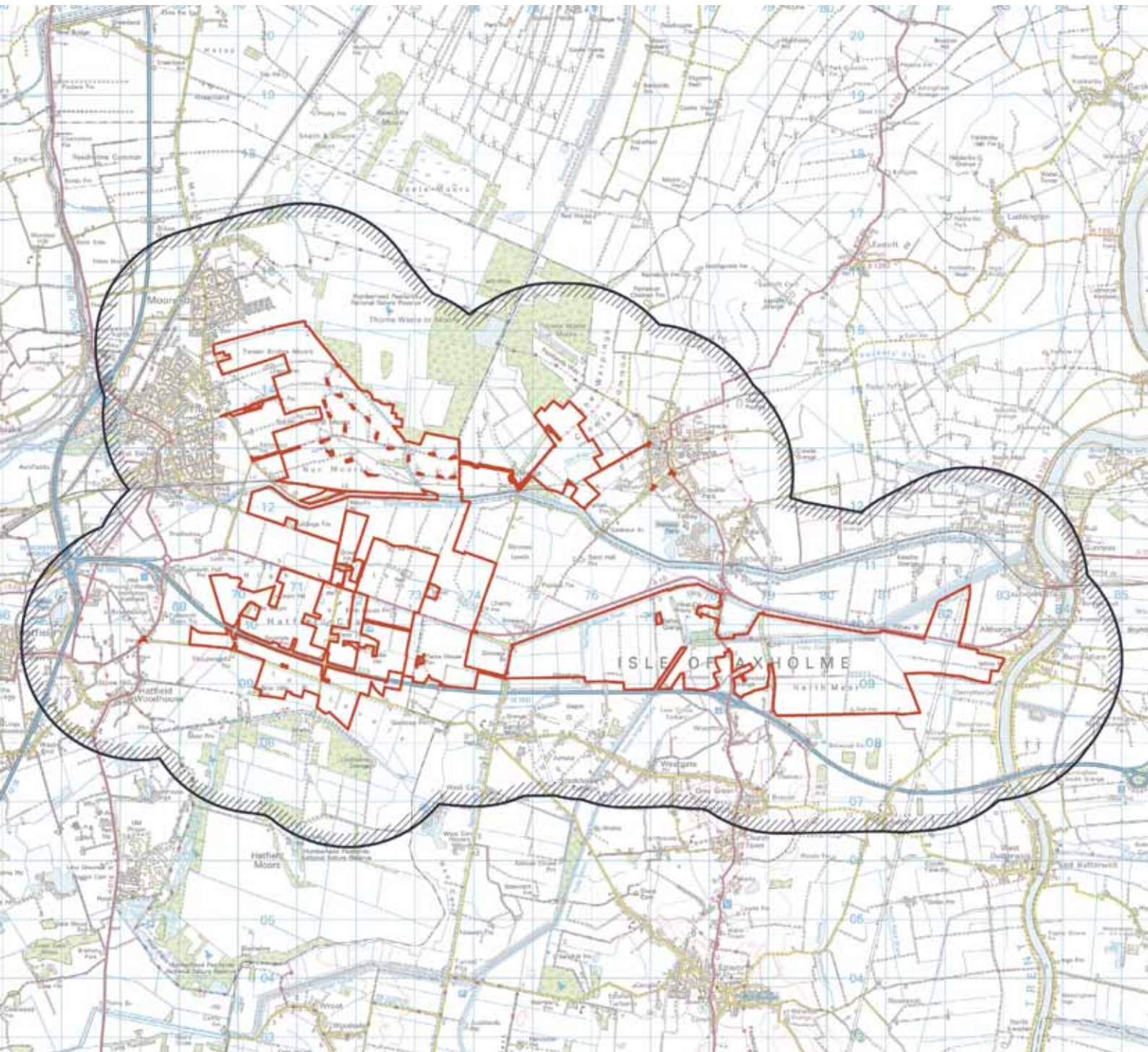
4.4 We will consult widely in accordance with this SoCC. The consultation process is open to anyone with an interest in TBSF. We have identified a primary consultation zone for the purpose of communicating with the local community under section 47 of the 2008 Act. The primary consultation zone has been 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.

4.5 The primary consultation zone covers the villages of Thorne, Moorends, Crowle, Ealand, Sandtoft, Hatfield Woodhouse, and Stone Hill. The zone has also been amended where proportionate and reasonable based on existing boundaries in order to avoid inappropriate 'severance' of communities.

4.6 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.



Primary Consultation Zone Plan



**KEY**

 DRAFT ORDER LIMITS

 PRIMARY CONSULTATION ZONE

## Promoting the Consultation and Consultation Activities

4.7 A range of methods will be utilised to promote and advertise the consultation. The consultation will be structured round a series of public exhibitions and a webinar session to allow people to meet the TBSF project team and ask questions, these include:

| Method              | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Consultation Events | <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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Coulman Pavillion</b>, 5 Coulman St, Thorne, Doncaster DN8 5JT, UK;</li> <li>• <b>Crowle Community Hub</b>, Market Place, Crowle DN17 4LA;</li> <li>• <b>Moorends Miners Welfare &amp; Community Development Centre</b>, 24A West Road, Moorends, Doncaster DN8 4LH;</li> <li>• <b>Hatfield Woodhouse Village Hall</b>, Main Street, Hatfield Woodhouse, Doncaster DN7 6NE.</li> </ul> |
| Online Webinar      | <p>One webinar event will be held for any members of the public to join. Individuals can register for this event on the project website or by emailing: <b>info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Project Website     | <p>All consultation documents will be published on the dedicated project website: <b><a href="https://tweenbridgesolar.co.uk/">https://tweenbridgesolar.co.uk/</a></b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Press release       | <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lincolnshire Live;</li> <li>• Yorkshire Post;</li> <li>• Scunthorpe Telegraph;</li> <li>• Doncaster Free Press;</li> <li>• Thorne Times.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

| Method             | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Newspaper advert   | <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"> <li>• Lincolnshire Live;</li> <li>• Yorkshire Post;</li> <li>• Scunthorpe Telegraph;</li> <li>• Doncaster Free Press;</li> <li>• Thorne Times.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Emails and letters | <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"> <li>• Host constituency and neighbouring constituency area MPs;</li> <li>• Elected representatives at City of Doncaster Council and North Lincolnshire Council;</li> <li>• Host parish councils;</li> <li>• Neighbouring local authorities;</li> <li>• Neighbouring parish councils;</li> <li>• All relevant statutory consultees.</li> </ul> |
| Statutory notices  | <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"> <li>• For two successive weeks in a local paper(s);</li> <li>• Once in a national newspaper;</li> <li>• Once in the London Gazette.</li> </ul> <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>                              |



| Method                         | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Information posters            | 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.                                                                         |
| Community Consultation Leaflet | 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. |

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 the in-person consultation events and selected documents will be available document inspection points.

## Document Inspection Points

4.9 The consultation documents listed at paragraph 4.2 will be made available for members of the public to inspect at the following venues:

| Location                   | Address                                                     | Standard Opening Hours <sup>1</sup>                                                                                                                               |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Crowle Community Hub       | The Market Hall, Market Place, Crowle, Scunthorpe DN17 4LA  | Monday to Friday: 9am to 12.30pm then 1pm to 5pm.<br>Saturday: 9am to 12 noon.<br>Sunday: Closed.                                                                 |
| Thorne Library             | The Vermuyden Centre, Field Side, Thorne, Doncaster DN8 4BQ | Monday to Friday: 8:40am to 1pm then 1.30pm to 5pm.<br>Saturday: 8:40am to 1pm.<br>Sunday: Closed                                                                 |
| Hatfield Community Library | High Street, Hatfield, Doncaster DN7 6RY                    | Monday: 10am to 4pm.<br>Tuesday: 10am to 1pm.<br>Wednesday: Closed.<br>Thursday: 10am to 1pm.<br>Friday: 10am to 12 noon.<br>Saturday: Closed.<br>Sunday: Closed. |

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.

## Limitations, Cancellations or Changes

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.

## Wider Engagement

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.

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.

<sup>1</sup> Opening times are correct at date of publication and may be subject to change.

## Seldom Heard Groups

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.

| Hard to Reach Group                                  | Consultation Engagement Methods                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Elderly people                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Options to engage through conventional communications channels including the freepost and the freephone information line.</li> <li>• Upon request, providing information in alternative format such as text to speech app.</li> <li>• Providing paper copies of materials at information point locations 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.</li> <li>• Advertising the availability of telephone call backs for stakeholders with further questions or who would like to discuss TBSF with the project team.</li> <li>• Consultation events at several locations, with members of the TBSF project team available to assist with completing feedback responses.</li> </ul> |
| Disabled people and those with learning disabilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upon request, providing information in alternative format such as text to speech app.</li> <li>• Option to enlarge text on the project's website.</li> <li>• Providing telephone call backs for stakeholders with further questions or those who would like to discuss the project further with the project team.</li> <li>• Face-to-face events at four locations within the primary consultation zone, with members of the team available to assist with completing feedback responses.</li> <li>• Opportunity to request webinars supported by British Sign Language signing.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

| Hard to Reach Group                            | Consultation Engagement Methods                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| People with limited mobility                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Online engagement through the consultation website and providing opportunities for webinars to remove the need to travel.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> |
| Geographically isolated people and communities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Online engagement through the consultation website and opportunity for webinars to remove the need to travel.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>             |
| Young people                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online engagement to encourage this demographic to complete feedback forms/consultation engagement.</li> <li>• Posters will be distributed at the local college/high schools to inform the demographic of the project and encourage them to provide feedback.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

## Information Channels

4.15 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 in Table below:

| Method    | Contact details                                                               | Hours of operation                                                                                                                        |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Online    | <a href="https://tweenbridgesolar.co.uk/">https://tweenbridgesolar.co.uk/</a> | 24 hour.                                                                                                                                  |
| Telephone | <b>0800 021 7877</b>                                                          | Our line is staffed from 9am–5:30pm weekdays (excluding bank holidays) with an answerphone facility to take messages outside these hours. |
| Email     | <b>info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk</b>                                            | 24 hour (emails will be monitored between 9am–5:30pm weekdays (excluding bank holidays) and responded).                                   |
| Post      | <b>FREEPOST TWEENBRIDGE</b><br>(please note that you do not need a stamp)     | 24 hour (mailbox will be monitored between 9am–5:30pm weekdays (excluding bank holidays)).                                                |

# 5 Responding to the Consultation

## How to Respond to the Consultation

5.1 Starting on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025. Responses received after that date may not be considered.

5.2 Consultation responses can be made in the following ways:

- 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.

5.3 The enquiry channels above will be available throughout the consultation for members of the public and other stakeholders to ask questions, request further information or request printed copies of consultation materials and documents.

## How we will use the Consultation Feedback

5.4 We will carefully consider all comments received during the pre-application consultation period.

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 pre-application consultation has shaped and influenced the project. This will be submitted with the DCO Application.

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.

## Further Consultation

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.









KEY

DRAFT ORDER LIMITS

| REV | DATE | DESCRIPTION |
|-----|------|-------------|
|-----|------|-------------|

AERIAL

TWEEN BRIDGE SOLAR

RWE

| DATE       | SCALE       |                                                                                       | TEAM/DRAWN                                                                            | APPROVED |
|------------|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 07/02/2025 | 1:55,000@A3 |                                                                                       | EN/RL                                                                                 | RL       |
| SHEET      | REV         | N                                                                                     | 01KM                                                                                  |          |
| -          | -           |  |  |          |

DRAWING NUMBER











# KEY



DRAFT ORDER LIMITS

| REV | DATE | DESCRIPTION |
|-----|------|-------------|
|-----|------|-------------|

## OS

### TWEEN BRIDGE SOLAR

#### RWE

| DATE       | SCALE       | TEAM/DRAWN | APPROVED |
|------------|-------------|------------|----------|
| 07/02/2025 | 1:55,000@A3 | EN/RL      | RL       |

| SHEET | REV | N | 0 | 1KM |
|-------|-----|---|---|-----|
| -     | -   | ▲ | — | —   |

DRAWING NUMBER

-

**Pegasus Group Bristol**

First Floor, South Wing, Equinox North,  
Great Park Road, Almondsbury, Bristol, BS32 4QL

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**Appendix 5.8 – Screenshot of the SoCC available to download on the website**

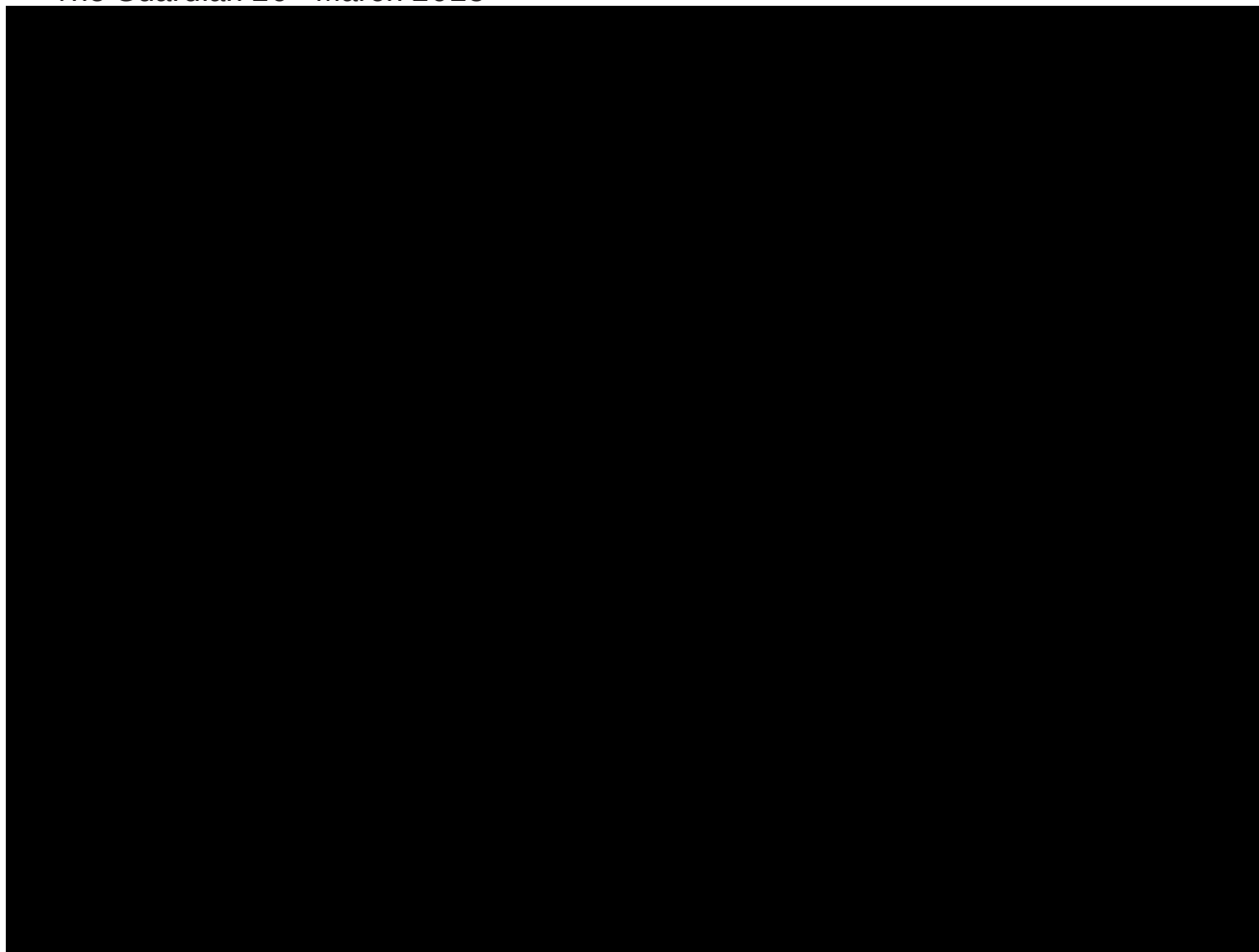




## **Appendix 5.9 – Evidence of Newspaper Adverts and Notices**

## **Appendix 5.9 – Newspaper Evidence.**

The Guardian 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025



The London Gazette March 2025

## Notice details

**Type:**

Planning

> Town and Country Planning

**Publication date:**

20 March 2025, 12:01

**Edition:**

The London Gazette

**Notice ID:**

4842920

**Notice code:**

1601

**Issue number:**

64687

**Page number:**

5661

[About Town and Country Planning notices](#)

## Town and Country Planning

### Tween Bridge Solar Farm

#### THE PLANNING ACT 2008 - SECTIONS 42, 47 AND 48

#### THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (APPLICATIONS: PRESCRIBED FORMS AND PROCEDURE) REGULATIONS 2009 - REGULATION 4

#### NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF A STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION AND NOTICE PUBLICISING A PROPOSED APPLICATION FOR A DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER

#### TWEEN BRIDGE SOLAR FARM

Notice is hereby given that RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Limited of Windmill Hill Business Park, Whitehill Way, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN5 6PB (the 'Applicant') intends to submit an application (the 'Proposed Application') to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the 'SoS') for a Development Consent Order ('DCO') under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (the '2008 Act').

The Proposed Application is for the Tween Bridge Solar Farm (the "Scheme") and is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under sections 14 and 15 of the 2008 Act.

In accordance with section 47 of the 2008 Act, this notice publicises where and when the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) can be inspected. The SoCC sets out how the Applicant will undertake its consultation.

Additionally, the Applicant has a duty to publicise the Proposed Application under section 48 of the 2008 Act in line with Regulation 4 of the 2009 Regulations. In accordance with those provisions, this notice also summarises the main proposals and explains where the consultation documents can be viewed.

#### Summary of the Project

The land required for the Project (the 'Project Site') is located approximately 10km to the northeast of Doncaster and 14km to the west of Scunthorpe within the administrative boundaries of City of Doncaster Council and North Lincolnshire Council. The site area is approximately 2527 hectares.

The Project comprises the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of a ground mounted solar park with an intended design capacity of over 50MWp (megawatts peak), and a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with an export/import connection to the National Grid.

The electricity generated would equate to around 800 MW of alternating current (AC) capacity and will feed into the grid through a new National Grid substation. The Project Site will be connected to the substation via underground cable. Flexibility in panel design would be required to accommodate expected future technology developments as technology continues to evolve and become more efficient.

The Applicant has accepted a grid connection offer from National Grid. The connection date to the new National Grid substation is currently scheduled to be in 2029. This is subject to construction of the new substation and completion of the necessary grid reinforcement works by National Grid.

The National Grid Substation does not form part of the Project and therefore National Grid will be developing its own proposals and consenting for the substation separately. The location of the new substation is still to be confirmed and is dependent on technical, design, and environmental factors being considered.

The Proposed Application for the Project comprises:

- 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 four separate compounds. They would each be located next to one of the seven on-site 33kV/132kV substations
- The Solar PV Modules and BESS would be connected to one of the seven 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

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- Culverts & upgrades to existing culverts
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- Electrical Car ('EV') charging point
- 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 Project Site.

The proposed DCO will authorise (among other things), if required:

- the compulsory acquisition of land and/or rights in, on, under or over land required for the Project, as well as rights authorising the temporary occupation of land for the Project.
- the extinguishment and/or overriding of easements and other rights over or affecting land required for the Project;
- the application and/or disapplication of legislation relevant to the Project;
- the temporary stopping up or diversion of public footpaths during construction works;
- permanent and temporary alterations to the highway network for and in the vicinity of the Project Site; and
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| Location                   | Address                                  | Standard opening hours<br>(Subject to change) |
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|                            |                                          | Tuesday: 10am to 4pm.                         |
|                            |                                          | Wednesday: 10am to 1pm.                       |
|                            |                                          | Thursday: 10am to 4pm.                        |
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By email or post: Completed Feedback Questionnaires, and any other comments, can be emailed to [info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk](mailto:info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk) or returned by post (no stamp required) to FREEPOST TWEEN BRIDGE SOLAR

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**How to contact us**



If you have any questions about this notice, the consultation, or the Project, please contact the Applicant by using one of the contact methods provided below:

Email: [info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk](mailto:info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk)

Telephone: 0800 021 7877

Postal address: FREEPOST TWEEN BRIDGE SOLAR (no stamp needed)  
March 2025

All content is available under the [Open Government Licence v3.0](#), except where otherwise stated. However, please note that this licence does not cover the re-use of personal data. If you are interested in linking to this website please read our [Linking Policy](#).

Doncaster Free Press – 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025



Tween Bridge Solar Farm  
The Planning Act 2008 - Sections 42, 47 and 48  
The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 - Regulation 4  
Notice of Publication of a Statement of Community Consultation and Notice Publicising a Proposed Application for a Development Consent Order  
Tween Bridge Solar Farm

Notice is hereby given that RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Limited of Windmill Hill Business Park, Whitehill Way, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN5 6PB (the 'Applicant') intends to submit an application (the 'Proposed Application') to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the 'SoS') for a Development Consent Order ('DCO') under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (the '2008 Act'). The Proposed Application is for the Tween Bridge Solar Farm (the "Scheme") and is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under sections 14 and 15 of the 2008 Act. In accordance with section 47 of the 2008 Act, this notice publicises where and when the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) can be inspected. The SoCC sets out how the Applicant will undertake its consultation. Additionally, the Applicant has a duty to publicise the Proposed Application under section 48 of the 2008 Act in line with Regulation 4 of the 2009 Regulations. In accordance with those provisions, this notice also summarises the main proposals and explains where the consultation documents can be viewed.

Summary of the Project

The land required for the Project (the 'Project Site') is located approximately 10km to the northeast of Doncaster and 14km to the west of Scunthorpe within the administrative boundaries of City of Doncaster Council and North Lincolnshire Council. The site area is approximately 2527 hectares. The Project comprises the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of a ground mounted solar park with an intended design capacity of over 50MWp (megawatts peak), and a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with an export/import connection to the National Grid. The electricity generated would equate to around 800 MW of alternating current (AC) capacity and will feed into the grid through a new National Grid substation. The Project Site will be connected to the substation via underground cable. Flexibility in panel design would be required to accommodate expected future technology developments as technology continues to evolve and become more efficient. The Applicant has accepted a grid connection offer from National Grid. The connection date to the new National Grid substation is currently scheduled to be in 2029. This is subject to construction of the new substation and completion of the necessary grid reinforcement works by National Grid. The National Grid Substation does not form part of the Project and therefore National Grid will be developing its own proposals and consenting for the substation separately. The location of the new substation is still to be confirmed and is dependent on technical, design, and environmental factors being considered.

The Proposed Application for the Project comprises:

- 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 four separate compounds. They would each be located next to one of the seven on-site 33kV/132kV substations
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The proposed DCO will authorise (among other things), if required:

- the compulsory acquisition of land and/or rights in, on, under or over land required for the Project, as well as rights authorising the temporary occupation of land for the Project;
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The Project is an Environmental Impact Assessment development ('EIA development') as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 'EIA Regulations') and an Environmental Statement ('ES') will form part of the Proposed Application. The Applicant has notified the SoS in writing under Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations that it intends to provide an ES in respect of the Project. The ES will provide a detailed description of the Project and its likely significant environmental effects. Information compiled so far about the Project's likely environmental impacts is contained in a Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR') and summarised in a Non-Technical Summary, both of which form part of the consultation material.

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March 2025



# Tween Bridge Solar Farm

We are running our second stage, statutory consultation on Tween Bridge Solar Farm from Thursday 20 March to Thursday 8 May 2025.

We are seeking your views on our updated proposals.

Find out more at one of our public exhibitions or join our online webinar.

| Date                    | Location                                                                                                                                                           | Time             |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Friday 28 March 2025    | Crowle Community Hub, Market Place, Crowle DN17 4LA                                                                                                                | 4:00pm - 7:00pm  |
| Saturday 5 April 2025   | Coulman Pavillion, 5 Coulman St, Thorne DN8 5JS                                                                                                                    | 4:00pm - 7:00pm  |
| Wednesday 9 April 2025  | <div></div> Online webinar - scan here to register in advance (QR code)<br><br>Or visit <a href="http://www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk">www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk</a> | 6:30pm - 8:00pm  |
| Wednesday 16 April 2025 | Moorends Miners Welfare & Community Development Centre, 24A West Road, Moorends DN8 4LH                                                                            | 12:00pm - 3:00pm |
| Thursday 17 April 2025  | Hatfield Woodhouse Village Hall, Main Street, Hatfield Woodhouse DN7 6NE                                                                                           | 3:00pm - 6:00pm  |

There are several ways to view our consultation materials:

 Attend one of our consultation events

 Copies are available to read at the following locations:

- Crowle Community Hub DN17 4LA
- Thorne Library DN8 4BQ
- Hatfield Community Library DN7 6RY

 Visit: [www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk](http://www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk)

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

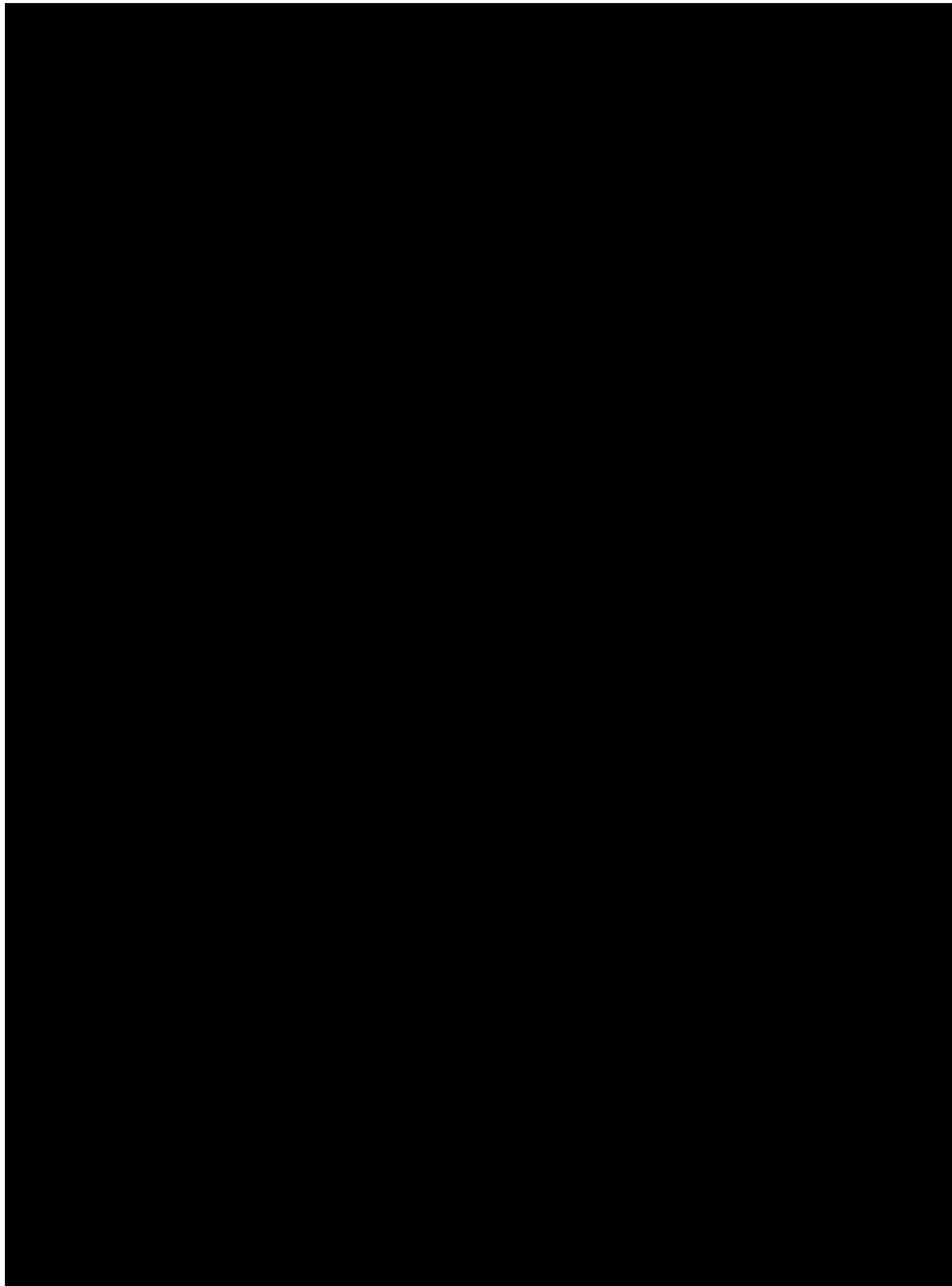
Email: [info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk](mailto:info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk)  
Telephone: 0800 0217 877

The deadline for comments is 23:59 on Thursday 8th May 2025.

Our team will consider and have regard to all feedback when refining the proposals, ensuring we have considered the issues and concerns that you raise.

Doncaster Free Press – 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025





Tween Bridge Solar Farm  
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The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 - Regulation 4  
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When providing your response, please include your name and address or, if you would prefer your comments to be anonymous, your postcode only. Please also confirm the nature of your interest in the Project. Comments and representations may be submitted in the following ways:

**Feedback Questionnaire:** Complete or download the Feedback Questionnaire at the Project website www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk; or it can be completed and left at one of the Consultation Events; or by request from the project team either at events or via phone or email.

**By email or post:** Completed Feedback Questionnaires, and any other comments, can be emailed to info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk or returned by post (no stamp required) to FREEPOST TWEEN BRIDGE SOLAR

**Responses must be received by the Applicant by no later than 11:59pm on 8 May 2025.** The Applicant will consider and have regard to all responses when developing the proposals for the Project once the consultation has closed. Responses will be reported in a Consultation Report which will form part of the Proposed Application. This will be taken into consideration by the Planning Inspectorate when deciding whether the Application can be accepted for examination. Therefore, in providing any comment, it should be noted that the substance of it may be communicated to others as part of the Consultation Report.

Personal data supplied to the Applicant in response to this consultation will be treated confidentially and processed and handled in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK GDPR. The information may be disclosed to or shared with the Applicant's connected companies, agents, contractors and advisors who provide services to the Applicant in connection with the preparation of an application for development consent under the 2008 Act. This will allow the Applicant to fully consider the responses and use them in the preparation of application materials. Upon submission of the Proposed Application, the SoS may require the Applicant to supply copies of all consultation responses received. If a request is made, the Applicant is under a legal obligation to supply such copies. By submitting a consultation response to the Applicant, you understand that we may supply a copy of your response to the SoS via the Planning Inspectorate if required.

How to contact us

If you have any questions about this notice, the consultation, or the Project, please contact the Applicant by using one of the contact methods provided below:

Email: Info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk  
Telephone: 0800 021 7877  
Postal address: FREEPOST TWEEN BRIDGE SOLAR (no stamp needed)  
March 2025

Scunthorpe Telegraph 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Public Notices

Tween Bridge Solar Farm  
The Planning Act 2008 - Sections 42, 47 and 48  
The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 - Regulation 4  
Notice of Publication of a Statement of Community Consultation and Notice Publicising a Proposed Application for a Development Consent Order

**Tween Bridge Solar Farm**  
Notice is hereby given that RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Limited of Windmill Hill Business Park, Whitehill Way, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN5 6PB (the 'Applicant') intends to submit an application (the 'Proposed Application') to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the 'SoS') for a Development Consent Order ('DCO') under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (the '2008 Act'). The Proposed Application is for the Tween Bridge Solar Farm (the "Scheme") and is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under sections 14 and 15 of the 2008 Act. In accordance with section 47 of the 2008 Act, this notice publicises where and when the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) can be inspected. The SoCC sets out how the Applicant will undertake its consultation. Additionally, the Applicant has a duty to publicise the Proposed Application under section 48 of the 2008 Act in line with Regulation 4 of the 2009 Regulations. In accordance with those provisions, this notice also summarises the main proposals and explains where the consultation documents can be viewed.

**Summary of the Project**  
The land required for the Project (the 'Project Site') is located approximately 10km to the northeast of Doncaster and 14km to the west of Scunthorpe within the administrative boundaries of City of Doncaster Council and North Lincolnshire Council. The site area is approximately 2527 hectares. The Project comprises the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of a ground mounted solar park with an intended design capacity of over 50MWp (megawatts peak), and a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with an export/import connection to the National Grid.

The electricity generated would equate to around 800 MW of alternating current (AC) capacity and will feed into the grid through a new National Grid substation. The Project Site will be connected to the substation via underground cable. Flexibility in panel design would be required to accommodate expected future technology developments as technology continues to evolve and become more efficient. The Applicant has accepted a grid connection offer from National Grid. The connection date to the new National Grid substation is currently scheduled to be in 2029. This is subject to construction of the new substation and completion of the necessary grid reinforcement works by National Grid. The National Grid Substation does not form part of the Project and therefore National Grid will be developing its own proposals and consenting for the substation separately. The location of the new substation is still to be confirmed and is dependent on technical, design, and environmental factors being considered.

The Proposed Application for the Project comprises:

- 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 four separate compounds. They would each be located next to one of the seven on-site 33kV/132kV substations
- The Solar PV Modules and BESS would be connected to one of the seven 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
- 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
- Works to establish environmental and ecological mitigation and enhancement measures;
- Upgrade to Main Access Tracks
- Directional drilling for cable works for various crossing including: rhynes; canal; railway; and, the M180
- Culverts & upgrades to existing culverts
- Fencing and Security Measures
- Electrical Car ('EV') charging point
- 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 Project Site.

The proposed DCO will authorise (among other things), if required:

- The compulsory acquisition of land and/or rights in, on, under or over land required for the Project, as well as rights authorising the temporary occupation of land for the Project.
- The extinguishment and/or overriding of easements and other rights over or affecting land required for the Project;
- The application and/or disapplication of legislation relevant to the Project;
- The temporary stopping up or diversion of public footpaths during construction works;
- Permanent and temporary alterations to the highway network for and in the vicinity of the Project Site; and
- Such ancillary, incidental and consequential works, provisions, permits, consents, waivers or releases as are necessary and convenient for the successful construction, operation and maintenance of the Project.

The Project is an Environmental Impact Assessment development ('EIA development') as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 'EIA Regulations') and an Environmental Statement ('ES') will form part of the Proposed Application. The Applicant has notified the SoS in writing under Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations that it intends to provide an ES in respect of the Project. The ES will provide a detailed description of the Project and its likely significant environmental effects. Information compiled so far about the Project's likely environmental impacts is contained in a Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR') and summarised in a Non-Technical Summary, both of which form part of the consultation material.

Consultation on the proposals will take place from **20 March 2025 to 8 May 2025** (the 'Consultation Period'). Responses must be received no later than 11:59pm on 8 May 2025 and responses received after that date may not be considered. The consultation documents show the nature and location of the Project and will include plans, maps, and the PEIR and its Non-Technical Summary, among other documents ('the Consultation Documents'). The Consultation Documents are available to view

or download free of charge from ([www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk](http://www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk)) (the 'Project Website') throughout the duration of the Consultation Period, from 20 March 2025 to 11:59pm on 8 May 2025. The Consultation Documents can be accessed under the 'documents' tab and will be made available until 11:59pm on 8 May 2025. **How to view the Consultation Documents and the SoCC**  
Hard reference copies of the Consultation Documents, including the SoCC, will be available to view free of charge at the locations listed below during the Consultation Period.

| Location                   | Address                                                      | Standard opening hours (Subject to change)                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Crowle Community Hub       | The Market Hall, Market Place, Crowle, Scunthorpe DN17 4LA   | Monday to Friday: 9am to 12.30pm then 1pm to 5pm. Saturday: 9am to 12 noon. Sunday: Closed.                                                               |
| Thorne Library             | The Vermuyden Centre, Field Side, Thorne, Doncaster D N8 4BQ | Monday to Friday: 8:40am to 1pm then 1.30pm to 5pm. Saturday: 8:40a                                                                                       |
| Hatfield Community Library | High Street, Hatfield, Doncaster DN7 6RY                     | Monday: 10am to 4pm. Tuesday: 10am to 4pm. Wednesday: 10am to 1pm. Thursday: 10am to 4pm. Friday: 10am to 3pm. Saturday: 10am to 12 noon.. Sunday: Closed |

The opening times of these venues are dependent on and are governed by the venues and may be subject to change. If in doubt, please phone ahead before visiting a venue. The Applicant is hosting five public consultation events, comprising four face-to-face events and one online webinar to be held as follows. The Consultation Documents will also be available to view at the four face-to-face events:

| Venue                                                                                                      | Date          | Time          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Crowle Community Hub<br>The Market Hall,<br>Market Place,<br>Crowle, Scunthorpe<br>DN17 4LA                | 28 March 2025 | 4pm to 7pm    |
| Coulman Pavillion<br>5 Coulman St, Thorne<br>DN8 5JS                                                       | 5 April 2025  | 4pm to 7pm    |
| Online webinar<br>(Please get in touch to register using the contact details at the end of this notice)    | 9 April 2025  | 6.30pm to 8pm |
| Moorends Miners Welfare & Community Development Centre<br>24A West Road,<br>Moorends, Doncaster<br>DN8 4LH | 16 April 2025 | 12pm to 3pm   |
| Hatfield Woodhouse Village Hall<br>Main Street, Hatfield Woodhouse, Doncaster<br>DN7 6NE                   | 17 April 2025 | 3pm to 6pm    |

All Consultation Documents, including the SoCC, will be available online to view on the Project website ([www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk](http://www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk)). A hard copy of the consultation material can also be supplied, but there will be a reasonable charge of £0.35 per page to cover the printing and posting costs associated with the PEIR. Upon request, all documents can be made available in alternative formats, such as large print, braille, audio and alternative languages. To request copies of the Consultation Documents, please contact the Applicant using the e-mail address, postal address or telephone number provided at the end of this notice. When providing your response, please include your name and address or, if you would prefer your comments to be anonymous, your postcode only. Please also confirm the nature of your interest in the Project. Comments and representations may be submitted in the following ways:  
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Email: [info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk](mailto:info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk)  
Telephone: 0800 021 7877  
Postal address: FREEPOST TWEEN BRIDGE SOLAR (no stamp needed)  
**March 2025**






## Tween Bridge Solar Farm

We are running our second stage, statutory consultation on Tween Bridge Solar Farm from Thursday 20 March to Thursday 8 May 2025.

We are seeking your views on our updated proposals.

Find out more at one of our public exhibitions or join our online webinar.

| Date                    | Location                                                                                | Time             |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Friday 28 March 2025    | Crowle Community Hub, Market Place, Crowle DN17 4LA                                     | 4:00pm - 7:00pm  |
| Saturday 5 April 2025   | Coulman Pavilion, 5 Coulman St, Thorne DN8 5JS                                          | 4:00pm - 7:00pm  |
| Wednesday 9 April 2025  | Online webinar (can be accessed via the link in the R code)                             | 6:30pm - 8:00pm  |
| Wednesday 16 April 2025 | Moorends Miners Welfare & Community Development Centre, 24A West Road, Moorends DN8 4LH | 12:00pm - 3:00pm |
| Thursday 17 April 2025  | Hatfield Woodhouse Village Hall, Main Street, Hatfield Woodhouse DN7 6NE                | 3:00pm - 6:00pm  |

There are several ways to view our consultation materials:

-  Attend one of our consultation events
-  Copies are available to read at the following locations:
  - Crowle Community Hub DN17 4LA
  - Thorne Library DN8 4BQ
  - Hatfield Community Library DN7 6RY
-  Visit: [www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk](http://www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk)
-  Contact us to request a USB or hard-copy (price available upon request)
 

Email: [info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk](mailto:info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk)  
Telephone: 0800 0217 877

**The deadline for comments is 23:59 on Thursday 8th May 2025.**

Our team will consider and have regard to all feedback when refining the proposals, ensuring we have considered the issues and concerns that you raise.

Thorne Times April 2025



The RWE logo is displayed in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

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| Wednesday 9 April 2025  |  Online webinar - scan here to register in advance (QR code)<br>Or visit <a href="http://www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk">www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk</a> | 6:30pm - 8:00pm  |
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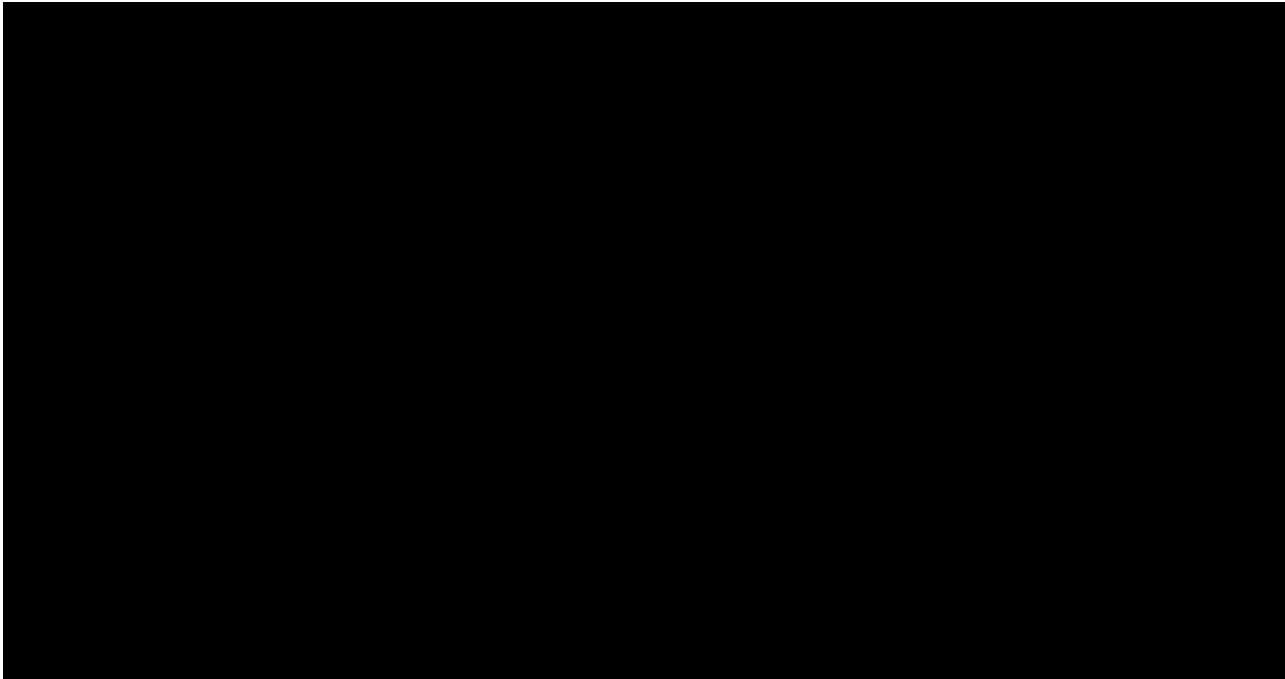
Email: [info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk](mailto:info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk)

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Yorkshire Post 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025



Tween Bridge  
Solar Farm

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|                         | www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk                                                              |                  |
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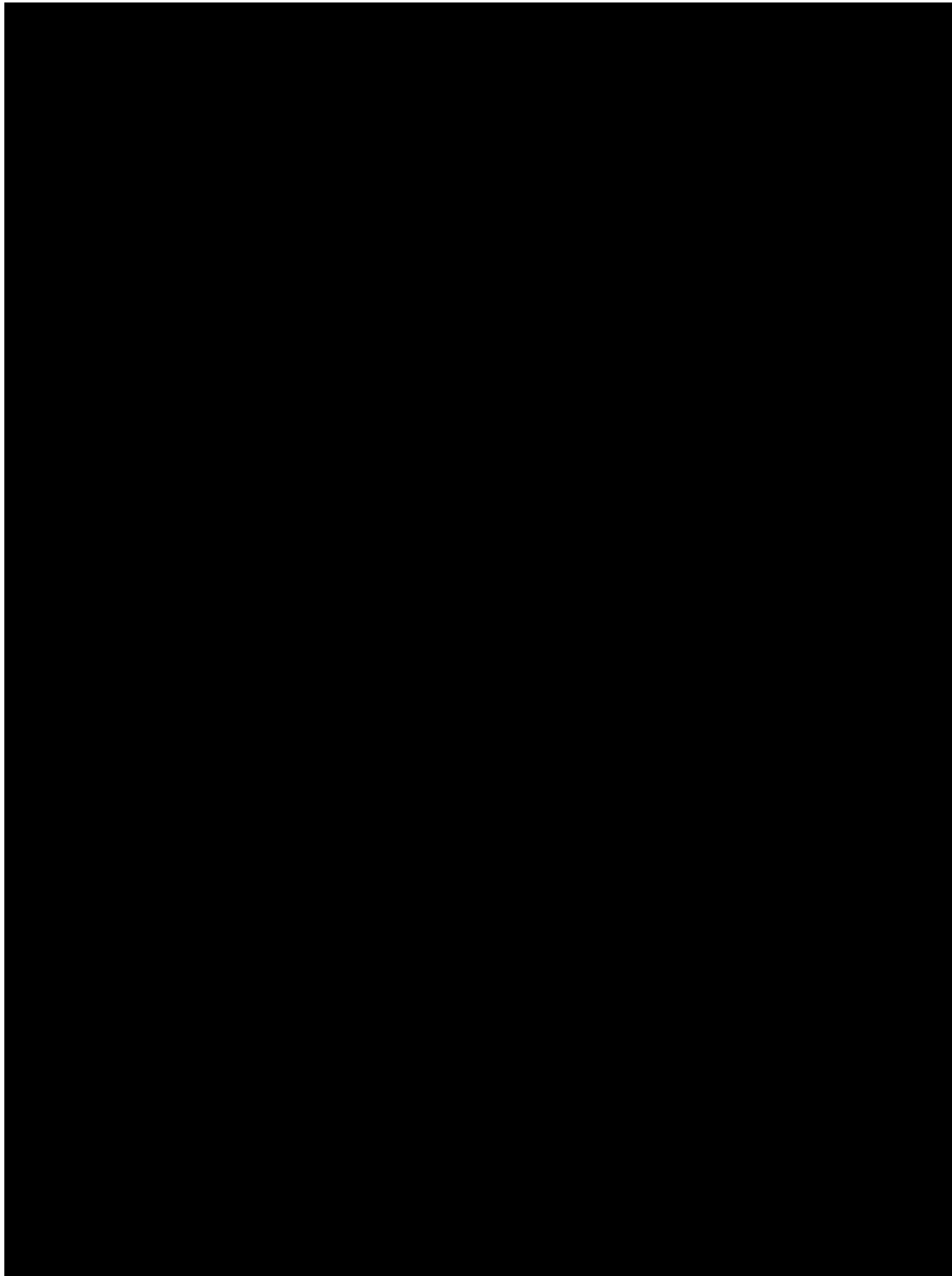
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Lincolnshire Echo 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025





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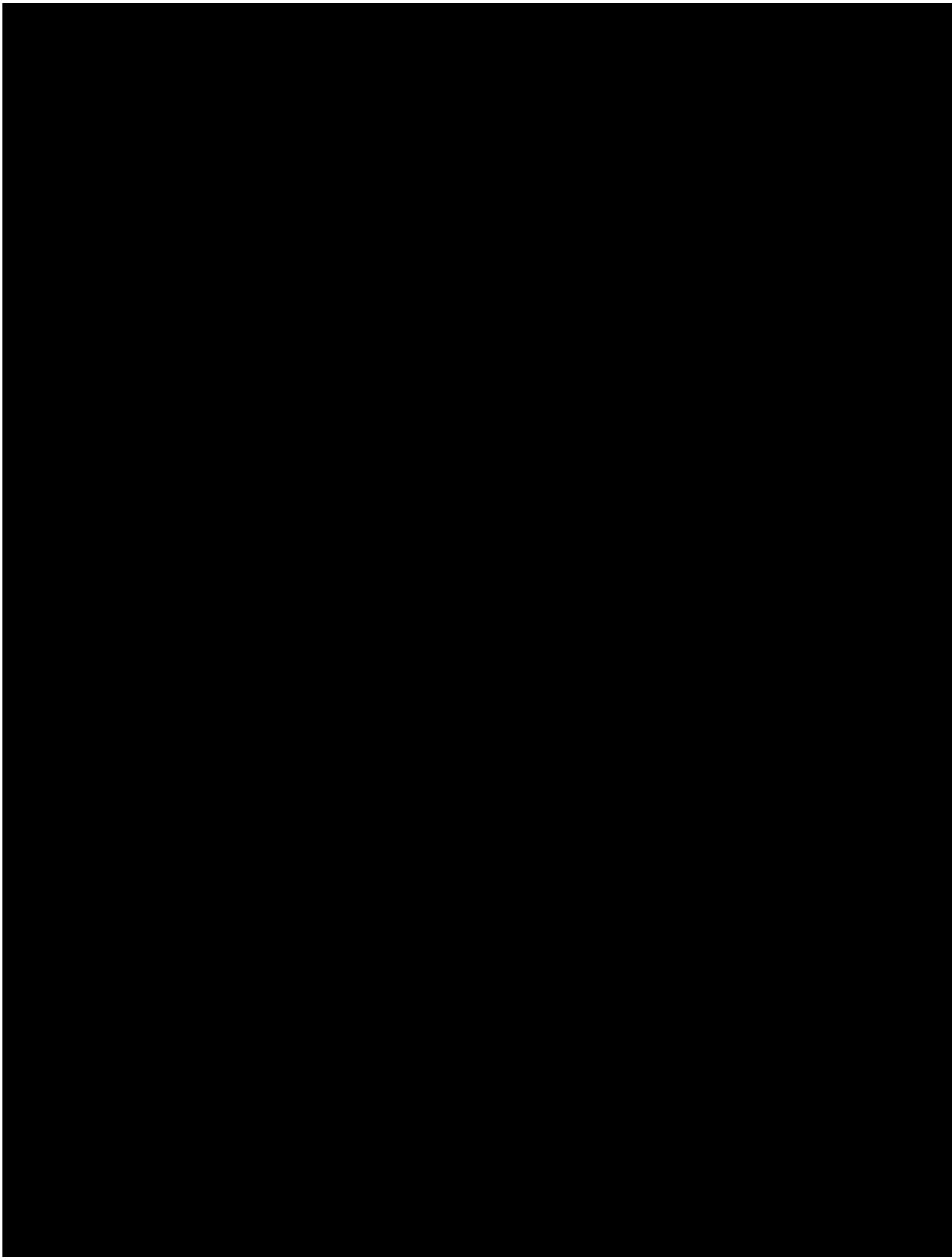
# Stay informed...



**Public Notice  
Portal**

To place a public notice, please email: [publicnoticesteam@reachplc.com](mailto:publicnoticesteam@reachplc.com) visit [publicnoticeportal.uk](http://publicnoticeportal.uk)

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**Appendix 6.1 - Full list of consultees identified in accordance with section 42**

## Appendix 6.1 – List of Consultees Identified in Accordance with Section 42

### Section 42 (1) (a) - such persons as may be prescribed

| Consultee                                                                                                               | Consulted on Tween Bridge (Yes/No)                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The Welsh Ministers                                                                                                     | No, the development is unlikely to affect land in Wales.                                                                                              |
| The Scottish Executive                                                                                                  | No, the development is unlikely to affect land in Scotland.                                                                                           |
| The relevant Northern Ireland Department                                                                                | No, the development is unlikely to affect land in Northern Ireland.                                                                                   |
| The relevant Regional Planning Body                                                                                     | Yes                                                                                                                                                   |
| The Health and Safety Executive                                                                                         | Yes                                                                                                                                                   |
| The relevant Strategic Health Authority                                                                                 | Yes                                                                                                                                                   |
| The relevant Health Board                                                                                               | Yes                                                                                                                                                   |
| Natural England                                                                                                         | Yes                                                                                                                                                   |
| The Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England                                                             | Yes                                                                                                                                                   |
| The relevant fire and rescue authority                                                                                  | Yes - South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue, Lincolnshire Fire And Rescue Service, Humberside Fire and Rescue Service                                       |
| The relevant police authority                                                                                           | Yes                                                                                                                                                   |
| The relevant parish council, or, where the application relates to land Wales or Scotland the relevant community council | Yes - Belton Parish Council, Crowle and Ealand Town Council, Hatfield Town Council, Keadby with Althorpe Parish Council, Thorne-Moorends Town Council |
| The Environment Agency                                                                                                  | Yes                                                                                                                                                   |
| The Scottish Environment Protection Agency                                                                              | No, the development is unlikely to affect land in Scotland.                                                                                           |
| The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment                                                               | Yes, Design Council                                                                                                                                   |
| The relevant Regional Development Agency                                                                                | No                                                                                                                                                    |
| The Equality and Human Rights Commission                                                                                | Yes                                                                                                                                                   |
| The Scottish Human Rights Commission                                                                                    | No, the development is unlikely to affect land in Scotland.                                                                                           |
| The Commission for Sustainable Development                                                                              | No                                                                                                                                                    |
| AONB Conservation Boards                                                                                                | No, development unlikely to affect an AONB.                                                                                                           |
| Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales                                                           | No, the development is unlikely to affect land in Wales                                                                                               |
| The Countryside Council for Wales                                                                                       | No, the development is unlikely to affect land in Wales                                                                                               |
| The Homes and Communities Agency                                                                                        | Yes                                                                                                                                                   |

|                                                                                   |                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The Joint Nature Conservation Committee                                           | Yes                                                                                                      |
| The Commission for Rural Communities                                              | No, abolished in 2013                                                                                    |
| Scottish Natural Heritage                                                         | No, the development is unlikely to affect land in Scotland.                                              |
| The Maritime and Coastguard Agency                                                | No, the development is unlikely to affect the maritime or coastal environment, or the shipping industry. |
| The Marine and Fisheries Agency                                                   | No, the development is unlikely to affect marine area in England and Wales.                              |
| The Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency                                          | No, the development is unlikely to affect land in Scotland.                                              |
| The Civil Aviation Authority                                                      | Yes                                                                                                      |
| The Highways Agency                                                               | Yes                                                                                                      |
| Integrated Transport Authorities (ITAs) and Passenger Transport Executives (PTEs) | Yes                                                                                                      |
| The relevant Highways Authority                                                   | Yes - North Lincolnshire Council Highways Authority, City of Doncaster Council Highways Authority        |
| Transport for London                                                              | No, the development is unlikely to affect transport within, to, or from Greater London                   |
| The Rail Passengers Council                                                       | Yes                                                                                                      |
| The Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee                                 | No, the development is unlikely to affect access to transport for disabled people.                       |
| The Coal Authority                                                                | Yes                                                                                                      |
| The Office of Rail Regulation and approved operators                              | Yes                                                                                                      |
| The Gas and Electricity Markets Authority                                         | Yes                                                                                                      |
| The Water Services Regulation Authority                                           | Yes                                                                                                      |
| The Water Industry Commission of Scotland                                         | No, the development is unlikely to affect water industry in Scotland.                                    |
| The relevant waste regulation authority                                           | Yes                                                                                                      |
| The relevant internal drainage board                                              | Yes                                                                                                      |
| The British Waterways Board                                                       | Yes                                                                                                      |
| Trinity House                                                                     | No, the development is unlikely to affect navigation in tidal waters.                                    |
| The Health Protection Agency                                                      | Yes                                                                                                      |
| The relevant local resilience forum                                               | Yes                                                                                                      |
| Relevant statutory undertakers                                                    | Yes                                                                                                      |
| The Crown Estate Commissioners                                                    | Yes                                                                                                      |
| The Forestry Commission                                                           | Yes                                                                                                      |



**Section 42 (1) (b) - each local authority that is within section 43**

| <b>Consultee</b>                       | <b>Consulted on Tween Bridge (Yes/No)</b> |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <b>Section 43A</b>                     |                                           |
| West Lindsey District Council          | Yes                                       |
| Selby District Council                 | Yes                                       |
| Bassetlaw District Council             | Yes                                       |
| Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council | Yes                                       |
| Wakefield Council                      | Yes                                       |
| Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council  | Yes                                       |
| East Riding of Yorkshire Council       | Yes                                       |
| <b>Section 43B</b>                     |                                           |
| North Lincolnshire Council             | Yes                                       |
| City of Doncaster Council              | Yes                                       |
| <b>Section 43C</b>                     |                                           |
| Lincolnshire County Council            | Yes                                       |
| <b>Section 43D</b>                     |                                           |
| North East Lincolnshire Council        | Yes                                       |
| North Yorkshire County Council         | Yes                                       |
| Nottinghamshire County Council         | Yes                                       |

## **Appendix 6.2 – Newsletter**



# 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 approximately 370,000 homes<sup>1</sup>.

## Have your say

We are now seeking your views as part of our statutory pre-application consultation, where we are presenting more detailed proposals for Tween Bridge Solar Farm.

Your views can help shape our proposals and help us achieve Tween Bridge Solar Farm's full potential.

After the 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 invite you to attend our public exhibitions and online webinar. You do not need to register to attend the public exhibitions.

| Date                               | Location                                                                                                                                                              | Time             |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Friday 28<br/>March 2025</b>    | Crowle Community Hub, Market Place, Crowle DN17 4LA                                                                                                                   | 4:00pm - 7:00pm  |
| <b>Saturday 5<br/>April 2025</b>   | Coulman Pavillion, 5 Coulman St, Thorne DN8 5JS                                                                                                                       | 4:00pm - 7:00pm  |
| <b>Wednesday 9<br/>April 2025</b>  | <div>Online webinar – scan here to register in advance (QR code)</div> <div>Or visit <a href="http://www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk">www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk</a></div> | 6:30pm - 8:00pm  |
| <b>Wednesday 16<br/>April 2025</b> | Moorends Miners Welfare & Community Development Centre, 24A West Road, Moorends DN8 4LH                                                                               | 12:00pm - 3:00pm |
| <b>Thursday 17<br/>April 2025</b>  | Hatfield Woodhouse Village Hall, Main Street, Hatfield Woodhouse DN7 6NE                                                                                              | 3:00pm - 6:00pm  |

<sup>1</sup> 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 800MW 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



Tween Bridge Wind Farm



Former Sandtoft Airfield



Indicative Substation Location



Indicative Ecological and Landscape Enhancement Areas



RWE Underground Export Cable Route Assessment Area

Over £19 million generated in business rates over the lifetime of the project



Opportunity to provide the region's largest lowland sheep farm



Opportunity to create 23 direct and indirect jobs during operation



Support up to 640 on-site jobs during construction



A community benefit package worth in the region of £12.8 million\*



RWE Underground Export Cable Route Assessment Area



\* 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.



Tween Bridge Moors



Stainforth & Keadby Canal

Towns



Indicative Battery Energy Storage System



Indicative areas for solar PV



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



Consultation documents are available to read at the following locations:

- Crowle Community Hub DN17 4LA
- Thorne Library DN8 4BQ
- Hatfield Community Library DN7 6RY



Visit: [www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk](http://www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk) and complete an online feedback form



Contact us to request a USB or hard-copy of the consultation documents (price available upon request)

Email: [info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk](mailto:info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk)

Telephone: **0800 0217 877**



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

**The deadline for comments is 23.59hrs on Thursday 8 May 2025.**

### About Tween Bridge Solar Farm

Tween Bridge Solar Farm is a ground mounted solar park with an intended design capacity of over 50MWp (megawatts peak), and a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with an export/import connection to the National Grid.

The Scheme is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project and so in order to gain consent for the proposals, 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.

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 6.3 – Feedback Form**



# Tween Bridge Solar Farm

RWE

## Consultation Questionnaire

Consultation runs from 20 March until 23.59 on 08 May 2025

**Please complete this feedback questionnaire to let us know your views on our updated proposals for Tween Bridge Solar Farm (the 'Scheme').**

**The deadline for responses is 23:59 on Thursday 08 May 2025.**

We are developing proposals for a ground mounted solar farm with an intended design capacity of over 50MWp (megawatts peak), and a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with an export/import connection to the National Grid. The Scheme is located within the Yorkshire and Humber regions. The site extends to over 2527 hectares, centred at approximately 10 kilometres to the northeast of Doncaster and 14 kilometres to the west of Scunthorpe. The Scheme straddles two host authorities; City of Doncaster Council and North Lincolnshire Council.

Following on from our earlier consultation in 2023, we are now seeking your views as part of our statutory pre-application consultation, where we are presenting updated proposals for Tween Bridge Solar Farm. This statutory consultation is being undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Planning Act 2008. We will have regard to any consultation responses received in preparing our application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the Scheme, which we will be submitting to the Planning Inspectorate towards the end of 2025.

This feedback questionnaire sits alongside our wider suite of consultation materials, including but not limited to a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), PEIR Non-Technical Summary (NTS) and Consultation Leaflet. Details on how you can respond to the proposals set out in the consultation materials are below. All of our materials can be found on our website ([www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk/documents](http://www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk/documents)). Our website also contains details of how you can access hard copy information, should you wish to do so, as part of this consultation.

**We recommend that you visit our website ([www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk](http://www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk)) and/or attend one of our public information events for information to help you provide us with your feedback on our proposals. You may wish to refer to the PEIR or to the shorter NTS of the PEIR Report for more detailed information.**

# How to provide your feedback

Please use this feedback questionnaire to provide your response as part of this consultation. You do not have to answer all of the questions in this questionnaire, and if you wish to make any other comments on the Scheme there is space set aside at the end.

Once you have completed this questionnaire you can return it to us by:

-  Handing it to a member of team at one of our consultation events
-  Sending it back to us by post by writing 'FREEPOST TWEEN BRIDGE SOLAR' on a blank envelope (you do not need a stamp)
-  Scanning a copy of your completed questionnaire and sending it by email to [info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk](mailto:info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk)
-  Completing an online version of this questionnaire, which can be accessed at: [Have Your Say - Tween Bridge Solar Farm](#).

Please note that you only need to fill out one copy of this questionnaire (either in hard copy or online)

If you would like help completing this questionnaire, or information about our proposals you can:

-  Call us on [0800 0217 877](tel:08000217877)
-  Email us at: [info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk](mailto:info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk)
-  Visit our website: [www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk](http://www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk)

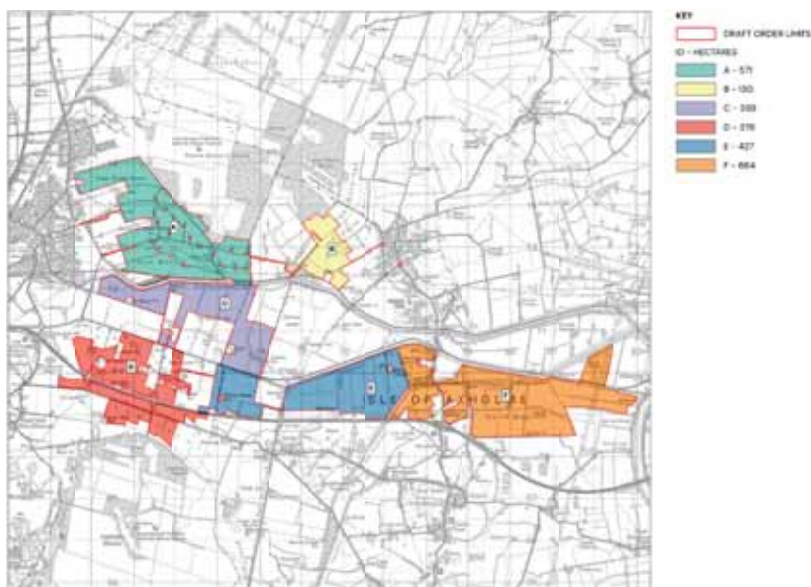
The statutory consultation runs from Thursday 20 March until 23:59 on Thursday 8 May 2025. It is important you submit your feedback to us before the closing date, so that it can be considered in our proposals.

## The scheme

The ground mounted solar PV panels, electrical substations, and energy storage facilities would be located within land parcels A to E and covers an area of approximately 2397 hectares. The underground export cable would be located within Land Parcel F\*.

\* National Grid will be developing its own proposals and consenting for the substation separately. The location of the new National Grid substation is still to be confirmed by National Grid and is dependent on technical, design, and environmental factors being considered. The location is outside of our control.

For the consultation, it has been assumed that the 400kV National Grid substation would be located within, or near to, the proposed scheme. We have included an National Grid Substation and RWE Underground Export Cable Route Assessment Search Area (Land Area F) in our draft order limits where it is thought that the National Grid substation, and therefore the connection cable, might be located, in order to ensure that we consult with the appropriate parties and that our consultation materials include assessments in relation to this land, where possible.





**1. Do you have any comments on the scheme?**



# Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

Our PEIR and Non-Technical Summary (NTS) provide an overview of our preliminary environmental findings (includes studies and surveys) that have been undertaken to date. This work is across a range of environmental topic areas, and also sets out any suitable measures identified to help reduce any impacts. You can view the PEIR [here](http://www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk/documents). [www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk/documents](http://www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk/documents)

## 2. Do you have any comments on the environmental information provided in the PEIR?

## Views on community benefits

It is important that the local communities most affected by our Scheme can benefit directly from it. Tween Bridge Solar Farm will deliver a community benefit package to the local area worth approximately 12 million over the lifetime of the project\*.

Further details of our plans for community benefits can be found on our website ([www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk/benefits](http://www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk/benefits)).

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

\* 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.



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

Proposals 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, were mostly supported during the previous consultation. These proposals remain within the Scheme.

## General

#### 5. 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 did not support the proposals

#### 6. Please detail the reasons for your response to Question 5 below:



**7. 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?**



## 8. 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

☐ Local business or contractor

## About you (optional)

**First name:**

**Surname:**

**Organisation**  
(if applicable)

**Address:**

**Postcode:**

**Email address:**

**Phone number:**

**If you are a local business or contractor, would you like to be contacted via the details you have provided above 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

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/>

## **Appendix 6.4 – PEIR NTS**



# Tween Bridge Solar Farm

A Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project in the Energy Sector

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## Preliminary Environmental Information Report

### Non-Technical Summary

March 2025



Visit: [www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk](http://www.tweenbridgesolar.co.uk)  
Email: [info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk](mailto:info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk)



# Contents

|    |                                                                                 |    |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 1. | INTRODUCTION .....                                                              | 1  |
|    | Overview of Scheme .....                                                        | 1  |
|    | The Consenting Process and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects ..... | 3  |
|    | The Applicant .....                                                             | 4  |
|    | The Site .....                                                                  | 4  |
| 2. | Scheme Description .....                                                        | 6  |
|    | Design Principles .....                                                         | 6  |
|    | Design Parameters and the Rochdale Envelope .....                               | 8  |
|    | Main Elements of Tween Bridge Solar Farm .....                                  | 8  |
|    | Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Arrays .....                                  | 8  |
|    | Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) .....                                      | 10 |
|    | RWE 33kV/132kV Satellite Substations and RWE 400kV Substation .....             | 11 |
|    | Electrical Car (EV) Charging Point .....                                        | 13 |
|    | Phasing of Scheme & Connection to National Grid Substation .....                | 13 |
|    | Ecological and Landscape Mitigation and Enhancement Corridors .....             | 14 |
|    | Trenchless Cable Works .....                                                    | 14 |
|    | Operational Phase .....                                                         | 15 |
|    | Statutory Undertakers .....                                                     | 15 |
|    | Temporary Diversion of Public Right of Way ('PRoW') .....                       | 15 |
|    | Access and Egress .....                                                         | 16 |
|    | Decommissioning Phase .....                                                     | 16 |
| 3. | Site Description .....                                                          | 17 |
| 4. | Legislation and Policy Context .....                                            | 18 |
| 5. | Assessing Environmental Impact .....                                            | 19 |
| 6. | Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment .....                                    | 21 |
|    | Baseline Conditions .....                                                       | 21 |
|    | Likely Significant Effects .....                                                | 21 |
|    | Landscape Character .....                                                       | 21 |
|    | Visual Amenity .....                                                            | 21 |
|    | Landscape Character .....                                                       | 22 |
|    | Visual Amenity .....                                                            | 22 |
|    | Mitigation and Enhancement .....                                                | 22 |
|    | Conclusion .....                                                                | 23 |
| 7. | Nature Conservation and Biodiversity .....                                      | 24 |
|    | Baseline Conditions .....                                                       | 24 |
|    | Likely Significant Effects .....                                                | 24 |
|    | Mitigation .....                                                                | 25 |
|    | Enhancement .....                                                               | 26 |
|    | Conclusion .....                                                                | 26 |
| 8. | Cultural Heritage and Archaeology .....                                         | 27 |



|                                          |    |
|------------------------------------------|----|
| Baseline .....                           | 27 |
| Likely Significant Effects .....         | 27 |
| Construction Phase .....                 | 27 |
| Operational Phase .....                  | 27 |
| Decommissioning Phase .....              | 27 |
| Mitigation and Enhancement .....         | 28 |
| Conclusion .....                         | 28 |
| 9. Ground Conditions .....               | 29 |
| Baseline Conditions .....                | 29 |
| Likely Significant Effects .....         | 30 |
| Mitigation and Enhancement .....         | 30 |
| Conclusion .....                         | 30 |
| 10. Water Resource .....                 | 32 |
| Baseline .....                           | 32 |
| Likely Significant Effects .....         | 32 |
| Effects on Flood Risk and Drainage ..... | 32 |
| Effects on Water Resources .....         | 33 |
| Mitigation .....                         | 33 |
| Conclusions .....                        | 34 |
| 11. Socio Economic .....                 | 35 |
| Baseline Conditions .....                | 35 |
| Likely Significant Effects .....         | 35 |
| Mitigation and Enhancement .....         | 35 |
| Conclusion .....                         | 37 |
| 12. Transport and Access .....           | 38 |
| Baseline Conditions .....                | 38 |
| Likely Significant Effects .....         | 38 |
| Mitigation and Enhancement .....         | 38 |
| Conclusion .....                         | 38 |
| 13. Noise and Vibration .....            | 39 |
| Baseline Conditions .....                | 39 |
| Likely Significant Effects .....         | 39 |
| Mitigation .....                         | 39 |
| Conclusion .....                         | 39 |
| 14. Air Quality .....                    | 40 |
| Baseline Conditions .....                | 40 |
| Likely Significant Effects .....         | 40 |
| Mitigation and Enhancement .....         | 40 |
| Conclusion .....                         | 40 |
| 15. Agricultural Circumstances .....     | 41 |
| Baseline Conditions .....                | 41 |
| Likely Significant Effects .....         | 41 |



|                                                                           |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Mitigation and Enhancement .....                                          | 41 |
| Conclusion .....                                                          | 41 |
| 16. Other Environmental Topics (including waste and climate change) ..... | 42 |
| Major Accidents and Disasters .....                                       | 42 |
| Baseline.....                                                             | 42 |
| Likely Significant Effects .....                                          | 42 |
| Mitigation and Enhancement.....                                           | 42 |
| Conclusion.....                                                           | 42 |
| Waste .....                                                               | 43 |
| Baseline Conditions .....                                                 | 43 |
| Assessment of potential for likely significant effects .....              | 43 |
| Mitigation and Enhancement.....                                           | 43 |
| Conclusion.....                                                           | 43 |

## Appendices Contents

|                                                            |    |
|------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| APPENDIX A – DRAFT ORDER LIMITS (SITE LOCATION PLAN) ..... | 44 |
| APPENDIX B – PROPOSED LAYOUT - OVERVIEW .....              | 45 |

# 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This document is the Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) for the proposed Tween Bridge Solar Farm (hereafter referred to as the Scheme), located circa 10km to the northeast of Doncaster and 14 kilometres to the west of Scunthorpe. The Scheme is being promoted by **RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Ltd** (the “Applicant”).
- 1.2. The NTS provides a summary detail of the Scheme, as well as a description of the existing environment in and around the development area. The NTS also presents a summary of the key findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) undertaken for the Scheme to date. The NTS is intended to act as a standalone document that will provide an overview of the environmental effects of the Scheme using non-technical language. For more detailed information, the full PEIR should be referred to, which is available on the project website <https://tweenbridgesolar.co.uk/>.

## Overview of Scheme

- 1.3. The main element of the proposal is the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of a ground mounted solar park, based on a wattage output of 610Wp (watt power) panel, the potential maximum range for energy generation is around 1250 MWp of direct current (DC) capacity. This would equate to around 800 MW of alternating current (AC) capacity. Flexibility in panel layout design would be required to accommodate expected future technology developments as technology continues to evolve and become more efficient.
- 1.4. The Scheme may be constructed through a single continuous phase or in multiple phases. If the Scheme is constructed in single continuous phase, then an operational period of 40 years would be sought, and the entire Scheme would be decommissioned after an operational lifespan of 40 years. If the Scheme is constructed in phases, then each phase would be decommissioned after achieving its 40 years operational lifespan. The exception to this would be the main RWE substation and its associated infrastructure whereby it would be built as part of the first phase of works and its decommissioning would be linked to the decommissioning of the final phase of the Scheme.
- 1.5. Fully operational, the solar farm would have the potential to provide enough low-carbon energy to meet the equivalent annual needs of over 370,000 homes<sup>1</sup>.
- 1.6. Key components of the Scheme are: -
- Solar PV modules and associated mounting structures
  - On-site supporting equipment including inverters, transformers and switchgear

---

<sup>1</sup> 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)



- A battery energy storage system (BESS), indicatively split into 4 separate compounds. They would each be located next to one of the seven on-site 33kV/132kV substations
- The Solar PV Modules and BESS would be connected to one of the seven on-site 33kV/132kV RWE 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 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 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.
- 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
- Electrical Car ('EV') charging point
- Permissive pathways and bird viewing gallery
- 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

## The Consenting Process and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects

17. The Scheme represents a significant planning and investment project and is a nationally significant infrastructure project ('NSIP'). The Planning Act 2008 introduced a new development consent regime for determining NSIPs. This is known as the Development Consent Order ('DCO') regime. The Planning Act 2008 dictates that the Secretary of State is responsible for determining the DCO applications, with the power to appoint the Planning Inspectorate to manage and examine the application. In this role, the Planning Inspectorate will examine the application through an appointed Examining Authority for the Scheme and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State who will then decide whether to grant a DCO which authorises and permits the Scheme.
18. The Planning Act 2008 defines the key stages in the application process for NSIPs. These are summarised below and further information on the Planning Inspectorate and the planning process can be found here <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
- Pre-application – applicant notifies and consults the public, statutory consultees and those with an interest in the affected land on its proposed application. Pre-application is typically split into informal phase of consultation followed by the statutory phase of pre-application consultation. The informal community consultation for this Scheme was carried out in late 2023 and consultation with consultees continued throughout 2024. This Scheme is currently at the statutory stage of pre-application consultation. At the end of the statutory consultation, all responses received will be considered and taken into account in the refinement of the Scheme, as we prepare for application submission.
  - Submission – applicant will review the feedback received during consultation and finalise the proposals taking the feedback into account. A DCO application will then be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, who will appoint the examination team for the application.
  - Acceptance – after the application is submitted, the Planning Inspectorate will decide whether it is suitable for examination.
  - Pre-examination – if accepted for examination, there will be an opportunity for people to register their interest in the application with the Planning Inspectorate. Anyone registered will be kept informed of the progress of the application by the Planning Inspectorate, including how they can provide comments. The Planning Inspectorate will invite all those registered to a preliminary meeting that will explain the timetable and format of the examination.
  - Examination – the examination lasts around six months. People who have registered their interest will be able to take part in the examination and send their comments to the Planning Inspectorate.
  - Decision – following the examination, the Planning Inspectorate will make its recommendation on the application to the Secretary of State, and the Secretary of State has the final decision as to whether consent is to be granted.

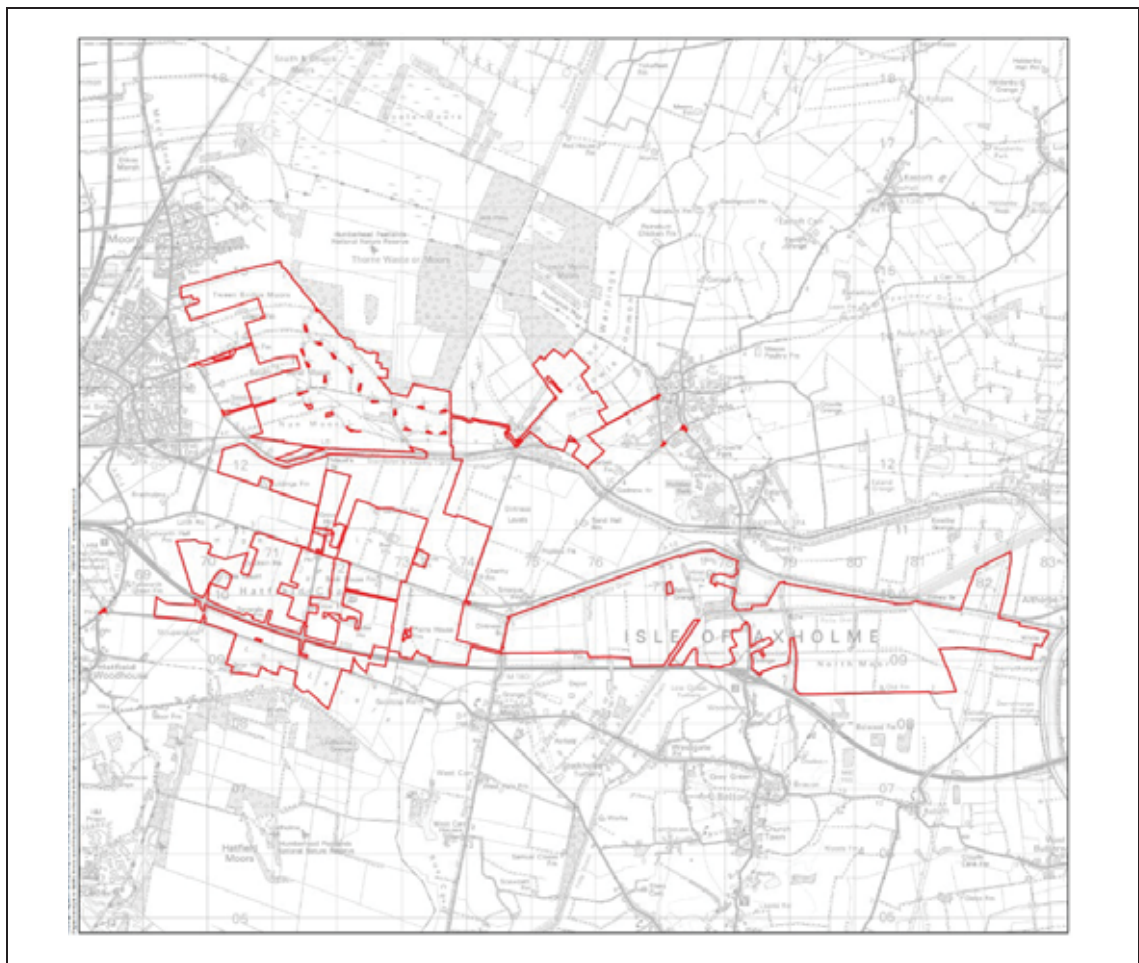
## The Applicant

- 1.9. RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Ltd, is one of the top three largest solar developers in the UK. RWE have over 125 years of energy expertise, through design, construction, and operation. It is the Applicant's ambition to have a carbon neutral energy portfolio by 2040, providing clean, secure, and affordable energy to millions of households.

## The Site

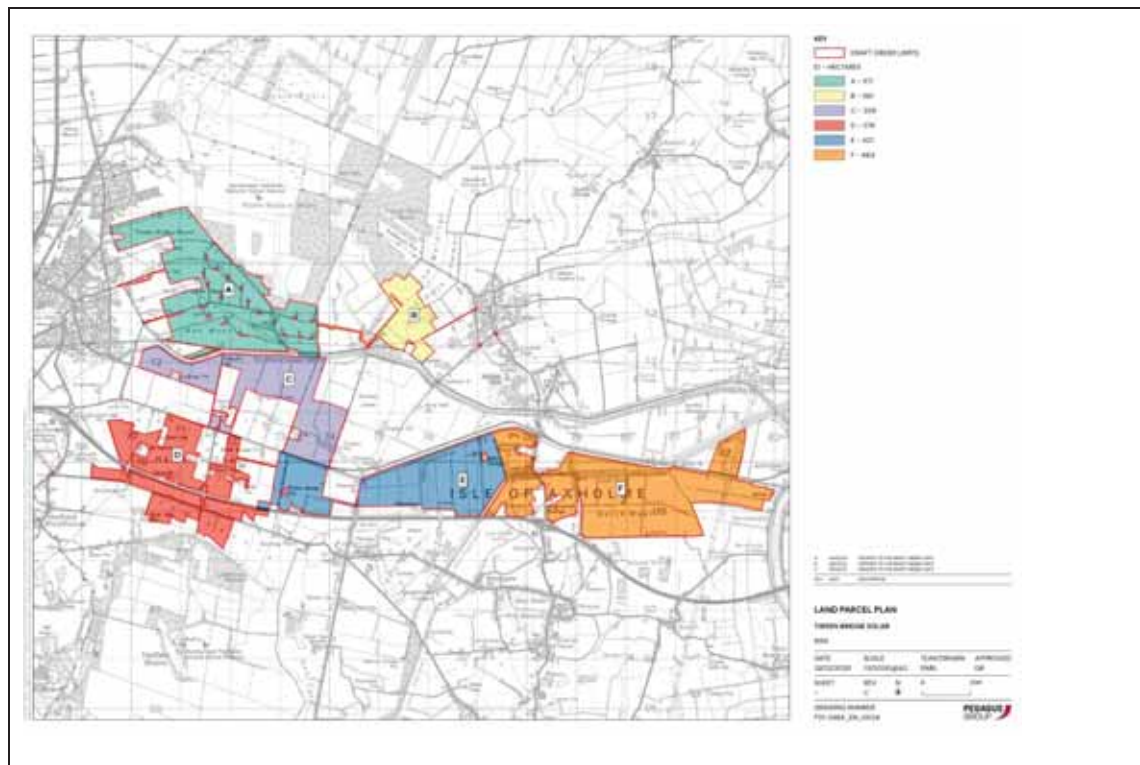
- 1.10. The Scheme is located within the Yorkshire and Humber regions. The Scheme straddles the administrative boundaries of Doncaster Council and North Lincolnshire Council. At a local level, the Scheme is located on land east of Thorne; south of Tween Bridge Moors; west of Crowle; north and northwest of Sandtoft & Sandtoft Industrial Estate; north of Hatfield Moors; and northeast of Hatfield. The Scheme is located on land either side of the M180, High Level Banks (the A18) and the Stainforth and Keadby Canal.
- 1.11. The draft Order Limits extends to approximately 2527 hectares of land, and is presented at Figure 1.1 below and at **Appendix A**

**Figure 1.1 Draft Order Limits**



- 1.12. The draft Order Limits is made up of six Land Parcels (described as Land Parcels A to F) as shown on the Land Parcel Plan provided at Figure 1.2 and **Appendix B**.

**Figure 1.2: Land Parcel Plan**



## 2. Scheme Description

- 2.1. The main element of the Scheme is the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of a ground mounted solar park with an intended design capacity of over 50MWp (megawatts peak), and a battery energy storage facility with an export/import connection to the National Grid. Based on a wattage output of 610Wp (watt power) panel, the potential maximum range for energy generation is around 1250 MWp of direct current (DC) capacity. This would equate to around 800 MW of alternating current (AC) capacity. Flexibility in panel layout design would be required to accommodate expected future technology developments as technology continues to evolve and become more efficient.
- 2.2. The Scheme may be constructed through a single continuous phase or in multiple phases. If the Scheme is to be constructed in single continuous phase, then an operational period of 40 years would be sought and the entire Scheme would be decommissioned after an operational lifespan of 40 years. If the Scheme is to be constructed in phases, then each phase would be decommissioned after achieving its 40 years operational lifespan. The exception to this would be the main RWE substation and its associated infrastructure whereby it would be built as part of the first phase of works and its decommissioning would be linked to the decommissioning of the final phase of the Scheme.
- 2.3. Fully operational, the solar farm would have the potential to provide enough low-carbon energy to meet the equivalent annual needs of over 370,000 homes<sup>2</sup>.

### Design Principles

- 2.4. Design should be considered as a process and an outcome, and the importance of good design for NSIPs is championed in National Policy, including NPS EN-1 and NPS EN-3, which set out criteria for achieving good design. Supporting consideration of good design for infrastructure projects, and referred to in the NPS EN-1, the National Infrastructure Commission's 'Design Principles for National Infrastructure' identified the purposes of the design process is to bring together engineering, environmental and creative expertise to shape and deliver a development project. The document notes that: -

*design is as much about process as it is product. Imaginative thinking about design should be embedded at every step of planning and delivery. The principles ensure a good process leads to a good design outcome*

- 2.5. The document sets out four thematic principles to shape the design of NSIPs. These are:
- Climate – Mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change;
  - People – Reflect what society wants and share benefits widely;

---

<sup>2</sup> 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)

- Places – Provide a sense of identity and improve our environment; and
- Value – achieve multiple benefits and solve problems well.

2.6. These thematic principles have informed the Applicant's Design Principles and Design Vision developed for the Scheme. The Applicant's Design Vision for the proposed Scheme states:

In order to support the urgent need for low-cost decarbonisation of the energy sector the proposed development will seek to maximise energy yield from the site whilst seeking to minimise any adverse effects on the environment and at the same time taking opportunities to deliver significant local benefit.

Good design will influence every decision; conservation and enhancement of the local environment will sit at the core of the design approach. Central to this is responding positively to the baseline landscape and the ecosystem services it provides and developing an understanding of what it is that the local community values. The Design Principles seek to preserve features of the landscape that contribute to the character and identity of the local area, giving particular consideration to the natural, historic and recreational environment.

2.6 The following Design Principles have been adopted by the Applicant to ensure good design outcomes are embedded within the Scheme. These will be tested and refined as part of the DCO process.

**Table 2.1 Design Principles**

| Theme   | Design Principle                                                                                                                                                             |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Climate | Designed to be climate resilient by incorporating, where reasonably practicable, mitigation measures and adaptations that respond to the impact of climate change.           |
|         | Demonstrating low carbon approaches to design, construction and long-term maintenance                                                                                        |
|         | Designed to optimise sustainability in regard to design, solar irradiation, construction and long-term maintenance.                                                          |
| People  | Designed to respect the amenity of local residents and communities (giving consideration to environmental impacts including visual, transport, glint and glare, noise etc.). |
|         | Designed to optimise use and enjoyment of the site and surroundings, promoting active living for existing and future communities and be inclusive.                           |
|         | Designed to ensure effective, appropriate and on-going communication with the local community.                                                                               |
| Place   | Designed to consider the efficient use and multifunctionality of the land.                                                                                                   |
|         | Designed to champion a context driven approach, which positively responds to the local context, including social, economic and environmental priorities.                     |
|         | Designed to respond to local character and distinctiveness.                                                                                                                  |



|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|             | Designed to secure effective place-keeping, by being subject to management arrangements that demonstrate a commitment to effectively implementing, establishing and maintaining features at all stages of the development process.            |
| Environment | Designed to maximise environmental net gains within the order limits.                                                                                                                                                                         |
|             | Designed with the intention to avoid any harmful environmental impacts as far as possible.                                                                                                                                                    |
|             | Designed to deliver climate resilient/sustainable water management, using above ground features to manage flood risk, maintain the natural water cycle and improve water quality within the boundary of the project and at a catchment scale. |
|             | Designed to deliver wildlife/biodiversity enhancement.                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|             | Designed to create effective links with existing and planned for ecological features and networks beyond the boundary of the project.                                                                                                         |

## Design Parameters and the Rochdale Envelope

- 2.7. The need for flexibility in design, layout, and technology is acknowledged in a number of National Policy Statements to address uncertainties inherent to a scheme. This is very pertinent to solar and battery development due to the rapid pace of change in technology. As a result, any forthcoming DCO application for this Scheme will require a degree of flexibility to allow the latest technology to be utilised at the time of construction. Flexibility is also required for the final alignment of the export cable to the National Grid Substation.
- 2.8. In order to maintain flexibility in the design, it is the Applicant's intention to use the 'Rochdale Envelope' approach within parameter ranges. The Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note Nine 'Rochdale Envelope' provides specific guidance to applicants on the degree of flexibility that could be considered appropriate under the Planning Act 2008 regime.

## Main Elements of Tween Bridge Solar Farm

- 2.9. The main elements of Tween bridge Solar Farm are identified below.

### Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Arrays

- 2.10. The solar panels generate electrical power by converting solar irradiance into direct current (DC) electricity. A solar panel consists of a layer of silicon cells, an anodised aluminium frame and various wiring to allow current to flow from the silicon cells. Silicon is a non-metal with conductive properties that allow it to absorb and convert sunlight into electricity. When light



interacts with a silicon cell, it causes electrons to be set into motion, which initiates a flow of electric current<sup>3</sup>. Solar PV modules are proposed in Land Areas A, B, C, D, and E.<sup>4</sup>

2.11. Table 2.2 provides an overview of the anticipated parameters of each type of panel module.

**Table 2.2 Solar PV Module Design Principles**

|                                             | Fixed system                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Tracking system                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Description</b>                          | Series of rows of solar PV modules aligned in east to west rows with panels facing south. Solar panels will be either dark blue, grey, black or similar in colour.                                                              | Series of rows of solar PV modules mounted on a metal tracking system aligned in north-south rows with panels rotating east-west. Solar panels will be either dark blue, grey, black or similar in colour.                                                                                   |
| <b>Orientation of PV panel</b>              | South facing                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Pivoting east to west throughout the day                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Angle from horizontal</b>                | Between 15 to 35 degrees. Pitch would be variable depending on ground conditions and height of the lowest edge of the panel.                                                                                                    | Variable throughout the day.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Separation distance between each row</b> | Approximately 4m to 10m                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Approximately 4m to 6m                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>PV panel type</b>                        | Panels may be mono-facial or bifacial.                                                                                                                                                                                          | Panels may be mono-facial or bifacial.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Height</b>                               | Top height of PV module on the fixed system would be 3.6m<br><br>Bottom height of the arrays would be minimum of 0.8m and their lowest edge would respond to the 1,1000 year flood level plus 0.10m of freeboard <sup>5</sup> . | For the tracking, the solar panels would be up to 3.6m high at their highest point, ground mounted on tracking frames and a tracking system to follow the path of the sun. This means that their height would vary throughout the day. Lowest height of the arrays would be minimum of 0.8m. |

<sup>3</sup> It was first discovered in 1839 by Edmond Becquerel and can be generally thought of as a characteristic of certain materials (known as semiconductors) that allows them to generate an electric current when exposed to sunlight.

<sup>4</sup> Land Parcel Plan is provided at Figure 1.2

<sup>5</sup> Freeboard is a designed buffer between the 1,1000 years flood level and the bottom edge of panel.

|                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Mounting structure</b> | The mounting structure for the solar PV modules is a metal frame (usually anodised aluminium alloy) securely fixed to the ground and supported by galvanized steel poles, which are typically driven into the ground to a depth of approximately 1.5m. Subject to ground conditions, the framework could also be supported by screw piles or ballast concrete pads. Set back distance of 15m in relation to woodland habitats and 9m to drains managed by the Internal Drainage Board. |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

- 2.12. Both fixed and tracking systems are proposed within the site. All proposed solar panels and associated infrastructure on site will be raised above the modelled 1 in 1,000 year fluvially dominated flood levels on site plus a 100mm allowance for freeboard.
- 2.13. The insulated DC cables from the solar panels will be routed in channels fixed on the underside of the mounting structure. The DC string cables will run along the entire underside of each row. The electrical cabling from each array will be concealed through shallow trenches linking the solar panels to the inverters and transformers and then to the seven 33kv/132kv RWE satellite substations. The cable trench will typically be between 0.5m to 1.1m in depth and up to 1.0m wide. The cable trench may also carry earthing and communications cables and will be backfilled with fine sands and excavated materials to the original ground level.
- 2.14. Land between and beneath the arrays will be used for biodiversity enhancements and seasonal sheep grazing. If sheep grazing is not possible then grassland will be managed through a grass cutting regime. For the fixed system, the mounting structure will be supported at intervals by double mounted posts set approximately 3.75m apart. The posts will be pushed into the ground with a small plant rig, to depth of approximately 1.5m and this will be guided by localised ground conditions. Ballast foundation design could also be used. For the tracking system, the mounting structure would be supported by single posts set approximately 10m apart. Depending on ground conditions, the post may be mounted to ballast slabs. If any areas of archaeological interest are identified within the work area, then consideration will be given to the use of non-intrusive installation method, where the posts will be fixed into concrete pads resting on top of the ground.
- 2.15. The Solar PV arrays would be set within perimeter fencing up to 1.8m in height. The perimeter fencing would be either green or galvanised aluminium in finish and would typically follow the outer boundaries of the solar arrays. The minimum distance between the edge of the arrays and the perimeter fence would be 3m. A CCTV system mounted on 3m poles will be positioned at intervals along the inside face edge of the perimeter fencing (between the fence and the arrays).

### Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

- 2.16. A Battery Energy Storage System ("BESS") will be an associated part of the electrical infrastructure of the Scheme. A BESS is an electrochemical device that is charged by collecting energy from the grid or a power plant, such as the solar arrays, and then discharges that energy at a later time to provide electricity or other grid services when needed. The BESS would comprise containerised battery storage systems which would be located adjacent and connect to one of the seven 33kv/132kv satellite substations. It is anticipated that the BESS will be subdivided into 4 No. 100MW rated compounds, with two BESS compounds located within Land Parcel A and one compound located within each of Land

Parcels C and E. This provides a total storage capacity of 400MW /1600MWh. The ability to store energy on-site is required to store surplus electricity produced and provide grid balancing services by allowing excess electricity generated from the solar PV modules to be stored and dispatched as required. The BESS may also be capable of importing electricity from the national electricity network, via the National Grid Substation, to store electricity in order to export this electricity to the national electricity network at peak times.

- 2.17. The BESS is likely to consist of lithium-ion batteries housed in shipping container-style structures. The BESS would require associated heating, ventilation and cooling (HVAC) systems to ensure efficiency of the batteries and these systems would be integrated within the individual containers.
- 2.18. For geotechnical design purposes a range of array foundations are available, dependent on the soil conditions in various parts of this very large site. Piled foundations are the most likely option for the battery energy storage system.

### RWE 33kV/132kV Satellite Substations and RWE 400kV Substation

- 2.19. The candidate design provides for 7 satellite RWE substations (33kV/132Kv), split across Land Parcels A, B, C, D and E, and one main RWE substation (400kV) which is currently positioned within Land Parcel E. Each satellite substation will have a development footprint of approximately 66.37 m by 45.6m. 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 RWE substation where the 132kV is converted to 400kV for connection to the National Grid circuit.
- 2.20. Electric cabling will be laid to link together the seven satellite substations to the main (or primary) RWE substation. The main RWE substation would have a development footprint of c. 220m by 156m. To connect the solar farm to the national electricity transmission network, National Grid has identified that a new 400 kV substation will need to be built. The location of the National Grid substation is still to be confirmed and is dependent on technical, design, and environmental factors being considered. National Grid, as part of its legal obligation to facilitate new connections, will be developing its own proposals and consenting for the substation separately. The location of this substation is outside the control of the Applicant. For the purposes of this statutory consultation, it has been assumed that the 400kV National Grid substation would be located within, or near to, the proposed draft Order Limits.
- 2.20 The Applicant has included an area within the draft Order Limits where it is thought that the National Grid substation, and therefore the export connection cable, might be located, in order to ensure that the appropriate parties are consulted with and that and that the PEIR includes assessments in relation to this land, where possible. This area of land known as the *“National Grid Substation and RWE Underground Export Cable Route Assessment Area”* is the area of land identified as Land Parcel F. The layout plan also shows the export cable route assessment area. Within the cable route assessment area, the layout plan provides an illustrative corridor for the underground export cable route and this is based upon the Applicant’s current assumptions as to the possible location for the National Grid substation within Land Aea F.

- 2.20 For the purpose of the assessment reported in this PEIR a construction working width of 30m has been assumed as being required along the full length of this illustrative corridor for the underground export cable route. It is anticipated that a cable plough or open trenching works would be used to install the 132 kV and 400kV cables, and Horizontal Directional Drilling would be required in more constrained locations.
- 2.20 The majority of the cabling linking the RWE substations would be laid by open trench technique. The dimensions and depth of the trenches would vary depending on the amount of cabling and ground conditions, typically they would be up to 1.5m in depth. The process will follow a soil management plan to ensure that the soil structure and quality are not degraded as part of the construction process. Piled foundations are the most likely option for the RWE substations. The current layout provides: -

**Table2.3 component breakdown by Land Parcels**

| Component                                    | Type                | Land Areas |         |         |         |         |   | Total            |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------|------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---|------------------|
|                                              |                     | A          | B       | C       | D       | E       | F |                  |
| <b>PV Modules (&amp; Mounting Structure)</b> | <b>Fixed</b>        | 231,660    | 166,806 | 369,576 | 349,893 | 534,816 | 0 | <b>1,652,751</b> |
|                                              | <b>Tracker</b>      | 363,123    | 0       | 26,784  | 0       | 0       | 0 | <b>389,907</b>   |
| <b>Inverters</b>                             | <b>Solar</b>        | 59         | 17      | 40      | 38      | 56      | 0 | <b>210</b>       |
|                                              | <b>BESS</b>         | 52         | 0       | 26      | 0       | 26      | 0 | <b>104</b>       |
| <b>Transformers</b>                          | <b>33kV (Solar)</b> | 59         | 17      | 40      | 38      | 56      | 0 | <b>210</b>       |
|                                              | <b>33kV (BESS)</b>  | 52         | 0       | 26      | 0       | 26      | 0 | <b>104</b>       |
|                                              | <b>132kV</b>        | 2          | 0       | 1       | 2       | 2       | 0 | <b>7</b>         |
|                                              | <b>400kV</b>        | 0          | 0       | 0       | 0       | 3       | 0 | <b>3</b>         |
| <b>Switchgear</b>                            |                     | 4          | 2       | 4       | 4       | 4       | 0 | <b>18</b>        |
| <b>CCTV</b>                                  |                     | 500        | 130     | 210     | 290     | 370     | 0 | <b>1,500</b>     |
| <b>Batteries</b>                             |                     | 208        | 0       | 104     | 0       | 104     | 0 | <b>416</b>       |
| <b>HVAC Units</b>                            |                     | 208        | 0       | 104     | 0       | 104     | 0 | <b>416</b>       |

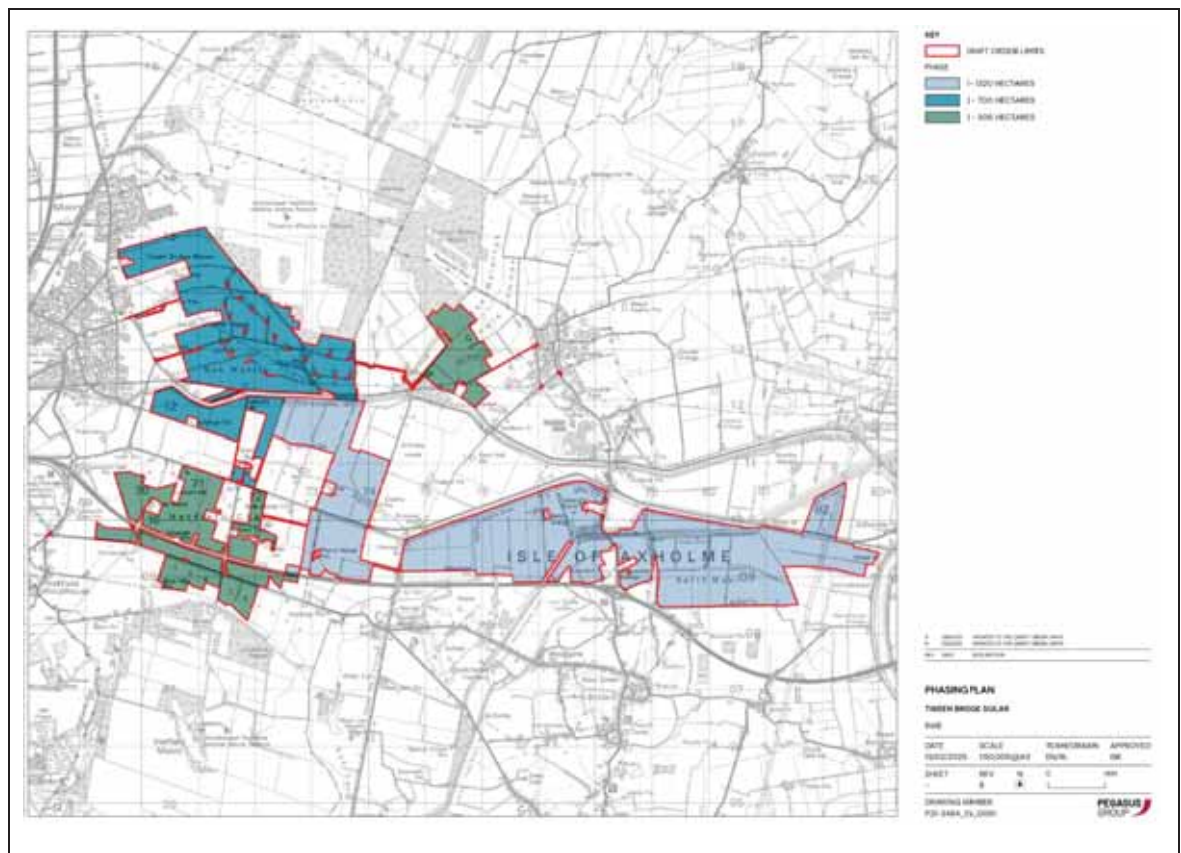
## Electrical Car (EV) Charging Point

- 2.21. The Applicant is exploring the option of providing an EV charging point within the draft Order Limits (Land Area A). The Applicant has set aside land to the immediate east of Moor Edges Road and north of Moor Owners Road for the provision of an EV charging hub and vehicle parking. Access to the EV charging station would be secured via the creation of a new vehicular access off Moor Edges Road. Design principles for the EV charging point are: -
- Off street EV parking bays.
  - New dedicated access off Moor Edges Road.
  - EV cabinets.
  - Road Signage.
  - Street lighting.
- 2.22. The EV charging points would be made available to local community. Consideration would be given to the use of a canopy for the charge points.

## Phasing of Scheme & Connection to National Grid Substation

- 2.23. The connection date to the new National Grid substation is currently phased to provide 400MW by 2029, with a further 200MW by 2032 and 200MW by 2035. However, this is subject to change as part of an ongoing policy review directed by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero who are working with Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) and the National Energy System Operator (NESO). If all elements were constructed at the same time, then the construction phase would last up to 30 months. Alternatively, the construction of the Scheme may coincide with the phased connection dates from National Grid, with each phase of development, and its associated infrastructure, having an operational lifespan of 40 years. As stated elsewhere in this chapter, the exception to this would be the main RWE substation and its associated infrastructure whereby it would be built as part of the first phase of works and its decommissioning would be linked to the decommissioning of the final phase of the Scheme. The main RWE substation and its associated infrastructure could therefore have a longer operational lifespan of up to 50 years.
- 2.24. An indicative phasing plan is provided at Illustration 2.3.

**Illustration 2.3 Indicative Phasing Plan**



## Ecological and Landscape Mitigation and Enhancement Corridors

- 2.25. The Scheme presents considerable opportunities for landscape and biodiversity mitigation and enhancements.
- 2.26. Extensive habitat enhancement provision is embedded within the Scheme and provided as part of the construction phase which include the creation of new habitats of high ecological value and biodiversity net gain. A number of measures and features are proposed for the benefit of biodiversity. This includes the planting of new hedgerows and bolstering of existing field boundaries to increase coverage of this habitat, provide effective landscape screening, and to improve connectivity of the hedgerow and woodland network across and beyond the Order Limits

## Trenchless Cable Works

- 2.27. Within the draft Order Limits, there are a number of locations that may require trenchless approach to the laying of cables. At these locations trenchless techniques, such as boring, micro-tunnelling, or moling methods are likely to be undertaken. The Applicant has commissioned technical assessments and ground investigations works to inform final design detail. For each location where a trenchless technique may be required a launch pit will have to be created to ensure the equipment can be used safely and the cable installed correctly. The maximum extent of these launch pits is expected to be around 30m x 30m. The potential locations where trenchless techniques may be utilised are listed below.

- M180 motorway crossing
- Stainforth and Keadby Canal
- South Humberside Main Line Railway
- High Level Bank Road (A18)

2.28. The use of trenchless or other appropriate method for crossing Internal Drainage Board (IDB) Managed Watercourses and other watercourses and ditches are also being explored by the Applicant.

## **Operational Phase**

2.29. During the operational phase, the activities on site would amount to servicing and maintenance of plant and equipment associated with the Scheme, including solar panels, inverters, transformers, substation compound and vegetation and biodiversity management. Landscape, ecological and biodiversity benefits could include the installation of barn owl boxes, bird nesting boxes, bee hives, log piles and other hibernacula such as small buried rubble piles suitable for reptile species, amphibians and insect life. Land between and beneath the panels would be used for biodiversity enhancements and agricultural use would continue through sheep grazing. Tree planting would be introduced along field boundaries where required.

2.30. Across the lifetime of the Scheme, it is expected that alongside the regular maintenance of equipment, infrastructure such as solar panels and batteries will require replacement. The battery storage containers would be replaced after 20 years. Details relating to an expected programme of replacement of equipment will be reported within the Environmental Statement. Further, the programme for maintenance and the replacement of equipment across the Scheme should be phased such that this is not undertaken at the same time across all Land Parcels.

## **Statutory Undertakers**

2.31. The provision of easements for the existing services that traverse the site, such as water pipes and overhead powerlines, will be incorporated into the layout design. The application documents will include a description of how easements will be maintained through the draft Development Consent Order.

## **Temporary Diversion of Public Right of Way ('PRoW')**

2.32. Temporary diversion of a sections of PRoWs Thorne 19 and CROW 21, which traverse the site, may be required during the construction and decommissioning periods in order to separate and keep apart members of the public from the construction / decommissioning vehicles and machinery. Alternatively, where construction vehicles crossing the PRoW cannot be prevented, a banksman can be used to ensure the continued safe passage of the public on the definitive right of way.



## **Access and Egress**

- 2.33. Due to the large-scale nature of the Scheme, and it being spread over a number of separate land parcels, there are currently a total of 27 access points proposed for the Scheme. Details of the access are provided in the Draft Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (ES Appendix 12.2).

## **Decommissioning Phase**

- 2.34. Within 12 months of the planned end to energy generation and storage for each phase of the Scheme, a decommissioning strategy for that phase of the Scheme would be submitted to the relevant planning authority(s) for approval. The decommissioning strategy would detail how plant and machinery located within the Order Limits would be removed. The decommissioning strategy will follow the principles laid out in the Outline Decommissioning Strategy. The decommissioning period for each phase of the Scheme is expected to take up to 2 years.
- 2.35. The Scheme will be decommissioned at the end of its approved operational phase. All PV modules, mounting poles, cabling above 1m below ground (on and off site) (any cabling buried 1m+ below ground will not be removed at decommissioning), substations, energy storage equipment, inverters, transformers etc would be removed from site. These items would be recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at the time. Temporary diversion of the PRoW traversing the Order Limits may also take place during decommissioning. It should be noted that the National Grid substation does not form part of the Scheme and will be the subject of its own separate consent and lifecycle..

### 3. Site Description

- 3.1. The Scheme broadly lies between the settlements of Thorne and Crowle, occupying separate parcels of land within a relatively flat agricultural landscape predominantly in arable use for the cultivation of cereal crops with some areas of modified grassland and short rotation coppice. Many of the field boundaries are subdivided into rectilinear parcels by long linear drainage ditches, some with partial or sporadic hedgerows. The draft Order Limits is dissected by several major roads and routes, including the M180 motorway, the A18, the South Humberside Main Line railway route and Stainforth & Keadby Canal.
- 3.2. Numerous other minor roads cross the landscape connecting scattered residential properties and farmsteads, many of which lie adjacent or in proximity to the site. Tween Bridge Wind Farm and substation is situated in the northern part of the site<sup>6</sup>. Overhead power lines and lattice pylons runs across the northern part of the Scheme which creates other vertical elements within the landscape. There are wooden pole lines and masts within the draft Order Limits.
- 3.3. Bar the two areas of significant woodland to the north and south of the site associated with former peat extraction at Hatfield Moors and Thorn Moors, the landscape contains relatively limited areas of vegetation, largely limited to field boundaries in the form of hedgerows, which many are incomplete and gappy. There are occasional scattered trees or groups of trees and some small woodland copses.
- 3.4. There are a number of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) that are located within or close to the Scheme. (See Figure 6.4 Recreation Plan). Public Footpath FP19 (Thorne) lies in the central northern part of the site and forms part of the access to the Scheme. Public Footpath FP15 (Thorne) lies just beyond the most north western boundary of the Scheme. In the north eastern part of the Scheme Public Right of Way (Footpath 17) lies beyond the draft Order Limits forming a continuation of an unnamed north-east/south west Byway. Footpath 18 runs from the unnamed Byway south eastwards into the western side of Crowe.

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<sup>6</sup> Tween Bridge wind farm, also known as Tween Bridge Moor, was commissioned in 2012. It consists of 22 Vestas V90/2000 wind turbines with a combined rated output of 44 MW.

## 4. Legislation and Policy Context

- 4.1. By virtue of its potential generating capacity, which stands at over 50MW, the Scheme constitutes a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). Therefore, instead of applying to the local authority for Planning Permission, RWE as 'Applicant' must apply to the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State (SoS) for a Development Consent Order (DCO). The process for applying for a Development Consent Order is set out in the Planning Act 2008 (the Act)<sup>7</sup>.
- 4.2. The Act introduced a new system for consulting on, applying for, examining and determining NSIPs as defined by Section 14 of the Act. A non-exhaustive list of the main legislative and procedural requirements relating to NSIPs are presented within the following:
- The Act;
  - The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended) (the APFP Regulations);
  - The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010;
  - Infrastructure Planning (Interested Parties and Miscellaneous Prescribed Provisions) Regulations 2015; and
  - The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 2017 EIA Regulations).
- 4.3. Under Section 104 of the Act, the SoS is directed to determine a DCO application with regard to the relevant National Policy Statement (NPS), the local impact report, matters prescribed in relation to the Scheme and any other matters regarded by the SoS as important and relevant. Following their designation on 17 January 2024, there are three NPSs which are considered to be 'relevant NPS' under Section 104 of the Act:
- Overarching NPS for energy (NPS EN-1)
  - NPS for renewable energy infrastructure (NPS EN-3)
  - NPS for electricity networks infrastructure (NPS EN-5)
- 4.4. It is considered that other national and local planning policy may be regarded by the SoS as 'important and relevant' to the Scheme.

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<sup>7</sup> The Project constitutes a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) by virtue of section 14 (1)(a) and section 15 of the Act which includes within the definition of an NSIP any onshore electricity generating station in England of 50 Megawatt capacity or more. Under section 31 of the Act a development consent order (DCO) is required to develop a NSIP. Under section 37 of the Act this can only be granted if an application is made to the Secretary of State (SoS) in accordance with the requirements listed in that section.

## 5. Assessing Environmental Impact

- 5.1. The PEIR presents the latest findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment undertaken for the Scheme. The EIA assesses the likely impacts – both positive and negative – of the scheme on local communities and the environment during construction, operation and decommissioning. The PEIR has been prepared having regard to the information that will need to be provided in the subsequent Environmental Statement which would be submitted with the future DCO application.
- 5.2. Central to the delivery of the EIA has been, and will continue to be, the focus of engagement with consultee bodies, community stakeholders and other interested parties. A scoping Report was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in January 2023. The Scoping Report identified the potentially significant effects requiring assessment, determines the subject matter of the assessment and the methodologies for undertaking the assessment. The Planning Inspectorate subsequently provided a Scoping Opinion, which included comments from a range of stakeholders, on behalf of the Secretary of State (SoS), in March 2023. The Scoping Opinion and consultee responses have subsequently informed the assessment work and further design evolution undertaken to date. The technical themes covered in the PEIR build upon the topics discussed in the working draft PEIR that was published to inform the non-statutory consultation. The theses are: -
- Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
  - Nature Conservation and Biodiversity
  - Cultural Heritage and Archaeology
  - Ground Conditions
  - Water Resource
  - Socio Economic
  - Transport and Access
  - Noise and Vibration
  - Air Quality
  - Agricultural Circumstances
  - Other Environmental Topics (including waste and climate change)
- 5.3. With regards to the export cable to the National Grid substation, the layout plan (Appendix B) provides an illustrative corridor for the underground export cable route, and this is based upon the Applicant's current assumptions as to the possible location for the National Grid substation within the National Grid Substation and RWE Underground Export Cable Route Assessment Area. The illustrative corridor is based on the guiding principles to select the shortest route (hence reduce environmental impacts by minimising development footprint; and avoid key sensitive features wherever possible, and where not, seek appropriate mitigation measures. As an indicator of the likely significant effects, the assessment focuses



on the illustrative export cable corridor and provides a strategic assessment of the overall export cable route assessment area.

## **6. Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment**

- 6.1. Chapter 6 of the PEIR presents the preliminary assessment of the likely significant effects on Landscape and Visual receptors during construction, operation (including maintenance), and decommissioning.

### **Baseline Conditions**

- 6.2. The Scheme comprises of an area of predominantly agricultural land between the settlements of Thorne and Crowle. Tween Bridge Wind Farm is located within the northern part of the draft Order Limits. The Stainforth and Keaby Canal crosses the draft Order Limits from west to east. The landscape is predominantly flat and low lying. Vegetation consists of eroded hedgerows which are often gappy in parts. There are occasional hedgerow trees and isolated trees often along field boundaries which follow drainage ditches. There are occasional small blocks of woodland in the northern part of the draft Order Limits.
- 6.3. The M180 and A18 cross through part of the draft Order Limits from west to east. There is a network of minor roads which are within the draft Order Limits or adjacent to the draft Order Limits. There are a network of footpaths and recreational routes that are within the draft Order Limits or lie close to the draft Order Limits. The Stainforth and Keadby Canal provides recreational use for both walkers, cyclists and boat users along the canal.
- 6.4. There are several settlements which vary in size that are situated close to the Scheme, with a number of individual or clusters of properties situated close to the Scheme.

### **Likely Significant Effects**

#### Landscape Character

- 6.5. Potential Landscape construction phase effects associated with the Scheme would be temporary and medium term.
- 6.6. During the operational phase of the Scheme there would be likely significant effects on the Peat Moorlands Landscape Character Type and Thorne and Hatfield Peat Moorlands Landscape Character Area G2, Flat Open Remote Farmland Landscape Character Type, Flat Wooded Farmland Landscape Character Type, and Flat Drained Tree Farmland Landscape Character Type as much of the Scheme would occupy these character areas and types. These likely significant effects would be permanent in terms of some of the elements or long term for the life of the Scheme. It is likely there would also be significant effects during the construction and decommissioning stages of the Scheme, however these would be short - medium term and temporary.
- 6.7. There would be inevitable significant effects on the landscape character of the Scheme, (within the draft Order Limits) as there would be a change from agricultural use to areas of solar modules and associated infrastructure.
- 6.8. At the construction and decommissioning stages the effects are also likely to be significant but these would be temporary and medium term.

#### Visual Amenity

- 6.9. Potential visual effects during the construction phase associated with the Scheme would be temporary and medium term. There would be visibility of the construction operations from a number of receptors including footpath users, road users and people at residential properties within or close to the Scheme.
- 6.10. There would be likely significant effects from Stainforth and Keadby Canal during the construction, operational and decommissioning stage of the Scheme.
- 6.11. There would be likely significant effects from Footpath 19 (Thorne), Footpath 15 (Thorne), Footpath 17, 21 and 22. There would be likely significant effects from the Isle Greenway (Thorne-Crowle-Ealand-Keadby-Scunthorpe) which follows part of the Stainforth and Keadby Canal and local road network. These effects would be experienced at all stages of the Scheme. The effects would long term and permanent for some of the elements but the majority would be temporary.
- 6.12. 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 ES. 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.
- 6.13. At the decommissioning stage the effects are likely to be similar to those set out in the construction phase and would be temporary and medium term.

### Landscape Character

- 6.14. Parcel F is located within the Trent Levels Landscape Character Area and more specifically within the Trent Levels Drained Farmland and Flat Wooded Farmland Landscape Character Types. Whilst the proposals within Parcel F are not currently known and the area of this Landscape Character type is relatively large it is likely that there could be significant effects relating to the installation of the underground export cable route on the Trent Levels Drained Farmland Landscape Character Type particularly during the construction stages of the proposal.

### Visual Amenity

- 6.15. Parcel F is located within close proximity of the A18 and M180 road corridors. Also located in and around Parcel F are footpaths 25, 26 and 141, the settlement of Althorpe and several individual properties. Whilst the proposals within Parcel F are not currently known it is likely that significant effects may occur to the visual amenity of receptors associated with these corridors and locations relating to the installation of the underground export cable particularly during the construction stages of the proposal.

### **Mitigation and Enhancement**

- 6.16. As the proposals for the Scheme evolve, opportunities to enhance mitigation as set out on the Landscape Masterplan, (Figure 6.5) which combine landscape and ecological measures will be explored further. This will form a mitigation strategy and landscape proposals that will be included within the subsequent chapter of the ES.



## Conclusion

- 6.17. There would be significant landscape effects on the area of the Scheme within the draft Order Limits, as well as Peat Moorlands Landscape Character Type and Thorne and Hatfield Peat Moorlands Landscape Character Area G2, Flat Open Remote Farmland Landscape Character Type, Flat Wooded Farmland Landscape Character Type, and Flat Drained Tree Farmland Landscape Character Type as much of the Scheme would occupy notable portions of these character areas and types.
- 6.18. There would be significant effects on users of Footpath 19 (Thorne), Footpath 15 (Thorne), Footpaths 17, 21 and 22. There would be likely significant effects from the Isle Greenway (Thorne-Crowle-Ealand-Keadby-Scunthorpe) which follows part of the Stainforth and Keadby Canal and local road network. These effects would be experienced at all stages of the Scheme. The effects would be long term and the majority of the elements would be temporary with some permanent elements that would remain.
- 6.19. Further detailed assessment will be carried out and included within the subsequent chapter of the Environmental Statement which will aim to further mitigate for these effects where possible and further reduce the potential effects, where this can be achieved so they would no longer be significant.

## **7. Nature Conservation and Biodiversity**

- 7.1. Chapter 7 of the PEIR assesses the potential effects on biodiversity during construction, operation and decommissioning of the Scheme.

### **Baseline Conditions**

- 7.2. The Scheme comprises an area of predominantly agricultural land between the towns of Thorne and Crowle. The Tween Bridge Wind Farm is located within the draft Order Limits, and consists of twenty-two operational wind turbines. The Stainforth and Keadby Canal crosses the draft Order Limits from west to east. The River Torne is present adjacent to the south west of the draft Order Limits.
- 7.3. Habitats within the draft Order Limits are dominated by arable farmland, associated with species-poor hedgerow systems and watercourses with ponds and a parcel of plantation broad-leaved woodland. The draft Order Limits comprise of open fields of limited biodiversity value, and subject to intensive farmland management.
- 7.4. The draft Order Limits 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.
- 7.5. Comprehensive ecological surveys have undertaken since 2022 to inform this assessment. With the aim of providing the required 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 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.

### **Likely Significant Effects**

- 7.6. Higher value habitats including woodlands, watercourses, trees and hedgerows are retained and protected, with construction phase effects largely confined to arable land of low ecological value, but which is noted to support both significant assemblages of both breeding and non-breeding birds, which is discussed separately.
- 7.7. The Scheme also includes embedded habitat enhancement provisions; which will be managed for the benefit of wildlife over the long term and will provide biodiversity gains for a wide variety of species. Additionally, the proposed creation of diverse grasslands and hedgerow planting will deliver a quantifiable biodiversity net gain ('BNG'). The commitment to a BNG above mandatory or policy requirements, and adopted as a fundamental design principle ensures that The Scheme will deliver a substantial ecological benefit.
- 7.8. Effects from the construction phase have been assessed as not significant in relation to non-statutory designated sites, habitats and species with the exception of statutory designated sites, ground nesting species and non-breeding birds, which are assessed as Significant.

- 7.9. Further detailed assessment on the effects of The Scheme on statutory designated sites is presented, as well as the final ES Chapter. Ultimately, this assessment has concluded that potential impact pathways are present for a number of qualifying features of the nearby statutory sites. Embedded mitigation measures in terms of buffer zones and sensitive working methodologies are detailed within the accompanying construction ecological construction management plan ('CEMP') and are considered to adequately mitigate for most LSEs on the statutory designated sites identified.
- 7.10. However, the embedded mitigation is not considered sufficient to mitigate for all likely significant effects on all qualifying features. Impacts on a number of qualifying bird species of the Humber Estuary SPA/Ramsar are expected through habitat loss and disturbance where these species are present in adjacent land. Additional mitigation in the form of large areas of permanent pasture managed sensitively for the target species is proposed, the principles of which are set out in the accompanying outline landscape and ecological management plan ('LEMP'). Detailed design of these mitigation areas could also include the provision of wetland scrapes.
- 7.11. 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.
- 7.12. 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.

## **Mitigation**

- 7.13. The included BNG for habitats, combined with other 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 further benefit, in particular for invertebrate populations.
- 7.14. The habitat enhancements across the draft Order Limits will provide benefits by increasing opportunities for many of the species associated with designated sites and increase and improve ecological connectivity.
- 7.15. Measures are set out to avoid or mitigate against potentially adverse effects during both the construction, operation and decommissioning periods of The Scheme and these measures will be detailed within the CEMP, LEMP and the decommissioning ecological management plan.

- 7.16. Additional measures have been identified where required to ensure legislative compliance and the protection of wildlife, including pre-commencement/construction surveys and, where necessary, mitigation licences issued by Natural England which will ensure that the favourable conservation status of relevant species will be maintained.

## **Enhancement**

- 7.17. A number of boxes will be installed for birds, bats and hedgehogs as well as insect hotels, beetle banks, hibernacula and bee hives across the draft Order Limits, the principles of which are provided in the accompanying outline LEMP.

## **Conclusion**

- 7.18. With embedded design measures and mitigation in place as described, the Scheme will not result in any significant adverse effects on any habitats or species, or non-statutory designated sites, with the exception of statutory designated sites, ground nesting birds and non-breeding birds. Further detailed assessment will be carried out and included within the ES Chapter, which will aim to mitigate and/or compensate for these effects and where possible, reduce the effect, so it is no longer significant.
- 7.19. Major beneficial effects are anticipated as a result of habitat creation and diversification accompanied by long-term habitat management for the benefit of biodiversity.

## **8. Cultural Heritage and Archaeology**

- 8.1. Chapter 8 of the PEIR assesses the likely significant effects on the scheme on cultural heritage and archaeology.

### **Baseline**

- 8.2. The heritage resource which has been considered within this Chapter includes the known and potential buried archaeological remains which may be affected as part of the construction stage and heritage assets, located within and in the environs of the draft Order Limits, which could potentially be affected as a result of change within the settings of these assets introduced following the completion of the Scheme.

### **Likely Significant Effects**

#### **Construction Phase**

- 8.3. It has been established that the construction phase of the Scheme has the potential to affect known, non-designated, archaeological remains associated with possible prehistoric Romano-British, post-medieval and modern archaeological remains as well as potential previously unrecorded archaeological remains. The groundworks associated with the construction of the cable runs within the Scheme have the potential to truncate or totally remove the archaeological remains within their footprint. Such effects would result in harm to or total loss of significance of these buried archaeological features. The installation of the solar arrays has the potential to result in localized adverse effects upon archaeological deposits lying beneath the push pin foundations. An appropriate programme of mitigation by design and additional mitigation (as required) will allow the magnitude of effect to be Moderate harm (not significant).
- 8.4. The construction phase of the Scheme has the potential to affect the settings of three designated heritage assets and three non-designated built heritage assets. Such effects would result in harm to the significance of these assets, leading to Less than Substantial Harm in relation to the designated assets and minor harm in relation to the non-designated assets.

#### **Operational Phase**

- 8.5. The operational phase of the Scheme has the potential to affect the settings of three designated heritage assets and three non-designated built heritage assets. Such effects would result in harm to the significance of these assets, leading to Less than Substantial Harm in relation to the designated assets and minor harm in relation to the non-designated assets.

#### **Decommissioning Phase**

- 8.6. The decommissioning phase of the Scheme has the potential to affect the settings of three designated heritage assets and three non-designated built heritage assets. Such effects would result in harm to the significance of these assets, leading to Less than Substantial

Harm in relation to the designated assets and minor harm in relation to the non-designated assets.

## **Mitigation and Enhancement**

- 8.7. The exact nature of the designed mitigation in relation to built heritage assets has yet to be agreed but it is anticipated that it will entail a combination of screening through appropriate boundary treatments and offsets to retain suitable margins around/or views from the assets to minimize the adverse effects upon their settings.
- 8.8. Opportunities to minimize adverse effects upon the buried archaeological resource are also under consideration. It is envisaged that buried remains may be able to be preserved in situ in some parts of the draft Order Limits (beyond the area of MLS901 which has already been excluded from development) through the use of ballast foundations.
- 8.9. A proportionate programme of archaeological survey and mitigation, by means of field investigation and recording, will be followed by an appropriate and proportionate mitigation strategy that will ensure that they are subject to preservation by record at an appropriate stage in the development process. This will partially offset their loss through the knowledge gained through the investigations. For the archaeological remains the mitigation may include, as appropriate, excavation, strip map and sample investigation, or archaeological monitoring of ground works during construction (known as a watching brief), with appropriate post-excavation analysis and dissemination of results.

## **Conclusion**

- 8.10. The Scheme, within the extent of the draft Order Limits, if the mitigation measures identified are implemented, is considered acceptable and there would be no adverse significant residual effects.

## 9. Ground Conditions

- 9.1. Chapter 9 of the PEIR assesses the likely significant effects on the Scheme on ground conditions.

### Baseline Conditions

- 9.2. This very large site is predominantly large agricultural fields with isolated farmsteads, crossed by a network of roads, railway and canal. It forms part of the lowland basin of the former Rivers Don and Idle, being low-lying at typically 1-4mOD, with very low to Negligible natural gradients. The fields are typically bounded by a grid of numerous drainage ditches and larger water courses.
- 9.3. The area is underlain by thick sequences of complex superficial deposits including former lake laminated silt/clay deposits, sands and gravels and infill sediments to deep glacial period channels. Thick alluvial clay and silt blankets these and overlap marginal peat deposits. The old rivers have been historically diverted and artificial alluvium (floodwarp) deposited to provide better draining agricultural soils.
- 9.4. Surface soils are loamy or clayey, slowly to moderately permeable, or relatively impermeable and seasonally wet with impeded drainage. This helps maintain a naturally high groundwater table. There are no bog peat soils mapped.
- 9.5. There is no requirement to consider coal mining legacy within the draft Order Limits. Peat soils were formerly more extensive, but peat cutting, drainage, ploughing and flood warping has lowered and compacted the relatively thin surface peats, such that they are classed as 'wasted' within the draft Order Limits area. Parts of the western and eastern areas are included in Minerals Safeguarding Areas for sands and gravels, although these do not include any operational extraction sites, consented, proposed or search areas within the current Local Plans.
- 9.6. The Scheme area lies beyond the Hatfield Moors gasfield and two Petroleum Exploration and Development Licence areas cover parts of the western draft Order Limits. The area has a prolonged agricultural history with isolated farmsteads. Peat working is not specifically mapped but has likely occurred historically, with peat works beyond the boundaries. A World War II airfield and bomb stores in the extreme southeast has been returned to agriculture.
- 9.7. Permeable alluvial superficial deposits typically form a Secondary A Aquifer, whilst the peat and laminated silt/clay deposits are Unproductive. Sherwood Sandstone at depth forms a Principal Bedrock Aquifer. Groundwater levels are maintained below ground level for much of the year by drainage and there is likely hydraulic continuity between groundwater and water courses. The overall level and flow will also be controlled by local factors such as former drainage courses or historical features. The western and central zones are in Source Protection Zone (SPZ) 3, due to a SPZ 1 at a pumping station 600m west of the draft Order Limits, and SPZ 2, 250m West. Groundwater vulnerability to pollution is typically Medium, with parts being High where sands of the Secondary Superficial Aquifer occur.
- 9.8. Former landfills at Tudworth and a waste transfer station at Brier Hills lie adjacent to the western and southern boundaries respectively. Two past pollution incidents within the draft



Order Limits are considered as plausible contaminant sources and a Contaminated Land Determination 600m west has been considered within the conceptual modelling.

- 9.9. Potential Source-Pathway-Receptor linkages identified for assessment can be summarised as: dermal and inhalation exposure and unexploded ordnance ('UXO') risk to construction workers at the former sand workings, adjacent waste site and airfield; leaching or migration of liquid or mobile contamination to surface water or groundwater; fines laden run-off to water courses if heavy machine working in adverse weather conditions; migration of abnormal ground gases to sensitive structures; direct contact of construction materials with contaminated soils; directional drilling at crossing points adjacent water courses.
- 9.10. Assessment concludes that the shallow construction for solar arrays will not create an adverse or worsening effect. A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be required.
- 9.11. Further consideration is required for structures, confined spaces and sensitive plant. Specific targeted contamination investigation at critical locations during detailed design stage is proposed, in combination with geotechnical investigation for foundation design and directional drilling.

## **Likely Significant Effects**

- 9.12. The assessment indicates that during construction the majority of effects can be controlled by Construction Design and Management Regulations and the CEMP as they are well understood and practiced. The limited and shallow groundworks create low likelihoods of exposure.
- 9.13. Those potential effects deemed Moderate or Major and Adverse comprise: UXO risk at the former airfield/bomb stores; potentially polluting construction plant and materials working near water courses; disturbance of any contaminated soils where deeper or larger scale construction proposed for substations and BESS area; fines run-off to water courses if heavy machinery working during adverse weather; and directional drilling at surface water crossing points.

## **Mitigation and Enhancement**

- 9.14. Environmental effects determined as Moderate or Major would be mitigated within the design measures of the Scheme to prevent, reduce and offset those effects. Those embedded mitigation measures will be secured by adoption of agreed Outline and Detailed CEMP's.
- 9.15. With the adoption and implementation of the agreed embedded mitigation measures, the effects identified for construction, operation and decommissioning of the Scheme are Negligible. There is no requirement for additional mitigation measures.

## **Conclusion**

- 9.16. The short duration construction period and shallow depth intrusive construction method for the majority of the Scheme are determined as creating only localised and temporary environmental effects. Those elements determined as potentially giving rise to Moderate or Major effects would be mitigated by implementation of a well understood and practiced



CEMP and controlled under CDM Regulations, secured under the DCO. The residual effects are therefore Negligible and Not Significant.

## 10. Water Resource

- 10.1. Chapter 10 of the PEIR identifies the potential impacts on the water environment from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Scheme.

### Baseline

- 10.2. The site broadly lies between the settlements of Thorne and Crowle, occupying separate parcels of land within a relatively flat agricultural landscape predominantly in arable use for the cultivation of cereal crops with some areas of modified grassland and short rotation coppice. Many of the field boundaries are subdivided into rectilinear parcels by long linear drainage ditches, some with partial or sporadic hedgerows. The Scheme's development parcels are dissected by several major roads and routes, including the M180 motorway, the A18, the South Humberside Main Line railway route and Stainforth & Keadby Canal.
- 10.3. Numerous other minor roads cross the landscape connecting scattered residential properties and farmsteads, many of which lie adjacent or in proximity to the site. There are existing wind turbines within the northern end of the site. Overhead power lines and lattice pylons runs across the northern part of the Scheme which creates other vertical elements within the landscape. There are wooden pole lines and masts within the draft Order Limits.
- 10.4. Bar the two areas of significant woodland to the north and south of the site associated with former peat extraction at Hatfield Moors and Thorn Moors, the landscape contains relatively limited areas of vegetation, largely limited to field boundaries in the form of hedgerows, which many are incomplete and gappy. There are occasional scattered trees or groups of trees and some small woodland copses. The Flood Map for Planning generally defines the entire site as Flood Zone 3, at High risk of flooding, predicted to be impacted by a 1 in 100 year fluvial flood event. The Flood Map for Planning is shown in Figure 10.1.
- 10.5. The Risk of Flooding from Rivers and Seas dataset was released in January 2025 and is expected to be used to update the Flood Map for Planning in Spring 2025. A plan of the Risk of Flooding from Rivers and Seas dataset is included in the Flood Risk Assessment appended to this PEIR. The dataset predicts the vast majority of the site to be at risk of flooding. Large areas are predicted to have a High likelihood of flooding, predicted to be impacted by a 1 in 30 year flood event.

### Likely Significant Effects

#### Effects on Flood Risk and Drainage

- 10.6. There is the potential for mud and debris arising from the construction works to enter the existing surface water / land drainage system, causing blockages and restricting flow. This could result in localised flooding on the site, especially after heavy or prolonged rainfall resulting in a potential risk to people and property. Temporary increases in impermeable area on site during construction has the potential to increase flooding both on and off site. Temporary hard standing or compacted areas could result in rapid surface water runoff to local watercourses or cause an increase in overland flow and localised flooding.
- 10.7. The effects of construction on the impermeable area on site would be temporary and short term. The sensitivity of construction workers and equipment is considered to be Medium

with the temporary effects considered to have an effect of Medium Adverse magnitude to people working within the site. A Medium Adverse magnitude has been defined as the effects of additional temporary hardstanding on site during construction could occur at a time as high flood risk on Site (e.g. during a large storm event). The significance of effect is Moderate Adverse.

- 10.8. During the operational phase, an increase in the volume of water discharged to local watercourses as a result of increased hard standing areas has the potential to increase the flood risk to areas downstream of the Scheme. Increased impermeable areas on site are generally associated with proposed infrastructure on Site rather than proposed solar panels which are generally considered to have a negligible impact on surface water drainage patterns.

### Effects on Water Resources

- 10.9. During construction, temporary access tracks are expected to be required on site. These access tracks are expected to be constructed with compacted self-binding aggregate fill materials. Access tracks would therefore form long linear features that, in the event of rainfall, could become temporary drainage routes for surface water. There is also the potential for soil erosion and movement of sediment from shallow road excavations. It would therefore be necessary to ensure that pollution prevention measures within the site are appropriate to prevent migration of silt to surface watercourses and groundwater bodies during construction.
- 10.10. The sensitivity of surface water and groundwater bodies to silt contamination is considered to be Medium. Without mitigation, potential effects are considered of a Medium magnitude. The significance of the effect is Moderate Adverse on a temporary short-term basis.
- 10.11. During construction, fuel, hydraulic fluids, solvents, grouts, paints and detergents and other potentially polluting substances will be stored and / or used on the site. Leaks and spillages could pollute groundwater bodies through infiltration and pollute surface watercourses via overland flow. To allow such substances to enter a watercourse could be in breach of regulation 38(1) of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016, therefore, measures to control the storage, handling and disposal of such substances will be put in place prior to and during construction. The proposed construction compound locations are shown on the proposed site layout.
- 10.12. During operational phase, spillages of pollutants (e.g. oil) on access tracks from maintenance vehicles could be transported to watercourses via runoff, where they could impact upon ecological life, or infiltrate into the ground.
- 10.13. The receptors at risk are surface watercourses and groundwater bodies which are considered to be of Medium sensitivity to operational pollutants. Without mitigation the increase in highway spillage risk is considered to have an effect of a Low Adverse magnitude. The significance of effect is Minor Adverse which is considered permanent if left unmitigated.

### **Mitigation**

- 10.14. There are several adverse effects that may occur during the construction and operational phases of the Scheme. These effects could impact water resources and flood risk and

drainage on site and elsewhere. In order to mitigate these potential effects, mitigation measures are proposed on site.

- 10.15. Where practical, at detailed design stage it is recommended that surface water runoff from proposed equipment and access tracks will be directed towards sustainable drainage systems ('SuDS') features that would provide water quality treatment to mitigate the risk of water pollution on site. Contributions could be made from permeable surfacing, wildflower planting and linear infiltration trenches.
- 10.16. Future maintenance of any proposed SuDS on site will be privately managed by the Applicant. An overview of possible SuDS features on site, and indicative future maintenance is provided in the Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy for the development which is appended to this PEIR. It is concluded that the SuDS expected to be implemented on site (to be confirmed during detailed design) would provide sufficient water quality treatment to mitigate the risk of surface water pollution on site.
- 10.17. A surface water drainage strategy will be implemented on site. Details of the proposed drainage are included in the Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy for the site which is appended to this PEIR. Full details of the proposed surface water drainage strategy will be confirmed during detailed design, but the strategy will be designed to ensure surface water runoff rates from the site do not increase as a result of the Scheme..
- 10.18. It's also noted that solar panels proposed on site will have their lowest edge raised above the ground. Details of the proposed raising are included in the Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy for the development which is appended to this PEIR. As the proposed solar panels will be raised, surface water across the vast majority of the site will continue to drain as per the existing conditions. It is expected that the BESS and substations areas will increase the area of impermeable hardstanding on site and a surface water drainage will be required to manage surface water runoff and ensure surface water runoff rates from the site do not increase as a result of the proposed development.
- 10.19. Overall, following the allocation of the mitigation measures through the DCO, the residual effects of the Scheme during operation are considered to be Negligible.

## **Conclusions**

- 10.20. The Scheme, within the draft Order Limits, if the mitigation measures identified are implemented, is considered acceptable and there would be no adverse significant residual effects.

## **11. Socio Economic**

- 11.1. Chapter 11 of the PEIR has analysed the baseline socio-economic conditions and then gone on to assess the likely socio-economic effects of the Scheme.

### **Baseline Conditions**

- 11.2. Doncaster experienced population growth of 3.7% between 2013 and 2023, in North Lincolnshire there was a lower population growth of 1.1% and in East Riding of Yorkshire there was growth of 4.6%. Relative to the benchmark areas of Yorkshire & the Humber and England, Doncaster's, North Lincolnshire's, and East Riding of Yorkshire's population grew at a slower rate over this timeframe. Employment growth in Doncaster over the last seven years has been fairly strong with 6.4% increase in job numbers, this was higher than the regional figure (6.3%) but lower than the national figure (8.9%), in North Lincolnshire jobs increased by 4.1%, whilst the highest jobs growth was seen in East Riding of Yorkshire (6.9%). The construction sector, which is likely to see increased employment opportunities during the Scheme build phase represents 6.7% of total employment in Doncaster, 6.5% in North Lincolnshire, and 5% in East Riding of Yorkshire which is above the proportion of total jobs at the regional scale (4.9%) and England (4.8%).

### **Likely Significant Effects**

- 11.3. With the exception of accommodation demand, likely significant effects are expected to be beneficial in respect of socio-economics. Significant beneficial effects are expected in relation to employment and economic contribution during both the construction and decommissioning phases, and business rates during the operational phases. Additionally, during the construction and decommissioning phases there will be no adverse impacts on local tourism as there is sufficient capacity to accommodate workers, therefore the additional workforce will provide a boost to local accommodation and tourism businesses. It is estimated that there will be around 640 on-site jobs generated across the Scheme during the construction period. Scheme could also support up to 851 temporary jobs in the wider economy during the construction phase. Once operational the scheme will support an estimated 23 jobs. Business rates are an important economic contributor to an area. It is estimated that the solar project element of the proposed scheme could generate around £0.9million per annum in business rates. Over the intended 40-year lifespan of the scheme, business rates generated could total around £19.8million (present value).

### **Mitigation and Enhancement**

- 11.4. There are no significant adverse effects relating to socio-economics, and therefore no mitigation measures proposed.
- 11.5. Significant beneficial effects (moderate significance) are predicted in respect of employment in the construction and decommissioning phases. Enhancement of employment is proposed in the form of an Outline Supply Chain, Employment and Skills Plan (OSCESP) which will be agreed with the relevant authorities and secured by a DCO Requirement. It will aim to optimise the number of local people who will have access to employment and training opportunities arising from the Scheme. The legacy effect of upskilling the local workforce where possible will result in a long-term significant benefit (major significance) at the District scale. The Applicant is looking to prepare this document



available for the final submission of the application. Related to this, the Applicant is seeking to hold a supplier engagement event.



## **Conclusion**

- 11.6. The Scheme will result in beneficial effects in terms of employment, economic contribution, accommodation demand, and business rates in all relevant phases of development.
- 11.7. The Applicant is preparing an Outline Supply Chain, Employment and Skills Plan (OSCESP) to optimise the number of local people who will have access to employment and training opportunities arising from the Scheme. It is expected that this Plan will be included within the final submission of the application. The legacy effect of upskilling the local workforce where possible will result in a long-term significant benefit for Doncaster, North Lincolnshire and East Riding of Yorkshire.

## **12. Transport and Access**

- 12.1. Chapter 12 of the PEIR assesses the potential effects relating to transport and access. It considers the potential effects on vehicular traffic flows, accidents and safety, severance, driver delay, hazardous and dangerous loads and dust and dirt.

### **Baseline Conditions**

- 12.2. The Scheme is centred at approximately 10 kilometres to the northeast of Doncaster and 14 kilometres to the west of Scunthorpe. Access to the site during the construction and operational phases is anticipated to be provided from Moors Edge Road; High Bridge Road; the A18 Tudworth Road; Marsh Road; an unnamed access road which links the A161 and High Levels Bank; High Levels Bank; Sandtoft Road and Low Levels Bank.
- 12.3. Data from the most recent five-year period shows that there are not any existing highway safety issues on the local highway network that would be exacerbated by the Scheme.

### **Likely Significant Effects**

- 12.4. Impact magnitudes have been defined for the construction phase with regard to the IEMA traffic guidance which states that a significant environmental impact may occur when traffic flow or HGV component of 30% or 10% where a link is 'sensitive'.
- 12.5. The impact of the construction phase traffic is considered to be of Negligible to Low significance. This position will be reviewed following assessment of the detailed design and operational phase.

### **Mitigation and Enhancement**

- 12.6. Mitigation has been provided in the form of a draft Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (Appendix 12.2) to reduce the impacts of the construction phase. The Applicant notes that construction traffic movements through Crowle (a breakdown of which is provided in the Transport and Access chapter of the PEIR) would be strictly managed and would be timed to avoid the peak hours on the highway network and the busiest times of the school day

### **Conclusion**

- 12.7. It is concluded that the proposed package of mitigation measures will ensure that the Scheme is acceptable from a highways and transportation perspective and that there will be no adverse significant effects.

## **13. Noise and Vibration**

- 13.1. Chapter 13 of the PEIR identifies the potential effects of the Scheme in terms of noise and vibration.

### **Baseline Conditions**

- 13.2. An environmental noise survey has been undertaken to quantify the current noise climate across the site and the results have been used to derive appropriate noise limits at the identified noise sensitive receptors.
- 13.3. No vibration monitoring has been undertaken as part of this assessment.

### **Likely Significant Effects**

- 13.4. An assessment of the potential construction noise and vibration effects will be undertaken when the construction programme is known. This will be presented in the Environmental Statement. Construction noise and vibration is temporary in nature, and it is anticipated that, with the implementation of measures to be outlined in the Construction Environmental Management Plan ('CEMP'), the impacts will not be adverse. In terms of the operational noise impact, it is likely that, with the use of required mitigation measures, the noise levels will not exceed the proposed noise limits and should result in a negligible impact.

### **Mitigation**

- 13.5. British Standard BS 5228: Parts 1 and 2 provides the basic code of practice for the management of construction noise for the site. The following advice is based upon guidance provided in BS 5228 and will be applied as appropriate through a CEMP secured via a Requirement in the DCO. The CEMP forms part of the embedded mitigation and good practice of the site, to minimise noise and vibration from the construction and decommissioning activities affecting noise sensitive receptors.

### **Conclusion**

- 13.6. With use of ongoing mitigation measures in place as described, the Scheme is unlikely to result in a significant adverse effects on any of the identified noise sensitive receptors.

## **14. Air Quality**

- 14.1. Chapter 14 of the PEIR identifies the potential effects of the Scheme on air quality and greenhouse gases.

### **Baseline Conditions**

- 14.2. The assessment has demonstrated that air quality conditions in the local area are generally good, with pollutant concentrations below the relevant air quality objectives. The site is currently used for agricultural purposes which are a small source of GHGs emissions; there is, however, peatland throughout the site which is able to sequester CO<sub>2</sub>, and therefore acts as a carbon sink. The volume of peat that will be disturbed as part of the construction of the Scheme will be determined for the ES. For the purposes of the assessment, baseline GHG emissions have been assumed to be zero.

### **Likely Significant Effects**

- 14.3. 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'.
- 14.4. As described in Chapter 12: Transport and Access, consideration of the underground export cable corridor does not lead to any changes in traffic flows associated with the Scheme. The construction dust risk assessment has included all land associated with both the illustrative underground export cable corridor and the Scheme. In this respect, the construction dust risk assessment is worst-case, since only a portion of land assigned to the cable corridor will be taken forward for the final design, whilst the rest will not be subject to construction works. Overall, when considering both the National Grid Substation and RWE Underground Export Cable Route and the Scheme, with mitigation the effect of construction dust will remain 'not significant'. The assessment has demonstrated that the Scheme will lead to residual GHG emissions across its lifetime; these mainly arise during the construction phase. However, once operational, the Scheme will generate electricity with a lower carbon factor than other non-zero fuels, such that its operation will lead to net reductions in GHG emissions, and facilitate a transition to net-zero. The overall GHG effects are judged to be beneficial and therefore significant.

### **Mitigation and Enhancement**

- 14.5. A suite of mitigation measures will be in place throughout the duration of the construction phase to ensure that the residual air quality effects are 'not significant'. The Scheme incorporates a number of best practice measures to minimise its GHG footprint; no additional mitigation is required beyond these measures.

### **Conclusion**

- 14.6. The Scheme will not lead to significant effects on air quality and will have a significant beneficial effect in relation to reducing GHG emissions from the UK's energy supply.

## **15. Agricultural Circumstances**

- 15.1. Chapter 15 of the PEIR assesses the likely significant effects on the scheme on agricultural land, soils, and agricultural businesses.

### **Baseline Conditions**

- 15.2. Survey work is currently underway, but the expectation is that the site will involve a mixture of lands of Grades 3, 3a and 3b. Soils are loamy or sandy. There are 19 farm businesses with land in the draft Order Limits.

### **Likely Significant Effects**

- 15.3. Overall, the Scheme's solar PV module installation will result in very low magnitude effects on soil and the effects is therefore expected to be of negligible significance. There will be a main substation plus subsidiary substations and Battery Storage areas, and whilst these areas will be restored at the decommissioning phase, there is the potential for their construction to result in the loss of best and most valuable agricultural land. There is the potential for in excess of 20 ha of such land to be involved, which would be a major adverse effect, albeit reduced to negligible on decommissioning.
- 15.4. There are no other significant agricultural effects anticipated.

### **Mitigation and Enhancement**

- 15.5. A Soil Management Plan will be required to minimise damage to soils and ensure that any damage is ameliorated. The restoring of arable soils with grassland for the duration of the operation phase will produce benefits for the soil resource. During operational phase, the land will be sown to grassland and managed, including by being grazed with sheep, for the duration of the operational phase. This is expected to have a positive benefit for the soils.

### **Conclusion**

- 15.6. It is considered that the construction of the Scheme is reversible development, i.e., the solar PV panels will be removed following the operational life of the Development. A major adverse effect from the loss of best and most versatile agricultural soils for the duration, is expected, but that can be fully restored at decommissioning. The pasture use of the land will increase soil organic carbon within the soil, thus providing clear benefit to the soils during the operational phase.

## 16. Other Environmental Topics (including waste and climate change)

- 16.1. Chapter 16 of the PEIR assesses major accidents and disasters and waste. None of these warrant individual chapters in the PEIR, either due to the brevity of the assessment or the small impact associated with the Scheme.

### **Major Accidents and Disasters**

- 16.2. This section summarises the potential effects of the project on the risks of major accidents or disasters occurring and affecting the Scheme. 'Accidents' are an occurrence resulting from uncontrolled developments in the course of construction, operation and decommissioning (e.g., major emission, fire or explosion). 'Disasters' are naturally occurring extreme weather events or ground related hazard events (e.g., subsidence, landslide, earthquake).

#### **Baseline**

- 16.3. A number of receptors are present in the vicinity of the draft Order Limits which could be vulnerable to major accidents or disasters, either because of their proximity to the Scheme or their importance to the surrounding area. These include towns, villages, farms and residential homes; Commercial sites and buildings; Roads; Canal; Railways; Underground and overhead infrastructure services.

#### **Likely Significant Effects**

- 16.4. There are various health and safety considerations particularly for workers during construction and decommissioning of the Scheme. Construction workers are considered to be the most at-risk group. However, the risk to both construction workers and the general public is low and not significant during the construction and decommissioning phases.
- 16.5. The design of the Scheme's infrastructure, such as batteries, could lead to a fire risk if there was equipment failure. Routine maintenance, system testing, fire protection design for battery equipment would result in the risk of major disaster or accident as not significant.
- 16.6. The cable route corridor crosses a railway line, the M180 and a canal. The underground cable crossing will be managed to the specific requirements of Network Rail, Canal Trust and National Highway, thus the risk of accidents as a result of the crossing will be minimised and considered not significant.

#### **Mitigation and Enhancement**

- 16.7. Minimising the risk of major accidents during construction and decommissioning will be addressed through appropriate risk assessments as required in the Construction Environmental Management Plan.

#### **Conclusion**

- 16.8. The Scheme is not expected to increase the risk of major accidents or disasters during construction, operation and decommissioning. Therefore, the effects on major accidents and disasters are considered not significant.

## **Waste**

- 16.9. This section discusses the expected waste streams during each phase of the Scheme.

### **Baseline Conditions**

- 16.10. Waste within the draft Order Limits area is currently associated with agricultural practice. Potential waste streams currently could include left over crop and straw bales, fertiliser sacks and chemical containers.

### **Assessment of potential for likely significant effects**

- 16.11. The nature of the Scheme and the known construction processes indicate no significant quantities of waste are anticipated. The generation of construction-related waste can be significantly reduced through the choice of materials and other opportunities pre-construction phase will be explored as far as possible. Possibilities to reuse or recycle materials will be explored before resorting to disposal.
- 16.12. During the operational phase, waste arising is expected to be substantially less than during the construction phase and would include: welfare facility waste; equipment needing replacing; waste metals; and general waste (paper, cardboard, wood, etc.).
- 16.13. During decommissioning, waste streams are expected to include, but not be limited to, solar infrastructure, batteries, cables, welfare facility waste, waste metals, and waste water. Prior to decommissioning, opportunities to minimise waste as far as possible will be explored. There is a new industry emerging for recycling solar panels and it is expected that this industry will be mature by the time this scheme reaches its decommissioning phase.

### **Mitigation and Enhancement**

- 16.14. A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be in place for the construction and decommissioning phases. These will include measures to control and manage waste on-site. Waste arisings will be prevented and designed out where possible. Opportunities to reuse material resources will be sought where practicable. Where re-use and prevention are not possible, waste arisings will be managed in line with the Waste Hierarchy.

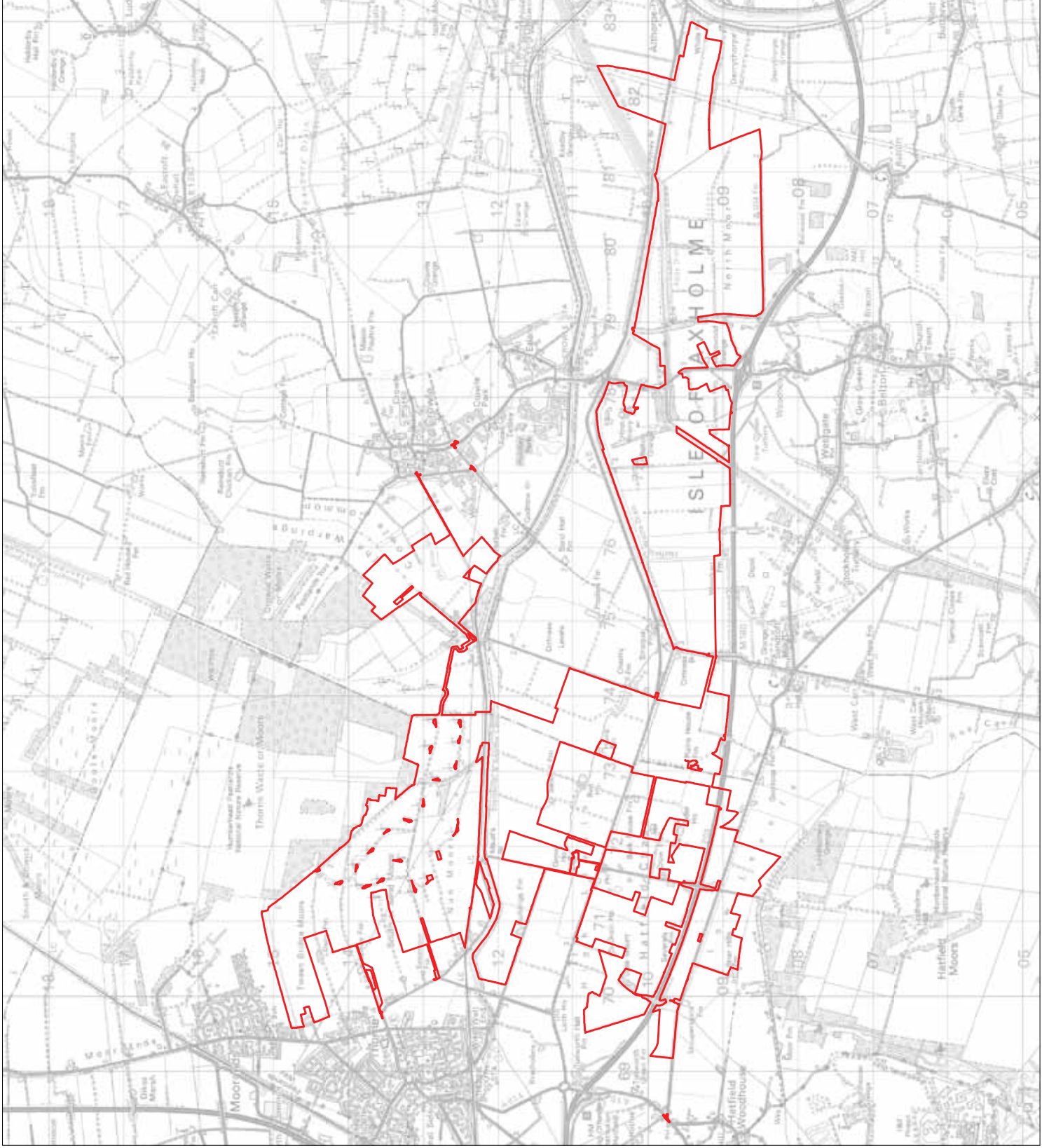
### **Conclusion**

- 16.15. The Scheme is not expected to create a significant amount of waste during construction, operation, and decommissioning. Therefore, the effects on waste are considered not significant.





## **APPENDIX A – DRAFT ORDER LIMITS (SITE LOCATION PLAN)**



KEY

DRAFT ORDER LIMITS

| REV | DATE     | DESCRIPTION                       |
|-----|----------|-----------------------------------|
| A   | 20/09/22 | UPDATES TO THE DRAFT ORDER LIMITS |
| B   | 20/09/22 | UPDATES TO THE DRAFT ORDER LIMITS |
| C   | 20/09/22 | UPDATES TO THE DRAFT ORDER LIMITS |
| D   | 20/09/22 | UPDATES TO THE DRAFT ORDER LIMITS |
| E   | 20/09/22 | UPDATES TO THE DRAFT ORDER LIMITS |
| F   | 20/09/22 | UPDATES TO THE DRAFT ORDER LIMITS |
| G   | 19/02/22 | UPDATES TO THE DRAFT ORDER LIMITS |
| H   | 05/04/23 | UPDATES TO THE DRAFT ORDER LIMITS |
| I   | 05/04/23 | UPDATES TO THE DRAFT ORDER LIMITS |
| J   | 05/04/23 | UPDATES TO THE DRAFT ORDER LIMITS |
| K   | 19/04/23 | UPDATES TO THE DRAFT ORDER LIMITS |
| L   | 04/05/23 | UPDATES TO THE DRAFT ORDER LIMITS |
| M   | 28/05/23 | UPDATES TO THE DRAFT ORDER LIMITS |
| N   | 08/06/23 | UPDATES TO THE DRAFT ORDER LIMITS |
| O   | 08/06/23 | UPDATES TO THE DRAFT ORDER LIMITS |
| P   | 23/07/24 | UPDATES TO THE DRAFT ORDER LIMITS |
| Q   | 23/07/24 | UPDATES TO THE DRAFT ORDER LIMITS |
| R   | 13/03/24 | UPDATES TO THE DRAFT ORDER LIMITS |
| S   | 13/03/24 | UPDATES TO THE DRAFT ORDER LIMITS |
| T   | 22/03/24 | UPDATES TO THE DRAFT ORDER LIMITS |
| U   | 30/07/24 | UPDATES TO THE DRAFT ORDER LIMITS |
| V   | 30/07/24 | UPDATES TO THE DRAFT ORDER LIMITS |
| W   | 07/02/24 | UPDATES TO THE DRAFT ORDER LIMITS |
| X   | 07/02/24 | UPDATES TO THE DRAFT ORDER LIMITS |
| Y   | 08/02/24 | UPDATES TO THE DRAFT ORDER LIMITS |
| Z   | 20/02/24 | UPDATES TO THE DRAFT ORDER LIMITS |
| AA  | 20/02/24 | UPDATES TO THE DRAFT ORDER LIMITS |
| AB  | 20/02/24 | UPDATES TO THE DRAFT ORDER LIMITS |
| AC  | 20/02/24 | UPDATES TO THE DRAFT ORDER LIMITS |
| AD  | 30/07/25 | UPDATES TO THE DRAFT ORDER LIMITS |
| AE  | 07/02/25 | UPDATES TO THE DRAFT ORDER LIMITS |

DRAFT ORDER LIMITS

TWEEN BRIDGE SOLAR FARM

RWE

| DATE       | SCALE       | TEAM/DRAWN | APPROVED |
|------------|-------------|------------|----------|
| 07/02/2025 | 1:50,000@A3 | EN/RL      | GR       |
| SHEET      | REV         | N          | 0        |
| -          | AE          | ▲          | 1KM      |

DRAWING NUMBER  
P21-3484\_PR\_00.06





## **APPENDIX B – PROPOSED LAYOUT- OVERVIEW**



NOTES

1. All details are indicative only.
2. Dimensions are in metres unless stated otherwise.
3. Refer to ISE document "Avoiding danger from overhead power lines – Guidance Note G56" to ensure safe operation of machinery in proximity to overhead power lines.

LEGEND

Existing:

- Hedges
- Trees
- Drains
- Rise/DB Drain
- Bank
- Public Rights Of Way
- Road/Track
- Water Pipe
- Fuel Pipe
- High Voltage Cable
- Low Voltage Cable
- Telecom Cable
- Wind Turbine
- Wind Farm Access/Track

Proposed:

- Drift Order Limits
- Drift Order Limits Exclusion
- National Grid Substation Assessment Area
- Illustrative Export Cable Route
- Solar Farm Road
- Tracker Solar Panels
- Fixed Solar Panels
- Fixed Solar Panels – Ballasted
- Fence
- Inverter Container
- Inverter Container – Raised
- CCTV
- Access Gate
- Construction compound
- Indicative Cable Crossing Drains/ Watercourses/Banks/RPs
- Watercourse/Banks/RPs
- Indicative HDD Location



| DETAILS     |                                    |
|-------------|------------------------------------|
| TITLE       | Tween Bridge Solar Farm – Overview |
| LOCATION    | Near DN6 5RX                       |
| DATE        | 7 March 2025                       |
| NOTATION    | Typical fixed & tracker design     |
| REVISION    | 06                                 |
| PAGE 1 of 1 |                                    |

