RWE

Tween Bridge Solar Farm

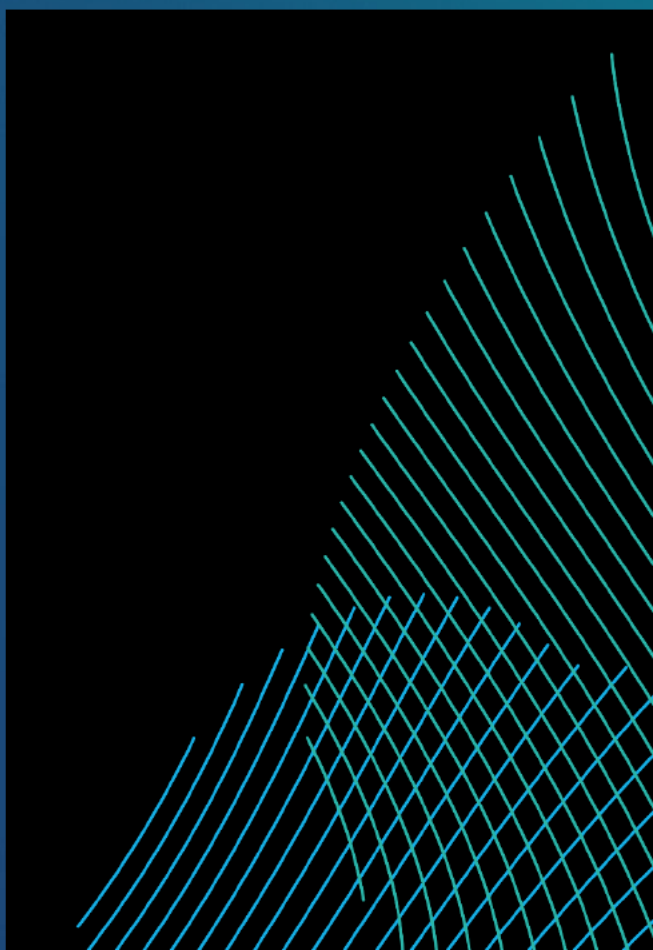
9.3 Statement of Common Ground with North Lincolnshire Council

Planning Act 2008
Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

Deadline ~~5~~ 8 ~~August~~ October 2026

Document Reference: 9.3

Revision ~~5~~6



Statement of Common Ground

Table of Contents:

1 Introduction 3

1.1. Purpose of this document 3
1.2. Parties to this Statement of Common Ground 4
1.3. Terminology 4

2 Record of Engagement 5

2.1. Summary of consultation and engagement 5

3 Current Position 29
4 Signatures ..... 95~~107~~

List of Tables:

Table 2-1: Record of Engagement with Planning Officers

Table 2-2: Record of Engagement with Conservation Officers

Table 2-3: Record of Engagement with Ecology Officers

Table 2-4: Record of Engagement with Socio Economic Officers

Table 2-5: Record of Engagement with Landscape Officers

Table 2-6: Record of Engagement with Flood Risk Officers

Table 2-7: Record of Engagement with Environmental Protection Team

Table 2-8: Record of Engagement with Highways Officers

Table 3-1: Planning Policy Matters agreed, under discussion and not agreed between the parties

Table 3-2: Cultural Heritage and Archaeology Matters agreed, under discussion and not agreed between the parties

Table 3-3: Loss of Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land agreed, under discussion and not agreed between the parties

Table 3-4: Ecology and Nature Conservation matters agreed, under discussion and not agreed between the parties

Table 3-5: Transport Matters agreed, under discussion and not agreed between the parties

Table 3-6 Socio Economic Impacts Matters agreed, under discussion and not agreed between the parties

Table 3-7: Landscape & Visual Impacts Matters agreed, under discussion and not agreed between the parties

Table 3-8: Flood Risk & Drainage Matters agreed, under discussion and not agreed between the parties

Table 3-8: Noise and Vibration Matters agreed, under discussion and not agreed between the parties

Table 3-9: Outstanding points of different on the Draft Development Consent Order

1 Introduction

1.1. Purpose of this document

1.1.1. This Statement of Common Ground (hereafter referred to as the 'SoCG') has been prepared to support the Examination of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application (the 'DCO Application') for Tween Bridge Solar Farm (the 'Scheme').

1.1.2. The DCO Application is for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) for the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of a solar photovoltaic (PV) array electricity generating facility, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure which would allow for the generation and export of electricity.

1.1.3. The SoCG ~~is~~ has been a 'live' document throughout the course of the Examination prepared by the Applicant and North Lincolnshire Council (NLC).

1.1.4. The SoCG has been prepared in accordance with the Guidance for examination of DCO applications which was published in 2024 by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities[1].

1.1.5. This Guidance comments that:

"A statement of common ground is a written statement prepared jointly by the applicant and another party or parties, setting out any matters on which they agree, or indeed disagree. A SoCG helps to ensure that the evidence at examination focuses on the material differences between the main parties and therefore makes best use of the lines of questioning pursued by the Examining Authority.'

1.1.6. The aim of this SoCG is to therefore provide a clear position of the progress and agreement made or not yet made between the Applicant and NLC on matters relating to the Scheme. Where matters are yet to be agreed, the parties will continue to proactively work to reach agreement.

~~1.1.7. The SoCG will be updated as more information becomes available and as a result of ongoing discussions between the Applicant and NLC, and following the~~

1 Planning Act 2008: Examination stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (April 2024)

~~publication of NLC's Local Impact Report due by Deadline 1 of the Examination on 5 May 2026.~~

1.2. Parties to this Statement of Common Ground

1.2.1. This SoCG has been prepared by (1) the Applicant and (2) NLC.

1.2.2. The Order Limits straddles the administrative boundaries of NLC and City of Doncaster Council (CDC). NLC is therefore a joint host authority for the Scheme.

1.2.3. Collectively, the Applicant and NLC are referred to as 'the parties.'

1.3. Terminology

1.3.1. Section 3 of this document sets out the relevant matters raised though discussion between the parties. It provides a summary of the position of each party and identifies the status of discussions on each matter:

1.3.2. "Agreed" indicates where the issue has been resolved between the parties and is not anticipated to be subject to further discussions;

~~1.3.3. "Under discussion" indicates where a matter remains in active dialogue between the parties and a final position has not been reached;~~

~~1.3.4.~~1.3.3. "Not Agreed" indicates where the parties have established a final position that they cannot resolve the matter and will remain a point of difference.

2 Record of Engagement

2.1. Summary of consultation and engagement

2.1.1. The parties have been engaged in consultation and engagement throughout the development of the Scheme. Table 2-1 shows a summary of the meetings and correspondence that has taken place between the Applicant and NLC in relation to the Scheme. This is limited to engagement which is materially relevant to the contents of this SoCG and does not seek to include every correspondence between the parties (e.g. that which was primarily administrative).

2.1.2. Table 2-1: Record of Engagement with Planning Officers

Table 2-1 – Record of Engagement since 2022		
Date	**Method**	**Purpose / Description**
21.11.2022	M.Teams Meeting	In November 2022, the Applicant engaged in early communications with NLC with regards to the proposed approach to consultation and engagement on the Scheme. At the meeting on 21 November 2022, the Applicant shared a high-level timeline for consultation and discussed the planned two-stage consultation approach.
20.04.2023	Email	The Applicant provided a project update to NLC, advising that the draft PEIR is being prepared and the intention to run the informal consultation in the summer of 2023. The email also illustrated and requested comments on the proposed primary consultation zone – all residential / commercial properties located within 2km of the draft Order Limits.
29.09.2023	Email	The Applicant updated the host authorities that the informal consultation was about to commence imminently and that consultation letters would land Wednesday 4 October 2023. The email outlines what documents would be available to informal consultation responses.
09.11.2023	Email	The Applicant updated the host authorities that informal consultation was coming to a close and invited them to a

		meeting in early December 2023 to discuss the project, either collectively or individually.
01.12.2023	In-person meeting	Meeting between Pegasus Group (representatives from Pegasus Planning & Pegasus Landscape) and with Andrew Law and Andrew Taylor at NLC to provide a project update and discuss NLC's non-statutory consultation response.
09.01.2024	Email	The Applicant contacted NLC to follow up on previous correspondence regarding the host authorities appointing external landscape resource to advice on the proposals. The Applicant expressed the preference for one resource to act on behalf of both authorities. The Applicant invited the host authorities to a meeting to discuss this further. The Applicant also provided an update that the project team were progressing to update the proposals following the non-statutory consultation, in preparation for the completion of the PEIR to support the statutory consultation.
10.01.2024	Email	NLC confirmed the host authority's intention to appoint a single resource and provided availability for a meeting.
17.01.2024	Email	The Applicant emailed the host authorities, noting the above update and advised there was no need for a meeting if there was no more detailed update from the host authorities. The Applicant asked for the timescales to appoint the landscape resource.
01.02.2024	Email	The Applicant chased the host authorities for a response to previous email and advised the Applicant's ecologist was waiting for a response from the NLC ecologist to arrange a meeting to discuss the proposals.
13.02.2023	Meeting	Pegasus Planning and the Applicant's ecologist met with Andrew Taylor from NLC to discuss the scope of works for the ecological baseline.
14.02.2024	Email	The Applicant asked NLC again for an update and contact details for the landscape resource.

19.02.2024	Email	NLC advised they have been trying, but struggling, to contact CDC to discuss the drafting of a PPA and the selection of the landscape resource to act on their behalf.
08.03.2024	Email	The Applicant contacted the host authorities to raise a further 3 weeks have passed, and the Applicant is continuing to progress with technical assessments. The email asked the host authorities to advise how they envisage considering the landscape assessment. The Applicant expressed their eagerness to work proactively with the host authorities and welcomed an open dialogue.
11.04.2024	Email	NLC updated the Applicant they had now met with CDC and they are pressing on with appointing some resource urgently. NLC advised there is a PPA template for the Applicant. NLC proposed a meeting w/c 29 April 2024.
05.05.2024	Email	The Applicant provided revised availability for a meeting.
31.05.2024	Email	The Applicant chased NLC for a meeting date.
05.06.2023	Email	The Applicant chased NLC again for a meeting date.
07.06.2024	Email	NLC provided revised availability for a meeting.
14.10.2024	Email	The Applicant sent NLC the draft SoCC to review and provide any comments by the end of Nov 2024, and advised the final SoCC would be issued to the host authorities in Jan 2025. The Applicant invited NLC to a meeting to discuss the draft SoCC and provide an update on other project matters.
28.10.2024	Email	The Applicant chased NLC for a response to the above email.
05.11.2024	Email	The Applicant chased NLC for a response to the email dated 14.10.2024.
11.11.2024	Email	The Applicant chased NLC on the emails dated 14.10.2024, 28.10.2024, and 05.11.2024.

20.11.2024	Email	The Applicant chased NLC on the emails dated 14.10.2024, 28.10.2024, 05.11.2024, and 11.11.2024. The Applicant advised a meeting has been arranged with CDC for the first week in December 2024.
20.11.2024	Email	NLC responded confirming they had reviewed and had no comments on the draft SoCC. The only comment raised was to advise the relevant local newspaper for NLC is the Scunthorpe Telegraph, and this is where NLC publicise any planning related applications. NLC welcomed the opportunity for a meeting with CDC and advised CDC had taken the lead on approaching landscape resource.
27.11.2024	Email	NLC followed up their email from 20.11.2024 and advised they had approached CDC but had no feedback yet noting it would be best to have a collective meeting with both host authorities. The Applicant advised a meeting had been arranged with CDC for 4 Dec 2024, confirming subject to agreement with CDC that NLC should join the meeting. NLC confirmed availability for the 4 Dec 2024 meeting.
04.12.2024	M.Teams Meeting	The Applicant had a meeting with NLC and CDC to provide a project update.
27.01.2025	Email	NLC circulated PPA template excluding anticipated costs given this development is a NSIP.
28.01.2025	Email	The Applicant acknowledged receipt of the template and requested a meeting w/c 3 Feb 2025. The Applicant advised the statutory consultation was scheduled to commence April 2025.
04.03.2025	Email	NLC provided availability for a meeting.
13.03.2025	M.Teams Meeting	Meeting held between NLC, CDC and the Applicant to discuss a draft PPA.
25.04.2025	Email	NLC requested an update on the draft PPA.

06.05.2025	Email	NLC followed up progress on the PPA.
06.05.2025	Email	The Applicant contacted NLC to arrange an urgent meeting regarding the project programme. The Applicant advised, in light of the NESO grid reforms, the submission of the DCO application is being expediated. Therefore, the Application would like to advise the host authorities of the revised project programme and target submission date. The Applicant asked NLC to advise if they will be submitting a formal response to the statutory consultation within the publicised timeframes (by 8th May). NLC confirmed they were preparing a response to the statutory consultation and that they could attend a meeting on 12 May 2025.
12.05.2025	M.Teams Meeting	The Applicant had a meeting with NLC and CDC to discuss the Applicant's intention to accelerate the application submission because of the NESO grid reforms. The Applicant explained the submission was required to be made quicker than previously intended and that they would seek an extended pre-examination period with PINS to engage further with the host authorities following the statutory consultation and advise how the responses had been considered in the application submission. NLC expressed their concern regarding the accelerated submission due to their lack of resources to engage with this project and other ongoing commitments with other major planning applications pending determination.
03.06.2025	Email	The Applicant issued their suggested approach to the PPA with the host authorities. This included the proposed total of PPA payment and the associated breakdown of the payment.
09.06.2025	Email	The Applicant followed up with the host authorities to confirm receipt of the email and attachments on 03.06.2026.
10.06.2025	Email	NLC confirmed receipt of the Applicant's proposed PPA.
10.06.2025	Email	The Applicant issued to CDC and NLC the draft Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report, requesting that they

		confirm that the statutory consultation was undertaken as per the requirements set out in the SoCC.
11.06.2025	Email	The Applicant sent an additional email advising that PINS requested the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone, along with the host authorities' comments in June 2025. The Applicant outlined a deadline of 27 June 2025.
17.06.2025	Email	The Applicant chased the host authorities for an update on their review of the draft PPA.
23.07.2025	Email	The Applicant confirmed to NLC and CDC the DCO application was submitted to PINS on 21 July 2025. The Applicant provided a copy of the application documents within the email. The Applicant also noted they understood that NLC and CDC were discussing the draft PPA. The Applicant asked NLC and CDC to confirm the main points of contact were still the same.
31.07.202	Email	The Applicant asked NLC and CDC for an update on their review of the draft PPA, and advise when they would respond.
11.08.2025	Email	The Applicant chased NLC for a response to the email dated 31.07.2025.
13.08.2025	Email	The Applicant contacted NLC advising in the absence of any comments on the PPA, the Applicant had provided a letter outlining a recap on the engagement carried out by the Applicant at the pre-application stage and the drive for the accelerated submission. The letter went on to outline the Applicant's approach to engaging with NLC and CDC through the pre-examination stage together with a proposed approach to cost recovery. The cost recovery proposals were a simplified PPA, allowing for time spent to prior to submission of the application and for the examination stage.
15.08.2025	Email	The Applicant contacted NLC to advise that the DCO application had been formally withdrawn on 15.08.2025. The Applicant advised that they would be resubmitted on or before 26 August 2025. The Applicant stated that they

		would like to continue to progress discussion with the PPA letter issued 13 August 2025.
22.08.2025	Email	NLC acknowledged the Applicant's email 15.08.2025 and advised NLC are considering the cost recover proposals outlined in the letter dated 13.08.2025. NLC advised they would be appointed external resource to lead on the application due to their lack of capacity within the planning team.
09.09.025	Email	The Applicant sent a letter to NLC explaining the changes made to the application from when it was withdrawn and resubmitted to PINS. The Applicant reminded NLC there is no obligation to send a copy of the application submission to NLC but this was provided to give NLC additional time to review the submission prior to being invited to submit relevant representations.
22.09.2025	Email	NLC confirmed agreement with the cost recovery proposals in the letter dated 13.08.2025. NLC requested if the Applicant has a PPA template for this simplified approach. NLC advised they are continuing to discuss with CDC appointing landscape resource.
16.10.2025	Email	The Applicant issued a detailed email to NLC. The email: Acknowledged NLC's agreement to the proposed cost recovery. Requested an update on NLC's appointment of an external resource to lead on planning. Requested details for the external landscape resource. Explained that the Applicant has used the time to consider the S51 Advice received from PINS and how these fit into next steps and associated timescales for the application. Reiterated the Applicant's requests for an application workshop to discuss the proposals, proposing a meeting

		w/c 10 Nov 2025 for an in-person meeting, including key consultees (landscape, ecology and highways). Referred to previous timeline for Statements of Common Ground outlined in the letter dated 13.08.2025 and provided an updated timeline. Outlined an indicative application programme that had also been sent to PINS on 14.10.2025
27.10.2025	Email	NLC confirmed receipt of information from the Applicant. NLC advised they had appointed Paul Skelton to act on their behalf, leading on the application. NLC advised they intended to appoint Tetra Tech to lead on landscape matters. NLC stated that they needed the PPA signed before confirming attendance at an application workshop with the Applicant.
28.10.2025	Email	The Applicant thanked NLC for their response. The Applicant advised that their legal team were reviewing the PPA for issue. The Applicant asked if NLC have discussed appointed Tetra Tech with CDC too.
29.10.20525	Email	The Applicant issued the revised PPA to NLC.
25.10.2025	Email	NLC responded confirming the PPA was acceptable, subject to some minor amendments. NLC confirmed Tetra Tech would be acting for both NLC and CDC on the application. NLC confirmed Paul Skelton did not have capacity to act on planning matters for both CDC and NLC.
26.01.2026	Email	NLC requested an update on finalising the PPA.
29.01.2026	Email	The Applicant issued the final copy of the PPA to NLC incorporating the requested changes.
05.02.2026	Email	NLC signed the PPA.

13.02.2026	Email	NLC confirmed Paul Skelton had been appointed and invited a meeting between Pegasus Planning and Paul to get familiar with the application, w/c 23 Feb 2026.
27.02.2025	M.Teams Meeting	Meeting between Pegasus Planning & Paul Skelton scheduled. Meeting later cancelled due to Paul's availability.
13.11.2025	Email	The Applicant informed NLC and CDC that a suite of updated documents had been submitted to PINS ahead of the relevant representations period. A copy of the documents was included in the email to NLC and invited any questions. The Applicant reminded NLC of the relevant representations period.
30.01.25	Email	The Applicant contacted NLC acknowledging that NLC has not submitted relevant representations to PINS. The Applicant asked NLC to confirm if they are intending to do so and when.
30 March 2026	M.Teams Meeting	The Applicant met with North Lincolnshire Councill planning officers to provide a project overview, discuss ongoing strategy of engagement, access to confidential/restricted documents (e.g. badger report), preparing SoCG, the ExA site visit itinerary, the details of the PPA in place, and AOB. It was agreed monthly meetings would be scheduled and if both parties felt not necessary could be cancelled.
21 April 2026	M.Teams Meeting	Regular catch-up call as agreed in previous meeting (30 March 2026). Applicant and Council discussed the approach to SoCG. CDC confirmed that Officer's had not flagged any concerns regarding engagement with the Applicant. CDC confirmed no comments or topics to be raised following Open Floor Hearing 1 and Issue Specific Hearing 1. CDC advised the Local Impact Reports (LIR) are being progressed and are using Relevant Representations as a foundation to the LIR. All acknowledged CDC planning lead had not been to site yet and agreed to arrange at convenient time for CDC and NLC.
19 June 2026	M.Teams Meeting	Regular catch up between the Applicant and host authorities. We discussed the content of the ISH2, ISH3,

		and OFH2 agendas. No issues and concerns raised by either party.
20 August 2026	M.Teams Meeting	Regular catch up between the Applicant and host authorities was arranged. NLC was not able to attend on the day.

2.1.3. Table 2-2: Record of Engagement on Heritage

Table 2-2 – Record of Engagement since March 2023		
Date	**Method**	**Purpose / Description**
13 March 2023	Email	Email sent by Applicant to agree the scope of geophysical survey with the LPA. LPA Officer stated that the scope of geophysical survey should encompass the whole land take within North Lincolnshire as there has only been very limited previous survey undertaken.
22 March 2023	Email	The Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for geophysical survey was submitted to the LPA Officer for approval. The methodology was approved on 30 June 2023.
22 March 2023	Email	Following the Scoping Opinion **[APP-058]**, a clarified scope and methodology for the setting assessment was submitted for approval. .
24 March 2023	Email	The proposed scope and methodology were approved by the LPA Historic Environment Officer on 24 March 2023.
22 June 2023	Email	LPA Officer queried the progress on commissioning and completing a geoarchaeological assessment. The Applicant initially confirmed that this was in procurement. A geoarchaeological assessment was subsequently commissioned and completed.
25 October 2023	Email	The Applicant requested LPA Officer input to help develop a proposed trial trenching strategy. Officer declined to discuss trial trenching and stated that geophysical survey and geoarchaeological reports were required.
15 November 2023	Email	A geophysical survey summary was issued to the LPA Officer. Input on a trenching strategy was also requested. No response was received.

8 February 2024	Email	The Applicant issued a consultation document outlining a proposed initial phase of targeted archaeological trial trenching with a request for Officer input. No response was received.
12 March 2024	Email	The Applicant provided provisional geophysical survey results and the initial geoarchaeological assessment. The team requested a meeting to discuss fieldwalking, test-pitting, next steps for geoarchaeology and trial trenching.
30 April 2024	Teams Meeting	The meeting discussed archaeological progress to date and strategy for next steps. LPA Officer advised all of the Order Limits must be field walked prior to trial trenching being discussed and raised concerns over understanding of warping. Applicant indicated their view that fieldwalking the whole Order Limits would be disproportionate and agreed to consider the feasibility of targeted fieldwalking on the basis of areas of potential identified from the baseline and geoarchaeological assessments. Concerns over understanding of warping were raised by the Officer. These have been addressed within the submitted **ES Technical Appendix 8.3 Geoarchaeological Assessment [REP2-043].** The Applicant's stance regarding fieldwalking the whole Order Limits is that it is disproportionate to advise appropriately on archaeological. The Applicant agreed to consider the feasibility of targeted fieldwalking on the basis of areas of potential identified from the baseline and geoarchaeological assessments. .
12 July 2024	Email	The Geoarchaeological Assessment was circulated on 12 July 2024. No comments received. The Applicant subsequently came to the conclusion that fieldwalking discussed on 30 April 2024 was not

		possible given ground conditions and the very limited extent of ploughing, which was exclusively in areas of limited archaeological potential. This was communicated to the Officer on 12 July 2024
9 August 2024	Email	Notification of commencement of targeted trial trenching and issue of WSI made to the LPA Officer. Follow-up emails received asking for clarification received 12/08/24 and 14/08/24. Applicant provided requested clarification.
2 September 2024	Email	Applicant sent the Officer an invitation to attend a site monitoring meeting. Invite accepted. Officer requested invitation extended to Historic England Science Advisor. The invitation was extended to the Science Advisor.
3 September 2024	Email	The LPA Officer raised concerns over the trenching being undertaken without their input or prior approval and without the fieldwalking having been undertaken. During the site meeting on 11 September 2024 the Officer acknowledged the trenching was being undertaken correctly. The Officer noted that they had provided comments on the draft WSI. A formal response was issued to the Officer by the project team. This response rebutted the inference that the project team had breached professional standards, guidance or ethics. It also noted that despite the absence of agreement the project team had been seeking engagement and agreement on the scope of trenching since October 2023. The response highlighted that the targeted trenching undertaken in 2024 was a preliminary phase of intrusive works not the sum total. The response concluded that the project team wished to take the opportunity to re-set our

		relationship with the Officer and work collaboratively to agree the way forward. The Officer's comments were addressed and the revised WSI was approved by the LPA A position paper regarding the proposed way forward for archaeology was issued to the Officer on 26 February 2025. The position paper issued in February 2025 has been superseded by the **ES Appendix 8.6 Outline Archaeological Mitigation Strategy [REP2-045]**
11 September 2024	In person site meeting	The three areas of targeted trenching were inspected. Discussions during the site meeting on 11 September 2024 addressed reasoning behind proceeding with trenching at this stage (namely crop cycle and project programme to ensure the results were available to inform the Scheme design). Whilst on site the Officer acknowledged that the works were being undertaken to required standards and that the WSI was subsequently agreed.
26 February 2025	Email	A position paper regarding the proposed way forward for archaeology was issued to the Officer on 26 February 2025. The position paper issued in February 2025 has been superseded by the **ES Appendix 8.6 Outline Archaeological Mitigation Strategy [Document Reference 6.3.8.6 Revision 4]**
25 March 2026	Teams Meeting	A meeting was arranged to discuss survey progress, stakeholder concerns and any outstanding areas of disagreement.
15 July 2026	Teams Meeting	A meeting was arranged to discuss concerns and any outstanding areas of disagreement with the Archaeology Officer.

20 July 2026	Teams Meeting	A meeting was arranged to discuss concerns and any outstanding areas of disagreement with the Conservation Officer.

2.1.4. Table 2-3: Record of Engagement with Ecology Officers

Table 2-3 – Record of Engagement since March 2023		
Date	**Method**	**Purpose / Description**
12 February 2025	Online meeting between NLC and the Applicant's ecologists.	Meeting between NLC and the Applicant's ecologists. Discussed all general ecology matters, including protected species survey effort and proposed mitigation, specifically with regards to: Non-breeding birds and using Bird Days Calculations to inform mitigation; Breeding bird surveys and acknowledgement was agreed between all parties that research into the use of solar farms by ground-nesting species such as skylark is contradictory. Discussions were also had regarding the scope and length of commitment of off-site skylark plots in adjacent land. Otter and water vole. Both parties acknowledged the need for proportionality regarding survey effort given the extensive length of ditch network, and limited impacts on such. Mink control was also discussed; Bats. Applicant's ecologist discussed a proposed targeted survey scope to assess impacts on foraging/commuting bats across the Order Limits. NLC highlighted that coverage of the canal corridor was required. GCN. All parties acknowledged that eDNA surveys, as already completed, are an acceptable method of establishing GCN presence/likely absence.
05 March 2025	Email	Email correspondence between NLC and Tyler Grange regarding breeding bird survey effort and specifically following the 2025 surveys following the same methodology as was undertaken in 2022 and 2023.

06 March 2025	Email	Email correspondence from Tyler Grange to NLC, with Tyler Grange thanking NLC for their time at the meeting and for confirming the breeding bird survey scope.
26 March 2025	Email	Email correspondence from Tyler Grange with both NLC and CDC to arrange a meeting with both local authorities to ensure an overall consistent approach to the ecology assessment.
27 March 2026	Email	Email correspondence from Tyler Grange with both NLC and CDC to confirm timings of a further meeting.
03 April 2025	Email	Email correspondence from Tyler Grange with both NLC and CDC to finalise a meeting time.
04 April 2025	Email	Email invite sent by Tyler Grange to NLC and CDC for 10 April 2025
09 April 2025	Email	Meeting agenda sent by Tyler Grange to NLC and CDC for 10 April 2025
10 April 2025	Online Meeting	Online meeting with both NLC and CDC. This was a more detailed discussion on survey scope, methodology and scheme design with both local authorities.
29 April 2025	Email	Email correspondence sent by Tyler Grange that included an attachment of the meeting notes form the 10 April 2025..
06 May 2025	Email	Email correspondence from Tyler Grange to both NLC and CDC checking if official consultation responses will be provided when the consultation period ends on the 08 May 2026.
30 June 2025	Email	Email correspondence from Tyler Grange to both NLC and CDC to update them on the change in the application deadline and to request a further meeting on ecology matters, including skylark mitigation.
01 July 2025	Email	Email correspondence from Tyler Grange to both NLC and CDC to confirm meeting timings.
08 July 2025	Email	Email correspondence from Tyler Grange to both NLC and CDC to confirm an updated meeting time and date.

09 July 2025	Email	Email correspondence from Tyler Grange to both NLC and CDC to finalise a meeting time and date.
10 July 2025	Email	Meeting invite sent by Tyler Grange to both NLC and CDC.
15 July 2025	Online Meeting	Meeting with both NLC and CDC to discuss the timetable of the submission, the updated survey work undertaken in 2025 and the fact that the results from some of these surveys will be submitted as addendum reports, including bats, breeding birds of additional land, the second water vole surveys and bat surveys. Also discussed BNG proposals and potential offsite skylark mitigation options.
19 February 2026	Email	Email correspondence from Tyler Grange to both NLC and CDC, which included the BNG metric as an attachment following comments in Relevant Reps that this was not available for review. In addition, Tyler Grange requested availability for a meeting with both local authorities.
16 March 2026	Email	Email correspondence from Tyler Grange to NLC attaching the badger report and the otter and water vole report as requested by NLC. In addition, Tyler Grange suggested a meeting is arranged to discuss the ecology assessment further.
30 March 2026	Email	Email correspondence with NLC from Tyler Grange explaining that Tyler Grange had a meeting with CDC with regards to the ecology assessment for the Scheme. NLC were not in attendance at the meeting due to no response with regards to meeting availability. Tyler Grange requested availability for a meeting with NLC and CDC for week commencing 06 April 2026 or 20 April 2026.
10 April 2026	Email	Email from NLC to confirm availability for the week commencing 20 April 2026.
20 April 2026	Email	Email correspondence from Tyler Grange to NLC to confirm meeting timings.

20 April 2026	Email	Email correspondence from Tyler Grange to NLC and CDC with a meeting invite for 22 April 2026.
22 April 2026	Online meeting	Online meeting with the Applicant and the County Ecologist's at the North Lincolnshire Council and City of Doncaster Council to discuss the project timescales and all matters detailed within their respective Relevant Representations and Statement of Common Grounds.
21 May 2026	Email	The Applicant emailed the meeting notes from the 22 April 2026 to North Lincolnshire for review and confirmed that their Local Impact Report had been reviewed. In addition, the Applicant confirmed that comments from North Lincolnshire Council and City of Doncaster Council had been addressed in the OLEMP, OECMP and HRA. The Applicant also stated that once the updated documents had been reviewed by North Lincolnshire Council and City of Doncaster Council that if necessary it would be useful to arrange another meeting.
04 June 2026	Email	The Applicant emailed North Lincolnshire Council and City of Doncaster Council to check if they had time to review the updated documents submitted at Deadline 2 and if they could please provide an update on timescales. The Applicant stated that once documents had been reviewed, if there are still any outstanding issues it would be useful to arrange another meeting and asked for availability. The Applicant also provided an update that the BNG calculations are being updated for Deadline 3 to address all BNG comments previously received.
18 June 2026	Email	The Applicant emailed North Lincolnshire Council and City of Doncaster Council to follow up the previous email sent and to check if they have had time to review the updated documents submitted at Deadline 2. The Applicant also asked if they could please provide an update on timescales.
27 July 2026	Email	The Applicant sent the latest version of the BNG metric due to noticing that the latest version submitted at

		Deadline 3 was not currently showing on the Examination Library.

2.1.0. Table 2-4: Record of Engagement with Socio Economic Officers

Table 1 – Record of Engagement since March 2023		
Date	**Method**	**Purpose / Description**
09 January 2025	Email correspondence	Initiating contact with NLC to outline the approach to analysis and seek latest publicly available STEAM data.
12 March 2026	Email Correspondence	Email correspondence from Pegasus Economics to request a meeting and ask for any feedback or comments relating to the Outline Supply Chain Employment and Skills Plan (OSCESP), or the wider socio-economic assessment.
26 March 2026	Email Correspondence	Follow up Email from Pegasus Economics to ask whether NLC would like to discuss anything relating to the wider socio-economic assessment or the OSCESP.
29 March 2026	Email Correspondence	Response from NLC stating that there are no issues to discuss at this point in time.

2.1.0. Table 2-5: Record of Engagement with Landscape Officers

Table 1 – Record of Engagement since 2023		
Date	**Method**	**Purpose / Description**
N/A	N/A	NLC Landscape Officers advised from the outset of the Scheme they did not have the relevant expertise to comment on the landscape assessment or proposals relating to this application. There was no engagement between the Applicant and a landscape officer/consultant acting on behalf of NLC prior to the submission of the DCO application.

		After the application had been accepted by PINS and the PPA signed, NLC advised that Tetra Tech had been appointed to comment on the Scheme.
11 March 2026	Online meeting	Meeting with Tetra Tech, acting on behalf of NLC and CDC to discuss Landscape Design, Tree Survey, LVIA, RVAS, Methodology and Consultation.

2.1.1. Table 2-6: Record of Engagement with Flood Risk Officers

Table 2-6 – Record of Engagement since October 2023		
Date	**Method**	**Purpose / Description**
October 2023	Email Consultation	Non-statutory consultation request.
November 2023	Teams Meeting	Meeting to discuss flood risk and drainage principles.
November 2023	Email Consultation	Non-statutory consultation comments sent by LLFA Drainage Team.
December 2024	Email Consultation	Flood risk and drainage information on the Scheme provided to NLC for comment.
May 2025	Email Consultation	Statutory consultation comments received.
March 2026	Teams Meeting	Virtual meeting held with the Applicant and Mike Kitching and Mike Smith from North Lincolnshire Council. Items discussed included: Ordinary Watercourse easements, surface water flood risk, Land Drainage Consent, the Surface Water Drainage Strategy, Isle of Axholme Critical Flood Level, extent of Flood Zone 3b and raising of battery storage infrastructure. The Applicant and North Lincolnshire Council agreed to hold a further meeting to continue discussions. Representatives for City of Doncaster Council Lead Local Flood Authority were also in attendance and confirmed they would be happy to participate in further meetings.

June 2026	Email	The Applicant provided North Lincolnshire Council Lead Local Flood Authority with an updated version of Table 3-8 within this SoCG. The updates were made following Deadline 2 submission from North Lincolnshire. The updated SoCG table was provided to allow North Lincolnshire to make comment and to form the basis of a subsequent Teams meeting (see below).
June 2026	Teams Meeting	Meeting held with the Applicant and Mike Smith from North Lincolnshire Council Lead Local Flood Authority to discuss items marked as "under discussion" within the SoCG.

2.1.2. Table 2-7: Record of Engagement with Environmental Protection Team

Table 1 – Record of Engagement since June 2025		
Date	**Method**	**Purpose / Description**
--	--	Consultation with NLC to agree baseline noise monitoring locations and durations
09 June 2025	Email	Email sent to NLC regarding the selection of noise assessment locations.
11 June 2025	Email	Email received from NLC confirming receipt of previous email and requesting a telephone call.
12 June 2025	Telephone	Telephone discussion with Karen Robinson at NLC. NLC confirmed that receptors HER02, 03, 04 and 05 are all residential. Applicant response confirmed that the Heritage receptors had been assessed as residential.

2.1.3. Table 2-8: Record of Engagement with Highways Officers

Table 1 – Record of Engagement since March 2023		
Date	**Method**	**Purpose / Description**
9 March 2023	Email	Correspondence from the Applicant to NLC highways setting out the proposed scope of Automatic Traffic Count

		survey locations to inform the highways and transportation assessment work.
17 March 2023	Email	Agreement with NLC highway officer Louisa Simpson on the proposed location of Automatic Traffic Count survey locations within NLC.
17 November 2023	MS Teams meeting	Meeting with NLC highway officer Louisa Simpson to discuss the construction traffic routing through Crowle. Proposed scope of highways and transportation assessment work to support the Scheme proposals also discussed.
24 January 2024	Email	Correspondence from the Applicant to NLC PRoW team querying the width of PRoW routes within NLC.
1 February 2024	MS Teams meeting	Meeting with NLC PRoW officer Colin Wilkinson to discuss the widths of PRoWs within NLC and potential temporary mitigation measures and survey timings.
23 February 2024	Email	Response from NLC PRoW officer Colin Wilkinson on the proposed scope of PRoW surveys, confirming that a weekday and weekend survey date in the Summer would provide representative data.
1 April 2026	MS Teams meeting	The Applicant met with representatives of the highway authority on 01.04.26. The following items were discussed: • Details of access points N, O, Q and X. • Construction traffic routing to access R and Q. • Construction vehicle trips.
12 May 2026	Email	The Applicant issued the draft Road Safety Audit Briefs to NLC for agreement.
20 May 2026	Email	Response from NLC confirming agreement to Road Safety Audit Briefs and providing signed copies.
10 June 2026	Email	The Applicant provided NLC with a copy of the oCTMP issued at Deadline 2.

17 June 2026	Email	Response from NLC confirming that the oCTMP is acceptable in principle, subject to some amendments that NLC expect to see in the final version.
17 August 2026	Email	Email issued to highway officer seeking confirmation of agreement to remaining points in the SoCG (items 2 and 3).
07 September 2026	Email	Response from NLC confirming that items 2 and 3 of the SoCG can be amended to agreed.
10 September 2026	Email	Email to Applicant advising that NLC's position is that it expects the protective provisions contained in Schedule 14, Part 10 of the draft DCO to apply to NLC in its capacity as local highway authority for its area.
22 September 2026	Email	Email from Applicant's legal advisers to NLC seeking comments from NLC on the protective provisions contained in Schedule 14, Part 10 of the draft DCO.

3 Current Position

3.1.1. The table below provides a summary of the current position of the Applicant and NLC in relation to specific matters that have been under discussion to date.

3.1.2. Where a matter is not represented in the table, it should be assumed that it is either: (i) agreed between the parties and has not been the subject of detailed discussion; or (ii) not relevant to the discussion between the parties.

3.1.3. As noted above, this SoCG has been~~is~~ a 'live' document throughout the course of the Examination. This version of the SoCG represents the final position, identifying where changes have been made and where agreement had been reached between the parties. ~~and there are some aspects that are still under discussion between the parties. The intention is to provide a final position in subsequent versions of the SoCG, addressing and identifying where changes have been made and where agreement had been reached between the parties.~~

Table 3-1: Planning Policy Matters agreed, under discussion and not agreed between the parties

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
1	Engagement	NLC confirmed that the Applicant complied with the requirements as set out in the Statement of Community Consultation.	The **Consultation Report [APP-022]** confirms at Section 9.2 that the Applicant produced an Adequacy of Consultation (AoCM) Milestone Report. A copy of the AoCM Report, submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 3rd July 2025, is provided at Appendix 2.1 of the **Consultation Report [APP-023]**. The AoCM	Agreed

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			Report includes the evidence where NLC confirms the Applicant complies with the Statement of Community Consultation agreed with NLC.	
2	Engagement	NLC share the concerns that have been raised by City of Doncaster Council in respect of the level of communication and engagement on this project at the pre-application stage.	The Applicant disputes this position. The Applicant provided NLC with updates on the project evolution from December 2022 through to the submission in August 2025. This is evidenced in the records of engagement between the Applicant and NLC in section 2 of this document. NLC agreed the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) with NLC in advance of the commencement of consultation. This is evidenced in the AoCM Report – see Appendix 2.1 of the **Consultation Report Appendices - Part 1 [APP-023]**. NLC subsequently confirmed that the Applicant had complied with the detail of SoCC. The evidence is provided in Appendix 1 of the AoCM Report **Consultation Report Appendices – Part 1 [APP-023]**.	Not Agreed

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
3	Assessment of the Scheme's impact	NLC acknowledges that there is a recognised need and support for renewable and low carbon energy technology through national planning policy and that the proposed development could contribute towards the targets set for the UK's greenhouse gas emission reduction and increasing the country's energy supply from more renewable sources. Nevertheless, as the NGET 400kV substation and 400kV cabling from the Order Limits is not part of the proposal, and the effects of these elements has not been assessed, NLC questions the weight that can be attached to the benefits of the proposals for the reasons set out in its LIR and Deadline 4 submission. The Council notes the policy position set out in NPS EN-1. Nevertheless, it considers that the case law referred to in its EIR may indicate that the project has not been properly defined in that the application proposal is part of a wider project. The benefits of the project as a whole can only be realised along with the grid connections and NGET substation which are excluded from	The Applicant agrees. The Applicant has received a grid connection offer from NESO, accepted by the Applicant. Although the point of connection to national electricity transmission system NETS) and offsite 400kV export connection cable do not form part of the present application for development consent and have not been assessed due to the absence of definition in respect of the point of connection, the Applicant has not identified any reason why consent for those offsite elements is likely to be refused, in line with the requirements pf paragraph 4.11.8 of the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1). Furthermore, NGET has a legal obligation to meet any requests for new power connections from developers. The Applicant considers that the obligations which arise	Not agreed

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		the definition and thus their environmental effects have not been assessed. This is of course a matter of planning judgement for the Secretary of State.	from its agreement with NESO and from NGET's regulatory duties more generally provide a very high degree of confidence that the Scheme will connect to the NETS. The Applicant does not understand why the Council questions the weight that can be attached to the benefits of the proposal. The benefits of the Scheme are clearly set out in the **Planning Statement** [Document Reference 5.5 Revision 3~~REP2-012~~] and are extensive. There is no basis in policy or law to conclude that no weight can be attributed to the present application on the basis that offsite grid connection elements are excluded from its scope. Such an approach would be positively contrary to the phased approach to consenting and delivery envisaged by the suite of energy National Policy Statements.	
4	Assessment of the proposals	The impacts of the proposal must be fully assessed in order to complete a full, fair and detailed planning balance assessment. There are several outstanding issues and concerns with the way the assessment has been carried out, and its conclusions, as highlighted below.	The Applicant agrees that the Scheme needs to be appropriately assessed to inform the Examining Authority's recommendation to the Secretary of State and considers this is emphatically the case in relation to the submitted application.	Agreed

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		The benefits associated with the production of renewable energy and the policy support in this regard needs to be balanced against any potential environmental impacts associated with the development. However for the reasons set out at (3) above, it is not clear to NLC what weight can be given to the purported benefits.	The Applicant has responded to NLC's comment regarding 'weight' in row 4 above.	
5	Assessment of the proposals	The Application Site is not allocated for development as part of the Development Plan for North Lincolnshire and is located predominantly outside of defined development boundaries.	The Applicant notes how the designated energy NPSs form the primary policy basis against which this DCO application must be assessed. The Applicant notes that the ExA may consider other planning polices, including policies in the local development plan, but where these conflict with a policy a NPS, then the NPS will take precedence.	Agreed

Table 3-2: Cultural Heritage and Archaeology Matters agreed, under discussion and not agreed between the parties

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
6	Consideration of effects to the historic environment	The Historic Environment Record (HER) advises that there is currently insufficient information available in the applicant's Environmental Assessment to assess the appropriateness of mitigation measures. Until further results from the completed archaeological evaluation are available to allow the archaeological significance to be properly understood and the true extent of the impacts of the proposed development on the known and potential archaeological resource can be more accurately assessed, it is unclear what mitigation measures may be required. Part of the site is located within the Isle of Axholme Area of Special Historic Landscape interest, which is important for its significant areas of medieval open strip fields and turbaries, both of which are considered to be of national importance. As part of the proposed development, the Belton Grange parcel, to the west of	The Applicant does not accept that there is insufficient information available at this stage. **ES Appendix 8.1 Heritage Baseline Assessment [REP4-032] and ES Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology [REP2-037]** provide a robust and comprehensive assessment of the potential effects of the Scheme upon relevant archaeology, built heritage and historic landscape assets including LC14 – Isle of Axholme. The assessment has been supported and informed by the following fieldwork and evaluation: **ES Appendix 8.1 Heritage Baseline Assessment [REP4-032];** Analysis of LiDAR (detailed at paragraphs 5.129; 5.142; 5.143; 5.150; 5.159 and Appendix 10 of the **ES Appendix 8.1 Heritage Baseline Assessment [REP4-032];** Site visits (undertaken on 20 July 2022, 28 March 2023, and 16 May 2025);	Not Agreed

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		Hirst Priory, would contain panels whereas the area to the south of Hirst Priory has been marked as an area of mitigation, enhancement and/or retained agricultural land. The Belton Grange Parcel is contained within an area of Recently Enclosed Land (REL) whilst the southern parcel is within an area of Early Enclosed Land (EEL). It is also noted that areas of the DCO application site also extend further to west and southwest of Hirst Priory towards the motorway in proximity to the LC14 boundary. The HER considers that the baseline submitted with the DCO application is light touch and largely mitigatory in stating that the motorway divorces the area from its the rest of the policy area. Whilst the introduction of panels into the REL may not amount to a significant amount of harm to the REL character area, there does not appear to be proper consideration of impacts to the setting of other character areas including core Ancient Open Strip Field (AOSF) area at Belton Field. Development proposals	Targeted trial trenching completed in 2024 as detailed in **ES Appendix 8.4 Trial Trenching Report [APP-094]; ES Appendix 8.3 Geoarchaeological Assessment [REP2-043], ES Appendix 8.2 Geophysical Survey [APP-086; APP087; APP-088; APP-089; APP-090; APP-091; APP-092].** The surveys completed as part of the evaluation undertaken have identified 50 additional heritage assets or anomalies from cartographic sources, aerial photographs, geophysical survey and LiDAR analysis within the Order Limits. These assets are considered in both the **Heritage Baseline Assessment [REP4-032]** and **ES Volume 2 Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage and Archaeology [REP4-026]** and clearly referenced with unique identification numbers starting with a PEG prefix. The assessment has also considered 74 findspots recorded from the widespread fieldwalking undertaken as part of the Humberhead Levels Survey (reporting published in 1993 and 1997) many of which were not recorded on the HERs. 46 Portable	

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		would be visible, as per the submitted ZTV, from the various PRoWs which criss-cross the high ground of the AOSF. These comments should be considered alongside the conclusions of NLCs landscape consultant. The Applicant has raised the recently published The Archaeology and Solar Farms: Good Practice Guide (2025) which raises some salient points from this document are identified below: "*PRINCIPLE 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGIES SHOULD BE ALIGNED TO SPECIFIC SITE CONDITIONS AND PROJECT IMPACTS* *2.6.1 Identifying buried archaeological remains and their survival, significance, extent, depth and distribution across the landscape may require different forms of archaeological assessment. The precise methodologies applied to gather the data needed will depend on the types of archaeological remains, the land in question and the types of impacts proposed. This means a variety of*	Antiquities Scheme findspots were also plotted and considered. In addition to the archaeological anomalies the geophysical survey noted at paras 7.3.2.1-7.3.2.16 in **Geophysical Survey Report part 1 [APP-086]** has also identified elements of the pre-reclamation fluvial landscape which are discussed at paras 7.2.6 and 7.2.7 in **Geophysical Survey Report part 1 [APP-086]** and which will provide useful data in developing an appropriate approach to any further geoarchaeological assessment that may be required. The survey results of the geophysical survey are shown on figures in documents **Geophysical Survey Report parts 2-7 [APP-087 – APP-092]**. The results of the **Appendix 8.4 - Trial Trenching Report [APP-094]** have been used to inform the design with one of the three trenching areas (Area 3 adjacent to Plains House Farm) excluded from development on the basis of the presence of extensive and	

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		archaeological techniques will be used to obtain a sufficient level of information, proportionate to the impact, with which to make well-informed decisions... *...2.6.4 Developers should expect a consistent approach to the application of successive phases of archaeological work between projects. This will involve gathering non-intrusive data, followed by targeting of additional phases of survey to answer remaining questions at specific locations of impact. The types of survey may vary based on the likely type of archaeology, the type of geology present and the potential for impacts from preparation, construction and decommissioning, with different methodologies being best suited dependent on these factors. Consultants and archaeological officers can provide more detailed advice on individual projects and the reasons behind the methodology being applied in each case."*	sensitive Romano-British archaeological remains. The proposed area of preservation in situ is detailed at paragraph 9.5 and on Figure 1 in Appendix 2 of the **Outline Archaeological Mitigation Strategy [REP~~5~~6-02~~0~~8]**. Section 2 of the **Outline Archaeological Mitigation Strategy [REP~~5~~6-028~~0~~]** para 2.4 notes that there is no mandatory requirement to carry out intrusive field work. Paragraph 2.10.114 of NPS EN-3 goes on to reinforce this by stating: *"In some instances, field studies may include investigative work..."* Further, at paragraph 2.10.115 of NPS EN-3 it states: *"The extent of investigative work should be proportionate to the sensitivity of, and extent of, proposed ground disturbance in the associated study area."* Collectively, the policies clearly indicate that intrusive evaluative works are not a definitive or determinative requirement, and that works should be proportionate.	

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		NLC considers that the above highlights the need for an iterative approach to archaeological work which should align with the site conditions which is why NLC had advocated for geoarchaeological work to be undertaken prior to any field evaluation which it wasn't in this instance. NLC considers that this would have highlighted issues with the traditional reliance on magnetometry and steered the applicant towards appropriate evaluation methodologies from an early stage. *"PRINCIPLE 7 HIGH QUALITY NON-INTRUSIVE EVALUATION IS CRITICAL TO DEVELOPING UNDERSTANDING OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL...* *...2.7.5 There may be cases where this non-intrusive or minimally intrusive work will provide sufficiently detailed information about the impacts of the scheme on the significance of archaeological remains for planning and for viability decisions to be made.*	The Archaeology and Solar Farms: Good Practice Guide (2026) which was launched in April 2026 supports the approach that the Applicant has followed in support of the Scheme. The Good Practice Guide strongly advocates for a proportionate approach to intrusive fieldwork, highlighting the need for a staged approach focussing on non-invasive survey techniques to help to establish the archaeological potential. The document also advocates that due to the flexible nature of solar schemes and the disproportionate level of disturbance from evaluation relative to solar panel insertion, if it is considered that intrusive fieldwork is necessary at all, this work should, where possible, be carried out post-determination. In terms of timing, the **Outline Archaeological Mitigation Strategy [REP~~5~~6-02~~0~~8]** it states at para. 3.8.2: *"Where trial trenches are needed, timing should be carefully considered, with post-determination assessment preferred where possible... Their use and precise layout is*	

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		2.7.6 Where the results of this work are inconclusive, or if an insufficient range of non-intrusive techniques have been used to give confidence in the results, or further information is required to determine the effect and mitigation of localised impacts upon significance (for example, for fixed assets in areas of high archaeological potential), more intrusive assessment techniques may be necessary. *2.7.7 There may be solar sites where a full suite of non-intrusive survey techniques cannot provide sufficient clarity about the archaeological potential of the site (for example where much of the site is covered by green waste, rendering geophysical survey methods less effective, and other approaches like fieldwalking, test pitting, geoarchaeological assessment or additional remote sensing have added little further information), where trial trenching may be required to inform determination."*	*best defined at the point when the applicant is able to provide archaeological advisors with an acceptable level of information about the specifics and layout of the solar scheme and clarity around the degree of flexibility of specific parts of the site"* With regards to whether trenching should be deployed at all, either at pre- or post-determination stage, para. 3.83 of the **Outline Archaeological Mitigation Strategy [REP6~~5~~-02~~0~~8]** states: *"Trial trenching can involve more ground disturbance than the construction of panel supports. Finding an appropriate balance between ground disturbance caused by archaeological evaluation and that caused by construction needs careful thought."* The potential effects of the Scheme upon the Isle of Axholme are considered in revised assessment at paragraphs 5.42-5.57 in **ES Appendix 8.1 Heritage Baseline Assessment [REP4-032]** and assessed at paragraphs 8.8.5; 8.8.9 and 8.8.13 of **ES Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology of the Environmental Statement [REP4-025]**.	

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		The Applicant has undertaken some of the 'other approaches' detailed within para 2.7.7, though notably not fieldwalking (acknowledging that areas are not appropriate for fieldwalking) or test pitting or otherwise other minimally intrusive surveys identified elsewhere in the document such as borehole surveying to further refine the geoarchaeological deposit model. In this instance, NLCs HER does not have confidence that the works undertaken have provided sufficiently detailed information about the archaeological remains which will be impacted by the scheme. Further it is clear that some of the works contained within the Outline Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (oAMS) are evaluative methods rather than mitigation, which is disappointing and could lead to poor outcomes for archaeology and unsuitable mitigation post-consent.	The embanked nature of the M180 creates a physical barrier to visibility south from the Order Limits. Mitigating views from the REL, panelled portions of the site, eastwards, into the northern part of the LC14 Policy Area has been considered in the design with a band of grassland, hedgerow planting and tree clump planting indicated on the **Landscape and Visual Mitigation Strategy [REP4-042].** The Applicant notes NLC comments regarding 'The Archaeology and Solar Farms: Good Practice Guide.' In response to the comments on Principles 6 and 7 the Applicant would highlight that a comprehensive suite of surveys has been conducted pre-determination, including a proportionate level of intrusive works at specific, targeted locations (as specified above), which is in accordance with the Good Practice Guide (2026). The Applicant remains confident that the suite of survey results are appropriate and sufficient for decision making purposes. The Applicant notes that these comments indicate the ongoing area of disagreement	

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			regarding the timing of undertaking further intrusive works rather than the scope of any future works that may be required. Principle 4: Design flexibility can be utilised to protect the significance of archaeological remains *2.4.3 Identifying areas of lower or higher ground disturbance can influence investigation methods, timing and subsequent mitigation options. …* *2.4.4 Where a full mitigation scheme cannot be drawn up at the time of application submission, it will need to be secured by planning conditions/Development Consent Order (DCO) Requirements. Where assessment and design work is continuing post-determination, that work should inform the final scheme of mitigation via conditions/Requirements. It is recommended that at least an outline approach to mitigation is set out at application submission. …* *2.4.5 In cases where archaeological data-gathering (evaluation) is to continue post-determination, planning conditions/DCO Requirements should secure a process*	

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			whereby such work is carried out (see Section 8) as part of an agreed evaluation and mitigation strategy. The scope of such works would be defined within approved written scheme of investigation(s) (WSI). … *Principle 5: Defining ground disturbance zones and sensitivity areas provides opportunities to streamline archaeological management* *2.5.1 The difference in levels of anticipated ground disturbance across a solar farm lends itself to the zoning of distinct areas. A solar farm will often contain large areas of land subject to a low level of ground-disturbance (i.e. panel supports), with smaller areas which will have consistently higher levels of ground disturbance. Higher disturbance areas can include slabs for substations, transformers and other electrical infrastructure, cable routes, drainage swales, balancing ponds, areas of planting for landscape reasons and changes agreed for ecological mitigation. These different areas can be spatially defined as low- and high-ground disturbance zones, which can aid archaeological decision making.*	

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			2.5.2 Archaeological sensitivity will also vary across a site for a variety of reasons, including the type of archaeological remains and the relative depth at which they occur. When the presence and type of archaeological remains is understood, it is possible to map areas of higher and lower sensitivity, based upon the potential relative significance and character of archaeological assets and their sensitivity to change. *2.5.3 As archaeological data is collected during the course of the development, understanding of sensitivity across the site may change, so an iterative approach is needed. Developers and archaeologists should anticipate the potential for change in the boundaries and number of archaeological areas as more detailed information is gathered.* The Applicant is confident that its proposed timing for undertaking any further intrusive investigations, following the completion of the detailed design is the most appropriate and in accordance with the principles set out in the guidance as is clearly demonstrated by the extracts of Principles 4 and 5.	

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			Historic England's Delivering Clean Power: Commercial Renewable Energy Development and the Historic Environment: Historic England Advice Note 15 (2nd ed) was published in 2026 and further supports the appropriateness of the approach followed by the Applicant. *55. Informed by non-intrusive assessment and analysis, some level of proportionate, targeted intrusive investigation is often needed prior to determination to inform the decision in accordance with national policy. In the case of solar schemes, the particular characteristics of these developments frequently allows the majority of targeted trenching to be done post determination. This relies upon non-intrusive work being thorough and well-integrated via a landscape archaeological approach, and on the basis that the scheme design can and will be amended to respond flexibly to the significance, importance and sensitivity of remains. For mitigation to be timely and cost-controlled, project planning post-consent needs to allow for further phased and targeted investigation.* *57. Confidence in post-consent outcomes is supported by submission of an archaeological*	

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			mitigation strategy (AMS) or outline written scheme of investigation (OWSI) as part of the application, setting out how any further post-consent assessment will inform the final design and mitigation approach. Conditions or requirements for post-consent archaeological work will provide for the submission and approval of detailed Written Scheme(s) of Investigation (WSI) with reference to the submitted AMS/ OWSI. Where there is to be an iterative process of post-consent work, conditions / requirements will need to secure that process. WSIs are submitted to the determining authority for approval and where appropriate also Historic England. The Applicant has prepared the **Outline Archaeological Mitigation Strategy [REP6~~5~~-02~~0~~8]** and following discussions with stakeholders this now includes mapping of archaeological sensitivity areas (Figure 4) to aid in the effective management of the archaeological resource. The Applicant acknowledges that the zoning plan will evolve as further design information is available. The Applicant is committed to ongoing liaison with stakeholders to ensure a collaborative	

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			approach to agreeing the scope of future, targeted, works that will be detailed in the **Outline Archaeological Mitigation Strategy [REP6~~5~~-02~~0~~8]** secured by draft DCO Requirement 12 and the subsequent WSIs.	
7	Fieldwalking	The HER has requested fieldwalking to be undertaken from initial consultation in 2023 onwards however this has not been undertaken citing that the land constituting the Draft Order Limit has not been subject to ploughing throughout this time. The HER would restate the importance of this iterative step of archaeological investigation to be completed.	The reasoning behind the extent of fieldwalking (very limited ploughing within the Order Limits) has been communicated to the LPA Archaeologist in an email sent on 12 July 2024, please see summary of this email above in section 2. A programme of fieldwalking is proposed to be undertaken once the Scheme acquires consent as detailed in **ES Appendix 8.6 Outline Archaeological Mitigation Strategy [REP~~5~~6-02~~0~~8].**	Not Agreed
8	Geophysical and Geoarchaeological Surveys	The methodologies employed during geophysical survey and geoarchaeological fieldwork are considered to be satisfactory however both techniques were employed prior to expansions in the Development Consent Order area – with increases of approximately 100ha in Area C, 200ha in	Agreement acknowledged. Since this consultation was issued the Order Limits have been further revised and Area F is no longer part of the Order Limits – see **Location Plan [APP-007]**. The geophysical survey report has been revised to include the whole of the Order Limits. See: **ES**	Agreed

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		Area E and Area F comprising approximately 664ha. These additional areas have not yet been subject to sufficient investigation to determine their archaeological potential.	**Appendix 8.2 Geophysical Survey Report [APP-086; APP087; APP-088; APP-089; APP-090; APP-091; APP-092]** The geoarchaeological assessment at **ES Appendix 8.3 Geoarchaeological Assessment [REP2-043]** has been revised to include additional land within the Order Limits. Further geoarchaeological works will be discussed with the Officer moving forwards and will be considered in line with **ES Appendix 8.6 Outline Archaeological Mitigation Strategy [REP66-0208]**	
9	Targeted trial trenching	A very limited scheme of archaeological trial trenching was undertaken in August 2024. These works, which targeted three discrete areas, one of which is now outside of the draft order limits, are considered to be inadequate to determine the archaeological potential of the draft order limit area. Further, the scope of the completed trenching was not agreed prior to the commencement of works per the HER's previous consultation responses. Whilst the quality of the fieldwork element of	None of the targeted trial trenching lies in areas that have been removed from the final Order Limits. The targeted trenching was designed to focus on three areas of high potential, allowing the results of this to be factored into the Scheme design in accordance with guidance at fn94 of NPS EN-3.	Not Agreed

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		trenching was considered satisfactory during a site visit, the HER is yet to receive any post-excavation report to review.	The targeted trial trenching report is now completed – **ES Appendix 8.4 Trial Trenching Report [APP-094].**	
10	Area F	NLC initially had concerns that the heritage baseline excluded Area F from consideration.	Agreement Acknowledged. Discussions were held with the stakeholder and clarification provided that the scheme had been revised with Area F removed.	Agreed
11	Completeness of datasets	NLC initially had concerns that the datasets did not include appropriate information in respect of Area F.	Agreement acknowledged between the parties. As the data provided includes complete datasets the Applicant considered this concern has been addressed. Discussions were held with the stakeholder and clarification provided that the Scheme had been revised with Area F removed.	Agreed
12	Order Limits and setting of heritage assets	At an earlier stage NLCs Environment Officer (Built Conservation) (EOBC) had raised the need to assess the setting impact of Dirtness Pumping Station,	Possible effects relating to Dirtness Cottage and the adjacent Pumping Station have been assessed at paragraphs 8.6.64; 8.6.65; 8.6.74-8.6.77; 8.6.90; 8.6.91 in **Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology [REP4-025]** and at	Agreed

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		grade II listed building, NHLE Ref: 1083284. The Applicant has amended the scheme in response to this concern and removed some of the previously proposed panels at the western end of parcel E5 – the amended layout is shown on **Drawing Ref: Environmental Statement Volume 4 Figure 2.2b: Indicative Operational Layout Plan**. Further to this amendment, the EOBC now agrees with the Applicant's conclusion, that harm arises at the lower end of `less than substantial`. NLC considers that this harm would be clearly outweighed by the public benefits of the scheme (subject to NLCs overall position on the weight to be afforded to the benefits of the proposal). With regards the nearby listed cottage, by nature of other buildings in the area,	paragraphs 6.34-6.42 and 6.55-6.64 in **Appendix 8.1 Heritage Baseline Assessment [REP4-032]**. The Applicant acknowledges limited agreement with the Officer regarding the functional relationship between Dirtness Pumping Station and the land within the Order Limits. A non-material difference of opinion remains regarding the level of harm arising from the introduction of solar panels to the asset's setting. The Applicant maintains its position that the harm arising to the significance of the asset lies at the lower end of less than substantial. Opinions regarding the lack of impact to the Old Rectory and Dirtness Cottage are acknowledged and agreed. The Applicant has considered the feasibility of the Officer's request to increase the extent of mitigation proposed in relation to Dirtness Pumping Station and agrees to alter the Scheme in this area to include a strip of land that allows glimpsed views of the asset when approaching along the road to the south-west.	

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		trees etc, it is agreed there is unlikely any impact here. With regards the Old Rectory at Althorpe, the view identified by Pegasus is considered to be one that is more an effect on amenity rather than heritage significance, therefore not something which is considered to result in heritage harm.		
	Outline Archaeological Mitigation Strategy and Zoning Plan	Notwithstanding NLCs in principle position on archaeology set out above, if the SoS is ultimately satisfied with the Applicant's position in this respect, then NLC agrees that the zoning plan is acceptable and would be a useful tool in the next evaluating stages of the archaeological investigations.	The Applicant and the Archaeology Officer have discussed **the Outline Archaeological Mitigation Strategy [REP6-028]** and the zoning plan that it contains. The discussions have agreed that the zoning plan and the oAMS provide a suitable mechanism to deliver the appropriate programme of further archaeological investigations required within the Order Limits. It is agreed that the zoning plan affords a suitable basis to determine the potential for impacts to arise to archaeologically sensitive deposits or remains within the Order Limits and	Agreed

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			to develop a proportionate programme of additional archaeological investigation. Initial discussions have agreed a possible approach to addressing the archaeological resource which will entail geoarchaeological investigation with subsequent targeted fieldwalking and trial trenching. The exact scope and methodologies agreed will be determined following detailed design and will be agreed with stakeholders on a location specific basis.	

Table 3-3: Loss of Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land agreed, under discussion and not agreed between the parties

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
1		Over 44% of the Order Limits comprises BMV land, which represents approximately 813 hectares. BMV land in the NLC area of the site comprises of Grade 1, Grade 2 and Grade 3a. The ES asserts that 13.7ha of BMV would be lost to fixed infrastructure however it is not clear at this stage where the 400kV substation	The comments of NLC are noted. NLC leave the planning balance to the ExA. The Applicant has fully determined the agricultural land quality of the Order Limits, and its current land use. The amount of land that will be affected temporarily is limited, with only a modest area affected permanently.	Agreed

		would be located, although it assumed to be on Grade 3a/3b land. 9.1ha of this loss would be to access tracks. It is said that the majority of this land would be restored following the decommissioning stage. During the operational phase the ES asserts that the land use would remain agricultural, with grassland available for sheep grazing. This would have adverse impacts on some of the affected farm businesses which are currently mainly arable. The ES concludes that there would be no significant adverse effects from the loss of BMV soils for the duration of the Scheme, and most areas would be fully restored following decommissioning. Subject to the SoSs conclusions in respect of the adequacy of the ES and the weight that can be attributed to the benefits of the development, NLC considers that the benefits of the development would outweigh the adverse effects on BMV, farm business and soils.	There will be no significant economic or food production/security effects. In respect of the RWE on-site 400kV substation, this is located on mostly Subgrade 3b land (see **ES Chapter 15-Agricultural Circumstances [REP3-022]**, paragraphs 15.5.27 and 15.5.30 in particular)**.** A worst-case assumption that this will not be restored to comparable grade agricultural land has been made. During the operational phase, the panel areas will be available for grazing, as NLC note. The potential effects on farm businesses are set out in **ES Chapter 15- Agricultural Circumstances [REP3-022]** , especially sections 15.5.64 to 15.5.73. Whilst the effects are assessed as minor adverse or negligible, as explained in **ES Chapter 15- Agricultural Circumstances [REP3-022]**, much of the land is owner-occupied and landowners would not have entered the Scheme if they considered that overall there would be adverse effects (paragraph 15.5.65). There will be benefits for the local labour market because sheep management requires more labour than arable cropping (paragraph 15.5.71). The farms will	

			generally benefit from income from the Scheme (paragraph 15.5.72). It should not be assumed that arable farming is preferential to sheep grazing. As set out in **ES Chapter 15-Agricultural Circumstances [REP3-022]** paragraph 15.5.77, in 2024 over 300,000 ha of arable land was put into non-food biodiversity management. That had risen to 444,000 ha by 1st June 2025.	

Table 3-4: Ecology and Nature Conservation matters agreed, under discussion and not agreed between the parties

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
2	Non-breeding bird mitigation	NLC confirmed that using Bird Days calculations to inform non-breeding bird mitigation has been used elsewhere – notably the 'South Humber Gateway', but also noted that the method has its limitations as it does not reflect how birds may be using a site, despite giving an overall 'area.	The Applicant agrees that using Bird Days calculations to inform the extent of mitigation required can be a useful tool but has its limitations and that the proposed mitigation has had full consideration for how birds have been recorded using the site as set out in the **ES Volume 2 Chapter 7: Ecology and Nature Conservation [REP5-012]** and the **Outline Landscape Ecological Management Plan [Document Reference 7.6 Revision 6].**	Agreed

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
3	Breeding Birds	NLC confirmed acceptance that the breeding bird survey methodology in 2025 should follow the same methodology as was undertaken in 2022 and 2023 for consistency, and as part of the 2025 surveys the three surveys between April and July should be completed in separate months.	The Applicant agreed that the survey methodology in 2025 should follow the same methodology as in 2022 and 2023 for consistency and that surveys should be completed in separate months. The Applicant confirms that this approach was successfully completed in 2025.	Agreed
4	Skylark	NLC notes that the Applicant proposes to provide skylark mitigation within the Order limits.	The Applicant agrees that research into the use of solar farms by ground-nesting species such as skylark is contradictory. The Applicant agrees that offsite skylark plots can form part of a mitigation strategy, although the strategy proposed does not propose the use of offsite plots, with all skylarks to be mitigated within the Order Limits as set out in the **ES Volume 2 Chapter 7: Ecology and Nature Conservation [REP5-012]** and the **Outline Landscape Ecological Management Plan [**REP6-036~~**Document Reference 7.6 Revision 6**~~**]**.	Agreed
5	Water vole / Otter survey	NLC acknowledged the need for proportionality regarding survey effort given	The Applicant agreed that the need for proportionality regarding survey effort given the extensive length of ditch network, and	Agreed

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
	approach and mitigation	the extensive length of ditch network, and limited impacts on such. NLC specified that any mitigation/enhancement measures would need to be cognisant of mink control.	limited impacts and that mink control would form a part of the mitigation strategy.	
6	Bat Surveys	NLC required coverage of the canal corridor as part of the targeted bat activity surveys.	The Applicant agrees that the canal corridor would be covered and the surveys undertaken in 2025 ensured that this took place, with automated static bat detectors located in two different locations along the canal corridor throughout all surveys, as well as coverage during the walked transect routes as set out in the **Technical Appendix 7.13 Bat Survey Results Spring and Summer 2025 [AS-017].**	Agreed
7	GCN	NLC agreed that eDNA surveys are an acceptable method of establishing GCN presence/likely absence, although stated that the negative results were unexpected, therefore would require a bespoke approach to re-surveying GCN prior to impacts.	The Applicant agreed that re-surveying for GCN using the eDNA survey approach prior to impacts was acceptable. Further to this, updated eDNA surveys have been completed across the Order Limits in 2025 as set out in the **Technical Appendix 7.7 Great Crested Newt Presence/Absence Survey Report [AS-016]**, since the consultation with NLC took place, and recorded further negative GCN eDNA results,	Agreed

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			providing further certainty with regards to GCN absence.	

Table 3-5: Transport Matters agreed, under discussion and not agreed between the parties

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
1	Construction Traffic	Given the nature of the proposed development, the main impact will be during the construction phase as operational vehicle movements will be minimal. An Outline Construction Phase Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been submitted and Requirement 16 in the DCO secures the submission of the final CTMP.	The Applicant notes that management of the construction traffic will be controlled through a Construction Traffic Management Plan secured by DCO requirement, which will be substantially in accordance with the **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [**REP6-038, REP6-040 and REP6-042~~Document Reference 7.7 Revision 6~~REP6-038, REP6-040, and REP6-042**]**. Turning to operational traffic, the **ES Chapter 12 Transport and Access [**REP^-012~~REP4-015~~**]** confirms that the during the operational phase of the Scheme, the effects would be negligible and not significant.	Agreed
2	Construction worker travel	NLC notes the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan **[APP-182]** assumption of 4.94 workers per hectare and the prediction that 75% of workers will travel by	As set out in the **OCTMP [**~~Document Reference 7.7 Revision 6~~REP6-038, REP6-040, and REP6-042**]**, the use of staff minibuses will be encouraged and enforced	Agreed

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		minibus, with the remainder travelling by car which is assumed to be 41 cars per day. NLC consider that it is still unclear how staff travel by minibus will be secured and enforced however it is recognised that this matter could be effectively controlled by the Construction Environmental Management Plan required by Requirement 14 of the draft DCO.	through the oCTMP, which is a control document secured by Requirement 16. The **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [~~Document Reference 7.1 Revision 6~~ REP6-038, REP6-040, and REP6-042]** includes a commitment to implement a Travel Plan that supports and encourages sustainable travel (Table 5-1, page 36). The oCEMP includes a commitment to monitor the implementation of such a document including compliance with the proposed measures.	
3	Proposed Construction Access Points	NLC is satisfied that the updated oCTMP addresses its earlier concerns in respect of the adequacy of the construction access points and the need to survey culvert crossings. NLC welcomes clarification in the updated OCTMP that banksmen would not be used to control general traffic on the adopted highway.	The **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (OCTMP) [~~Document Reference 7.7 Revision 6~~REP6-038, REP6-040, and REP6-042]** sets out each of the proposed access arrangements within NLC's administrative boundaries in detail. This includes swept path assessments for the largest construction vehicles. Mitigation measures are proposed, including physical mitigation, where considered necessary.	Agreed

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		It is noted that arrivals/departures of HGVs are proposed to be strictly managed by the site managers, and drivers would be required to adhere to a delivery schedule and call ahead to ensure that any HGVs leaving site are held within construction compounds. Drivers would be informed of the routes and temporary signage installed to assist with this. This would need to be Chapter 8 compliant and the locations agreed with NLC.	The Applicant updated the **Outline CTMP** [REP6-038, REP6-040, and REP6-042 ~~REP5-032 – REP5-037~~] at Deadline 3 and this includes a commitment to survey the existing culvert crossings at Accesses K, O and P. The Applicant updated the **Outline CTMP** at Deadline 3 and this includes a breakdown of the AADT at each access point [**REP3-037**] page 38].	

Table 3-6 Socio Economic Impacts Matters agreed, under discussion and not agreed between the parties

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
1	OSCESP **[APP-184]**	NLC has no objections to the application on socio-economic grounds.	Applicant sought clarification on expectations of commitments, framework for organisation, opportunities for engagement and reporting / evaluation mechanisms in respect of the **Outline Supply Chain, Employment and Skills Plan [REP1 - 038],** in response it was stated that there were no issues to discuss regarding socioeconomic matters.	Agreed

Table 3-7: Landscape & Visual Impacts Matters agreed, under discussion and not agreed between the parties

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
	Assessment Methodology	Key elements of the methodology review include: • The assessment methodology as set out in Appendix 6.1 of the LVIA is based on Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 3rd Edition, published by The Landscape Institute and the Institute of	The Applicant welcomes the acknowledgement of using the industry standard in the landscape and visual Chapter.	Agreed

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		Environmental Management & Assessment (GLVIA3). This is the appropriate industry standard work on LVIA.		
	Assessment of Landscape Value	• Reference has been made to the judgement of value based on guidance within GLVIA3 and Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note (02/21) 'Assessing the Value of Landscapes Outside National Designations' however, there is no clear assessment of the value of landscape receptors within the LVIA and whether there are areas which could be considered valued landscapes. Although an update has been made to the LVIA at deadline 4, NLC do not feel this addresses landscape value sufficiently. The question of landscape value has been addressed on the site as a whole, it has not considered the individual landscape character areas. The outcome of value has been assessed as 'medium', which aligns with the sensitivity given throughout the report, but with which NLC do not agree with as we fee the landscape has been undervalued throughout the assessment.	The Applicant adopted an appropriate methodology for the assessment of potential landscape impacts. The methodology is outlined in **Appendix 6.1: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Criteria [APP-061]** within the **ES Chapter 6 Landscape and Visual [REP4-021].** An assessment of landscape value was guided by the Landscape Character Assessments of both authorities within the **ES Chapter 6 Landscape and Visual [REP4-021]**. Sensitivity of receptors which is a function of susceptibility and value is set out throughout the chapter. Whilst the site and surrounding context contains elements of landscape value it is not considered that the site or the context constitute a valued landscape as set out at NPPF para 187a. In terms of TGN02/21 and the identification of Landscape Value it is considered on balance that whilst the landscape contains elements	Not Agreed

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			of value it does not constitute a Valued Landscape (NPPF para 187). With reference to Box 5.1 in GLVIA3 the following summary is provided. In terms of quality and condition; the landscape of the study area is generally representative of the local character areas, though there is a distinction between the moors areas and the open Hatfield Chase levels. The land within which the Order Limits sits is generally intensively farmed and contains denuded hedgerows. In terms of scenic qualities; whilst the level ground provides wide open skies the landscape is strongly influenced by powerlines, motorways and existing turbines. In terms of rarity; this landscape is not notably rare in this portion of the country and extends beyond the study area. In terms of representativeness; the landscape contains important examples of restoring peat bogs, the remainder of the landscape is broadly representative of the wider agricultural landscape.	

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			In terms of Conservation Interests, Thorne and Hatfield Moors are important wildlife sites and the Isle of Axholme Area of Historic Landscape Interest is located to the south east around Epworth. In terms of Recreational Value; the canal provides an important green corridor but access for recreation is generally limited and disconnected. In terms of Associations; the landscape is the product of centuries of artificial drainage and agricultural improvement including the works of the Dutch engineer Cornelius Vermuyden in the 1620's.	
		Methodology on the production of the photomontages has subsequently been provided which NLC are happy a suitable approach has been adopted.	The methodology for the production of the screened zone of theoretical visibility is shown within the title block of **Figure 6.3 Screened Zone of Theoretical Visibility with Viewpoints and Photomontage Locations [REP4-041]**.	Agreed
2	Landscape Baseline Summary	The landscape baseline is defined by a clear study area used to inform the assessment. The LVIA identifies both national and local landscape character areas for assessment however, there is a lack of clear judgements	The LVIA focuses on the local level/district landscape character assessments produced by the two Councils The Isle of Axholme and Hadfield Chase Landscape Character Assessment is an	Not Agreed

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		made on value and susceptibility of landscape receptors. Further information should be provided on the landscape character areas associated with the Isle of Axholme. Further details should be provided to justify the determination of value and susceptibility of the landscape receptors. NLC feels the landscape baseline is underplayed and does not take into account the individual qualities of each landscape character area to inform the sensitivity. All landscape character areas have been assessed as medium in the assessment regardless of any unique characteristics the areas may contain. For example, Hatfield Chase Levels LCA (in the 2014 assessment) is described as 'important historic landscape', 'rare historic field pattern', 'big skies with a marked sense of place'. It is difficult to understand why this would not have a high sensitivity. Other examples are evident throughout.	additional document that has not been flagged during consultations with North Lincolnshire. The majority of the site is located in the Thorne and Crowle Moors and the Hatfield Chase Levels Character Areas. An assessment of landscape value and susceptibility to change was undertaken for all landscape receptors, as a function of sensitivity which is set out in the methodology **ES Appendix 6.1 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Criteria [APP-061]** and **ES Chapter 6 Landscape and Visual [REP4-021]**.	

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
3	Visual Baseline Summary	Rational on value and susceptibility for visual receptors is provide in the methodology section only. Although NLC would have preferred more detail to have been provided, this has been agreed as an acceptable approach. The ZTV provided is for the overall scheme only. In addition to this, it would be helpful to have the degree of visibility shown, and additional ZTVs provided which shows the visibility for each of the main development areas. This would have been useful at earlier stages in the project to inform receptor selection, but at this stage it is agreed it is not required. The opacity of the ZTV is fairly low and prevents a good understanding of the base mapping. The overlay of the ZTV with the landscape character areas is also difficult to read.	An assessment of value and susceptibility to change was undertaken for all visual receptors as a function of susceptibility within the **ES Chapter 6 Landscape and Visual [REP4-021]**, with further rationale regarding sensitivity provided within **Appendix 6.1: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Criteria [APP-061]**. As stated in the **ES Chapter 6 Landscape and Visual [REP4-021]** at paragraph 6.4.51, **Figure 6.3 Screened Zone of Theoretical Visibility with Viewpoints and Photomontage Locations [REP4-041] is '**...a tool to help illustrate locations where views of the proposed scheme may be possible, to guide the focus of the baseline studies on those locations where views are most likely to be available. Following desktop research and site visits, it is evident that the core area of actual visibility of the Scheme extends approximately 1km from the extents of the Order Limits.'. Therefore, no further plans are proposed to be produced.	Not agreed
4	Design Iteration and Rationale	The LVIA briefly summarises design iterations in relation to stakeholder consultation. The LVIA should provide further	The design of the Scheme is set out within the **Design Approach Document [APP-032]**.	Not Agreed

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		detail with regards to the design rationale in terms of the specifics of the landscape and visual mitigation. It is noted that specific design measures have been adopted relating to the Stainforth and Keadby Canal corridor, but for the overall Order Limits, no details of the specific landscape design measures have been provided. The landscape detail should address the design evolution, - how the landscape design has reflected the historic field pattern, how the landscape character has been considered in their placement how the so as to retain any key open views whilst enhancing others; how habitat corridors have been considered to create linkages to the wider landscape; how the proposed hedgerows work with the right of way network to improve the experience; how the species selection relates to the various characteristics of each area – etc. It is noted that information with regards to the location of the on site 400 kV substation has subsequently been added to the plans.	If further detail is required, this needs to be specifically agreed with the Applicant. The Applicant has undertaken an iterative design process including several design team workshops as the application has been prepared. Field boundaries and exiting hedgerows have been considered a key constraint to be integrated into the Scheme. Where offsets have been included these have been responsive to the landscape pattern which is linear and blocky and therefore the resultant banks of panels are laid out to reflect this. The presence of native hedgerows along many of the key routes and wider field boundaries makes them a key component of the existing landscape and therefore a suitable part of the mitigation strategy particularly when viewed at close range. The 400kV substation has been assessed within the **ES Chapter 6 Landscape and Visual [REP4-021]**. The 400kV substation missing from **Figure 6.4 – Landscape and Visual Mitigation Strategy [REP4-042]** has been included and Figure 6.4 was resubmitted at Deadline 1 to address.	

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
5	Landscape Effects	The lack of recognition of some landscape character areas as identified in the Isle of Axholme landscape character assessment results in a potential underplay of landscape effects. Although an update has been made to the LVIA at deadline 4, NLC does not feel this addresses landscape value sufficiently. The question of landscape value has been addressed on the site as a whole, it has not considered the individual landscape character areas. The outcome of value has been assessed as 'medium', which aligns with the sensitivity given throughout the report, but with which NLC do not agree with as we fee the landscape has been undervalued throughout the assessment and seems to rely on a generic approach. Landscape value has not been addressed sufficiently throughout which has resulted in the effects being underplayed throughout the landscape assessment. The landscape assessment description is based entirely on the visual qualities of the proposals in the landscape and does not	It is agreed that any assessment of landscape character must balance all landscape features which either positively or negatively influence its inherent character noting that some areas may differ. The **ES Chapter 6 Landscape and Visual [REP4-021]** has been updated to include the Isle of Axholme and Hatfield Chase Landscape Partnership Assessment (2014) and the North Lincolnshire Landscape Character Assessment (2021), which was requested at the Issue Specific Hearing 3, set out in **8.17 Written Summary of Oral Submissions at the Issue Specific Hearing 3 [REP3-048].** The Applicant awaits a further response from NLC. Further clarification of the contents of Table 6-6 of the **ES Chapter 6 Landscape and Visual [REP4-021]** was provided as an expansion of the table in the Chapter for Deadline 1.	Not Agreed

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		address the individual aspects of the landscape that make up the character areas and how they will be changed by the development. The assessment considers that the presence of the major road network in the landscape local to the Order Limits is a detractor to overall landscape character in terms of tranquillity and remoteness however some parcels are more distant and are less influenced by the visual and audible presence of those roads. In light of the above, the assessment of effects for the landscape receptors requires further clarification.	Additional hedgerows and trees are an appropriate form of landscape mitigation in providing screening for the operational elements of the Scheme (panels, fences, etc). While this will influence some open views within the landscape, the introduction of new planting into a landscape with limited landscape features due to intensification of agricultural uses is not considered an adverse addition within the wider rural landscape context. The Applicant has submitted an updated **ES Appendix 6.2: RVAA [REP4-027].**	
		The focus of the LVIA centres on the presence of the PV panels with little or no recognition of the presence of 7no. 132 kV	All built elements of the Scheme have been assessed within **ES Chapter 6 Landscape and Visual [REP4-021]**. The absence of the 400kV substation from **Figure 6.4 – Landscape and Visual Mitigation Strategy**	Not Agreed

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		substations, 4 no. BESS and one 400kV substation. The potential raising of tracks within the Order Limits is also not discussed. The applicant has explained that when 'the scheme' is referred to, this covers all elements of the proposals. However, the LVIA would have benefited from further explanation in relation to what elements of the development were causing the magnitude of change in relation to the receptor assessment to demonstrate the assessment had been thorough.	**[REP4-042]** was to a graphical error which was corrected in submission to the Examination and has no bearing upon the assessment of landscape and visual effects as set out in **ES Chapter 6 Landscape and Visual [REP4-021].**	
6	Visual Effects	The LVIA provides judgements on sensitivity and magnitude of change although some of the justification given for the judgement arrived at for visual effects is brief, particularly relating to the viewpoint assessment and the RVAA. For some of the receptors, particularly viewpoints, there is brief rationale provided for how the sensitivity and magnitude have been combined to arrive at the final effects. The assessment of effects in relation to	The Applicant submitted an updated **ES Appendix 6.2: RVAA [REP4-027] at Deadline 4.** The Applicant considers that the visual assessment within **ES Chapter 6 Landscape and Visual [REP4-021]** was undertaken to the appropriate guidance, with the extent of explanations being proportionate to this type of Scheme.	Not Agreed

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		residential visual amenity is also brief.. NLC considers that the visual assessment, including the RVAA, underplays the effect of the development, particularly at year 15.. NLC note additional text has been added in to the RVAA following a more detailed review of the proposed hedge planting by the applicant. The acknowledgement of the maturing hedgerow planting in the text is welcomed and hedgerow planting is the most suitable form of mitigation for this situation. However, NLC still feel that on occasion the proposed hedge planting has been recorded in the assessment as reducing the magnitude of change to a greater extent than is warranted. This underplays the visual effects of the development.		
7	Mitigation	Neutral grassland is proposed as ecological habitat within the site. There is no detail provided on how agricultural farmland, likely heavy in nitrates and phosphates, would support a neutral grassland habitat. Whilst the Applicant states that prior to habitat	Existing and remnant hedgerows are a regularly occurring component of the vegetative elements of the landscape particularly along the transport corridors and to varying degrees between the fields. Many have been previously removed or are now remnants.	Not Agreed

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		creation, soil testing will be completed to confirm the PH and nutrient levels and determining the appropriate seed mix to ensure the maximum beneficial mix for the soils and nutrients status The applicant has explained how this will be addressed at the detailed design stage. Should the soil testing identify unsuitable soils for the proposals the landscape proposals should be adjusted and agreed accordingly with NLC. NLC consider that all vegetation within the Order Limits should be surveyed in accordance with BS 5837 and would expect all vegetation within the red line to be covered by the tree survey. Areas are present which the applicant has agreed have not been surveyed	The county level Landscape Character Assessments have been used to guide the mitigation proposals. The North Lincolnshire Landscape Character Assessment in particular sets out Landscape Guidelines. Historic hedgerows are set out in the Heritage Chapter **Figure 8.3 Important Hedgerows [APP-143]**.) These are existing notable gaps will be supplemented with native hedgerow species through the **Landscape Strategy and Visual Mitigation Strategy [REP4-042]** which is secured by Requirement 6(2)(b) of the **Draft DCO [Document Reference 3.1 Revision 10~~9~~]** The proposed landscape mitigation proposals use locally appropriate mixed native species informed by existing vegetation. The layout of the Scheme and the resultant landscape strategy is responsive to local pattern and context. Therefore, on review, the Applicant considers that the content of the Isle of Axholme and Hatfield Chase Landscape Partnership Assessment (2014) and the North Lincolnshire Landscape Character Assessment (2021), as requested at the Issue	

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			Specific Hearing 3 set out in **8.17 Written Summary of Oral Submissions at the Issue Specific Hearing 3 [REP3-048],** does not influence the landscape proposals as set out on the **Landscape Strategy and Visual Mitigation Strategy [REP4-042].** At 3m the hedgerows will screen the 2m high fences and largely screen the panels particularly in close range views. The hedgerows, with an approximate 1m wide base will be well proportioned at 3m and fit with the existing landscape pattern through	

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			the **Landscape Strategy and Visual Mitigation Strategy [REP4-042]** The Applicant notes the comment. However, the Applicant would highlight **Figure 6.4 Landscape and Visual Mitigation Strategy [REP4-042]** is produced at a scale of 1:1000 showing an overview plan of the Scheme, with then detailed section sheets of parts of the Scheme at a scale of 1:5000 to aid the reader. Prior to habitat creation, soil testing will be completed to confirm the PH and nutrient levels and determining the appropriate seed mix to ensure the maximum beneficial mix for the soils and nutrients status. The Applicant notes this comment. In a few discrete areas within Development Parcel C9 (see **ES Figure 1.3: Development Parcel Plan [APP-131]** for location detail) arboricultural survey data has not been obtained. This related to the area shown on Sheet 25 of the Tree Survey and Constraints Plan in **Appendix 6.6 Arboricultural Impact Assessment [APP-070]** only. The Applicant	

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			confirms that through a desktop review of existing vegetation present in those unsurveyed locations there is no interaction with the development of the Scheme and this vegetation will remain as existing throughout the lifetime of the Scheme. The existing vegetation lies either outside of site perimeter fencing which will be erected ahead of any site activity commencing within these parcels or isolated from Scheme infrastructure components by drainage features, acting as natural root barriers. Therefore, an update to **Appendix 6.6 Arboricultural Impact Assessment [APP-070]** is not considered necessary or proportionate as the overall conclusions of the assessment remain the same and no impacts are anticipated in relation to this vegetation. Albeit the additional vegetation not surveyed has not been considered in the BNG metric calculations; however, the current BNG metric remains robust showing a worst-case scenario of existing vegetation present in the baseline as it accounts for a lesser amount of vegetation present in the existing baseline.	

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			As the land is largely currently in active arable production and subject to continued application of nitrates and phosphates, soil sampling would be best deployed as part of the detailed development of seed mixes and management regimes depending on identified fertility levels prior to implementation as the persistence of these chemicals varies over time.	
8	Cumulative Effects	The assessment of cumulative effects within Chapter 17 has been considered for developments located up to 3 km from the site, but this does not include for the proposed NGET 400 KV substation and associated cabling that will be required for the Tween Bridge scheme to be connected to the grid. As the location of this is not known, it has been scoped out of the cumulative assessment. It is queried whether this approach is acceptable (for all topics) as this is a fundamental element to allow the scheme to proceed. This supports NLCs concerns in respect of the definition of the	The Applicant does not currently have clarity as to where the point of connection to the national electricity transmission system would be located. This process is managed by the National Energy System Operator and National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc. Accordingly, it is not possible for the Applicant to assess the potential cumulative effects of the Scheme in combination with these undefined offsite elements at this time, to provide a meaningful assessment The Applicant does not therefore understand on what basis the Council questions whether this approach is acceptable. See the **Grid**	Not Agreed

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		project and potential 'salami-slicing' referred to above. Within Chapter 17 the assessment of landscape and visual effects is grouped with other environmental matters such as air quality and noise, and the receptor description provided is not specific to individually named receptors with a generalised residual assessment provided.	**Connection Statement [REP1-014]** for more details. The Cumulative Landscape and Visual Effects are considered individually at section 17.4 of **Chapter 17 Cumulative Impacts [**REP6-016~~Document Reference 6.2.17 Revision 4~~**]**.	

Table 3-8: Flood Risk & Drainage Matters agreed, under discussion and not agreed between the parties

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
1.	Isle of Axholme Critical Flood Level	It is noted that the Environment Agency is satisfied with the 1:1000 year plus 100mm design level, and that achieving the CFL would be likely to render the development	The Applicant notes and welcomes NLC's updated position on Critical Flood Level.	Agreed

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		unacceptable from a landscape and visual perspective and potentially unviable for the reasons the Applicant has given. As indicated in NLCs LIR, it remains a matter for the decision-maker whether the residual risk is acceptable in the overall planning balance, however, for the avoidance of doubt, NLC does not object to the use of the 1:1000 year plus 100mm freeboard flood level in this instance.	The Applicant notes that North Lincolnshire LLFA have stated, in regard to the Critical Flood Level that "whether this risk is acceptable in the context of the development proposed in this case is a matter for the decision-maker". The Applicant would direct the Examining Authority to their Written Responses to ExQ1 **[REP2-087]**, notably Q7.0.13 and Q7.0.17. It is noted that North Lincolnshire LLFA "does not object to the use of the 1:1000 year plus 100mm freeboard flood level in this instance". Based on the above, the item is agreed between the parties.	

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
2.	Flood Zone 3b	NLC as LLFA considers that development in Flood Zone 3b should not alter ground levels in a way that reduces flood storage. NLC does not consider that the Applicant has adequately demonstrated that there are clear operational reasons requiring elements of the development to be located within Flood Zone 3b. Whilst it is acknowledged that the wider site is constrained by flood risk, the applicant has not robustly demonstrated through the design or layout that the most vulnerable or highest risk infrastructure, such as BESS facilities, cannot all be located within areas of lower flood risk within the Order Limits, particularly having regard to the extent of overplanting proposed. As such, the justification for siting development within the functional floodplain is not evidenced. In addition, the proposals do not provide adequate confidence that there would be no net loss of floodplain storage or that flows would remain unimpeded. Whilst some elements of the scheme are described as permeable or elevated, infrastructure such as BESS compounds, substations and associated hardstanding would introduce	The submitted **Flood Risk Assessment [REP5-014 and REP5-016]** includes a full assessment of the North Lincolnshire Flood Zone 3b mapping, as defined in the 2026 Doncaster Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. It is noted that this 2026 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment data matches the 2025 River Torne 1 in 30-year Flood Zone 3b extent, as defined by the Environment Agency's model. Both datasets define just 6.3% of the Order Limits to be located within Flood Zone 3b (approximately 116ha of the approximately 1,831ha Order Limits). A plan showing the Scheme in Flood Zone 3b is also be appended to the submitted **Flood Risk Assessment [REP5-014 and REP5-016]** (refer to Appendix A11). The Scheme within the 2025 River Torne 1 in 30-year flood extent (Flood Zone 3b) primarily comprises solar PV panels, with some areas also including a limited number of inverters, limited number of spares containers and small section of a BESS compound (approximately 11% of the overall area). There was also previously a limited section of a 132 kV substation (approximately 1.2% of overall area) located within Flood Zone 3b. The revised site layout to be submitted at	Not Agreed

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		areas of displacement and potential obstruction. This is particularly relevant within Flood Zone 3b, where land is required to store and convey floodwater during more frequent events, and any loss can have significant and wider reaching impacts. NLC also has concerns regarding the residual risk associated with locating higher risk infrastructure within Flood Zone 3b. These areas are expected to flood relatively frequently over the lifetime of the development, and the combination of floodwater interaction with BESS infrastructure presents a credible pathway for pollution. In the event of damage, failure or fire, there is potential for contaminants to enter the wider water environment, which could result in a significant pollution incident. Given that alternative areas within the site appear to be available outside of Flood Zone 3b, the current layout does not represent a risk-based or policy-aligned approach." It remains NLCs position that it objects to the location of infrastructure in FZ3b and has particular concerns about the impact of BESS areas within Flood Zone 3b due to associated	Deadline 4 has however removed the portion of the substation within the extent of Flood Zone 3b. The Flood Risk Assessment **[REP5-014 and REP5-016]** will be updated to reflect the updated site layout at Deadline 5. The Applicant notes that in accordance with Planning Practice Guidance that Essential Infrastructure is acceptable within Flood Zone 3b subject to passing the Exception Test. NPS EN-1 further details in Paragraph 5.8.41 that in relation to energy projects within Flood Zone 3b specifically, that "where essential infrastructure has to be located in such areas, for operational reasons, they should only be consented if the development will not results in a net loss of floodplain storage and will not impede water flows". Paragraph 5.30 of the submitted **Flood Risk Assessment [REP5-014 and REP5-016]** summarises the limited extent of the Scheme proposed within Flood Zone 3b and provides the operational reasons why this infrastructure is required to be located here. Additionally, please see the Applicant's response to WQ7.0.31 in the Applicant's Written Responses to ExQ1 [REP2-087] which provides a full explanation of the operational reasons for	

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		fire and pollution risk and about the potential local flood risk impact of the proposed 300mm gravel base for BESS, inverters and spare containers within Flood Zone 3b.	locating some sections of the Scheme's infrastructure within Flood Zone 3b. Also, please see the written summary of Issue Specific Hearing 3 at agenda item 3b "Flood Risk". The Applicant provided clarity on the justification for locating the 132 kV Substation and BESS within areas of Flood Zone 3b. As noted above, the revised site layout submitted at Deadline 4 has removed the portion of the substation within the extent of Flood Zone 3b. It has not been possible to relocate the BESS within Flood Zone 3b within the layout updates submitted at Deadline 4. The Flood Risk Assessment **[REP5-014 and REP5-016]** has been updated to reflect the updated site layout and operational reasons and environmental constraints as to why the BESS cannot be relocated outside of Flood Zone 3b at Deadline 5. Essentially, the BESS within field A20 located partially within Flood Zone 3b is bound by several other constraints including peat to the east (peat ground conditions are not suitable for siting of a BESS) and wind turbine topple zones. Paragraph 5.31 of the submitted **Flood Risk Assessment [REP5-014 and REP5-016]** also reiterates that "In all instances infrastructure operationally required to be located in Flood	

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			Zone 3b will be raised above the 1 in 1,000 year flood level plus 100mm of freeboard – this is a worst case design scenario, that would ensure the infrastructure also remains operational in any lesser flood event". This raising applies to all on-site infrastructure, including BESS and substations and will be implemented without raising existing ground levels, ensuring negligible impact on flood plain storage of flow routes. The submitted **Flood Risk Assessment [REP5-014 and REP5-016].** provides an assessment of the impact on flood storage within the 2025 River Torne 1 in 100 year plus climate change extent, concluding that the Scheme has a negligible impact on existing flood storage (refer to paragraphs 5.33 to 5.38. Within their **Responses to ExQ1 [REP2-103]**, the Environment Agency further state that "The EA can confirm that the project will not impact on the available flood storage capacity within Flood Zone 3b. The EA holds no view on the operational reasons why the development needs to be located within Flood Zone 3b." With reference to North Lincolnshire's comment about the pollution pathways from BESS, the Applicant refers the LLFA to the Outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy	

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			included in the submitted **Flood Risk Assessment [REP5-014 and REP5-016]** and response to items 4, 5 and 6 within this table.	
3.	Raising of Battery Storage Infrastructure	Notwithstanding NLCs in principle view in respect of the location of infrastructure in FZ3b (see 2, above), the Applicant's intention that the BESS infrastructure is proposed to be raised above the 1 in 1,000 year flood level plus 100mm freeboard is noted.	As detailed in the submitted **ES Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment [REP5-014 and REP-016]**, inverter buildings, battery containers, customer switchgear containers and spares containers will be sat on a 300mm gravel base and be raised at least 0.5m above the ground, ensuring raising above the modelled 1 in 1,000 year flood level plus 100mm freeboard. This raising will not include raising of existing ground levels. The infrastructure will generally be raised using isolated small blocks sat on a 300mm gravel base. With the proposed mitigation measures in place, the BESS infrastructure will be raised above the 1 in 1,000 year flood level plus 100mm freeboard, ensuring the equipment is protected during this extreme flood event. The BESS has therefore been designed to remain safe from flooding over its lifetime. This request from North Lincolnshire LLFA Drainage Team about battery raising is considered to already have been actioned. The	Agreed

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			Applicant confirms this aspect is marked as agreed with North Lincolnshire Council. Commentary on the elements of the Scheme located within Flood Zone 3b are provided within row 2 above within this table. This item is agreed between the parties.	
4.	Above Ground Attenuation	NLC as 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. lGeocellular storage crates are not considered appropriate, as they offer no pollution control benefit and would be extremely difficult to inspect, isolate, or remediate in the event of an incident. There is no clear justification as to why above-ground, sealed SuDS features have been discounted, which would provide far greater control, visibility, and long-term manageability Furthermore, the use of below-ground systems within both BESS and substation areas is not supported, given the need for accessible and maintainable infrastructure in high-risk environments. Above-ground	The submitted **ES Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment [REP5-014 and REP5-016]**, includes Outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy details. Full surface water drainage strategy **[REP5-014 and REP5-016]** details will be provided at the next stage of design. At this point, further details regarding the 100MW BESS areas, Single TX 132 kV Substations, and RWE on-site 400kW Substation, including their exact orientation within the site layout will be available. At this stage, above ground attenuation features will be considered for use, as detailed in the **Flood Risk Assessment** (Table 7.1) **[REP5-014 and REP5-016]**. It will be possible to provide full site-specific surface water drainage design with associated calculations at the next stage of design. The	Not Agreed

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
		attenuation, including lined basins or lagoons, should be prioritised as standard unless robust evidence demonstrates otherwise. This approach would better align with good SuDS practice and provide a more effective response to emergency scenarios."	submitted **Flood Risk Assessment [REP5-014 and REP5-016]**and associated Outline Surface Water Drainage **[REP5-014 and REP5-016]** provides an indicative drainage strategy for each of the pieces of development infrastructure, inclusive of calculations and in accordance with the requirement to restrict to greenfield runoff rates. In terms of pollution control, the Outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy that utilises below ground storage has been designed to fully mitigate the pollution potential associated with the BESS during normal operating conditions and with any possible BESS fire (see item 6 within this Table 3-8). As detailed within Paragraph 7.45 of the submitted **Flood Risk Assessment [REP5-014 and REP5-016],** in normal operating conditions when there is not a BESS fire, "Treatment of surface water from the BESS and Substation areas is to be provided by the gravel subbase through which surface water is to percolate. Downstream defenders are proposed where necessary in order to treat surface water generated from the impermeable access roadways prior to being attenuated within the below ground network". Proposed downstream	

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			defenders are labelled on the Outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy Plans included in Appendix L of submitted **Flood Risk Assessment [REP5-014 and REP5-016]**. The Outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy has also been designed to manage runoff from the BESS during a fire event to ensure pollution potential is mitigated. The strategy to manage potentially contaminated BESS fire water is summaries within paragraphs 7.23 to 7.29 and Appendix L of the submitted **Flood Risk Assessment [REP5-014 and REP5-016]**. All potentially contaminated fire water will be contained within the BESS surface water drainage systems and not be allowed to enter the local water environment. As stated in the submitted **Flood Risk Assessment [REP5-014 and REP5-016]** (paragraphs 7.26-7.28), the details of the below ground storage are subject to detailed design which will ensure the design is suitable to manage potentially contaminated fire water. The Applicant notes within these paragraphs that there are various suitable design options for both the below ground storage and impermeable BESS liner that are suitable to contain potentially	

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			contaminated fire water and the associated potential heat and contaminants. With regard, to North Lincolnshire's concerns about the inspection and long-term manageability of below ground storage proposed, the Applicant directs North Lincolnshire LLFA to the provided SuDS Operation and Maintenance Manual included in Appendix H of the submitted **Flood Risk Assessment [REP5-014 and REP5-016].** The Applicant met with NLC LLFA to discuss this matter on 11 June where NLC LLFA's position remained that attenuation should be provided above ground. As such, this item is considered Not Agreed between the parties.	
5.	Surface Water Drainage Details	NLC as LLFA agrees that it is acceptable to provide full site-specific surface water drainage calculations at detailed design stage.	It will be possible to provide full site-specific surface water drainage design with associated calculations at the next stage of design. During a meeting with North Lincolnshire Lead Local Flood Authority on the 11th June 2026, North Lincolnshire confirmed this approach is acceptable.	Agreed

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			Based on the response received from the NLC LLFA, this item is agreed between the parties.	
6.	Containment of BESS Fire Water	The LLFA require the BESS surface water drainage strategy to include provisions for containing potentially contaminated fire water, with the required containment volume to been determined in consultation with the Fire Service. NLC as LLFA agrees that the proposals to contain potentially contaminated fire water included within the Outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy **[Document Reference 6.3.10.1 Revision 3]** are accepted.	The Outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy **[REP5-014 and REP5-016]** for the BESS includes provisions for containing potentially contaminated fire water, in accordance with National Fire Chiefs Council Guidance (NFCC) available at the time of writing. Latest NFCC guidance will be considered at the next stage of design. This item is agreed between the parties.	Agreed
7.	Fence Crossings	NLC s LLFA notes the details provided by the Applicant to ensure fencing would not be likely to result in the build-up of debris.	The submitted **Flood Risk Assessment [REP5-014 and REP5-016]** has an appended High Level SuDS Operation and Maintenance Manual **[REP5-014 and REP5-016]** that provides maintenance details for the fence crossings proposed on site to ensure the fencing does not experience a build-up of debris.	Agreed

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
			This item is agreed between the parties.	
8	Raising of Tracks	NLC as LLFA notes that there are no locations where access tracks are expected to be raised located within Flood Zone 3b and has no objections in this respect.	The submitted **Flood Risk Assessment [REP5-014 and REP5-016]** provides full details as to where small areas of access tracks may require raising. There are just two areas within the 2025 River Torne 1 in 100 year plus climate change extent where access tracks are expected to be raised along a length of approximately 5 to 10m. The Applicant confirms that no raising of access tracks is being proposed within the 1 in 30 year flood extent (i.e. Flood Zone 3b). This item is agreed between the parties.	Agreed

Table 3-8: Environmental Protection Matters agreed, under discussion and not agreed between the parties

Ref	Topic	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position	Status
1	Assessment approach, scope and Methodology	Construction and decommissioning noise and vibration impacts have been considered in line with BS 5228 and other relevant	The scope and methodology of the assessment was detailed in the **ES Appendix 1.2 EIA Scoping Report [APP-057]**.	Agreed

		guidance including the impact of construction traffic on local roads. Operational noise levels from the Scheme have been predicted to the nearest noise sensitive receptor (NSR) locations in accordance with appropriate guidance. The impact of the predicted noise levels have been assessed against limits derived from a baseline noise survey, with the significance of the effects derived in accordance with appropriate standards and guidance.		
2	Baseline Noise Survey Methodology	The location and duration of the baseline noise monitoring survey was discussed and agreed with NLC ahead of the survey.	The Applicant has undertaken the baseline noise survey in the manner agreed with NLC. This is confirmed in the **Baseline Noise Survey Report [APP-114].**	Agreed
3	Noise Sensitive Assessment Locations	NLC provided information that a number of identified Heritage receptors were residential. NLC highlighted that residential receptors along the cable route corridor had not been determined.	Heritage locations were included in the **ES Volume 1, Chapter 13 Noise and Vibration [**REP6-014~~**Document Reference 6.2.13 Revision 4**~~**]** and assessed as residential. Further assessment to receptors in the vicinity of the export cable route could be undertaken once the route is determined.	Agreed
4	Construction Noise/Vibration	Noise from construction will be controlled through British Standard (BS) 5228:2009+A1	Adherence to the recommendations in the **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [**REP6-032~~**Document**	Agreed

		'Code of Practice for Noise and Vibration Control on Construction and Open Sites'. Construction working hours are detailed in the Outline CEMP **[APP-176]**. Limited works would be undertaken outside of these hours though some activities may need to be undertaken outside of agreed daytime hours. In this event permission will be sought through the DCO by setting out the construction hours and any exceptional mechanisms. NLC agrees with the approach taken in the Outline CEMP to the construction of the panels, with mitigation required if impact piling is required. Given the separation distances between the Order Limits and the nearest receptors, groundborne vibration impacts are considered unlikely to be significant.	~~Reference 7.5 Revision 6~~**]** would ensure that the guidance of BS 5228:2009 +A1 is followed.	
5	Construction Traffic	The ES demonstrates that, across all links, the relative change in road traffic noise during the construction phase is less than 1dB and would therefore be acceptable.	The traffic noise calculations presented in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 13 Noise and Vibration [**REP6-014~~Document Reference 6.2.13 Revision 4~~**]** demonstrate that the relative change across all links is less than 1dB. No further action required.	Agreed

6	Construction Compounds	The compounds are not considered a significant source of noise and would be removed once the construction phase is completed. Noise impacts arising from the construction compounds has not been considered in any further detail in this assessment.	Noise from the construction compounds is not considered to be significant and has not been considered in any detailed in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 13 Noise and Vibration [**REP6-014D~~ocument Reference 6.2.13 Revision 4~~**].** No further action required.	Agreed
7	Operational Noise	NLC notes that the operational assessments for both the daytime and night-time operational scenarios presented in ES Volume 1, Chapter 13 Noise and Vibration [Document Reference 6.2.13 Revision 3] indicate that noise levels would not exceed the background sound level at any of the receptors considered. This would be controlled by draft DCO Requirement 17. In respect of daytime operational noise impacts on residential receptors, the ES indicates that the proposals would have a low noise impact in accordance with BS4142. This effect level would result in a 'Negligible' impact significance. In respect of night-time operational noise impacts (i.e. from the BESS) on residential receptors, this would be of a very low level and is below the night-time background sound level at all receptor locations.. This	The wording of BS4142 states 'A difference of around +5dB is *likely* to be an indication of an adverse impact, depending on the context.' This is not taken as being a definitive point at which adverse impacts would occur, particularly when the context is taken into consideration. Notwithstanding this, the operational assessments for both the daytime and night-time operational scenarios presented in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 13 Noise and Vibration [**REP6-014~~Document Reference 6.2.13 Revision 4~~**]** indicate that noise levels would not exceed the background sound level at any of the receptors considered. No further action required.	Agreed

		would result in a 'Negligible' impact significance.		
8	Operational Vibration	It is agreed that the plant and equipment used are unlikely to generate any significant levels of groundborne vibration and, given the distances between the sources and receptors, is unlikely to result in any adverse vibration effects.	The plant items associated with the operational phase would not generate any significant levels of groundborne vibration.	Agreed
9	Decommissioning	It is agreed that the noise and vibration effects during the decommissioning phase are expected to be similar, if not lower than those in the construction phase, and therefore not significant. Embedded mitigation measures similar to those proposed for the construction phase are recommended for the decommissioning phase, subject to the detailed design. These would be secured through the Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan.	Appropriate mitigation measures would be included and controlled by the Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan once the methods of decommissioning have been confirmed.	Agreed
10	Dust emissions (construction)	The dust emission magnitude for earthworks, construction and trackout is deemed to be large and the overall impact of dust soiling as high. IQAM Guidance that describes	The Applicant confirms that measures set out in the IAQM guidance have been used to develop the measures set out in the **Outline Construction Environmental Management**	Agreed

		measures that should be employed to reduce impacts as described in the Outline CEMP.	**Plan** [REP6-032~~Document Reference 7.1 Revision 6~~].	
11	Contaminated Land	It is agreed that an intrusive contamination investigation and risk report for unexploded ordnance be undertaken should consent be granted.	It is proposed to complete a program of suitably targeted ground investigation works across the site to better quantify the nature of risks posed to human health, controlled waters, and other sensitive environmental receptors. Such Phase 2 investigations are envisaged to be secured via a pre-commencement condition on the development. A detailed design proposal and specification for Phase 2 Ground Investigations can be provided in advance of works commencing to allow the regulatory authorities the opportunity to review and provide comments, ensuring a consensus on the approach for these works is achieved.	
12	Air Quality	The Outline CEMP makes reference to "Avoid bonfires or burning of waste material." As it is an offence to burn controlled waste without a relevant waste exemption under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, a 'no burning of waste policy' should be employed on site.	The Applicant updated the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [Document Reference 7.1 Revision 2] to confirm there will be a "no burning" policy on site. This commitment will be secure through Requirement 14 of the **draft DCO [Document Reference 3.1 Revision** 10~~9~~**].**	Agreed

		The Outline CEMP makes reference to construction working hours as being: 07:00 hours to 19:00 hours Mondays to Saturdays; and 09:00 hours to 13:00 hours on Sundays. NLC typically recommend the following working hours for planning applications within North Lincolnshire: 08:00 to 18:00 Monday to Friday 08:00 to 13:00 Saturday ; and No times on a Sunday.		

Table 3-9: Outstanding points of different on the Draft Development Consent Order

Ref	Provision within the Draft DCO	North Lincolnshire Council Position	Applicant Position
1	Draft DCO	Discussions regarding the Protective Provisions for NLC are continuing between the Applicant and representatives of the local highway authority. It is anticipated that agreed wording will be submitted by Deadline 8.	~~The Applicant understands that all matters relating to the draft DCO are agreed with the exception of the protective provisions for highway authorities in Schedule 14, Part 10 of the **draft DCO [Document Reference 3.1 Revision 9]**. The Applicant was advised on 10 September 2026 that NLC expects the protective provisions to apply to it in its capacity as the local highway authority for highways within its area. The Applicant has~~

			~~subsequently made contact with NLC to seek to engage on the protective provisions as a matter of urgency, noting the late stage in the examination. Furthermore, at Deadline 6, the Applicant updated the protective provisions in Schedule 14, Part 10 so that the provisions apply for the benefit of both NLC and CDC in their respective capacities as local highway authorities within their areas.~~ The Applicant's legal advisors have ~~issued its latest comments on the protective provisions for highway authorities with NLC on 30 September and is awaiting a response ahead of Deadline 8 in the hope that further points may be able to be agreed between the parties~~NLC, CDC and the Applicant are continuing discussions on protective provisions and it is hoped that an agreed position will be reached and reflected in the draft DCO to be submitted at Deadline 8.

4 Signatures

This Statement of Common Ground is agreed upon:

On behalf of North Lincolnshire Council:

Name:

Signature:

Date:

On behalf of the Applicant:

Name:

Signature:

Date: