



BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK

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Glossary

Abbreviation	Description
AC	Alternating Current
AIS	Air Insulated Switchgear
Applicant	Beacon Fen Energy Park Ltd
Application	Application for a Development Consent Order, submitted to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008.
BESS	Battery energy storage system
CCTV	Closed circuit television
DC	Direct Current
DCO	Development Consent Order
EA	Environment Agency
EP	Environmental Permitting
GIS	Gas Insulated Switchgear
Ha	Hectares
HV	High Voltage
IDB	Internal Drainage Board
Km	Kilometre
LCC	Lincolnshire County Council
Low Carbon	Low Carbon Ltd
MW	Megawatts
NGR	National Grid Reference
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NKDC	North Kesteven District Council
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
Order	The Beacon Fen Energy Park Order
PCU	Power Conversion Unit
PINS	Planning Inspectorate
Proposed Development	The entire development to be constructed and operated within the Site, as set out in Schedule 1 of the draft DCO Order

PRoW	Public Right of Way
PV	Photovoltaic
Site	The area within the Order Limits located approximately 6.5 km northeast of the town of Sleaford and 2.5 km north of Heckington, in which the Proposed Development will be constructed, operated/maintained and decommissioned. The entire draft Order Limits or red line boundary located approximately 6.5 km northeast of the village of Sleaford and 2.5 km north of Heckington
Solar Array Area	Land sited approximately 6.5 km northeast of the town of Sleaford and 2.5 km north of the village of Heckington forming a solar array area comprising solar PV panels and BESS facilities of approximately 529 hectares.
SoS	Secretary of State
2008 Act	The Planning Act 2008

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Table of Contents

1.	Introduction.....	2
1.1	Overview	2
1.2	The Applicant.....	2
1.3	The Site	2
	Solar Array Area	3
	Cable Route Corridor	3
	Bespoke Access Corridor	3
1.4	The Proposed Development.....	3
	Solar Array Area	4
	Cable Route	5
	Bespoke Access Road.....	5
	In any or all of the above areas	6
	Bicker Fen Substation Works	6
	Draft Development Consent Order	6
1.5	The Development Consent Order Process.....	7
1.6	The Purpose and Structure of this Document.....	7
1.7	Approach to Consenting Requirements.....	8
1.8	Consents Incorporated into the Draft DCO.....	8
1.9	Other Consents and Licences	9
1.10	Agreements.....	9
2.	Other Consents and Licences	10
2.2	Compliance with Guidance.....	16
2.3	Watercourse activities	16

Tables

Table 2.1: Other Consents and Licences	11
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Executive Summary

1. Beacon Fen Energy Park Ltd (the 'Applicant') is seeking development consent for the construction, operation (and maintenance), and decommissioning of a solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generating facility and battery energy storage system ('BESS'), with associated export and connection infrastructure to the National Grid Bicker Fen Substation ('the Proposed Development').
2. The Proposed Development would have a generation capacity of approximately 400 megawatts (MW) of electricity, with a 600MW BESS. The Proposed Development will therefore make a significant contribution toward the UK reaching its Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions target by 2050.
3. This document provides information on the other consents and licences that are, or may be, required under other legislation for the construction and operation of the Proposed Development, outside of the **Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1)**.
4. The document will be updated by the Applicant, as required, during the examination of the Application.

1. Introduction

1.1 Overview

- 1.1.1 This 'Other Consents and Licences document' (**Document Ref: 5.4**) has been prepared on behalf of Beacon Fen Energy Park Ltd (the 'Applicant') in support of an application for a Development Consent Order ('DCO'), that has been submitted to the Secretary of State (the 'SoS') for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, under Section 37 of 'The Planning Act 2008' (the '2008 Act').
- 1.1.2 The Applicant is seeking development consent for a ground-mounted solar photovoltaic ('PV') electricity generation and battery energy storage system ('BESS'), together with associated grid connection infrastructure (the 'Proposed Development'), at an area sited approximately 6.5 km northeast of the village of Sleaford and 2.5 km north of Heckington (the 'Site'). The Proposed Development would have a generation capacity of approximately 400 megawatts ('MW') of electricity, with a 600MW BESS.
- 1.1.3 The Site corresponds to the entire Order Limits and represents the entire land area required for construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. It is made up of the Solar Array Area (comprising the solar PV and BESS infrastructure) the Cable Route Corridor (comprising an electrical connection from the Solar Array Area to the Bicker Fen National Grid 400kV substation) and the Bespoke Access Corridor (for a bespoke access from the A17 to the Solar Array Area). This is termed the Bespoke Access Road.
- 1.1.4 The Proposed Development falls within the definition of a 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project' ('NSIP') under Section 14(1)(a) and Sections 15(1) and (2) of the 2008 Act, as it is an onshore generating station in England that would have a generating capacity greater than 50MW electrical output. As such, a DCO application is required to authorise the Proposed Development in accordance with Section 31 of the 2008 Act.
- 1.1.5 The DCO, if made by the SoS, would be known as 'The Beacon Fen Energy Park Order' (the 'Order').

1.2 The Applicant

- 1.2.1 The Applicant is a subsidiary of Low Carbon Ltd ('Low Carbon'). Low Carbon is a privately-owned global renewable energy company.

1.3 The Site

- 1.3.1 The Site represents the entire Order Limits and is located east of Sleaford in Lincolnshire. It extends to approximately 758ha and comprises of three functional areas: the Solar Array Area, the Cable Route Corridor and the Bespoke Access Corridor.

Solar Array Area

- 1.3.2 The Solar Array Area is approximately 529ha in size and located to the north of Heckington, centred at the National Grid Reference ('NGR') 514682 347825. The Solar Array Area is located wholly within the administrative areas of North Kesteven District Council ('NKDC') and Lincolnshire County Council ('LCC').
- 1.3.3 The Solar Array Area predominantly comprises agricultural land in arable use, divided by ditches with sparse tree cover that is limited to small woodland blocks and scattered hedgerow trees. A small reservoir is located in the south-west of the Solar Array Area.
- 1.3.4 The Solar Array Area is bound to the south, west and north by local highways, and bound to the east by the Car Dyke. Public Right of Way ('PRoW') Ewer/12/1 extends across the north-eastern corner of the Site, close to the northern Site boundary. There are no other PRoW within the Solar Array Area.
- 1.3.5 Villages in proximity to the Solar Array Area include:
- Howell immediately to the south-west, with Heckington c. 1.7km beyond;
 - Ewerby Thorpe immediately to the west, with Ewerby c. 1.1km beyond;
 - Anwick c. 2.7km to the north-west;
 - North Kyme c. 2.4km to the north; and
 - South Kyme c. 1.5km to the east.

Cable Route Corridor

- 1.3.6 The Cable Route Corridor is approximately 183 ha in size and extends c. 13km south-east from the Solar Array Area to Bicker Fen substation, at NGR TF 19684 38599. The Cable Route Corridor is located wholly within the administrative area of LCC. The majority of the Cable Route Corridor is located within the administrative area of NKDC, however the southern section is located within BBC's administrative area.
- 1.3.7 Land use within the Cable Route Corridor is predominantly agricultural. A number of local highways cross the Cable Route Corridor, and the A17 crosses east to west within the north-west section of the Corridor. The railway linking Heckington west to Sleaford and east to Swineshead intersects the mid-section of the Corridor. There are a number of PRoW within the Cable Route Corridor, including one alongside the South Forty Foot Drain which also crosses the Cable Route Corridor.

Bespoke Access Corridor

- 1.3.8 The Bespoke Access Corridor is approximately 45.4 ha in size comprising predominantly agricultural land and extends approximately 3km south-west from the Solar Array Area to the A17. The Bespoke Access Corridor is located wholly within the administrative areas of LCC and NKDC.
- 1.3.9 Asgarby Road and Heckington Road cross the Bespoke Access Corridor and there are four PRoW located within the route.

1.4 The Proposed Development

- 1.4.1 The main components of the Proposed Development are summarised below and defined in Schedule 1 of the **Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1)**.

Solar Array Area

- 1.4.2 The Solar Array Area consists of solar PV panels and modular ground-mounting structures. The height of the panels considered will be up to 3.9m above ground level in fields to the east and 3.5m above ground level in fields to the west, south and an isolated field in the north. The proposal is for a fixed (i.e., static) panel orientation, facing due south which is commonly seen on existing UK solar farms, and angled 10° to 45° from horizontal. Supporting infrastructure includes inverters, combiner boxes, transformers and switchgear converting the Direct Current ('DC') to Alternating Current ('AC') and stepping up the voltage so it can be exported to the National Grid. An inverter, transformer and switchgear comprised together is termed a Power Conversion Unit ('PCU').
- 1.4.3 A 600MW BESS adjacent to the On-Site Substation is included in the Proposed Development within the Solar Array Area. This will allow the electricity generated by the panels to be stored on site at times when grid demand is low, then exported at times of higher demand. The BESS containers and switch rooms are anticipated to be up to 8m x 3m in size, with a height of up to 4.5m.
- 1.4.4 Low voltage onsite electrical cabling is required to connect the PV modules and BESS to the inverters, and the inverters to the onsite transformers. Higher voltage cables are required between the transformers and the switchgear and from switchgear to the substation.
- 1.4.5 A new onsite substation is proposed and would have up to four High Voltage (HV) transformers with a maximum footprint of no more than 40,000m² (e.g. 250m x 160m (or 200m x 200m)) and a height of up to 13m). The substation will include a 33kV switchroom, control and storage buildings that would house office space and welfare facilities, as well as operational monitoring and maintenance equipment and equipment for reactive compensation and/or harmonic filtering. The design control building and office/welfare will be defined as part of detailed design.
- 1.4.6 The perimeter fence would likely comprise a standard post and wire, deer fencing up to 3m tall around the Solar Array Area. Security fencing, up to 3.4m will be installed around the Onsite Substation compound and, possibly, other infrastructure / compounds. Acoustic fencing, up to 4m tall, may be required around the BESS, subject to the detailed design and layout.
- 1.4.7 Mounted internal-facing closed circuit television (CCTV) systems will likely be deployed around the perimeter of the operational areas of the Site; anticipated to be 5m high. The CCTV cameras would have fixed view sheds and will be aligned to face along the fence. Motion detection security lighting will be used around the electrical infrastructure and potentially at other pieces of critical infrastructure.
- 1.4.8 During construction, temporary construction compounds will be required, as well as temporary roadways, to enable access to all the land within the Site. Localised earthworks to form suitable development platform for the substation and BESS will also be required.

- 1.4.9 There will be one primary access on the western edge of the Solar Array Area and a secondary access to the north, both of which will allow large vehicles (including first responder access to the BESS and on site substation). Tertiary operational access primarily for smaller vehicles is provided to the north west and south.
- 1.4.10 PRoW Ewer/12/1 is being extended in a south and westerly direction as a permissive path terminating in the vicinity of Ewerby Thorpe, and will be in place for the operational duration of the Proposed Development. The exact route of the permissive path will be determined via the discharge of requirement in the DCO, but it is anticipated to run in a south easterly direction along Car Dyke and then heading south west on the north side of Hodge Dikey. An undetermined number of footbridges (unlikely to be more than 8 in number) to cross existing watercourses will be required and will require the usual water course crossing agreements to be sought with the relevant Internal Drainage Board in parallel with the discharge of the requirement.

Cable Route

- 1.4.11 The Cable Route running between the Solar Array Area and the Bicker Fen 400kV Substation will be constructed through trenched methods and, where required, trenchless methods.
- 1.4.12 During construction, temporary construction compounds will be required approximately every 1-3 km, as well as temporary roadways, to enable access to all land. It is anticipated that there will be 6 main compounds that are distributed at approximately equal distances along the cable route to facilitate proper construction management. Smaller temporary compounds may also be located anywhere within the final working area.
- 1.4.13 Vegetation and hedgerows lost during the construction of the Cable Route will be re-instated where possible in relation to easement restrictions.

Bespoke Access Road

- 1.4.14 A dedicated access from the A17 to the Solar Array Area is required. The Bespoke Access Road will be constructed in advance of material construction commencing on the Solar Array Area and will facilitate construction in that area.. During construction, temporary construction compounds will be required which may be anywhere along the route.
- 1.4.15 The Bespoke Access Road will likely be the last component of the Proposed Development to be removed as it will be used to facilitate decommissioning of the Solar Array Area. Whilst it is assumed for this assessment that the road will be removed, it is possible that engagement with the landowners at that time will establish a preference for it to be retained. Optionality has been deliberately retained in the Application to facilitate such a scenario.
- 1.4.16 There will be no permanent lighting installed and access will be controlled through gates at all stages.
- 1.4.17 Vegetation and hedgerows lost during the construction of the Bespoke Access Road will be re-instated.

In any or all of the above areas

- 1.4.18 Along with the above, in any or all of the three areas, the Proposed Development will include the following (subject to certain requirements):
- 1.4.19 Access tracks of between 3.5m to 9m width for construction access and routine maintenance when operational. Access tracks located adjacent to drainage ditches will incorporate the necessary ecological; Environment Agency (EA) and/or Internal Drainage Board (IDB) buffers where required;
- Boundary treatments, means of enclosure, security measures, and paths;
 - Landscaping and reinstatement planting and Biodiversity Net Gain related habitats;
 - Flood resilience measures including swales and storm water attenuation, and works to existing irrigation systems;
 - Utility diversions;
 - Bunds, embankments, protective works to buildings, maintenance and improvement of streets; and
 - Construction related (and decommissioning related) work sites.

Bicker Fen Substation Works

- 1.4.20 The extension of Bicker Fen substation will include a new generation bay, a new generation bay control room and a perimeter access road. A new generation bay will also include electrical equipment required for connection to the transmission system.
- 1.4.21 National Grid have requested that there be optionality within the design of the extension to Bicker Fen substation. The two design options that have been assessed in the **Environmental Statement** and included in the Application are: Air Insulated Switchgear ('AIS') and Gas Insulated Switchgear ('GIS').

Draft Development Consent Order

- 1.4.22 The Proposed Development is described in detail in Schedule 1 of the Draft **DCO (Document Ref: 3.1)**, and the areas in which each component (the 'Work Numbers') may be constructed are shown on the **Works Plans (Document Ref: 2.1)**.
- 1.4.23 The Proposed Development is split into 10 Work Numbers as follows:
- Work No. 1 – a ground mounted solar photovoltaic generating station with a gross electrical output capacity of over 50 megawatts;
 - Work No. 2 — a battery energy storage system compound and associated works (including fire safety infrastructure);
 - Work No. 3 — development of an onsite substation and associated works;
 - Work No. 4 — works in connection with electrical cabling and associated compounds;
 - Work No. 5 — works to the existing Bicker Fen National Grid substation to create a new generation bay and substation extension;
 - Work No. 6 — various ancillary works relating to the Solar Array Area, including cabling, fencing, security features, access tracks, watercourse crossings and landscaping and biodiversity mitigation measures;
 - Work No. 7 — construction and decommissioning compounds in connection with Work Nos. 1, 2 and 3;

- Work No. 8 — works to create the Bespoke Access Road;
- Work No. 9 — areas of habitat management; and
- Work No. 10 — works to facilitate access to Work Nos. 1 to 9.

1.4.24 In addition, Schedule 1 to the Draft DCO lists other associated works (referred to as "further associated development") which may be carried out in connection with the construction of Work Nos. 1 to 10.

1.5 The Development Consent Order Process

- 1.5.1 As a NSIP, the Applicant is required to seek a DCO to obtain planning and other powers to construct, operate and maintain the generating station, in accordance with Section 31 of the 2008 Act. Sections 42 to 48 of the 2008 Act govern the consultation that an applicant must carry out before submitting an application for a DCO and Section 37 of the 2008 Act governs the form, content and accompanying documents that are required as part of a DCO application.
- 1.5.2 An application for development consent for the Proposed Development will then be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate ('PINS') acting on behalf of the SoS. Subject to the Application being accepted (which will be decided within a period of 28 days following receipt of the Application), PINS will then examine it and make a recommendation to the SoS, who will then decide whether or not to make (grant) the DCO.

1.6 The Purpose and Structure of this Document

- 1.6.1 The purpose of this document is to provide information on the other consents and licences that are, or may be, required under other legislation for the construction and operation of the Proposed Development, outside of the **Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1)**. The Applicant considers that there should be no reason for the SoS to believe that any of the listed consents and/or licences will not be granted, and on that basis there are no impediments to the delivery of the Proposed Development.
- 1.6.2 Section 37 of the 2008 Act governs the content of an application for a DCO, including the requirements for the necessary accompanying documents specified in the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 ('APFP Regulations').
- 1.6.3 Regulations 5 and 6 of the APFP Regulations provide the statutory requirements for what must accompany a development consent application. Guidance issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government: 'Planning Act 2008: Application Form Guidance' (June 2013) (paragraphs 45 and 46) requires that:
- 1.6.4 *"Where the proposed development will also require other consents, licences, permits, etc, to enable it to be constructed and/or operational, and for which the Secretary of State is not the authorising body under the Planning Act, then the applicant must list and briefly describe these in Box 24. Reference should be made to any that have already been applied for, and a copy enclosed of any that the applicant may already be in the possession of."*

- 1.6.5 *The applicant should also, either in Box 24 or elsewhere in one of their application documents, set out whether there are, in principle, any reasons why such consents etc. might not be granted. In providing this information the applicant should reference responses received from the relevant authorising bodies regarding the likelihood of such consents etc. being granted."*
- 1.6.6 This document lists those consents, licences and approvals which the Applicant currently anticipates could be required. Further consents may be required as the project develops due to unforeseen circumstances and the Applicant will keep the Examining Authority up to date with any such developments.

1.7 Approach to Consenting Requirements

- 1.7.1 Section 33 of the 2008 Act makes it clear that there is no requirement for certain principal conventional consents to be obtained where a DCO is required to authorise a project (as is the case for the Proposed Development). The intention of the 2008 Act is to encourage as many consents to be 'wrapped up' in a DCO as possible creating a 'one-stop shop' approach for construction related consents.
- 1.7.2 Part 7 of the 2008 Act, in particular section 120, makes it clear that the following can be included within a DCO:
- Ancillary matters (including those listed in Part 1 of Schedule 5 to the 2008 Act);
 - The application, modification or exclusion of statutory provisions for which the provision may be made in the DCO;
 - Amendment, repeal or revocation of any local legislation, where thought necessary or expedient by the Secretary of State in consequence of or in connection with the DCO; and
 - Incidental, consequential, supplementary, transitional or transitory provisions and savings.
- 1.7.3 Section 150 of the 2008 Act states that a requirement to obtain certain prescribed consents, or authorisations, under the Infrastructure Planning (Interested Parties and Miscellaneous Prescribed Provisions) Regulations 2015 (the '2015 Regulations') can be removed by the DCO with the consenting body's agreement. The Applicant is not including any consents that are listed in the 2015 Regulations¹ within the DCO. Instead, the Applicant proposes to engage with the relevant consenting bodies both during the consenting process and post-DCO consent, to secure the granting of all required permits and consents at the detailed design stage for the Proposed Development and prior to construction of any relevant works.

1.8 Consents Incorporated into the Draft DCO

- 1.8.1 The principal consent for the Proposed Development is the **Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1)**. The DCO process enables land acquisition, along with consents and powers, to be dealt with at the same time. The **Explanatory Memorandum (Document Ref: 3.2)** and **Statement of Reasons (Document Ref: 4.1)** provide further explanation and case making as to the powers

¹ See Part 1 of Schedule 2 to the 2015 Regulations.

included within the **Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1)**. However, in some cases the 2008 Act does not allow for a certain consent to be included. Similarly, a consenting body can choose to not allow the inclusion of a certain consent within the DCO, or it may be inappropriate for an applicant to provide the level of information necessary at application stage for a consent to be included.

1.8.2 The following consents are included within the **Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1)**:

- Authorisation of all permanent and temporary works for the Proposed Development which are described as the "authorised development" in Schedule 1 (equivalent to planning permission). Article 3 is the principal power in this respect;
- Compulsory acquisition of land and of rights over land, and the temporary possession of land, along with ancillary articles regulating the exercise of these powers. Articles 22 to 36 provide these powers;
- Consent to carry out street works. Article 11 provides this power;
- Powers to alter the layout of streets, provided by Article 12, and for the construction and maintenance of altered streets, provided by Article 13;
- Powers to use private roads, provided by Article 14;
- Powers to temporarily prohibit or restrict the use of streets and public rights of way, provided by Article 15;
- Traffic regulation measures required during construction that are equivalent to Traffic Regulation Orders made under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. Article 18 provides this power; and
- The discharge of water into any watercourse or public sewer or drain, provided by Article 19.

1.9 Other Consents and Licences

1.9.1 A summary of the other consents and licences likely to be required is presented in **Table 2.1** of **Section 2** of this document. Table 2.1 lists the type of consent or licence required, the relevant legislation, relevant consenting body, part of the development it relates to, when the consent or licences needs to be obtained, actions to be undertaken and the status of the relevant application (e.g. whether the consent or licence has been granted or the anticipated application submission date).

1.9.2 This list of consents is not exhaustive but is based on the Applicant's understanding of the Proposed Development. Where circumstances change, further consents may be required which will be discussed with the applicable statutory bodies. The Examining Authority will also be informed if this is the case.

1.10 Agreements

1.10.1 Agreements with third parties may be required in parallel to the DCO process and may take a variety of forms.

1.10.2 The Applicant is in the process of preparing a number of Statements of Common Ground ('SoCG') with third parties to identify the matters on which we are in agreement, in order to narrow the focus for examining the Application concerned and to make the examination process more efficient. Certain early SoCGs, in draft form and where requested by the relevant body, accompanied

the DCO application and will be submitted throughout the course of the Examination.

2. Other Consents and Licences

- 2.1.1 The table below lists the type of consent/licence required, the relevant consenting body, any agreement that has been reached with that body, actions to be undertaken and the status of the relevant application (e.g. whether the consent/licence has been granted or the anticipated submission date).

Table 2.1: Other Consents and Licences

No.	Consent Type	Legislation	Relevant Body	Requirement for Consent/Licence	Application Status/ Action Required	Anticipated Submission Date/Timescales
1	Grid Connection Agreement (includes multiple agreements, see Electricity Grid Connection Statement (Document Ref: 7.1))	Section 6, Electricity Act 1989 and Connections and Use of Systems Code (CUSC)	Office of Gas and Electricity Markets, National Grid, National Electricity System Operator	Required prior to operation (connection to the National Electricity Transmission System and generation of electricity) or prior to construction if modification is required.	Various stages (OFGEM licence held, no. 13347752)	Grid connection offer accepted March 2022 Generation licence issued 23 October 2023 See Electricity Grid Connection Statement (Document Ref: 7.1) for further information and other agreements required.
2	Notification of Construction Works	The Construction (Design and Management) CDM Regulations 2015	Health and Safety Executive ('HSE')	Required prior to construction	Not yet required.	HSE will be notified prior to commencing construction if using the HSE F10 Form.
3	Construction Noise Consent	Section 61 of The Control of Pollution Act 1974	LPA – NKDC or BBC as required	May be required prior to construction	No action required at present	To be applied for prior to the start of construction, or prior to specific construction activities, if required
4	Permit for Transport of Abnormal Loads (if required)	The Road Vehicles (Authorisation of Special Types)	Vehicle Certification Agency ('VCA'), Department	Potentially required prior to construction for the usage on local highways (including the	Not yet required. Need will be determined by the EPC	A permit(s) would be sought once the number and type of Abnormal Loads and AILs has been established following appointment of the contractor

		(General) Order 2003 or with authorisation from the SoS under the Road Traffic Act 1988	nt for Transport, Highways England and local highway authority or police and bridge owners (if any) as appropriate	strategic road network) of vehicles or vehicular loads that fall outside standard dimensions/ weights. May also be required prior to major outages during operation of the Proposed Development	contractor. Details for the management of Abnormal Loads are secured in the 'Construction traffic management plan' requirement in Schedule 2 of the draft DCO	
5	Permit Scheme	Lincolnshire Permit Scheme for Road Works and Street Works Order 2016	Local authority ('LCC')	Required in respect of works to streets under Schedule 3 of the Draft DCO (Application Document Ref: 3.1) , prior to carrying out of any highway works within Lincolnshire	Not yet required	To be applied for prior to the start of construction, or prior to specific construction activities, if required
6	Building Regulations Approval	Building Regulations 2010 (as amended)	Local authority ('LCC')	Required prior to operation for buildings and structures forming part of the Proposed Development Including Risk Reduction Strategy	Not yet required	Would be sought prior to and during the construction phase, if required

				(Regulation 38) by the responsible person for the scheme as stated in the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005		
7	Health and Safety related consents	Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and subsidiary legislation	HSE	Required prior to commencement of construction	Not yet required	Would be sought by the contractor before construction commences as appropriate
8	Water Abstraction or Impoundment Licence	Water Resources Act 1991 (as amended), Environment Act 1995, Water Resources (Abstraction & Impounding) Regulations 2006	Environment Agency ('EA')	Required prior to commencing the abstraction or impoundment of groundwater pumping/ dewatering as appropriate.	Not yet required	Application would be submitted prior to construction if required by the contractor for dewatering (pumping water from excavations) and or if required, to be applied for prior to any new or modified water abstraction
9	Environmental Permit (Trade Effluent) (for discharge to surface water)	The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations	EA	May be required prior to construction if the discharge of uncontaminated surface water (nuisance water)	Not yet progressed	Application would be submitted prior to construction if required by the contractor

		2016 (as amended)		generated from construction activities such as dewatering of excavations/concrete washout.		
10	Environmental Permit for works near main rivers (known as Flood Risk Activity Permit)	Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016	EA	Required for proposed footbridges or temporary works affecting main rivers	Not yet required	Application to be submitted prior to relevant works commencing, if required
11	Groundwater investigation consent	Section 32 of The Water Resources Act 1991 (as amended)	EA	Consent needed if, before applying for a water abstraction licence, the EPC contractor plans to test pump (>20m ³ /day) to investigate aquifer properties and assess the risks to surrounding water features	Not yet required	Prior to dewatering excavations, including pumping tests, during construction
12	Ordinary Watercourse Consent (known as Land Drainage Consent)	Sections 23 and 66 of the Land Drainage Act 1991 (prohibition on	LCC/ Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board ('IDB'))	Required for the proposed footbridges, temporary works and alterations to existing outfalls,	Not yet required	Application to be submitted prior to relevant works commencing, if required

		obstructions etc.)		affecting ordinary watercourses		
13	Application for new water connection	N/A	Anglian Water	Required for water supply connection	Not yet required	Application to be submitted prior to water supply connection works commencing (including the replacement, enlargement or modification of existing supply), if required
14	Protected species licence	The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and Protection of Badgers Act 1992	Natural England ('NE')	Required prior to commencing works that impact a protected species or its habitat. Letter of No Impediment required before DCO is granted.	With the exception of great crested newts ('GCN') not yet required. For GCN a draft licence application is being prepared to obtain a Letter of No Impediment. Need will be determined by further survey work to confirm signs of species and if impact cannot be avoided through design refinement.	The Applicant issued a draft GCN licence application to NE on 21 August 2025 and received in response a Letter of No Impediment on 23 September 2025. A licence for impact to water voles and/or otters is not expected to be required based on the embedded mitigation measures proposed. No water voles or otters were found during surveys in the Solar Array Area. The refined Cable Route has avoided water courses where water voles were recorded and buffers around water courses minimise the possibility of impacts. If the situation changes and there is a potential impact to these species, Natural England will be consulted as soon as possible to obtain the required licence. A licence for move of badgers/setts is not currently expected to be required but as a mobile species this could become required during construction.

2.2 Compliance with Guidance

- 2.2.1 Paragraph 46 of the Guidance issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government: 'Planning Act 2008: Application Form Guidance' (June 2013) advises applicants to *“set out whether there are, in principle, any reasons why such consents etc. might not be granted. In providing this information the applicant should reference responses received from the relevant authorising bodies regarding the likelihood of such consents etc. being granted”*.
- 2.2.2 The Applicant does not anticipate any reasons as to why the consents identified in Table 1 would not be granted and has not received any responses from the statutory bodies engaged with that would indicate the potential for any of these future consents to be refused, as these consents are usually sought alongside DCOs. Section 2.3 below summarises the specific engagement had with the EA and Black Sluice IDB regarding watercourse activities.

2.3 Watercourse activities

- 2.3.1 The Applicant has engaged with the EA and Black Sluice IDB regarding the construction of watercourse crossings and other activities within, adjacent to or under/over waterbodies those statutory bodies have remit over.
- 2.3.2 The Applicant has agreed with both the EA and the Black Sluice IDB that the relevant permits will be sought at the detailed design stage, prior to commencement of the Proposed Development. This is so further survey and design work can be undertaken to determine the most appropriate locations for the works required. The **Works Plan (Document Ref: 2.4)** and Outline Design Principles (contained within the **Design and Access Approach Document (Document Ref: 5.6)**) allow for this flexibility.
- 2.3.3 Following granting of the DCO, all permits / consents will be agreed with the relevant statutory body prior to construction of the relevant activities. As part of this permitting process, method statements with relevant mitigation management measures will need to be submitted and adhered to.